A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye
Information Pack
A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye Information Pack

I have the pleasure of enclosing the details of your self-guided A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye Walking Holiday with Macs Adventure. I am sure that you will find everything to your satisfaction, but should you have any further questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Useful Contact Numbers & Websites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Telephone</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Macs Adventure (Office Hours – Mon – Fri 09:00 – 19:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00)</td>
<td>0141 530 8886</td>
<td><a href="http://www.macsadventure.com">www.macsadventure.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Macs Adventure (After Hours)</td>
<td>07500 718 081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luggage Transfers Until Sligachan Hotel</td>
<td>01471 844 338</td>
<td>Donald Nicolson Taxis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Luggage Transfers After Sligachan Hotel</td>
<td>01478 613000</td>
<td>Gus’ Taxis - Portree</td>
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<td>Emergencies</td>
<td>112 or 999</td>
<td>Police, Fire, Ambulance, Mountain Rescue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NHS Direct (For Health Advice and Reassurance 24 Hours a Day)</td>
<td>0845 4647</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/">http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Traveline Scotland (Public transport Information, Journey planning and Timetables)</td>
<td>0870 608 2608</td>
<td><a href="http://www.travelinescotland.com">www.travelinescotland.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Transport Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fast Cabs – Portree</td>
<td>01478 612200</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Stagecoach Timetable Info</td>
<td>0871 200 22 33</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tour Outline: A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye

**Duration:** 7 Walking Days  
**Distance:** 73 Miles (117km)  
**Short Description:** A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye takes you through some of the most unique and inspiring scenery in Scotland. Accessing places that many tourists don’t get to see, this is a walk guaranteed to take your breath away. In both senses!  
**Grade:** Strenuous  
**Style:** Self guided Walking Holiday  
**Accommodation:** B&B’s, Inns, Guesthouses and Hotels.  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast included.  
**Included:** Accommodation each night, Macs Printed Route Maps, OS Map 23 and 32, daily door to door baggage transfer, information pack & route notes and emergency support.
You should already have received the following by email:
- A final confirmation invoice with a link to this pre-departure information pack and route notes.
- An accommodation details sheet with confirmed details of your overnight accommodation.

We will post out the following to you shortly:
- OS Maps 23 and 32 for the North and South of Skye
- Macs Adventure printed route maps
- A copy of your final confirmation invoice.
- Luggage labels for your baggage transfer

Baggage Transfer

Local Taxi companies take care of your baggage transfer on our behalf. You are limited to one bag of 20 kilograms per person and may be liable for extra charges if you exceed this limit. Please make sure your bags have the supplied luggage labels attached and are clearly marked with your name.

Please take note of the following.

On your first days walking your bags will be collected from the reception of your first nights’ accommodation. Please leave them there by 9am and they will be collected and moved to your next nights’ accommodation. We aim to deliver your bags by 16:00.

On subsequent days please leave your luggage ready for collection where you found it the previous night and it will be collected and moved on to your next night’s accommodation during the day. Please make sure all accessories are firmly attached and please do not leave any fragile or valuable items in your luggage.

You will only need to carry your daily provisions with you in a day pack. Take plenty of water as well as a hat, sunscreen, waterproofs, warm jacket/jumper, camera, small first aid kit, lunch & snacks. If you are going to an area where there are no food provisions on the way, do your lunch shopping the day before, or ask the accommodation to prepare a picnic lunch for you.

Alternative Transport Arrangements

If you are unable (or disinclined) to walk to your next overnight stop you can either take a bus or taxi to the next overnight stop. There are numerous buses that cover the area, the itineraries you can see by checking the www.stagecoachbus.com/ website. Alternatively you can ask your accommodation provider to recommend a local taxi and help you book it. Please be aware that you may need to wave a bus down to make it stop!
Problems, Emergencies or Complaints

IMPORTANT: PLEASE CHECK INTO YOUR ACCOMMODATION BY 19:00 (7PM) OR LET YOUR ACCOMMODATION PROVIDER KNOW IF YOU GOING TO BE LATE.

In the unlikely event that you have a problem or complaint during your trip, please call Macs Adventure without delay on the numbers above. We will try and do our best to solve the problem at the time. Please do not wait until the trip is completed before bringing any matter to our attention as 99% of problems are easily and quickly resolved locally without affecting your enjoyment.

If you have a query regarding your baggage transfer please contact the baggage handlers directly, in the first instance as they can normally sort everything out promptly. Please call 01471 844 338 for accommodation up to Sligachan or 01478 613000 after Sligachan.

Illness, Injuries or Delays

If, due to illness, injury or the weather, you are unable to reach your next accommodation as planned, contact them as soon as possible and also let our office know.

If you are unable to walk you can of course use public transport or local taxis to reach the next overnight stop.

If you decide to spend an additional night in your current location, find out whether it is possible to stay one or more extra nights at your present lodgings, and keep in mind that such an extension or extra transportation expenses are not included in the package price and you will have to pay for it directly. In some cases, your travel insurance may cover these unforeseen expenses. Check your policy whether this is the case.

In case of an Emergency

Accidents and emergencies walking on Skye are thankfully very rare but in the event of an emergency try and follow the following procedure:

1. Assess the situation and make sure all involved are safe.
2. Get Help - There is mobile reception on most sections of the way so if necessary call Mountain Rescue. Call 999 or 112 (mobile) ask for the police who will coordinate any rescue effort. If there is no mobile reception: Wherever possible try and stay with the casualty, the path is a relatively busy route and someone should come along to assist you. Send them to get help/call on mobile.
3. Scotland has a superb network of Mountain Rescue Teams that deal with mountain emergencies. Please ensure that you really are facing an emergency situation before calling them, as they are a last resort. On arrival they will deal with the casualty and instruct you accordingly.
4. Always remember prevention is better than cure and if you think you are getting into a potentially dangerous situation. Stop! Think! And return to a safe position.
5. Please inform Macs Adventure as soon as possible of any problem or emergency you may have, as we can’t help unless we know about it.
Accuracy and Errors

The arrangements for your trip have been prepared with the greatest care. It is however possible that you will, during your holiday, experience small changes or errors unforeseen at the time of writing. The information is provided “as is” and we accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience sustained by anyone resulting from this information.

If you notice any mistakes please let us know, or if you have any suggestions, observations or comments we would very much appreciate them, and you may be certain that they will be used for the benefit of those who will follow you. Please either call us or email in to info@macsadventure.com

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Getting There and Away

Your arrival date in Skye should be the START DATE indicated on your confirmation invoice and your departure date should be the END DATE indicated.

We have done our best to give you the most recent information, but timetables are subject to changes, sometimes without notice. Please check the local timetables upon arrival, or use the internet.

Train and bus timetables are normally released three months ahead so please recheck all planned travel arrangements a few weeks before your departure date.

Getting to Armadale/Ardvasar

Skye Bus/Train/Ferry Timetables
The area transport guide is also available locally from Tourist Information Centers and accommodation providers. It is extremely useful for planning your journey to Skye and whilst on Skye so I strongly recommend you download it. (PDF Format)

Journey Planner
Please use the following excellent website to plan your journey to/from Skye if you are using public transport. http://www.travelinescotland.com You only need to enter your start and end points and it will work out the best connections and options.

