

Douglas, IoM to Gairloch

The below is a brief piece on a delivery by John Prentice from Douglas on the Isle of Man to Gairloch. The delivery was organised through Gwyn Phillips Yacht Deliveries.

“We had a fantastic trip. James Walker was very welcoming and had just about everything sorted for our arrival in Douglas. The only two things we lacked were a sharp knife for chopping the veg and a pot for cooking. Frying pan had to do.

We had a good first leg and managed Tobermory with only a 40min stop in Kerera for fuel. This was over 36hrs with calm seas. I had a friend called Andy with me and he was great company as we managed 7 knots for five hours with jib out on a beam reach. The small 12 horse vetus purring along at 2100 revs.

Border Force questioned us at Fladda Light for 40mins, but we didnt have the balls to ask them if they had any spare knives for cutting the tomatoes. The boys at Karera gave us an old filleting knife which was great.

Rounding Ardnamurchan was a landmark for me and the weather was kind before the wind got up mid morning.

Most days started at 5am.

Facilities in Malaig were impressive. What a lovely building they have designed and of course the boat activity was second to none. Watching the boys working the slipway was fascinating.

Got a good pot at Johnstone's the chandlers.

We ended up being a couple of hour early for our chance to get through Kyle Rhea so we drifted while having lunch. The sun got hot again around Kyle and past the Crowlin Islands before the North wind started again. We had to turn round at Applecross as we were down to 1.5 knots and headed for the shelter of Toscaig. I had been in there before on my Wayfarer years ago.

Made Gairloch at 11am the next morning and met by Gerry the owner. Skye was white that morning. We were cold, but only at nights. The wee wheelhouse was great. We passed many lovely bays and spots to think about for the future.”

John Prentice
15/04/2022