

Walkislay 2010

*A walking week for all on Islay and Jura
("guaranteed midge free, we believe")*

Saturday 10th April To start walkislay this year, we meet up with Donald James MacPhee at 9.30am sharp at The Gaelic College, Bowmore and aim to be on our way by 10.00 am. (NR323623). DJ's walk is titled "Hitting the Beach- prepare to paddle". This is a circular walk about 9 miles in length. We will walk on the sand towards Bridgend, below the high water mark, coming ashore at South Lodge. We then head up the Mulindry Road, stopping at the monument to Iain Og Ile and take in the surrounding views. The circular walk continues taking in Ballitarsin old chapel site, Mulindry Farm, Tallant and returns on the link road to Bowmore. Please remember to bring wet weather gear, and suitable footwear. Please also remember to bring your packed lunch with you. A good 3* walk to start the week with, see note at end relating our stars! We reckon this is a moderate walk, about 6 hours!



Sunday 11th April Today we meet up Claddach at Portnahaven (NR162534) at 10.15 for a 10.30am start, Paul Graham and Paul Capper are our leaders. An 8 mile circular walk of moderate walking taking about 5 hours, there may be some boggy ground to cover. From Claddach, we will go down to be shown around the Wave generating Station. We will then walk on along the coast line to see the natural arches and from there we will climb up to the trig point at the top of Ben Cladville. After a stop to take in the view, we will drop back down to the coastline again and head up to Lossit

Bay. From Lossit Bay we will return along the road to our starting point at Claddach. Please remember to bring your sandwiches for your lunch. Another 3* walk.





The alternative walk will be led by Iain MacPherson. We meet with Iain at the Killinallan gate (NR302708) at 9.30 for 10am start. This walk will follow the coast line out to Killinallan Point and continue along the shore line/ dunes out along Traigh Baile Aonghais and then head in to Gortantoid. We return to our cars along the track past Killinallan. This was the walk that Clare Balding did on her radio program during the summer of 2006. Another circular walk of around 5 hours, easy to moderate going, mind the sandwiches! Only a 2* walk this time!

At 9pm in the Port Charlotte Hotel, there will be some light music along with some of the locals, so come along for a pint and enjoy the craic! No stars for this one, sorry folks.

Monday 12th April Your walk leaders are Florrie MacAllister and Maggie Pollard and your walk will take around 5+ hours of moderate walking. A good 2* walk, about 12 miles or so. Meet with Florrie and Maggie at Red Lodge, (NR340573) at 10.45 for a 11.00am start. Their walk will follow the Burma Road alongside the River Laggan down to Corrary and then head across the road and out towards Laggan Point. We will cross over the River Laggan by the suspension bridge and head down the Big Strand to Kintra. Please remember to bring your packed lunch with you! Transport will be laid on from Kintra for your return to your cars at the starting point.



Our other walk will be led by Jack and Rae Adamson commencing from Kilchoman (NR 2106633). This is a circular walk taking around 4-5 hours. We may have time to take in the grave slabs in the old churchyard before heading out past where one of the sanctuary crosses once stood, onto Creag Mhor, and then to



“The Swordmakers’ House and up to the trig point. From there on a clear day, you should have a tremendous view all around. We then head along the top of Glen Osamail and return to our cars via Rockside. The heather may be tall in some parts, but we will try to keep to the sheep tracks there! Please meet up at 10.15 for a prompt 10.30am start and remember your packed lunch... A great 3* walk

There will be a “Visitors Welcome evening”, at 8 p.m., to be held in the Gaelic College in Bowmore. Listen to some of our local musicians, sample Rae’s clottie dumpling and wash it down with a local dram. Even better, there is no charge for this! Come and share some Islay hospitality at its best. Enjoy.

Tuesday 13th April This morning we meet with Scott Brown and Alan MacDonald at 9.00am sharp at the car park at the Auction Market, Bridgend (NR333625). We shall be sharing transport, leaving at 9.15am. We will be walking from Gortantoid, across the moorland to the caves at Bolsa. From Bolsa, we follow the coastline to the lighthouse at Rhuvaal and then head south along the Sound of Jura to Bunnahabhain. We return to our cars, at the market after being picked up at Bunnahabhain. Do not forget your food as there are no shops en route! The views, weather permitting are not to be missed, both of the scenery and of herds of Red Deer. A good strenuous 3* walk, around about 14 miles, for all you hardy walkers. This walk is the same as the successful one that Jack Adamson led in previous years. **This walk is restricted in numbers to 16 folk**, to book your place, please contact Ian Brooke on 01496 850 382 for your place.





