

## SCOTTISH ISLANDS PROJECT ITINERARY

Song of the Whale email: sotw@onsatmail.com

### WEEK 1: 15-22 July

14 passengers and crew + 2 day sailors

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#### 15 July - Fri - Oban

- Dunstaffnage: 1=4p,pm tour of BioMara research facilities at SAMS with Prof Lawrence Mee, Director

#### 15 July - Fri night - Tobermory or LochAline?

- Sail to Tobermory OR Moor at Lochaline (new pontoon installed June) for Ardtornish visit/Whitehorse Restaurant

#### 16/17 July - Sat-Sun nights - Mull

- If staying at Lochaline, sail to Tobermory am
- 11am. Meet Jimmy Polson for visit to Sgriob-ruadh farm/Isle of Mull Cheese. Meet Dawn Reade, Chris and Jeff. Evening book launch at An Tobar.
- Poss visit to Crackaig, Ardmeanach Peninsula: Mackinnon's Cave, MacCulloch's tree, at Ridha na h-Uamha, Ross of Mull on 17th (tree fossil overwhelmed by larva 20 feet deep 60 million years ago.)

#### 18 Jul - Mon night - Rum

- Community owned area around Kinloch Bay
- Port na Caranean abandoned village

#### 19/20 Jul - Tues, Wed nights - Eigg

- Rum Community Trust
- Screening of *There Once Was an Island*; drinks provided by CF on 19th in Hall. Afternoon intro to buyout with Maggie Fyffe.
- Eigg Electric on Wed morning (John Booth) and east side of island. Oliver Rowe, Marie and Sue Kirk to meet and explore local ingredients at Lageorna Restaurant? Food for locals at 8pm and ceilidh to follow.
- Musicians: Damian Helliwell and others.
- Thurs dawn moth trap visit with John Chester?
- leave lunchtime Thurs

#### 21 Jul - Thurs - Skye

- Loch Coruisk ('one of the most awe inspiring places on earth')
- Camp at Loch Brittle

#### 22 July: Mallaig

- Week 1 drop-off at Mallaig

### WEEK 2: 22 - 29 July

14 passengers and crew + 2 day sailors

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### 22 July - Fri - Mallaig

- Week 2 pickup 2pm

### 22 July - Fri night - Armadale or Ostaig Bay, Sleat

- SEALL arts event: Alastair Fraser, Natalie Haas and Fiddle Summer School on Skye at Sabhal Mor Ostaig 8pm. Anchor in Ostaig Bay. Meet Duncan McInnes

### 23 Jul - Sat - Elgol, Skye (short stopover)

- Poss visit to Soay basking shark factory site

### 23 July - Sat Canna

- Canna House visit: Alison Turnbull's research into moth collection. World's biggest library of Celtic language and literature and Gaelic songs

### 24 July - Sun Canna

- day Community walk with Stewart Connor (NTS)
- Puffin and manx shearwater sanctuary
- Basking sharks

### 24, 25 July - Sun/Mon nights - Mingulay

- Late evening arrival
- Day sailors camp ashore
- Breeding station for guillemots, kittiwake
- Meet artist Julie Brook

### 26 July - Tues - Pabbay (morning visit)

### 26 July - Tues night - Barra

- Ruth Brennan: indigenous and incoming dynamics. Community, conservation
- Former herring boom in Castlebay
- community event Tues night Castlebay community hall

### 27 July - Wed morning Barra

- Kisimul Castle visit Wed morning - Stephen Hurrel

### 27 July - Wed night - Eriskay

- Meet Graeme and Anne Robertson (Global Islands Network)

### 28 July - Thurs, Thurs night - South Uist, Lochboisdale (overnight)

- Arrive Lochboisdale lunchtime to meet with Stòras Uibhist at 1pm at Oifis Stòras, Daliburgh, South Uist (community buyout org: Jennifer Macleod, Huw Francis Tel: 01878 700101), Comhairle nan Eilean Siar/Coast Adapt (David Muir) and SNH (Johanne Fereguson) re coastal adaptation programme and restoration works north of Kilbride, community wind farm.
- Urgent climate change issue of coastal erosion
- Buyout island
- Pick up David Buckland, Matt Wainwright, Emily Venables late on 28<sup>th</sup>

### 29 July - Fri - Lochmaddy, North Uist

- Drop off Week 2: Lochboisdale ferries to Oban at 8.55 on 29th
- Sail to Lochmaddy on 29th.

**Week 3: 29 JULY - 5 AUG**

11 passengers and crew  
No day sailors

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**29, 30 July - Fri, Sat nights - North Uist**

- RSPB Balranald Reserve (Jamie Boyle) and Machair Life Project (Rebecca Cotton) site visit morning of 30th. Meet Kyla Orr (SAMS) for seaweed workshop on western beaches
- Ceilidh/community event Taigh Chearsabhair evening of 30 July, with Julie Fowlis, Mary Smith, Mary Jane Lamond and local musicians
- Trinity Temple: one of the most important archaeological sites in Western isles.
- Climb Beinn Mhor?

**31 July - Sun night - Berneray**

- Birthplace of the 'Cape Breton Giant' - Angus MacAskill (1825-63)

**1 Aug - Mon night - Monach Islands/Heisgeir**

- Grey seal breeding grounds
- Formerly inhabited village at Croic Harbour. Grain drying kilns
- Oceanographic research

**2-3 Aug - Tues, Wed nights - St Kilda. Weather dependent**

- World's only mixed UNESCO world heritage site

**4 Aug - Thurs night - Harris (overnight)**

- East coast lazybeds (peat+seaweed strips on rock strata for growing oats, potatoes)
- West Loch Tarbert - old whaling station.

**5 Aug - Friday night - Lewis, Stornoway**

- Day sail to Stornoway
- Week 3 drop-off

**Week 4: 5 AUG - 12 AUG**

13 passengers + crew

NB Possible space for 2 day sailors from 10-12 Aug (incl BBC journalist)

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**5 Aug - Fri night - Lewis, Stornoway (overnight)**

- Lews Castle College, Stornoway. GreenSpace Research Unit. (UHI) 2pm
- An Lanntair arts centre

**6 Aug - Sat - Stornoway**

- Wind farms
- Sail north in afternoon for oceanographic research

**6, 7 Aug - Sat, Sun nights - at sea for oceanographic research tbc (no day sailors)**

**8 Aug - Mon night - Shiant islands (overnight)**

- No day sailors
- Basking shark, dolphin, blue shark, minke whale
- Major puffin nesting ground and home to protected black (plague) rat
- Ian Stephen storytelling - Blue Men of the Minch
- Spend Tues day (9<sup>th</sup>) on Shiants

**9, 10 Aug - Tues, Wed nights - north-west Skye**

- Trotternish, Greshornish, Dunvegan?
- Clearances

**11 Aug - Thurs night - Eigg**

- Sail to Eigg Thurs morning

**12 Aug - Fri - Mallaig**

- week 4 drop-off