

The Skye Ridge © digilbert

Introduction to

The Southern Cuillin © digilbert

Skye



The Inaccessible Pinnacle © digilbert



Sgurr nan Gillean © digilbert



"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.



Price

£475.00 per person. This course requires a minimum of 2 people to run.

This price includes instruction/guiding services and any technical equipment required.

Accommodation can be arranged in either a Bunkhouse, B&B or Hotel depending on your personal preference.

It is recommended that you provide your own transport which allows us to carry out journeys on the ridge which can start and finish at different points along the Ridge – this makes the logistics much easier.

Equipment

Waterproofs

You will require waterproof jacket & trousers. Essential to keep the wind and rain out and the warmth in. I prefer hard wearing waterproofs that will survive the notorious rough Gabro on the Ridge. Trousers with at least a half leg zip will ensure that they can be put on over boots.

Clothes

I recommend the layering system so that you can easily regulate your temperature depending on what the weather is doing. I tend to wear a thermal base layer along with a mid layer thin fleece and a secondary fleece. Any kind of wicking fabric is recommended and cotton is to be avoided at all costs. Trousers which can dry out fast are ideal.

I carry a thin pair of gloves and a woolly hat whatever the weather forecast. A sun hat is a good idea too on those hot & sunny days.



Spare Clothes

Apart from the clothes that I intend to wear through the day, I'll always have an extra layer with me. I'm a big fan of the synthetic 'belay jacket' which is a lightweight jacket that can be worn over all my clothes. If you don't have one of these, an extra fleece will suffice. I'll also carry a spare pair of big gloves with me.

Rucksack



Roughly 40 - 45 litres will be fine for Skye scrambling courses. You want to be able to comfortably get all your kit inside. I like simplistic designs with a good size pocket in the lid. I highly recommend www.deutergb.co.uk.

Everything in your rucksack wants to remain dry so a waterproof liner is a good idea. I'm a big fan of Exped's Fold Dry bags. Failing this, lots of plastic bags will also work.

Food & Drink

Like any engine, your body needs fuel to perform at its best. Lots of small items that can be munched on throughout the day 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.

Innaccessible Pinnacle © digilbert



Oi Gilbert Mountaineering