

DISCOVER THE HEBRIDES

An Exploration of Scotland's
Western Seaboard and the
"Isles of the Outer Seas"

Iain McGowan

This book is an exploration of both Scotland's western seaboard and the Hebridean Islands, following on from Iain McGowan's highly successful *Portrait of the Hebrides* published by Halsgrove in 2008 and reprinted in 2011.

It is only some 250 years since early intrepid travellers began to explore the Hebrides. At that time there was still the barrier of an uncertain storm-tossed sea and a real fear of the unknown. For many who made the difficult journey, impressions were often formed of a bleak and lonely landscape sometimes considered far from desirable.

For present day visitors using modern transport and ferries the opposite is true. The Hebrides form an area of breathtaking beauty, of colour, light and mood. The ever-changing weather, space and isolation are now an attraction. Many are drawn here to seek that 'away from it all' atmosphere, to explore the various islands each with their own distinctive character and social history.

This latest volume packed with superb, evocative images explores the islands of Islay, Jura, Mull, Iona, Tiree, Lewis and Berneray to illustrate that certain yet almost indefinable spirit so apparent within the region. There is also additional coverage of the three contrasting islands of Skye, Eigg and Harris to supplement the previous book. This coupled with two initial chapters portraying the mainland western seaboard puts the Hebrides into their true island context as quite literally a place of timeless quality at the very edge of European civilisation.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

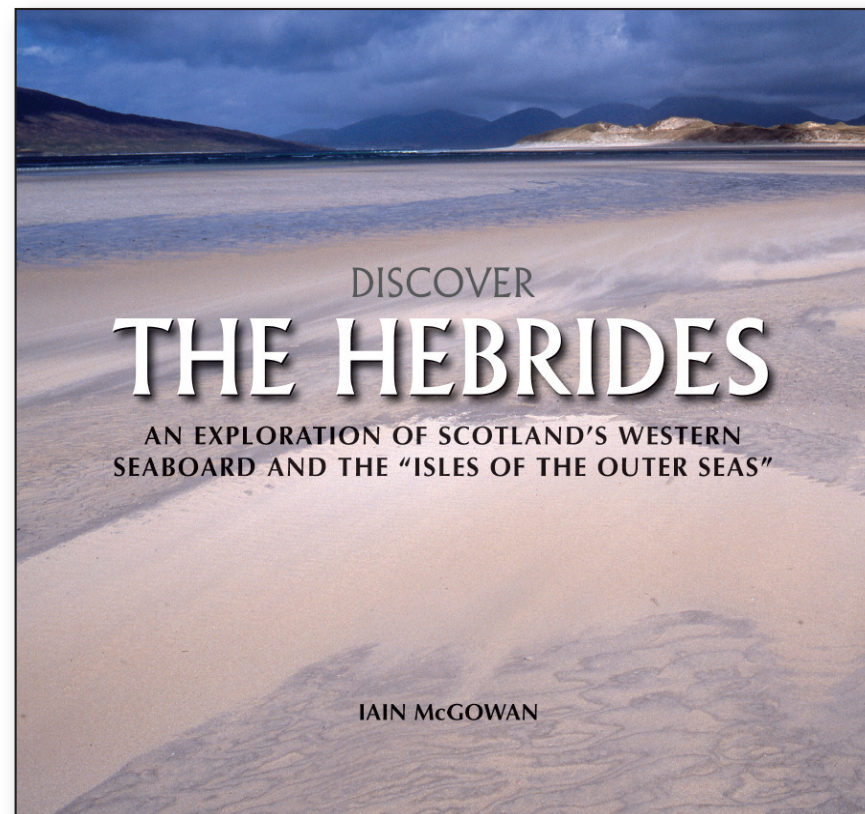
Iain McGowan is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and a professional photographer specialising in landscape and environmental photography. *Discover the Hebrides* is his twelfth book to be published by Halsgrove. Over the years he has had photographs reproduced not only in other books but also in magazines, postcards, brochures, tourism literature and exhibitions and he now spends a considerable amount of his time conducting Landscape Photographic workshops around the UK. Living in the South of England, but having travelled extensively around the Hebridean islands and Western Scotland and with undoubtedly Scottish ancestry there is still that certain 'back home' sensation when he travels north of the border.

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Left: Traditional thatched cottage near Middleton now used as part of a heritage museum.

Below: Late afternoon on the minor road following Loch Inchar from Rhiconich to Achlyness and Rhimichie.



Right: Evening light on the ruins of Kilnave Chapel on the west shore of Loch Gruinart with its cross dating back to about AD 750.



Tràigh Rosamol, Harris. The view looking south along Tràigh Rosamol to the distant 339m Toe Head on the south-west corner of Harris.



From Laide skirting the back edge of Gruinard Bay, the coast is lined with further old crofting townships with names such as Sand, First Coast, Second Coast and others long forgotten or abandoned in some of the small woodlands now growing along the shore.



Example of a double-page spread