

25 OUTER HEBRIDES

ERISKAY

Distance: 4½ miles/7.2km Time: 2 hours Grade: Moderate



SCOTLAND



View from Summit towards Barra.

PHOTO: VANESSA WRIGHT



CHOSEN BY... VANESSA WRIGHT

This walk starts from Am Politician, as much a museum as a pub and sank off this coast and was immortalised in the film Whisky Galore! Memorabilia displayed behind the bar includes bottles of the golden liqueur, a machete, a pistol, and old banknotes, all rescued from the wreck. Food specialities include locally sourced hand-dived scallops, battered line-caught haddock, and monkfish scampi. This route takes in the beach where Bonnie Prince Charlie first landed in Scotland and a short climb to the highest point of the island.

1 Start

Head out of gate at end of pub beer garden down to the shore. Bear L, hugging the coastline around sandy bays, and scour rockpools for tidal treasures. Scramble over boulders or meander across the wildflower machair to explore each cove, sea on R.

2 ½ mile/0.8km

Descend over dunes to Prince's Beach, lingering to watch Arctic terns and seals in the waves. At end of beach, pass picnic bench on way up to road, and turn R to walk to pier; herons and cormorants hunt around the jetty.

3 1¼ miles/1.9km

Turning back on yourself, follow road to T-junction and bear L around hairpin bend.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free parking for patrons of Am Politician, grid ref NF785118, postcode HS8 5JL

Is it for me? Mostly beach, footpaths, and quiet roads. Some boggy and rocky ground on ascent of Beinn Sclathan (Ben Scrien). Most of route marked with brick/concrete lecterns

Stiles None

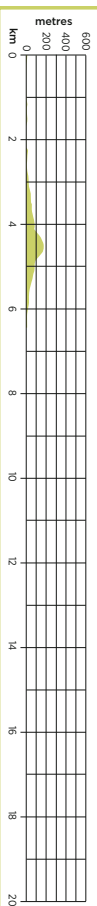
PLANNING

Nearest town Daliburgh on South Uist

Refreshments Am Politician, Eriskay (01878 720246)

Public toilets At the pier
Public transport Bus W16 & W17 'Spine Route' Berrera-eriskay (Mon-Sat, DA Travel)
Maps OS Explorer 453; Landranger 31

GRADIENT PROFILE



26 HIGHLAND

DRUIM SHIONNACH

Distance: 5½ miles/9km Time: 5 hours Grade: Challenging



SCOTLAND

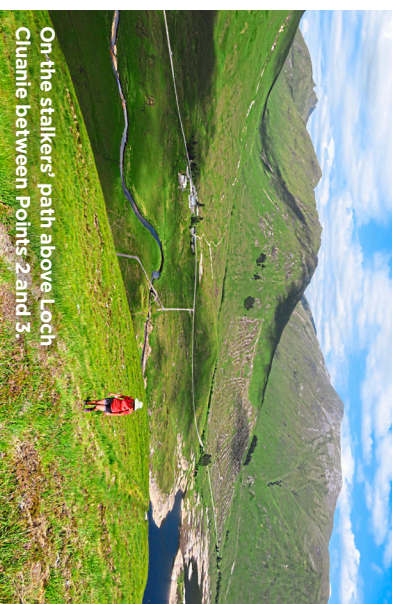


PHOTO: RALPH STORER



CHOSEN BY... RALPH STORER

Glen Shiel is one of the most scenic and mountainous glens in the Highlands, with the seven-Munro South Glen Shiel Ridge one of its stand-out attractions. Druin Shionnach, the second Munro (a Scottish peak over 3000ft) along, is one of the glen's best viewpoints. A stalkers' path eases the approach and, unlike some of its neighbours, the summit requires no scrambling to reach. The walk starts and finishes at the famous Cuaniae Inn, a celebrated Highland hostelry. Sweet treats are available at the Landour Bakehouse across the road.

