



Pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, Scotland

*Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.
Psalm 84:5*

Sacred wonder... Deep listening... Pondering the extraordinary in the ordinary... Pilgrimage. These ancient spiritual practices transcend time and space. Just off the coast of Scotland, lies the tiny island of Iona, where pilgrimage, listening, wondering and responding have been practiced for centuries. Even before the Irish monk Columba landed his tiny coracle on the island and established a flourishing monastic Christian community, this island welcomed earlier peoples of different faiths, the Picts and Druids, who considered this a holy place. IONA WELCOMES ALL! Come you of great faith and you who struggle with faith; you who believe and you who doubt; explorers and questioners, adventures and contemplatives! Experience Iona without expectation. Let the sacred isle uncover what you need to see and reveal what you need to hear!

So come... journey, pause, breathe, wonder.... Listen to the earth, your heart, your fellow sojourners and the Divine in holy pilgrimage!

Pilgrimage Itinerary

September 29, 2023 Gather at Glasgow airport and journey by private coach to Oban. Overnight at the Columba Hotel in Oban.

September 30, 2023 Journey by ferry and bus to the Island of Iona. Settle into our accommodations at Bishops House, Iona.

October 1-6, 2023 Our days on pilgrimage will be sacred time to explore together and in solitude those messages that come to us awake or asleep, in nature and in story. We will let our curiosity lead us on a variety of intentional hikes throughout the island, mindfully walking and taking the time to notice, see, hear and reflect. We will hold some of earth's most ancient rocks. We will join the Iona Community in worship and partake in our own worship services at Bishops House. We will take time to wonder! There will be ample free time to roam and wander, and time to engage in silence and fellowship. Throughout our time together, we will explore the ancient practice of pilgrimage!



October 7, 2023 Journey by ferry and bus back to the Columba Hotel, Oban for a farewell dinner and time to share final thoughts.

October 8, 2023 Return to Glasgow Airport by private coach in time for late afternoon or evening flights.



Iona

An I mo chridhe, I mo
ghraidh. ~ In Iona that is
my heart's desire, Iona that
is my love.

Saint Columba

Pilgrimage Leader

Leslie Valentine is a graduate with the Guild for Spiritual Guidance, where she earned her certification in spiritual direction and concentrated her second-year practicum in small group ministry. An EfM (Education for Ministry) graduate, she has been a certified mentor for over ten years and is currently mentoring a 36-week seminar group in Huntington, New York. In the Episcopal Church, she is a Lay Eucharist Minister and has served on Cursillo teams. Leslie is also a classical singer, performing frequently in the tristate area, and an avid traveler, having visited all seven continents!

Pilgrimage Cost

Shared Room: \$2,200

Private Room: \$2,600

Includes all ground transportation in Scotland, taxes, gratuities, 7-night stay on Iona, 2-night stay in Oban, and 3 meals per day with the exclusion of 1 breakfast and 3 lunches.

Not covered in the pilgrimage cost:

Airfare to/from Scotland, personal travel insurance (strongly encouraged), meals and snacks not noted above, all alcohol, bottled water for walks, and personal items (batteries, gifts, sundries, etc.)

This pilgrimage is limited to 23 participants and registration can only be confirmed with receipt of your deposit.

For more information or questions please contact Leslie Valentine:

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"Iona – a thin place where only tissue paper separates the material from the spiritual..."

-- George McLeod, Founder of the Iona Community