Air
The closest and recommended airport to fly to is Inverness Airport, 10 miles east of Inverness city centre. Scheduled flights operate between Inverness and London Gatwick, London Luton, Belfast City, Birmingham, Bristol, Dublin, Jersey, Manchester, Southampton, East Midlands, Edinburgh, Stornoway in the Western Isles, Kirkwall in Orkney and Sumburgh in Shetland. Buses run to Inverness city centre every 30 minutes. For further airport information visit: http://www.hial.co.uk/inverness-airport.html
Glasgow Airport and Glasgow Prestwick Airport are 5 & 6 hours drive from Skye respectively. These airports are served by a large number of scheduled flights from numerous destinations.
**Rail/Ferry from Glasgow**
From Glasgow Queen Street Station to Mallaig and then ferry to Armadale. Trains depart Glasgow at 0821 (Saturdays and Mon – Fri to 15 May and from 25 September) and 0851 (Mon – Fri only 18 May – 25 September) and 1221 (Mon-Sat) and 1220 (Sun). The train journey from Glasgow to Mallaig via Fort William takes just over 5 hours and is one of the most scenic in the world. Book in advance for the cheapest fares via [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) Trains connect with the ferry to Armadale which takes 30 minutes. Total journey time is just under 6 hours. Another interesting option is to catch the Caledonian sleeper from London which leaves London Euston at 21:00 and arrives Fort William 9:45. We can also arrange minibus transfers.

**Bus from Glasgow**
Scottish Citylink operate bus services from Glasgow to Portree on the Isle of Skye. Take the Citylink Bus to Armadale Road End/Broadford and then the local stagecoach bus to Armadale. Fares up to £34 single although special offers are available. [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk)

**Bus from Inverness**
Scottish Citylink operate three services from Inverness to Skye (Broadford/Portree/Uig) daily departing Inverness at 0915, 1315 and 1730 daily. The journey takes between 2h25 and 3h10 depending on route and tickets. Book online at [www.citylink.co.uk](http://www.citylink.co.uk) Connect with local bus to Armadale (30 minutes).

**Rail/Bus from Inverness**
Take the train from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh. Trains depart 3-4 times daily and take about 2h30. For times and tickets visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

Take the bus to Broadford and then the bus from Broadford to Armadale and finish with a short walk to Ardvasar. For timetables see the Bus Timetable link below.

**By Car**
From Glasgow you drive to Fort William (2h30) and then have a choice to either drive to Mallaig and take the ferry to Armadale or drive via Kyle of Lochalsh over the Skye Bridge (200 miles). Both routes take a similar time and you should bargain on a journey time of about 6 hours in summer.

Free parking is available at Armadale, Broadford and Portree. If you wish to leave your car with your first nights accommodation please contact them directly to arrange this.

From Inverness drive via Kyle of Lochalsh over the Skye Bridge to Armadale. 2h30 (100 miles)

**Hire Car:**
If there are more than 2 in your party you may find that it is cheaper and more convenient to hire a car from Inverness or Glasgow and drive to the Isle of Skye. You can leave the car in Armadale or Broadford for the week and return to collect it at the end of the week by local bus.
Getting from Flodigarry

Citylink buses run back to Glasgow and connect with train and bus services to Inverness from both Portree and Uig so you can choose where you prefer to connect. You can use the local Stagecoach Buses to travel from Flodigarry to either Uig or Portree.

Getting to Portree:
Stage Coach Buses run from Flodigarry to Portree (Route: Portree – Flodigarry Circular) and the journey takes 55 minutes going in either direction around the peninsula. Please refer to a current timetable. At the time bus times were as follows:
Mon – Fri: 0749, 1030, 1130, 1230, 1330 
Sat: 0824, 1130, 1330, 1630, 1846
Sun: No Service

Taxis are also available from Portree or Uig for travel on Sundays. Numbers at start of info pack.

Getting from Portree:
The easiest way to travel from Portree to Glasgow or Inverness is with Citylink bus. The journey takes 6 hours to Glasgow and buses depart from Portree at 0800, 0900, 1015, 1520, 1730. The journey to Inverness takes 3h10 and buses depart at 0900, 1015, 1515 and 1730. You can book online at [www.Citylink.co.uk](http://www.Citylink.co.uk)

Skye Bus/Train/Ferry Timetables:
You can download an area transport guide from the Stagecoach Bus Website. The exact address is [http://www.stagecoachbus.com/highlands/timetables.php](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/highlands/timetables.php) and the link to the current timetable here:
The area transport guide is also available locally from Tourist Information Centers and accommodation providers. It is extremely useful for planning your journey to Skye and whilst on Skye so I strongly recommend you download it. (PDF Format).
Please be aware that you may need to wave a bus down to make it stop!

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Glasgow Airport and Glasgow Prestwick Airport are 5 & 6 hours drive from Skye respectively. These airports are served by a large number of scheduled flights from numerous destinations.
Important Things to Organise Before you Travel

Know Before You Go!

If you are travelling from outside the UK the US State Department also publishes detailed travel advice on its website: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1052.html about travelling to the UK.

The World Travel Guide - http://www.worldtravelguide.net/united-kingdom/practical-information - has detailed health and practical travel advice, which you may find useful.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of your contract with us that you must take out suitable travel insurance before you travel to cover yourself for cancellation, curtailment, injury or illness during your holiday with Macs Adventure. We do not check insurance policies for suitability, but reserve the right to request a copy.

You are responsible for indemnifying us in full in the event that we incur any losses or expenses arising out of your failure to take out adequate insurance cover. We do not sell travel insurance and suggest you purchase travel insurance in your country of residence and make sure it covers you for your full holiday duration.

Passport & Visas

All nationalities require a full passport valid for at least three months after your intended departure from the UK except EU Nationals holding a valid national ID card.

Citizens of countries in the European Union and the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association, Canada, USA and Australia do not need a visa for the UK.

You should visit The UK Border Agency Website - http://www.ukvisas.gov.uk – for up to date visa requirements.

Passport and visa requirements do change so although this information is supplied in good faith it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documentation.

Driving license and registration

European driving licenses are valid in the UK. Non EU members must have an international driving licence together with their national driving licence. (This is also necessary when renting a car). If you come with your own car remember that vehicle liability insurance is mandatory, and bring the green card, which you will need if you are involved in an accident.
Health

If you have any specific health concerns it is a very good idea to visit your GP prior to your holiday and ensure you have a sufficient supply of any prescriptions you need during your holiday. In addition to a small personal first aid kit I would recommend carrying:

- Anti-bacterial hand wash
- Sun block lip balm/sun block
- Headache tablets such as Ibuprofen
- cold/flu remedies such as Paracetamol
- Diarrhoea remedies such as Imodium
- Nausea remedies such as motilium
- Antiseptic cream/wipes for cuts.

Should you need the services of a doctor or hospital whilst on holiday speak to your accommodation provider or call NHS Direct.

Fitness

The fitter you are the more easily you will adjust and enjoy yourself on your walking holiday. This walk is graded strenuous and involves five to ten hours walking each day.

We expect you to take responsibility for your fitness and preparations on a consistent basis prior to departure, and INCREASE the regular weekly training schedule in the two months leading up to departure. That way, when you start walking, you will feel relaxed and comfortable and strong, having done more than sufficient preparation for the trip. You will also have more energy to enjoy the views, take photos and explore the sights in your spare time, rather than just making it to the next accommodation.

As a minimum, we recommend 40 minutes of aerobic type exercise; running, swimming, biking, hill walking, or gym work two to three times a week for two to six months leading up to your walk. The best training is the activity that you are actually going to be doing; walking up and down hill, and cross-country.

Using your gear before departure (boots, daypack, clothing etc) gives familiarity and comfort whilst on the walk. It makes sense to know that all your gear ‘works for you’ BEFORE departure, rather than discovering how things work or fit (or don’t!) on the trip you have invested so much in.

Currency, Money & Local Costs

The local currency is the Great British Pound. The best way to carry money is a combination of cash and credit/debit card. All larger towns and villages have ATM machines. If you have a cirrus logo on your card you can make withdrawals. The major credit cards, like Diners, Visa, American Express, and Euro/MasterCard, are not always accepted in small shops and restaurants so always ask ahead if you can pay with them or carry some cash for emergencies.
National/Bank Holidays

Most shops and restaurants are now open on national/bank holidays. The exceptions being banks, post offices and any government offices. You should be aware that public transport runs a Sunday service on Bank Holidays. You can view a full list of public holidays here: http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Governmentcitizensandrights/LivingintheUK/DG_073741

Loss of Personal Items

If you lose something or have it stolen and you wish to claim for it from your insurance company when you return home, you must report it to the police. The Police will ask you to fill out a police report form and give you a copy. The vast majority of insurance companies ask for this when you claim an item lost or stolen. If you lose your passport you must report it to the police and contact your embassy.

