

## MORAN MOUNTAIN LTD

### SEA STACKS TOUR : 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2019

#### ***A GREAT WEEK OF ADVENTURE CLIMBING***

*The ascent of Britain's three most famous sea stacks is an expedition in its own right, requiring the ability to plan travel and climbing around a complicated schedule of tides, weather and ferries. This is a real adventure which means that it is both fun and exciting, and offers a tour of our wildest coast scenery.*

**PRICE: £1,120 inclusive of:-**

- *Transport costs from and back to Inverness including Orkney ferry and taxi fares*
- *All accommodation with food and meals in hut, camp and hostel*
- *Guiding and Instruction; use of ropes and hardware*

**Maximum no. of clients: 3 Minimum no for course to run : 2**

**Leader:** Martin Moran (BMG/IFMGA Guide)

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants for this holiday should be *confident and competent* in seconding at VS 4c standard and used to climbing and abseiling on exposed multi-pitch routes. Seconding to HVS/E1 on single-pitch outcrops, or French 6a on indoor walls/sport climbs plus personal leading experience to S standard are also helpful. Although no swimming need be involved in the ascents, all clients should also be confident swimmers (ie: able to swim at least 25m)

**MEETING AND TRANSPORT:** Transport during the week will be provided; normal meeting point will be Inverness. Plan your travel to arrive in Inverness between 4 and 6pm on Sat 14th July. Exact meeting arrangements will be advised 4 weeks before the start of the course when the fee balance is paid.

**ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS:** The team will either use hostels and huts on the mainland (SMC Naismith Hut, Inchnadamph Hostel and Durness Hostel) or else camp (Achmelvie, Sheigra, Durness) according to the weather. We can provide tents if required. For the two nights on Orkney you stay in Rackwick hostel. We will provide all food, packed lunch food and evening meals in huts and hostels throughout the week, although some communal effort will be appreciated with cooking.

**CLIMBING TECHNIQUES AND GUIDING:** Your guide will lead and supervise the ascent of each stack, and will give instruction in the techniques of tyrolean traversing and multi-pitch abseiling. You will also get some instruction in prusiking and self-rescue techniques.

Some members with regular leading experience at VS standard may want to do some of their own leading - this is fine so long as the extra personal risks entailed in leading are fully accepted.

**PLANNED ITINERARY:-**

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**SAT 13 JUL:** 18.00: Group meeting: collection available from Inverness station or airport;  
18.30-20.00: Drive via Ullapool to the Naismith Hut at Elphin; supper in hut.

**SUN 14 JUL:** Sea cliff climbing and technical training at Reiff (numerous coastal sandstone crags of high quality); return to Elphin Hut

**MON 15 JUL:** Attempt **The Old Man of Stoer** by the Original Route (**VS, 5a**); low tide 13.20hr; return to Elphin Hut

**TUES 16 JUL:** 07.00-09.00: Drive to Sheigra (GR 188605) via Kylesku and Kinlochbervie  
09.00-11.00: Walk in to Sandwood Bay (6km)  
11.00-16.30: Attempt **Am Buachaille (HVS, 5a)** if seas are favourable (low tide 14.55hr); otherwise climb on Sandwood Bay cliffs; camp at Durness

**WED 17 JUL:** 09.00-12.00: Drive to Scrabster ferry terminal (120km); leave car  
13.15-14.45: Ferry crossing to Stromness on Orkney, passing The Old Man of Hoy and St. John's Head en-route  
16.00-17.30: Passenger ferry crossing to Hoy, and taxi to Rackwick private hostel  
18.00-21.00: Dinner and exploration of Rackwick Bay

**THURS 18 JUL:** Attempt on **The Old Man of Hoy** by the East Face Route (**E1, 5b**); return to Stromness 18.15 on passenger ferry; stay overnight in Stromness at Brown's Hostel.

**FRI 19 JUL:** 06.30-08.00hr: Ferry from Stromness back to Scrabster  
08.30-11.30: Drive back to Inverness (250km);

**This is only a sample itinerary; other options will be discussed at the initial briefing; bad weather may also force changes in schedule with options to climb on inland cliffs such as Stac Pollaidh, Sgurr an Fhidleir, Ardmail, Creag Shomhairle or Foinaven if rough sea conditions prevent access to the Stoer or Am Buachaille.**

***Of the three main objectives The Old Man of Hoy is the most likely to be in condition, because access is non-tidal and the East Face route is sheltered from rain, wind and sea-spray. Only persistent rain would prevent an attempt.***

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**Give me a call if you would like to discuss further details**

**To reserve places on the trip please make payment of a 25% deposit through our [secure web booking page](#).**