



2008 Holiday Dossier

Guided Walking Holidays and Courses in Scotland from the leading experts

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AUTUMN MUNROS (Grade 3)

The golden birch mixed with the deep green pines; rusty bracken and rich brown moors; the array of colours amongst the flora of the high tops, all combine to make this the most colourful time of year to visit.



Arrive: Fraoch Lodge on Sunday 26th October. Try to aim for between 5 and 7 pm so that you have time to settle in and meet the rest of the group before dinner at approx. 7.30pm.

Day 1: Geal-charn, Beinn Udlamain and A'Mharconaich form a very enjoyable circuit - all around peaks rise to catch ones attention and far below the huge trench harbouring Loch Ericht.

Day 2: Glen Affric is a 'must see' at this time. Mighty mountains and wooded slopes all in their autumnal shades & reflected in the dark waters of the loch. Tom a'Choinich is our aim.

Day 3: The autumnal colours almost border on the vivid as we ascend to Geal Charn & Creag Pitridh. Ginger brown mountain flanks echo to the roar of rutting stags. A great walk high above some stunning lochs.

Day 4: We enter the realm of the Blue Hare, Golden Eagle & Red Deer to ascend A' Chailleach, Carn Sgulain and Carn Dearg in the vast high expanse of the Monadh Liath. From a wide open glen we climb to unending views of mountain wilderness.

Day 5: The Pass of Ryvoan with its woodland and aquamarine lochan is a jewel in the Cairngorm crown. This is our approach to the distinctive pyramid of Bynack Mor before we drop to strange rock formations.

Depart: Saturday 1st November after breakfast.

Price: £498 (5 days, 6 nights) fully inclusive of: all guiding or instruction, accommodation at Fraoch Lodge, full board, transport and transfers to Aviemore Station or Inverness airport*.

We advise guests to arrive at Fraoch Lodge between 5 - 7 pm if possible.

Mountain Innovations advises all clients to take out suitable insurance cover. For clients resident in the UK we can offer insurance cover against personal accident, cancellation and lost/stolen baggage. Please phone 01479 831 331 for full details.



* Mountain Innovations Ltd will pick up from Inverness airport at approx. 5pm, unless otherwise arranged.

GRADING INFORMATION

The grading of each holiday is based on the average length of the day for that holiday. The time takes an accurate account of the distance and amount of ascent & descent. Additional time is also included for breaks. These calculations have then been tempered by walking the routes with any necessary adjustments having then been made to the grading. For the easier grade holidays (grades 1 & 2) the

day length has been adjusted to give a slower pace more suited to the tempo of the holiday.

Grade 3: this is challenging walking. These holidays involve 6 - 7 hrs walking with the need to maintain a steady pace. They're suitable for fit hill walkers or anyone who takes regular (weekly) exercise. The routes may include steep ascents/descents over rough mountain terrain. The steeper gradients usually total up to around 800m of ascent.

It's important for your own and the rest of the group's enjoyment, that you choose the right holiday for your ability. If you are in any doubt to the suitability of a particular holiday please don't hesitate to give Andrew a ring on 01479 831 331 so we can better advise you.

Since time is often given over to photography and due to the vagaries of the mountain environment the average day length should only be regarded as an estimate.

ABOUT US

Established in 1998, we're an owner-run provider of guided walking holidays and mountain courses in the Highlands of Scotland. We firmly believe 'the day' doesn't finish with the walk; we don't hand you over to someone else, you arrive back to 'Cake O'Clock' - a welcoming mug of tea and some of Rebecca's home baking.

Andrew's knowledge of the mountain environment is extensive. Having a background in geology and being interested in natural history and conservation from an early age, he's a mine of information. The fine food and relaxed atmosphere mean that access to some of the wildest places in Britain is a safe, fun and exhilarating experience.

We are always on hand to ensure your stay exceeds expectations and are very proud of all the great testimonials we receive. Come and

enjoy an adventure with us.

YOUR HOSTS

Both Andrew and Rebecca have travelled widely. Andrew's mountaineering experience of 15 years is complemented by a number of independent expeditions to such places as the Karakoram mountains of Pakistan, the Indian Himalaya, the Alps, Mount Kenya and the High Atlas of Morocco.

Rebecca has trekked extensively in New Zealand and Australia. She has worked in Taiwan and travelled throughout Asia. She brings her knowledge of global cuisines to the preparation of her highly regarded and creative menus.

FRAOCH LODGE - YOUR ACCOMMODATION

Our Highland base is Fraoch Lodge. The Lodge provides a very comfortable dining room with wood burning stove & a separate lounge with open fire.

Single guests generally share a twin room with a member of the same sex.

If you would prefer single occupancy of a room please enquire for availability (surcharge may apply).

Full details of Fraoch Lodge are available from our web site at www.scotmountain.co.uk

CATERING

Rebecca's meals have been described as 'blue-ribboned events'. Bread is baked daily and all dishes are home-prepared using as much of our organic, home-grown ingredients as possible. There are a variety of options for breakfast. Packed lunches are imaginative but practical. There are home made cakes on our return and the evening meal consists of 2 courses, with the option for seconds, followed by tea or coffee.

We operate a BYO policy for dinner.



RECOMMENDED KIT LIST

- Windproof/Waterproof jacket with hood
- Windproof/Waterproof trousers
- Gaiters (optional)
- Proper Walking boots and socks (not walking shoes nor sneakers/approach shoes)
- Walking poles (optional)
- Ruck Sack - 30 litre plus capacity
- Warm clothing - (e.g. fleece or 2 x thin wool jumpers)
- Hat (warm & sun hats)
- Gloves
- Walking Trousers (not jeans)
- Sun block
- Sun glasses (optional)
- Water bottle/flask
- Towel
- Slippers/indoor shoes
- Outdoor shoes for bus, etc
- Thermal underwear top or warm shirt (preferably not cotton)
- Shorts and T-shirt (optional)

Clients are advised to avoid wearing clothing made out of 100% cotton for mountaineering since cotton loses a lot of its thermal potential when wet. It is far more versatile to opt for a number of thin layers, as opposed to a couple of thick layers with regards to warm clothing.

If you have any doubts on the suitability of your kit please don't hesitate to contact us: 01479 831 331.

OUR RESPONSIBLE POLICY

On all our holidays we have a 'leave nothing, take only photographs' policy. Our guides are asked to explain and encourage this policy. For example, leaving an apple core or feeding a seagull on a mountain

summit may seem innocuous but it detracts from the 'untouched wilderness' aspect and can have a detrimental knock-on effect on the indigenous wildlife. Our guides are there your safety & enjoyment & to informally share their knowledge of the mountain environment - from its geological beginnings through to contemporary land management and its associated politics.

We compost all biodegradable waste in 3 large compost heaps built from scrap wood and use this to fertilise the garden, especially our vegetable patch.

The lodge is mainly heated by a multi-fuel stove which is supplied by wood from the garden, deadfall in the local woods and cutoffs (a waste product) from the sawmill at Carrbridge

We have been awarded Silver under the Green Tourism Business Scheme for our commitment to protecting and conserving the environment.

TRAVEL TO THE HIGHLANDS

If you are intending to fly you can find all options on the Inverness airport web site at www.hial.co.uk Alternatively you could take the train to Aviemore. Direct services run from London with GNER & Scotrail (the sleeper).

Mountain Innovations are offering a £15 GREEN TRAVEL DISCOUNT for clients travelling to & from Fraoch Lodge/Aviemore by train or bus.