Responsible Tourism

We operate adventures in some of the most spectacular landscapes and countries of the world and take responsible travel extremely seriously. We have designed this trip according to our M.A.C.S. Responsible Travel Policy, which is available in full from our website. You can help us whilst on holiday by following our M.A.C.S. Responsible Travel Policy.

- Minimise Impact & Maximise Benefit
  - Leave only footprints and take only photographs.
  - Plan ahead and follow any local signs & advice.
  - Leave gates and property as you find them.
  - Protect plants, animals and water sources.
  - Consider other people.
  - Buy goods, services food and wine from local people, shops, bars and restaurants whilst on holiday, we do.
  - Ask before taking pictures of people.
  - Recommend this holiday to your friends (if you have a good time) and the local economy will continue to benefit.

- Action & Advocacy
  - Encourage and educate other walkers and travellers about minimum impact and responsible travel.
  - Raise awareness amongst suppliers on environmentally sensitive practices.
  - Donate to the M.A.C.S fund on booking which we distribute to a range of chosen charities and projects.
  - Get involved with a charity promoting responsible travel and trekking such as Tourism Concern or the International Mountain Explorers Connection
- **Carbon & Communities**
  - Macs Adventure’s office and operational policies minimise our carbon footprint through green business practices. You can offset the Carbon Cost of your flights here: [www.carbonneutral.com](http://www.carbonneutral.com)
  - Walking Holidays are a form of travel that gives you a wonderful opportunity to engage with the local community you are visiting. Get the most from your adventure by taking the time to engage with the community you are visiting.
  - Wherever possible the suppliers we use are all local operated and owned so that your holiday has the maximum possible financial benefit to the local community.

- **Sensitive & Sustainable**
  - Be sensitive to and respect local cultures, religion and customs. You are walking through a predominantly rural conservative area.
  - Spend your money with local suppliers so that the local economy and way of life continues to flourish for generations to come.

### HOLIDAY INFORMATION

#### Information Pack, Route Notes & Maps

Your maps and route notes will be posted to your group leader prior to departure. We only supply one set per party, if you wish to purchase additional copies we can supply them at a cost.

#### Weather & Climate

Skye has one of the most changeable climates of anywhere in the UK. You can be walking in bright sunshine one minute and pouring rain the next, so it is always wise to pack accordingly.

For detailed climate information please visit [http://www.weather2travel.com](http://www.weather2travel.com). We recommend that you check local weather reports before setting out each day. These are available on the local TV and radio news and online.

#### Accommodation

We carefully select B&B’s, hotels and Inns that offer a warm welcome, comfortable accommodation, great food, facilities for walkers and are close to the route of the path.

**Directions & Contact Information:** Detailed directions and contact information is included on your accommodation details sheet.

**Check in time:** Your hosts need time to change over the rooms between guests so rooms are generally only available from 15:00 onwards. If you arrive earlier they will be happy to store your bags but your rooms may not be ready yet. **PLEASE CHECK IN BY 19:00 OR LET YOUR HOSTS KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE.**
**Meals & Eating**

**Breakfast**: this is included every day. Breakfast is generally served from 7.30 or 8:00 onwards, but check with each accommodation for the exact times. Breakfast can vary but normally includes a full Scottish breakfast or a lighter continental breakfast can be provided should you prefer.

**Lunch (Not Included)**: Your guidebook includes details of available places to eat on the route each day. Most of the villages on route have at least a small shop and often a cafe or restaurants (be aware that opening times may be reduced out of season). Alternatively ask your accommodation for a packed lunch or pick up something from the local supermarket or shop.

**Evening Meals (Not Included)**: There will always be a restaurant or pub close by where you can enjoy an evening meal or sometimes if the accommodation is remote they will prepare an evening meal (please check accommodation sheet as this normally has to be booked in advance).

**Vegetarians and other dietary needs**: If you are a vegetarian or have specific dietary needs, please inform your accommodation on arrival so they can suggest and prepare something appropriate. Vegetarians are generally well catered for in the UK.

**Tipping**: A normal tip for good service is 10% of the total bill. Bar staff are not normally tipped and as a general rule if you order at the counter a tip would not be expected.
DESCRIPTION

A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye is an inspiring walking holiday on the Isle of Skye that immerses you in the very best of Skye’s wild landscape and history.

NAVIGATION

A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye is NOT WAYMARKED, some sections of the route cross remote open country and there is NO PATH IN PLACES, the going can be very tough and very wet underfoot which makes the walking moderate to strenuous throughout.

This means you must be a competent navigator with map and compass, adequately prepared and equipped and have previous hill walking experience.

SELF GUIDED HOLIDAYS

Self guided walking requires you to use problem solving skills, be adaptable and have a keen eye. The route is generally very easy to follow but we recommend that you are comfortable map reading, referring to route notes and that you have a good sense of direction (or are willing to work on improving this!) Sometimes route finding, losing your way, finding it again and asking the locals for help is all part of the adventure.

If you’ve never been on a self guided trip, after the first couple of days you will get the hang of it as the vast majority of our first time travellers attest. There is a certain level of the unknown that comes with self guided trips, however with a methodical approach potential problems will be averted. The freedom of a self guided trip is something that, once experienced, is sought time and time again.

GRADE

A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye is graded as Strenuous, which we would define as –

Long walking days and challenging ascents/descents, these walks may require navigation and/or mountaineering skills. A good level of fitness and experience is required as the terrain can be rough and exposed in places.

Distance per Day: More than 18 miles (More than 29 km) or shorter days with steep ascent/descent
WALK OPTIONS

Our route description each day outlines one of many options. Skye is situated at the far North West of Scotland and gets some of the best and worst weather in Scotland. Each day you should make your route choice based on the weather, the terrain and your ability.

There are numerous other walks available on Skye as well as plenty of other activities available so if you think the weather is too wild to tackle the suggested route, ask your hosts for some other suggestions or simply do something else and use a taxi/bus to reach your next overnight stop.

It is more important that you have a safe and enjoyable experience on Skye than walk every step of the route as described.

There are several excellent books on walking in Skye available locally or on Amazon.

ITINERARY

The daily stages and overnight locations are detailed below. Please refer to your accommodation details sheet for your personal itinerary and accommodation details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Itinerary – WSSAIS 6 WALKING DAYS – 7 NIGHTS</th>
<th>←</th>
<th>Miles</th>
<th>KM</th>
<th>Hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Arrive in Ardvasar</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Walk from Ardvasar to Ord</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(collected from Ord and taken to Broadford)</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Walk from Broadford to Torrin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(local bus or taxi back to Broadford)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Walk from Elgol to Sligachan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(local bus in the morning to Elgol, various walking options, see route notes)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Walk from Sligachan to Portree</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Walk from Portree to The Storr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(collected at the Storr and transferred back to Portree)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Walk from The Storr to The Quiraing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Transferred to the Storr and collected from the Quiraing in the evening and taken to Staffin)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Walk the Quiraing Loop from Flodigarry</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(Transferred to Flodigarry in the morning)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Onward Travel</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contact Details:
Macs Adventure: (Office) +44 141 530 8886 (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 19:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00)
Emergency out of hours: (Mob) +44 (0) 7500 718 081
Police, Mountain Rescue, Fire, Ambulance: 112 or 999
## A Long Walk on the Isle of Skye Route Notes

Below are the route notes for your trip on Skye. Please use them in conjunction with the maps we provided to ensure that you manage to navigate the path as easily as possible. You will note that we have also included points of interest as well as local services for each day of the walk, so you can be prepared for the day ahead.

Although we make every effort to ensure that these notes are accurate, up to date and comprehensive we accept no liability for injury or inconvenience caused by their use.

