

'Over the sea to IONA'



Rose and I were delighted when we heard about the possibility of a visit to Iona. I had visited Lindisfarne many times, but had never explored the West coast of Scotland and the Scottish Islands, so this was our opportunity.

We did the long haul to Glasgow by train and met up with our friendly Pilgrimage group at Jury's Inn. Next day we were away on our coach to Loch Lomond. Oh the beauty of the drive along the shore; from then on we were wrapped in wonder at the scenery. From Loch Lomond to Oban, with time to explore, then on to the ferry which took us to the Isle of Mull, where we stayed for three nights. What was our surprise and delight one evening to hear the sound of bagpipes as the Pipe Band marched through the hotel.

The next day we sailed to IONA - the sacred Isle, - where we made our Pilgrimage and visited the holy places, including a service of worship in the reconstructed Abbey. We were getting used to ferry crossings, and our next stop was Tobermory and the island of Staffa, with all eyes open for puffins and other wildlife.

Staffa is famous for Fingal's Cave and Mendelson's beautiful symphony; Rose found her way into the cave, while I climbed the steps to the top of the cliff - very self-satisfied that I made it to the top (and down!). Once on the sea again we were treated to a wonderful show of dolphins dancing, these beautiful creatures were soaring up out of the water and descending in a graceful curve. We could have watched them forever; how I wished I could have taken good photos!

All good things come to an end and our final day took us back to Oban and to Glasgow Central, where we said reluctant farewells to our fellow pilgrims, and to Rachel, who had looked after us so well. Luckily we were able to catch an early train for our final journey to London.

Congratulations to McCabe for organizing such a splendid Pilgrimage....

With good wishes
Sr.Barbara OSB



I made it to the top!