

A Celtic Journey of Faith Pilgrimage Itinerary

This pilgrimage will be both an inward, solitary journey and one taken in community with others. It is a pilgrimage of approach, a five-day journey of prayer and intention from Dalmally, Scotland, to the sacred Isle of Iona, where pilgrims will live in community and experience the life of Iona Abbey and the many thin places across this small island. On our journey, we will follow the ways of St. Colomba and the lesser-known St. Conan, walking from the Scottish Highlands to the port of Oban, then journeying by ferry to the Isle of Mull, where our pilgrim walking continues. Five full days on Iona will provide pilgrims with spacious time for exploration and contemplation, both individually and as a group.

Pilgrimage guides: Missioner Tracy Methe, tracy@episcopalcolorado.org, and the Rev. Michelle Danson, madanson@me.com

Day 1: Saturday, May 13, 2023

Depart for Glasgow, Scotland.

Day 2: Sunday, May 14, 2023

Arrival Glasgow International Airport, Scotland. We will make our way to the historical Grand Central Hotel, modeled after the Chrystal Palace in London, in the architecturally rich city of Glasgow.

Day 3: Monday, May 15, 2023

We will explore and have lunch at the historic Rennie Mackintosh Tea Rooms before journeying by coach to the Highland village of Loch Awe. Overnight and dinner together at the Ben Cruachan Lodge.

Day 4: Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Early in the morning we will make our way to the Craig Lodge Mission House of Prayer in Dalmally. Here in a blessing ceremony we will select our stone to carry and receive our personal companion Celtic cross. We then begin walking St. Conan's Way to Taynuilt. This first day includes a strenuous climb and long descent through an inspiring and remote Highland landscape. Local guides will accompany us on the way. Packed lunches. Return to Ben Cruachan Lodge for dinner together and overnight. Distance: 22 km.

Day 5: Wednesday, May 17, 2023

Our second day of walking is less strenuous. We will begin the day with Eucharist at St. Conan's Kirk in Loch Awe before journeying by bus to Taynuilt to continue our pilgrimage. We will enjoy the relatively flat countryside and lochs on the way to the colorful coastal town of Oban. Packed lunches. Overnight and dinner together at the Great Western Hotel in Oban. Distance: 20 km.

Day 6: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Following an early morning ferry crossing to Craignure on the Isle of Mull, we will meet our island walking guides, who will accompany us along the rugged southern coast of Mull. Our third day of walking includes stretches along remote beaches and the opportunity to visit a Scottish clearance village. At the end of a long day of walking, we will travel by bus to the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure, where we will spend the night and have dinner together. Distance: 30 km.

Day 7: Friday, May 19, 2023

Our bus will take us back to where we left off on Thursday, and we will continue our journey across Mull, passing by beautiful raised beaches and sea caves along an increasingly wild coastline with expansive sea views. We will return by bus to Craignure for overnight and dinner together at the Isle of Mull Hotel. Distance: 20 km.

Days 8: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Returning by bus to where we ended our walk on Friday, we will begin our final day of pilgrim walking. Arriving in Fionnphort, where we will take a ferry to cross to the Isle of Iona. It is here that St. Columba landed in 563 AD and began the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland. We have arrived at our destination and will begin to make the transition to a time of living in community with one another and the other residents of Iona Abbey. Our days will follow a rhythm of shared meals, worship, study, and light chores. Daily outings will provide times of individual and group exploration and reflection. Distance: 19.5 km.

Days 9-13: Sunday, May 21, through Thursday, May 25, 2023

Our days in residence at the abbey will follow a monastic rhythm of shared vegetarian meals, worship, study, and light chores. Optional daily outings will provide times of individual and group exploration and reflection.

Daily Outings (exact days to be determined)

St. Columba's Bay: Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Ferry to Isle of Staffa and Fingal's Cave: An Opportunity to Experience the Courage of St. Columba and His Monks

Dun I: A Vision of Peace

St. Oran's Chapel: Keeping Death Ever Before Us

Day 14: Friday, May 26, 2023

Following breakfast and our closing worship service, we will journey by ferries and bus to the mainland and then on to Glasgow via coach. Overnight at the Grand Central Hotel. Dinner on your own.

Day 15: Saturday, May 27, 2023

Departure from Glasgow International Airport.