If you find any errors, unclear descriptions or changes we would be very grateful if you could email us on info@macsadventure.com so we can make the necessary change.

### Day 1 – Ardvasar to Ord

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Ardvasar/Armadale to Ord via Tarskavaig</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger no 32 South Skye &amp; Cuillin Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/Time</td>
<td>14 Miles (22 Km) 5h30 – 6h30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Moderate to Strenuous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrain</td>
<td>Footpath, minor road, track, very wet footpath and trackless terrain from Dalavil to Tarskavaig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Drink</td>
<td>Armadale/Ardvasar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>You quickly leave the beautiful gardens of Armadale Castle behind as you climb the green slopes of Sleat before dropping down into the empty glen of Dalavil Wood and then enjoy a spectacular but rough coastal walk to Tarskavaig, which is famed for its spectacular views of the Cuillins. A quiet minor road through mixed woodlands brings you to Ord where you will be collected and transferred to Broadford. Easier Option: Instead of dropping down to Gleann Meadhonach and Loch a’ Ghlinne stay on the minor road to Tarskavaig. This avoids the wet ground in Dalavil Wood and the trackless coastal walking from Dalavil to Tarskavaig and reduces the days distance by 2 – 3 Km.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Armadale Services

There is a hotel with restaurant and bar at Ardvasar, 800m south or Armadale. Armadale has several craft shops, a tea room, public toilets, post office, ferry port and a restaurant at the Armadale Castle.

### Ord/Tarskavaig

None – Public telephone at Tarskavaig

### Transfer Details

As there is no suitable accommodation in Ord we have arranged a transfer for you from Ord at 17h00. Mobile signal is not reliable so if you are not at the pickup point the taxi will just continue along the road to Tarskavaig and collect you on the way if you have not made it to Ord. You can also call for a pickup from Tarskavaig. This cost of this taxi is included in your booking.

### Alternative Transport

The taxi taking your luggage to Broadford can take you to Broadford. Also public buses to Broadford.
Points of Interest

- Armadale Castle Gardens – Armadale Castle was at various times the home of the MacDonald's of Skye, it was built in 1790, extended in 1815 and substantially damaged by fire in 1855, after which time it was only partly replaced and in 1925 the castle was completely abandoned to the wind and rain. Now just a shell remains although it is surrounded by wonderful gardens and has a museum. Entrance is £6 for adults and you can find more information here: http://www.clandonald.com
- Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Gaelic College, just outside Armadale– Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is a unique learning environment where all higher education provision and the running of the College is conducted in Scottish Gaelic - the only such college in the world. The stunning recently constructed buildings occupy a beautiful position overlooking the sound of Sleat and look out for the campus at the turn left into the hills.
- Dalavil Wood and Loch a’ Ghlinne together form a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The small community was abandoned because the lack of a road meant that the children could not reach the local school.
- Tarskavaig – This small crofting settlement is a scattered collection of houses spread out along the road but enjoys one the most striking views in Scotland. The Black Cuillin, Bla Bheinn and many more peaks are visible across Tarskavaig Bay to the North.
- Dunscaith Castle – Built in the 1300’s and reported to be the oldest standing castle on Skye the castle ruins occupy a spectacular position, separated from the mainland by a hand hewn gully which would have once been covered by a drawbridge. It is slightly off the route but worth closer inspection.
- Ord – Ord is a small hamlet overlooking a small sandy bay and a great spot for spotting seals and spending some time bird watching. You may also like to investigate the ruins of St Comgan’s Chapel which dates from the 700’s. The poet Alexander Smith spent a summer at nearby Ord House and his work “A Summer in Skye” (1865) was based on his time spent here.
The Route

- If you have stayed at Ardvasar follow the minor road for 800m north to join the A851 at Armadale.
- If you are starting from the ferry follow the A851 to the T-Junction.
- Cross the road to the nature trail information board and join the footpath that runs parallel to the road to the Armadale Castle Gardens restaurant and gift shop.
- Enter the gardens (£6 admission) and follow the red nature trail. If you don’t want to visit the gardens or pay the admission either turn left and follow the blue nature trail before you reach the castle gift shop or stay on the A851 road to the Tarskavaig Road. This signposted trail runs north east in woodland parallel to the A851. After 1.5km you rejoin the A851 road, just before crossing the Allt a’ Mhuilinn stream. Cross the road to walk on the pavement for 1km.
- Turn left at the minor road signposted Tarskavaig. The Gaelic College is on the corner.
- The road climbs steeply, follow for 2.8km, passing a farm track, working farm before you reach a dirt landrover track which descends steeply to your left.
- The track is signposted as a right of way to Gleann Meadhonach and Dalavil.
- **OPTION : (Recommended if you don’t wish to walk off track/path)** If you want an easier day, the weather is very wet or you don’t want to walk off track follow the minor road to Tarskavaig. It is a very quiet road and a much easier option than the rough and long route via Dalavil.
- **MAIN ROUTE:** Follow the track steeply down; as you reach the bottom of the valley the track becomes fainter, wetter and rougher.
- Follow the faint track across boggy ground, numerous small stream crossings until you reach the ruined croft houses 300m east of Loch a Ghlinne.
- Go through the gate and pick up the faint track which to Dalavil Wood, the track is soon waymarked by wooden posts with a blue stripe.
- Follow the wet and boggy track through the wood, as you exit the wood the waymarks end and you will see the red roof of the ruined Dalavil Cottage ahead. Continue to the cottage.
- After passing the cottage the path disappears, walk 750m across rough boggy ground, bearing right below the steep cliffs to join the sea shore.
- Follow the sea shore (which has plenty of flotsam and jetsam as well as birdlife) north until you cross the stream that runs from Loch Nighean Fhionnlaidh.
- Immediately after crossing the stream leave the seashore to climb to the clifftops, which are easily accessible by sheep tracks.
- Follow the clifftops (keeping at least 100m back for easier going to avoid the gullies and ravines which cut back into the clifftops) until the beach at Gillean comes into view.
- Descend towards the beach, going through a gap in the wall, across fields and join the road at the cottage at Gillean.
- **OPTION REJOINS ROUTE**
- Follow the minor road to Tarskavaig. If you have had enough walking at Tarskavaig there is a public telephone in the village which you can use to call your taxi earlier.
• A better option is to continue to follow the single track road to Ord which runs through very pleasant stretches of woodland and offers some of the best views on Skye.
• Your taxi will collect you from Ord at 17:00.

**Day 2 – Broadford to Torrin**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Broadford to Torrin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger no 32 South Skye &amp; Cuillin Hills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/Time</td>
<td>12 Miles (18 Km) 5h00 – 6h00 +550m -550m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Easy to Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrain</td>
<td>Footpath, minor road, track, track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Drink</td>
<td>Elgol – Cuillin View Gallery &amp; Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sligachan – Sligachan Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>One of Skye’s best day walks is an absolute delight and the route follows good tracks and paths for most of the day. The coastal views are stunning although the deserted villages of Suisnish and Boreraig do offer an insight into the turbulent past of the Highlands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadford Services</td>
<td>Cash machine, supermarket, shops, gift shops, galleries, hotels, restaurants, pubs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torrin Services</td>
<td>None, phone box and bus stop.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Transport</td>
<td>Luggage Taxi – please call to arrange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Bus</td>
<td>49 or 49B – see timetable. Aim to be in Torrin to catch the last bus of the day back to your accommodation in Broadford. On a Sunday there is no bus so a taxi transfer is necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful Link</td>
<td>The Walk Highlands Website has outstanding route notes and walk descriptions including GPS tracks and more. For a description of the main part of this walk visit: <a href="http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/boreraigsuisnish.shtml">http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/boreraigsuisnish.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Points of Interest**

