

## Cycling the Hebridean Way from Barra to the Butt of Lewis

Main route used National Cycle Route 780.

Guide used "Cycling in the Hebrides" by Richard Barrett

**Day 1 Wed 6 June** Fishers Tours bus from Perth 09.34 to Oban arrive 12.09. Stop ZO Canal Street.

Ferry to Castebay, Barra 13.30 arrive 18.15

*Comment:* fantastic trip including sailing through a pod of at least 50 dolphins and the incredible sight of a minke whale repeatedly breaching.

Night at Dunard Hostel, Castlebay. [www.dunardhostel.co.uk](http://www.dunardhostel.co.uk)

Evening trip across the causeway to Vatersay.



**Day 2 Thurs 7 June** Castlebay to Eriskay ferry (9 miles) 9.25 - 10.05 or 11.10 - 11.50

Eriskay to S Uist. via causeway. Cycle to Howmore (Tobha More)

Night at Howmore Hostel. [www.gatliff.org.uk](http://www.gatliff.org.uk)

NB NO ADVANCE BOOKING. No cards. Spare camp beds available.

*Comment:* hostel in a black house. Wild life all around. Superb!

Supermarket at Dalabrog.

Distance 36 miles. Optional loops. Moderate/easy. One sharp hill on Eriskay.



**Day 3 Fri 8 June** Howmore to Berneray 58 miles (easy but long).

We added an extra loop around Grimsay. Fresh langoustines for lunch

Nature reserve at Balranald.

Supermarket at Solas.

We had intended to stay at the Gatliff hostel on Berneray, but instead stopped at the newly opened John's Hostel, which is very close to the ferry terminal. Very well appointed.



**Day 4 Sat 9 June** Ferry from Berneray to Leverburgh, Harris Morning ferry 10:25-11.25

Leverburgh to Balallan

*Comment:* amazing ferry trip in very shallow water, threading our way through innumerable islets. First stop bacon butties at the stall at Leverburgh.

48 miles. Moderate/hard. We chose the westerly route from Leverburgh to Tarbert, missing the easterly option of the undulating Golden Road.

Big climb over Harris Hills (170m) north of Tarbert.

Night at Gledfield B&B, 5 Balallan near Loch Erisort, and dinner at Erisort Inn.

Bus to the Inn and our landlady taxied us back.

[www.gledfield-balallan.co.uk](http://www.gledfield-balallan.co.uk) [m.gledfield@hotmail.com](mailto:m.gledfield@hotmail.com)

*Comment:* Balallan is the longest village on Lewis, and we cycled to the far end.

Tiring at the end of a hard day!



**Day 5 Sun 10 June** Balallan to Galson.

47 miles. Liurbost to Barabhas undulating.

Sights up west coast - Callanish 1,2 and 3, Dun Carlabhagh broch. (Blackhouse village closed).

*Comment:* we spent a long time at Callanish and Carlabhagh.

All the visitor centres and shops really are closed on Sundays, but the toilets were open and one could still walk round the sites themselves.

Night at Galson Farmhouse, South Galson.

[www.galsonfarm.co.uk](http://www.galsonfarm.co.uk) [galsonfarm@yahoo.com](mailto:galsonfarm@yahoo.com)

*Comment:* our luxury night, but well worth it and evening meal reasonably priced.

There is also a bunkhouse option.



**Day 6 Mon 11 June** Cycle to Butt of Lewis, then back to Barabhas and down to Stornoway 40 miles. Hill before Stornaway.

*Comment:* we spent some time at the Butt of Lewis, then cycled fast to Stornaway in time to visit the museum which was worth it.

Night at Heb Hostel, 25 Kenneth Street, Stornoway. [www.hebhostel.com](http://www.hebhostel.com)

Very close to ferry terminal and other facilities. Good hostel. Meal in town. Local micro brewery.



**Day 7 Tues 12 June** Ferry Stornoway to Ullapool 07.00

(Up early to be there by 06.30).

Taxi to Garve station. Ewen's of Ullapool.

Equipped to carry bikes. Excellent service.

[www.ewensofullapool.co.uk](http://www.ewensofullapool.co.uk)

Train from Garve to Inverness and from Inverness to Dunkeld.



**Katharine and Nicola Melville 2018**