



Sea Kayaking Cornwall

www.seakayakingcornwall.com

Scotland Expedition

Isle of Skye

9 May – 16 May 2020

Expedition Outline

We will meet at the camping ground at Portree on Saturday 9th May and stay one night to prepare and plan our expedition. On the Sunday morning (10th May) we launch from the most suitable area based on the weather forecast and winds.

The intention is to paddle out of Portree and to do a circular route around Raasay and Rona, as well as visiting Scalpay, Longa, and the Crowlin Islands, which are often home to large numbers of seals. Crossing back over to mainland our options are

to paddle to Applecross or to Plockton before returning to Portree.

The east coast of Raasay is a wonderful place with magnificent geology, waterfalls, and a lovely coast to explore. This area is a venue for real expedition paddling. We will be self-sufficient for a week and free to roam wherever the spirit takes us – and the sea lets us!

If weather conditions are not suitable for this trip then we will paddle on one of the other areas of Skye, perhaps doing an A to B trip and then using local buses to return to the cars.

The appeal of Skye is the wide variety of paddling, the magnificent scenery and the wild life. Often seen are sea eagles, seals, otters and other wild life. This is a wild and unspoilt coast, but it has adequate landing and hiding places to cater for the uncertainties of Scottish weather.

The first and last nights will be spent at the campsite at Portree.

The remainder of the week is to be self-contained, living from the kayaks and finding wild campsites on these remote coastlines.

The weather can be unpredictable so be prepared for cold and wet – but also pack the suncream! Skye is exposed to the north and south so this is real sea with swells, but this adds to the majesty of the coast and increases the chances of sneaking up on unsuspecting otters and seals.

Experience needed

To get the most out of the expedition you should be an Intermediate paddler and be comfortable in conditions associated with force 4 winds. If you have any questions regarding the required ability please feel free to contact us.

What is included

We can supply suitable expedition kayaks or you are welcome to bring your own kayak.

Please advise if you require a kayak at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the expedition.

Buoyancy aids /PFD.

Spray decks.

Paddles.

Sea Kayaking Cornwall's experienced guide with area knowledge offering advice, assistance, planning and safety throughout the trip.

Not included

Transport to the start location in Scotland.

Food or beverages during the trip.

Camping Equipment.

Cost

£750

Location and times

We meet at Torvaig Camping Site, Portree IV51 9HU.

Arrive at your leisure on Saturday the 9th of May. The official briefing will be at 6 pm to get to know each other and discuss the plans.

Please ensure you buy all of your supplies of food, drink and gas or fuel for the week by Saturday evening. There are food stores and sports shops in Portree. Experience has taught us that it is advisable to purchase gas canisters or fuel suitable for your cooker prior to arrival. If you are flying then please let us know and we will endeavour to have fuel available for you.

We will return to Portree Torvaig Camping on Friday 15th May, and go into Portree for a final dinner together. We depart on the morning of Saturday the 16th.

What to bring - recommended

- Travel insurance.
- Prepare for 5 breakfasts - 6 lunches – 5 dinners - plus snacks, hot drinks and soups for the time we are out.
- Dry bags – various sizes, plenty of them.
- A 3 or 4 season tent.
- Sleeping mat and sleeping bag – suitable for cold conditions 3-4 season.
- Stove, pans and gas (water bottle or flexible water bag), plus a reliable means of lighting.
- Thermos or “Jet Boil” style cooker for keeping or heating liquids throughout the day.

- At least two changes of warm clothes, warm hats, gloves and water-proofs.
- Sponge.
- Sun cream.
- Insect repellent in case of midges and a tick remover.
- Sunglasses.
- Camera.
- Personal medication and first aid kit for your use.
- A suitable bag to carry your kit in, up the beach (IKEA bag).
- Suitable footwear for walking in the conditions and changing into at the end of the day.
- Scotland has cell phone reception in many (but not all) places. Ensure you have sufficient power banks.
- Headlamp/torch.
- Cash, as there may be cafes and restaurants to visit without card facilities, or bus fare back to vehicles.

- A suitable bag to carry your kit in, up the beach (IKEA bag).
- Suitable footwear for walking in the conditions and changing into at the end of the day.
- Reading material in case the elements keep us off the water.
- Paddling kit – suitable for cold water paddling!
We can supply some basic paddling kit so please discuss this with us if you are uncertain that you have the correct gear.

There will be the opportunity to fish so bring a hand line or fishing rod. This is not a guaranteed way of supplementing your food but can be great fun..

We bring adequate safety kit. However, if you are a qualified first aider/medical professional please inform us. If you understand how to use safety equipment such as tow lines then please bring them along – a group can never have enough safety equipment on a trip!

If you have kit that you prefer (left hand paddle) or familiar with and fits you comfortably please bring it with you – We always travel with our personal paddles, PFD and clothing.

Looking forward to sharing our “DEVOTION TO THE OCEAN” with you!

Sea Kayaking Cornwall Team