- **Broadford** – Like most places on Skye, Broadford lays claim to an association with Bonnie Prince Charlie and is allegedly where the spirit “Drambuie” was first produced. Today it is a centre for the south of Skye and has a large supermarket, plenty of craft and photographic shops which draw inspiration from the stunning landscape.
- **Old Marble Quarry** – The path initially follows the course of an old railway used to remove the famous Skye Marble from quarries above Strath Suardal down to a harbour at Broadford. The Marble was formed by limestone being exposed to the extreme heat of a granite intrusion. Marble is still quarried further along the road at Torrin.
- **Beinn Nan Carn Native Woodland** – This new forest of 680 acres was planted in 2000 and is designed to mimic the native woodland distribution that has all but disappeared on Skye. The woodland is protected by fences to avoid overgrazing by sheep and deer. It is a great place to see wildflowers, especially orchids in the early summer.
- **Bla Bheinn Viewpoint** – Grid ref 623 185 – from the flat wet watershed just south west of Loch Lonachan there is a dramatic view of Clach Glas and Bla Bheinn.
- **Suisnish & Boreraig** – These deserted villages formed a remote crofting community but were brutally cleared by Lord MacDonald in 1853 to make way for sheep. The residents were forcibly evicted and their houses burnt to prevent them returning. This tragic story was repeated throughout the highlands and there is still resentment amongst those families affected. It did lead to mass migration to the cities and eventually around the world and is one of the reasons Scots are so widely spread.
- **Torrin** – a small crafting community with no tourist facilities other than a very fine café and cake shop but a wonderful view.
The Route

- From the Co-op Supermarket on the main road walk west on the main road for 200m and turn left on the minor road at the Broadford Hotel signposted to Torrin and Elgol (B8083).
- Continue South West on the road for 1km until you pass under the power lines.
- Immediately after the power lines turn left onto the footpath signposted to Boreraig and Suishnish.
- A good path following the course of the old mineral railway runs parallel to the road and relatively level for 2.5km before starting to climb to some old marble quarries and the watershed southwest of Loch Lonachan.
- Immediately after leaving the bealach a stile in a fence is crossed, which leads into a woodland regeneration project area. This good path continues down the valley of the Allt na Paire, towards the abandoned village of Boreraig. The ruins of an old dyke (wall) are passed, and shortly after, good views of the Sleat peninsula and the Isle of Rum open up and the whole village (some 50 houses) can be seen spread out below. Follow the path down through the ruined houses to a standing stone. A sheltered spot for a break can be found either by the largest house at the side of a stream, or on the flat rocks of the shore.
- Turn right along the coast at Boreraig, across the deserted fields, to join a clear, but in places muddy, path to Suishnish. There are several spectacular waterfalls along this section and the this is a good spot to look out for eagles which nest on the cliffs above. The path leaves the shoreline for the cliff tops and continues for just over 1km until you reach Suishnish. The sheep station here is enclosed by a fence and the path leads round the landward side. Do not drop down through a gate in the fence at the back of the enclosure, but carry on along the same level to join a substantial vehicle track. The best stopping places and views are by the ruined house a few yards to the south.
- Immediately after Suishnish the path turns to a good, wide track. Follow the track north, several small streams are crossed by bridges over delightful ravines, before coming back down to the shore and joining the a single track road at Camus Malag.
- Follow the surfaced road through 2 gates to rejoin the B8083 where you turn left to walk the final 2 kms on the road to Torrin.
- Alternatively, rather than waiting for the bus back to Broadford, you can choose not to walk into Torrin and instead to walk back down the relatively quiet road which is a further 7km.
Day 3 – Elgol to Sligachan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Elgol to Sligachan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger no 32 South Skye &amp; Cuillin Hills</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Distance/Time | Option 1: 8 Miles (12 Km) 3h30 – 4h30 +/-450m  
               | Option 2: 11 Miles (18 Km) 5h30 – 6h30 - +/-600m |
| Grade   | Moderate |
| Terrain | Footpath, sometimes rough & wet underfoot |
| Food & Drink | Elgol/Sligachan |
| Summary | An amazing journey through the heart of the isle of Skye cutting between the Black and Red Cuillin in some of the most spectacular scenery in Britain. |

Bus to Elgol: Today is an early start and you will have to be up and ready to catch the early bus from Broadford to Elgol at 0700. Penny at Seaview B&B has kindly agreed to get up early to cook her great breakfast before you depart.

Boat Trip to Loch Coruisk: Boat Trips are operated by two companies:

- Bella Jane/AquaXplore - [http://www.bellajane.co.uk/](http://www.bellajane.co.uk/) or [http://www.aquaxplore.co.uk](http://www.aquaxplore.co.uk)
  - The early bird service departs between 9:00 and 10:00 is a fast RIB trip and must be booked in advance.
  - Bella Jane Departs at 10:45, 12:15 and 14:00
  - Call 0800 731 3089 to book

- Misty Isle Boat Trips - [http://www.mistyisleboattrips.co.uk](http://www.mistyisleboattrips.co.uk)
  - Have an early departure at 9:00 which must be pre-booked, alternatively it departs at 11:00 and 14:15 – you can book by phone on 01471 866 788

**OPTION 1**

The first option today is to take a boat trip from Elgol to Loch Coruisk, in the heart of the Cuillins and then walk to Sligachan. This gives a shorter leaving Loch Coruisk with a steep ascent on a poor trail.

**OPTION 2**

The second option gives a longer walk as you walk all the way from Elgol to Sligachan via Camasunary. This does pass some exposed sections of path with big drops from Elgol to Camasunary so not ideal if you don’t have a head for heights, or during or after wet weather as the path becomes slippery.

**OPTION 3**

2 options really - another longer walk starting from Elgol but without the challenges of option 2. Or, starting at Kilmarie instead of Elgol this makes for the gentlest of the possible routes to Sligachan. It’s usually possible to take the bus to Elgol first, for the superb views, before heading back on the return bus to Kilmarie to start the walk. (Check with the driver when you board the bus in Broadford)

Sligachan Services: Hotel, pub, bus stop

Alternative Transport: Luggage Taxi

Rapsons/Stagecoach Bus to Broadford and then to Sligachan – See Timetables

Contact Details:

Macs Adventure: (Office) +44 141 530 8886 (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 19:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00)  
**Emergency out of hours:** (Mob) +44 (0) 7500 718 081  
Police, Mountain Rescue, Fire, Ambulance: 112 or 999
Points of Interest

- Elgol – Elgol enjoys one of the best views in Skye, a dramatic panorama of the Black Cuillin.
- Coruisk – (The Corrie of Water) is a dramatic, spectacular and inspiring mountain landscape which has long drawn visitors to gasp at its moody lochs and cliffs. Loch Coruisk is joined to the sea by the River Scavaig, at 1313ft, one of the world’s shortest rivers.
- Black Cuillin – The Black Cuillin Hills define the rugged and wild landscape of Skye and the jagged black Cuillin are the only Alpine type ridge in the UK and includes 12 Munros, one of which is only accessible by climbers, which is highly unusual in Britain.
- Sligachan – Sligachan Hotel was built in the 1830’s and was the base the early climbers used to explore the Cuillin. Norman Collie and John Mackenzie were the most famous partnership and two peaks in the Cuillin are named after the brave duo that came from very different backgrounds. (More in the Sligachan Hotel)

The Route – Option 1

- This route is graded strenuous and can be difficult when the conditions are wet.
- The boat will drop you off at the pier at Coruisk.
- Ascend the steps and bear right to cross the River Scavaig at the stepping stones – this may not be possible after very heavy rains – in which case catch the boat back to Elgol.
- The path continues up the east side of the Loch to reveal a stunning view to the head of the loch and the full Cuillin Ridge.
- The path splits, with the lower path continuing around the loch, take the higher path to Glen Sligachan.
- Stay well to the right of the stream to avoid the steep slabs which can be slippery. The path is rough, and muddy in places.
- Continue to climb steeply, leaving Loch a’ Choire Riabhaich to your right as you climb the steep slopes of Coire Riabhaich to reach the pass between Sgurr Hain and Meall Dearg, called Drum Hain (marked by a large cairn).
- The path descends steeply north into the valley and crosses wet ground in the bottom of the glen.
- Cross the river and climb to the path junction at 503 240. **This is where OPTIONS 2 +3 rejoin the Route.**
- Continue north on the path to Glen Sligachan.
- The clear path runs well above the river to avoid the wettest areas but there are still numerous boggy areas and stream crossings.
- The Allt na Measarroch can be difficult to cross if there has been very heavy rain. (It will generally subside quickly as soon as it stops raining).
- Continue on the path to reach the A87 at Sligachan.
The Route – Option 2

This route runs along a rugged coastline, across steep slopes on a narrow path. It is exposed, and should be avoided in wet weather as it can become slippery. In dry conditions there is no difficulty but those prone to vertigo may want to choose one of the alternative routes. It does make the days walking a lot longer, but is rewarding if you feel fit enough for it.

