

Di Gilbert Mountaineering – Introduction to Skye

“Climbers are a universal tribe: we share the knowledge that things are not important. Experience is important. Feeling is important.” Steve House

Introduction

The Black Cuillin of Skye are without any doubt, the most dramatic mountains in Scotland. With an Alpine atmosphere, the mountains are almost entirely rocky with narrow crests and steep sides. Combined with unreliable weather, intense navigation and route choice, the Cuillins of Skye are the most challenging mountain range in the UK.

There are 11 Munro's on the Cuillin, with one being magnificently isolated. They nearly all require some scrambling to reach their summits. The famous Inaccessible Pinnacle requires some rock climbing skills.

The Course

This is a 5 day course introducing you to the Cuillin and sections of the Ridge. We build the course itinerary around your aspirations, your companions and the weather – which often has a very big say on the matter. During the 5 days we will try and visit the 3 main sections – North, Central & Southern Cuillin and attempt some of Skye's classic scrambling routes.

Suggested routes may include:

*Pinnacle Ridge, Sgurr nan Gillean
East Ridge, Am Basteir
North Ridge, Sgurr Mhic Choinnich
East Ridge, Inaccessible Pinnacle*

This can be a very physically and mentally challenging course and you should be prepared for 5 long mountain days.

Ratio:

This course is run with a 1:3 ratio.

Dates

We are available from May – October although we strongly recommend either May/June or September/Oct.

We arrange to meet on the Sunday evening where you get the chance to meet your course companions and discuss, as a team, your aspirations.

We then spend 5 quality days on the hill with you finishing on the Friday evening, normally over a hot chocolate or pint.

are ideal. A 1 litre water bottle should provide enough liquid and/or a flask depending on personal preference.

Walking boots	There is a huge array of scrambling boots on the market now. I want a light weight boot that is comfortable and has a stiff vibram sole. Have a look at Scarpa's Cristallo and Charmoz boots www.scarpa.co.uk .
First Aid	Any personal medication and a small first aid kit to deal with common problems such as blisters, sunburn and insect bites.
Head torch	A small head torch with spare batteries. Either Halogen or strong LED's are the best.
Navigation tools	For Skye I prefer to use the specific Harvey map. Silva compasses are the best in my opinion.
Emergency kit	A cheap orange plastic emergency bivouac bag which can live in the bottom of your rucksack. A little whistle is good for attracting attention and weighs nothing.
Climbing helmet	Essential for any type of scrambling activity. This can be provided if indicated on your booking form.
Climbing harness	This makes things much easier – trust me. This can be provided if indicated on your booking form.