An alternative, shorter walk will be led by Andy Schofield, starting from the car park (NR281419) at the RSPB Oa reserve, Upper Killeyan at 10am sharp. This is a circular walk taking in the American Monument returning along the coastline to Upper Killeyan. On a clear day, Rathlin Island and the Irish coast can be seen. Apart from the tremendous views that may be seen, there is a good chance to see some of the birds and other wildlife on the reserve. This is about 4 miles of moderate walking and 3 hours of your time and is a 2 * walk. Light snacks advisable for those who wish one.

Wednesday 14th April Today, we meet up at Port Askaig at 9.35 sharp with James How to catch the ferry over to Colonsay. James has checked the tide timetables and all going well our walk will be going over to Oronsay. We have hoped for several years to have done this walk, so it has been a long wait, but well worth it! The walk will start from The Strand, and crossing over to Oronsay when the tide is out, we will walk up to the Proiry where we shall be able to take our sandwiches! James will be able to give us all an insight to living on a remote island as he once stayed on Oronsay. We will return to Scalasaig before the tide comes in! 6 - 7 miles of moderate walking and an all day adventure! We will be providing transport on Colonsay to help you having to do so much leg work on the roads. We should return to Islay around 7pm. Remember your lunch again or you will be able to purchase food on the Cal Mac ferry, especially if you have worked up an appetite after this walk. James's walk is another good 2 * for your card. This walk is slightly dearer in cost because of the return ferry fare to Colonsay.



Thursday 15th April Today, Tom Dunne and Neil Park are our leaders. We meet with them at the track at the top of Castlehill (NR353527). We will have somebody at the road end directing you to the correct track. Their walk will take in Maol Airigh o Dhuin, Bheinn Bhreac and possibly Beinn Uraraidh Tom and Neil's walk will be challenging in some parts, but well worth the effort, it should take around 4 - 5 hours and is about 7+ miles in length. We meet up with our leaders at 10.15 for a 10.30 start. A well deserved 3 * walk.



For those wishing an easier option, meet with Michal Sur at RSPB Loch Gruinart Visitor Centre. Michal has just returned from Aride and Dennis Island in The Seychelles after working there for 6 months. Michal will lead the short walk down to the hide, returning through the woodland trail. Michal's walk will leave at 10am prompt, along tracks and

paths, about 2 miles and 2 hours to allow for twitching en route (1* walk, sorry Michal!).

At 8 p.m. on Thursday evening there will be an illustrated talk, on Islay's wildlife by Malcolm Ogilvie at the Wildlife Centre, Port Charlotte. There will be a small entrance fee (donated to the Wildlife Trust), but there will be some refreshments available afterwards.

Friday 16th April, our last day and for those wishing, some of Jura, we will meet up at Port Askaig at 09.10 for shared transport on the 0930 ferry. We will meet in with Gordon and Louise Muir up at Gatehouse, up past Craighouse (NR584772). Their walk will start at Gatehouse for approximately 7 km, and then return over the hill on an "Argo track" to Gatehouse. This walk should have lovely views of Thomas Telford pier, Gigha and Arran. It is



not a full days walk, but should take around 4 – 5 hours. The last walk for those dreaded sarnies, thankfully...., Gordon and Louise's walk is worth every step to gain you another 3* and take in some of our spectacular scenery. Hopefully you should make back to Feolin for the 16.30 ferry back to Islay.



Our final walk, we meet with the 2 Pauls, Paul Hathaway and Paul Capper at the Hall in Ballygrant, 5.45pm for a 6.00pm start. Their walk is a circular walk which we did back in 2006. We head out on the road towards Mulindry past the former silver mines. We then bear left towards Ballygrant Loch to view the crannog there, and walk on along the track before going over the moorland to Auchnaclach and return along the newly constructed pathway between Port Askaig and Ballygrant This is around 4 miles, moderate going and 2 hours of your time. Only 2*, but you will get a well deserved plate of soup and sandwiches to refresh you when we get back to the hall.

A nominal fee will be charged for each walk, and **suitable footwear and clothing is strongly recommended**. We have tried to grade the walks as easy, moderate, challenging and strenuous.

*For those of you who had been wondering what the star rating are for, well here goes. As usual as an incentive for you to come and join us on the walks we will be giving you **walkislay prize**. All you have to do is to do the walks to attain a total of 8 stars to aim for your **walkislay prize**.*

We wish to thank the various land managers who kindly allowed us to hold **walkislay** over their properties, and all the walkleaders gave their valuable time and help to make the walks possible.

If you require further information on **walkislay**, phone Ian Brooke on 01496 850 382, or e mail us on footsteps@walkislay.co.uk

Pictures courtesy of Armin Grewe, for further pictures and reports from previous Islay walking weeks visit <http://www.armin-grewe.com/islay/islay-walking-week.htm>