- From the pier at Elgol walk back up the steep road past the two car parks and turn left at the signpost (to Camasunary) a few hundred yards after the second car park.
- A vehicle track leads past houses to a path between fences and then onto open hillside.
- The clear path continues north across the steep hillside before descending to the coast at Cladach a’ Ghlinnie.
- After crossing Glen Scaladal the path climbs onto the steep slopes below Beinn Leacach and continues to follow the coast north to Camasunary Bay.
- Continue past the large house (The Lodge) to the idyllically situated Camasunary Bothy, a great place for a break.
- Retrace your steps from the bothy along the grassy shoreline to Camasunary Lodge. Pass to the east of the Lodge. Then walk north on a clear, but sometimes muddy path for 1.5km to reach Loch na Creitheach, passing the loch to the east. When leaving the bothy don’t be tempted to cut the corner through the meadows as they are very wet indeed.
- Continue to follow the wide, well defined valley past Loch an Athain to join the route of Option 1 at the watershed before Lochan Dubha.
- Follow the path north up Glen Sligachan to Sligachan to finish the day.
The Route – Option 3

This route follows the eastern edge of the Strathaird Peninsula through scattered crofting communities before crossing over the hill from Kilmarie to Camasunary on a good track. You can start either in Elgol, or make the day 3.2 miles shorter by starting from Kilmarie. The views are superb from the top of the rise above Camasunary and the walking is much gentler than the previous 2 options, with good clear trails throughout.

The section from Elgol to Kilmarie passes through quiet crofting communities and gives good views over Loch Slapin. The area is rich in history, with 2 ruined duns, and Kilmarie is steeped in local folklore.

- From the pier at Elgol walk back up the steep road towards the upper car park and take the minor road signed for Glasnakille which leaves the main road on the bend by the upper car park.
- Follow this quiet single track road for 1.2 miles to a T-junction in the township of Glasnakille. Turn left.
- After ¼ mile the houses peter out and the road becomes a track, which contours a stream valley and passes the runs of Dun Liath.
- After another ¼ mile the track turns into a road again, running through the crofting community of Drinan. Continue for 500yds to a fork where you bear right, leaving the main road.
- The track continues for another mile, dropping gently to the shore where it joins the road from Kilmarie.
- Continue along the road passing the scenic and tranquil graveyard at Kilmarie. The church here was destroyed by the sea in a storm in the 1920s— an event which figures large in local folk tales. The graveyard is a good spot to take a rest. On the farther shore of the loch are the ruins of the MacKinnon stronghold, Dun Ringill. After ½ mile join the main Broadford/ Elgol road. Turn L and after 300 yds you reach a car park. It is possible to shorten the day by starting here in Kilmarie. If you choose to do this it’s well worth visiting the graveyard (see above) before setting out on the stages below.
- Opposite the car park is a gate and a track signed “Camasunary and Glen Sligachan”. Follow this good track which rises gently for 1.5 miles before it levels out at Am Mam. As the track turns R and begins to descend, the views over Camasunary Bay and across to the Cuillins are some of the finest on the Island.
- The track descends to Camasunary Bay with a sharp turn to the L half way down. Cross a bridge and pass Camasunary Lodge on the seaward side. Follow either the sandy beach or the meadows behind it over to the bothy.
- Follow the directions in Option 2 to continue north up Glen Sligachan to Sligachan to finish the day.
### Day 4 – Sligachan to Portree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Sligachan to Portree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger no 32 South Skye &amp; Cuillin Hills &amp; No 23 North Skye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/Time</td>
<td>12 Miles (20 Km) 5h00 – 6h00 +/350m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrain</td>
<td>Footpath, minor road, track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Drink</td>
<td>Sligachan, Portree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>After the wild, remote walking of the past few days this pleasant coastal walk with views to Raasay and Applecross is a revelation. Quite a bit of road walking once you reach the Braes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portree</td>
<td>Portree is the largest town on the island and has all the facilities that you would require.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative</td>
<td>Luggage Taxi – please call to arrange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Local Bus or Citylink Bus – See timetable 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Points of Interest

- The Braes (Scattered Villages) – The Braes is famous for being the site of the last battle fought on British soil at Gedintailor, in the 1880’s, where local crofters clashed with 50 Glasgow police sent to evict them after they clashed with local sheriffs.
- The Braes are home to Sorley MacLean, the 20th century’s most famous Gaelic poet.
- Portree – The main town on the island and a wonderful natural harbour has seen its fair share of ups and downs and in the 1700’s many boats left for North America carrying evicted crofters. It is now a fishing port and the hub of tourist services on the island.
- Skye Heritage Centre (Aros Experience) - [http://www.aros.co.uk](http://www.aros.co.uk) – on the road into Portree this centre aims to celebrate the history and culture of Skye.

The Route

- Leave the Sligachan Hotel, cross the road and walk through the campsite to pick up a track/path leading north east.
- Keep the river to your right before picking up the path alongside Loch Sligachan.
- Cross numerous small streams and rivers as you follow the Loch Shore. These can fill quickly during wet weather but usually subside quickly too.
- Continue on the path to Peinchorran where you join the road (B883).
- Take the right hand fork when the road splits 500m further on. This is more scenic than the B883, which you rejoin after 1.2 miles.
- Follow the single track road through a series of small villages (spread out houses) towards Portree. Above final village of Camustianavaig is Ben Tianavaig, which is a superb viewpoint and can be climbed by a there-and-back route on straightforward grassy slopes which lead up immediatley behind the road’s end in the village. This would add around 2 hrs 30 mins walking time (5km in total with 400metres ascent) to your day but is very worthwhile on a clear day.
- Immediately after crossing the bridge over the River Varragill turn right and follow the track on the west back of the river to the shore.
- Follow field paths northward, parallel to the shore, until it becomes difficult (just before the cemetery). There you can walk up to the main road, where there is a pavement and continue to walk into Portree.
Day 5 – Portree to The Storr

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Portree to The Storr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger No 23 North Skye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/Time</td>
<td>8 Miles (13 Km) 4h00 – 5h00 +560m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrain</td>
<td>Footpath much is off path, minor road, and track.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Drink</td>
<td>Portree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>A magnificent day of coastal walking with wonderful views to Raasay and Torridon. Note that much of the walk today is NOT ON PATHS so you will need the ability to navigate with map and compass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portree</td>
<td>Portree is the largest town on the island and has all the facilities that you would require.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>We have arranged a return transfer from Storr to Portree at 14:45 for you. Please call them directly if you wish to cancel or change the time. Gus’s Taxi - 01478 613000.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternative Walks</td>
<td>Ben Chracaig Headland – Start as per description below but after reaching the open fields continue up the hill to Torvaig where you pick up a path that leads back to Portree. Route notes available at Tourist information Centre in Portree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Old Man of Storr – This geological wonderland is easily accessed from the main road. Take the bus to the car park and then the round trip to the Old Man of Storr takes in the region of 2 – 3 Hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Useful Link</td>
<td>The Walk Highlands Website has outstanding route notes and walk descriptions including GPS tracks and more. For a description of this walk in reverse visit: <a href="http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/portreecoast.shtml">http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/portreecoast.shtml</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Points of Interest

- The Old Man of Storr – The geological slippage all along the Trotternish Peninsula has resulted in the formation of several amazing rock formations. The Storr and the Quirang are the most impressive and easily accessed and you could spend many hours exploring this geological wonderland.
The Route

- Follow the road to Staffin out of Portree past the supermarket and Bosville Hotel.
- Shortly after the Hotel take the road signposted to the Cuillin Hills Hotel (Scorrybreac Road) and follow the road along the shore to the end where it become a good footpath.
- Follow the path round the headland until you reach the open fields at Torvaig.
- Leave the main path, cross the dry stone wall by a stile and head north east across the fields, following an ancient boundary wall, now thickly grassed over.
- You will reach a fence, cross using the stile and climb the steep open slopes above, keep the cliffs a safe distance to your right and climb to Point 392, a further kilometre away to the north.
- Continue to follow the escarpment north to Craig Ulatota (364m) and then Fiurnean (349m).
- Continue to follow the cliff top to grip 510 500 where you descend a small crag by an easy grassy gully.
- Continue north across boggy ground to reach the electricity board buildings at the head of Loch Leathan.
- Join the track and follow to the main road where you turn right and walk 500m to the Storr car park.
- If you have the energy or inclination you can ascend the good path to reach the Old Man of Storr. The trail is clear and easy, but quite steep with around 300m of ascent around 2 hours for the round trip, including an exploration of the pinnacles.
- Rapsons Local Bus runs back to Portree at Mon – Fri 1059, 1259, 1657 (School days), 1653 (non school days), Sat 1659.
- Your taxi will meet you at the car park at 14:45. Please call them directly to arrange an earlier/later time.
**Day 6 – The Storr to The Quiraing**

| IMPORTANT | Today is a full and long mountain hill walking day and navigation can be challenging in poor visibility. It is important that you are properly equipped with full hill walking and navigation gear. If in doubt of your ability to handle the prevailing weather conditions choose an alternative walk for the day. |
| Section | The Storr to The Quiraing |
| Map | Ordnance Survey Landranger No 23 North Skye |
| Distance/Time | 21 km/13 miles | Ascent 1500m Descent 1451m | 8 – 9 Hours |
| Grade | Strenuous. |
| Terrain | Rough pathless terrain although most of the walking is on short cropped grass. A lot of ascent and descent, but mainly in short sections. |
| Food & Drink | Portree |
| Summary | The Trotternish Ridge is a magnificent high level escarpment that runs the length of the Trotternish Peninsula. The Eastern slopes were created by a huge landslip and are decorated by pinnacles, huge cliffs, and superb views. The views of the cliffs are excellent and you explore both the Storr and the Quiraing. The walk should not be underestimated as navigation can be difficult in mist and the going is tough. |
| Staffin | Staffin is a small village spread out along the road. It has a small shop and post office as well as a few B&B’s. |
| Transfer | We have arranged a transfer from Portree to the Storr at 09:00 for you with Gus’s Taxis. **Please call them directly if you wish to cancel or change the time.** Gus’s Taxi - 01478 613000 |
| Alternative Walks | **The Old Man of Storr** – This geological wonderland is easily accessed from the main road. Take the bus to the car park and then the round trip to the Old Man of Storr takes in the region of 2 – 3 Hours. |
| Useful Link | The Walk Highlands Website has outstanding route notes and walk descriptions including GPS tracks and more. For the first section of the route visit this page: [http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/hartaval.shtml](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/hartaval.shtml) For the section from Baca Ruadh, 639m to The Quiraing visit this page which describes the entire Trotternish Ridge from North to South: [http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/trotternishridge.shtml](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/trotternishridge.shtml) |
Points of Interest

- The Old Man of Storr – The geological slippage all along the Trotternish Peninsula has resulted in the formation of several amazing rock formations. The Storr and the Quiraing are the most impressive and easily accessed and you could spend many hours exploring this geological wonderland.
- The Trotternish Ridge – the ridge is formed from sheets of heavy basalt lava. The weight of the rock pressing down on weaker sedimentary rocks below caused a series of huge landslides, the biggest in Britain, which have resulted in the shattered, dramatic landforms on the eastern side of the ridge.

The Route

- Your taxi will drop you at The Storr car park.
- From the car park go past the two information boards, through the gate and follow the good path uphill through the plantation towards the old man of Storr.
- Leave the forest and continue along the path towards the Old Man, when the path forks take the left hand fork, which is the easier approach to The Old Man of Storr.
- Facing north leave the Old Man of Storr to your right and walk between the Old Man and the high cliffs on your right on a small path, ignoring a sign informing you of a danger of rock fall.
- Continue on the path that runs between the Old Man and the cliffs, cross a fence and continue to contour around the base of the cliffs on the small path.
- The path bears left over a steeper step to take you into the wide bowl of Coire Scamadal.
- Follow the path over the corrie floor heading north west, the cliffs on the northern side of Coire Scamadal soon reduce in size and you can scramble up one of the many easy grass gullies to reach the ridge that runs to the summit of the Storr. The ground is rather loose and gritty here and care should be taken especially when wet underfoot. You are now on the Trotternish Ridge!
- When you reach the ridge descend across trackless slopes and aim for the Bealach a’ Chuirn (487 546), you will probably have to backtrack slightly in a south westerly direction. This section can be tricky to navigate in poor visibility as the bealach is wide and featureless.
- From the Bealach head north west and climb steeply to Hartaval (668m) keeping the cliffs to your right and keeping well clear of the gullies which cut into the plateau. The climb is steep but short lived and the first of many.
- There is almost no evidence of a path from here until you reach The Quiraing at the end of the day although the grass is generally short and provides a good walking surface.
- Navigation is now much more straightforward as you simply keep the cliffs to your right and follow the escarpment until you reach Baca Ruadh.
There are NO ESCAPE ROUTES from the ridge so if you decide not to continue all the way to the Quiraing you are best returning to the way you came to the Storr and catching the bus to Staffin.

From Hartaval descend northwest, following the line of the ridge, to Bealach Hartaval and then climb steeply to spot heights 615 and then 639.

**Take care descending from spot 639,** follow the ridge NW for 300m then N for 200m (You don’t need to follow the short ridge out to Sgurr a’ Mhadaidh Ruaidh, which juts out from the main ridge, but in dry calm conditions it makes a a fine scenic detour) and then continue north west from spot 593 to descend to the bealach.

Climb steeply again to spot 609 and then continue to follow the line of the ridge over the summits and saddles to Beinn Edra, which at 611m is the highest point on this part of the ridge.

The views down the escarpment to the sea are wonderful and you will see rock formations and hidden sanctuaries that few ever peer into.

By the time you reach Beinn Edra you will feel very well exercised but have broken the back of the day and the end is in sight.

Descend from Beinn Edra to reach Bealach Uige (keeping within 100m of the cliff as this is the driest ground)

Cross the large relatively flat area (interrupted by Druim na Coille) to reach the final steep and unrelenting climb at Bealach nan Coisichean.

This brutal climb takes you to spot height 466 (Biode Buidhe), there are some rough sheep tracks to start and once you get into the climb it’s not as bad as it looks. Try and keep to the right on the short cropped grass because if you drift towards spot height 452 you have to cross a large area of flat, very boggy ground to reach 466m. Aim to approach spot 466 from the south to avoid the worst of the soft ground.

From Dioda Buidhe follow the ridge for about 600m until you reach a line of low crags which cuts northwest back from the line of the ridge.

A developing path cuts easily through this line of crags, and then descends, loosely following the edge of the main escarpment, towards the road.

Reach the road, pat yourself on the back for finishing a tough mountain walk.

Your accommodation provider will be picking you up from the Quiraing Car Park. Please see your accommodation sheet for further details.
Day 7 – The Quiraing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>The Quiraing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Map</td>
<td>Ordnance Survey Landranger No 23 North Skye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance/Time</td>
<td>10.5 Km/6 Miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrain</td>
<td>Mainly on good paths and short cropped grass but with short rocky sections some boggy terrain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Drink</td>
<td>Staffin, Flodigarry. There is often a refreshment van at the Quiraing car park (half way round the route) during the summer months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>The Quiraing and the surrounding area is a geological wonderland and you can spend hours exploring the weird and wonderful rock formations and wondering at the huge cliffs and taking in the views which encompass both the mainland and the western isles as well as Skye itself.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Taxi          | Gus’s Taxi - 01478 613000.  
A bus runs from Portree to Uig and vice versa via Staffin Flodigarry. |
| Alternative Walks | Rubha Hunish – The spectacular northern tip of the island can be visited by an easy walk of about 4 km. The headland is crowned by “The Lookout”, an old coastguard station now beautifully renovated as a very cosy bothy with superb views from it’s panoramic windows. The start point is a car park and phone box at Sulista road end (grid ref 422742) which can be reached easily by bus or taxi. The path has been recently upgraded and is excellent. This very upmarket bothy is a good objective even in wild weather. After returning to the car park it is well worth turning right and walking down to view the ruins of Duntulm Castle on it’s rocky headland. |
| Useful Link   | You can read view photographs, download a GPS route (of the entire Trotternish Ridge from North to South) and view a different description on the Walk Highland Website here:  
http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/skye/trotternishridge.shtml |
Points of Interest

- The Quiraing – The Quiraing (means “cattle pen”) is the most popular and arguably the most impressive group of geological features on the Trotternish Ridge. The Prison, Needle and Table are all features in this particularly broken section of the escarpment, formed by a continuing process of landslipping. Regardless of the weather the area has an evocative atmosphere of a forgotten world. Views from the crest of Meall na Suiramach are spectacular in all directions.

The Route

- You will be dropped off by your accommodation provider at the start of a path which leads uphill (w) at grid ref 463 710 signposted “Maoladh Mor via Quiraing”. This is 1 km from Flodigarry.
- The well maintained path leads up past Loch Langaig and makes it’s way up the hill and around the the north end of Loch Hasco.
- You soon reach a junction with the main, level, Quiraing path (cairn)
- Head right, following the main path northwards over a small saddle with a broken down wall.
- The path continues through a grassy hollow before a short ascent in a furrowed section leads to a stile on the crest of the ridge at GR 499 705. Cross the stile. This is a great viewpoint.
- OPTION: continue northwards along the grassy crest towards Sron Vourlin, another fine viewpoint. Retrace your steps.
- Now turn left (south) and follow a path up grassy slopes towards the summit of Meall na Suiramach. The best line stays somewhat back from the cliff edge on your left, but the views down to the Quiraing below are impressive.
- The ascent levels off and reaches a cairn at GR 448 694. From here you can look down on one of the Quiraing’s most celebrated features, a pinnacle named The Table, although there is no way down to it from here.
- Continue following the cliff edge southwards for 500 metres until you pass through a gate in a fence. The path is indistinct here, and careful navigation is needed in misty conditions. If in doubt keep the cliff edge close, but not too close, on your left!
- The path now becomes much more distinct, but also more muddy. Follow it downhill towards the car park on the road at GR 440 680. the path steepens considerably as it descends towards the lower escarpment. Arrive at a path junction some 200 metres before the car park.
- Instead of heading for the road and car park, follow the main path left (north) back towards the Quiraing, this time following the base of the cliffs you have just traversed the top of.
- The path is good and generally level but with a few minor rocky sections. At one point you descend to cross a small gully, after which the path soon levels off again.
- You will pass the site of a recent small landslide, the process that has formed this whole area. Keep a level course, beneath the biggest boulders in the debris, and the path soon emerges again.
- At GR 451 690 you arrive in a sheltered hollow with a pinnacle called The Prison to your right. This can be ascended by a short detour for some good views.
- Continue up the path, now on stony scree, to reach a shoulder with 2 cairns.
- OPTION: From here it is possible to follow a very steep path up behind the pinnacle on your left, known as The Needle. A short steep slot on the right leads to a continuation upwards and eventually to the flat summit of The Table. This area is fascinating and well worth the effort with amazing scenery, but the path is rough and very steep. You should only attempt it if you are feeling sure-footed, and in dry conditions. Descent from The Table is by a path which passes immediately round the base of the Table on the seaward (front) side, leading northward and onto a stony path that leads down a gully system and back to the main path at GR 452 693. Allow around 1 hr 30 mins for this adventurous side trip.
- MAIN ROUTE: Continue along the level path, coming to a fence and stile after 100 metres. Cross the stile and continue on the path, under a rock overhang. The path curves round to the left but stays at the same level. After 600m you arrive back at the cairn marking the path junction and the path you came up earlier in the day.
- Turn right and retrace your outward route back down past the 2 lochans and so to the road. Turn left and you will arrive in Flodigarry after 1 km.
Macs Adventure Walking Holidays –
Recommended Clothing and Equipment

Having the correct personal equipment will make your walking holiday more enjoyable and comfortable. I hope that you find the following suggestions useful when considering what to take on your trip. They are based on my own experiences and I am sure that you will find other solutions will work equally well.

**Boots/Walking Shoes**

Keeping your feet happy and comfortable is essential. You have two choices when it comes to footwear. Traditionally boots were the only option but recent advances have meant walking shoes are becoming more popular. Whichever you choose ensure that they are comfortable and well worn in.

**Socks**

There is no point spending money on good boots or shoes and then not using the right socks. I would always recommend wearing just one pair of good quality walking socks. Again ask for advice in a specialist outdoor retailer. Take a minimum of two pairs on your trip and preferably three. Personally I swear by both Smartwool and Bridgedale. A great tip to prevent blisters is to coat your feet with Vaseline each morning then put on your socks, this stops rubbing and blisters appearing.

**Rucksack**

Your main bag will be transferred, but you still need a backpack to carry spare clothing, food and water. There are numerous models on the market, ideally yours should be 15 – 30 litres, comfortable and have a waistband.

**Walking Poles**

Walking poles are becoming more popular. I use and recommend them. A pair is best but many walkers start with just one. Leki Makalu anti-shock poles are some of the best although there are numerous brands on the market.

**Clothing**

I generally walk in a loose fitting pair of comfortable walking trousers or shorts (zip-offs are great in the summer) and a comfortable fast drying shirt or T-shirt. This combined with a warm mid-layer (fleece) and a breathable waterproof jacket and trousers take care of most weather conditions.

**Important:** A good sun hat which covers the back of your neck is essential in the summer. A waterproof jacket and trousers are highly recommended as it can rain at any time of year. You will need a warm hat and gloves in the winter, spring and autumn.

**Water Carrier**

A large water bottle is essential. Keeping hydrated is a key part of enjoying your day on the trail. Hydration systems with a reservoir in your pack and a drinking tube are becoming more popular and do tend to ensure you drink regularly.

**Packing Checklist**

This refers to your needs during the day; don’t forget comfortable shoes and clothes for the evenings as well as any medical and toiletry requirements.

**Essential**
- Walking boots/shoes
- Suitable clothing including good walking socks
- Hat
- Waterproof jacket
- Water carrier / bottle
- Food and snacks
- Rucksack
- Guidebook & Maps (supplied)
- Blister treatment kit
- First aid kit
- Cash and credit cards

**Desirable**
- Whistle, torch
- Walking poles
- Binoculars
- Camera (with spare batteries and film)
- Toilet tissue (biodegradable)
- Sun and wind protection
- Spare socks.
- Mobile phone

Contact Details:
Macs Adventure: (Office) +44 141 530 8886 (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 19:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00)
Emergency out of hours: (Mob) +44 (0) 7500 718 081
Police, Mountain Rescue, Fire, Ambulance: 112 or 999
Contact Details: Macs Adventure: (Office) +44 141 530 8886 (Mon – Fri 09:00 – 19:00, Sat 09:00 – 17:00)

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