1 Start

Follow the old minor road that leaves the A87 E of Cuaniae Inn to head S towards Druin Shionnach, seen directly ahead. After crossing the River Cuaniae at the mouth of Loch Cuaniae the road bends L then R and bridges a stream. 50m before the bridge, a small cairn on R marks the start of the stalkers' path.

2 ¾ mile/1km

The path takes you up 300m to Loch a' Mhaol Dhionich – a moorland loch that lies in a hidden hollow at the foot of north ridge. It climbs fairly steeply at first to gain a grassy spur on the R side of the stream, then it

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking On minor road off A87, 200m east of Cuaniae Inn, grid ref NH079117, postcode IV63 7YW

Is it for me? Steep in places, partly paths, some route-finding required

Stiles None

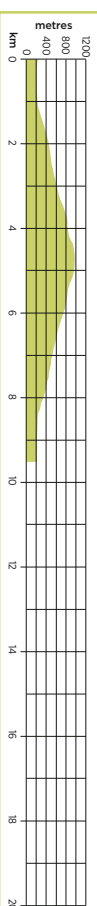
PLANNING

Nearest town Kyle of Lochalsh

Refreshments Cuaniae Inn (blacksheephotels.com; 01320 340238) and Landour Bakehouse

Public toilets None. Customer toilets at Cuaniae Inn
Public transport Coaches 915/916/917 Glasgow-Inverness-Skye stop at Cuaniae Inn (citylink.co.uk)
Maps OS Explorer 33; Landranger 414

GRADIENT PROFILE



26 HIGHLAND DRUIM SHIONNACH

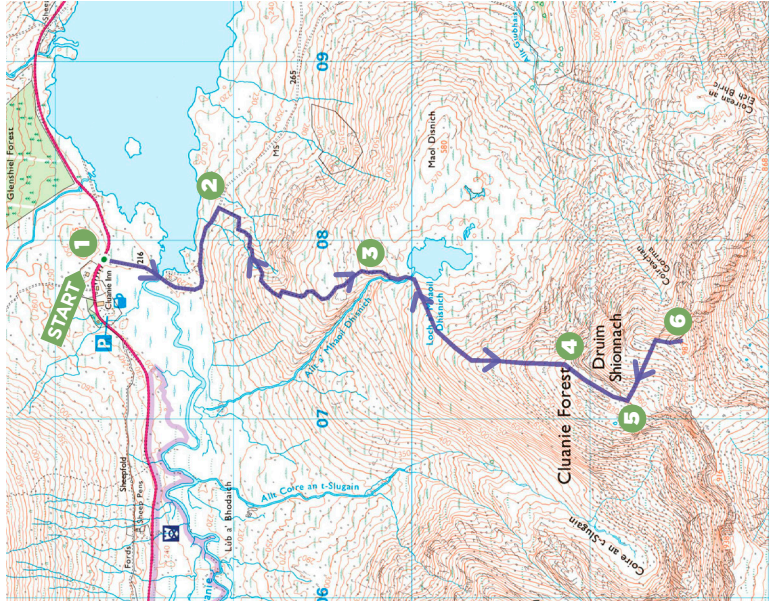
OS Explorer map 33 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

(Table Rock) makes a good rest stop and front-row seat for views of Glen Shiel's north-side Munros. The path then climbs again and ends around the 520m contour L of the stream that drains the loch.

3 1½ miles/2.4km You may not notice the path's end because a Munroists' path continues, good at first but becoming rougher and boggier. It crosses the stream and starts up Druim Shionnach's broad north ridge. When it peters out keep to the crest of the ridge, with the loch coming into view below L. After a short stretch with only occasional traces of path, the ridge bears L and the going improves again on short grass among boulders. At a height of 800m the way onwards is barred by a band of crags that runs right across the ridge.

4 2½ miles/3.7km Ignoring rocky gully that climbs through the crags, go R along grassy shelf that rises L-to-R along the foot of the rockband. Further R, below the shelf, is a peculiar furrow backed by castle-like rock. Leaving this to explore on descent, follow grassy shelf beneath crags until you reach grassy hillside beyond.

5 2½ miles/4km Climb L up a short grass slope to reach the bowl of



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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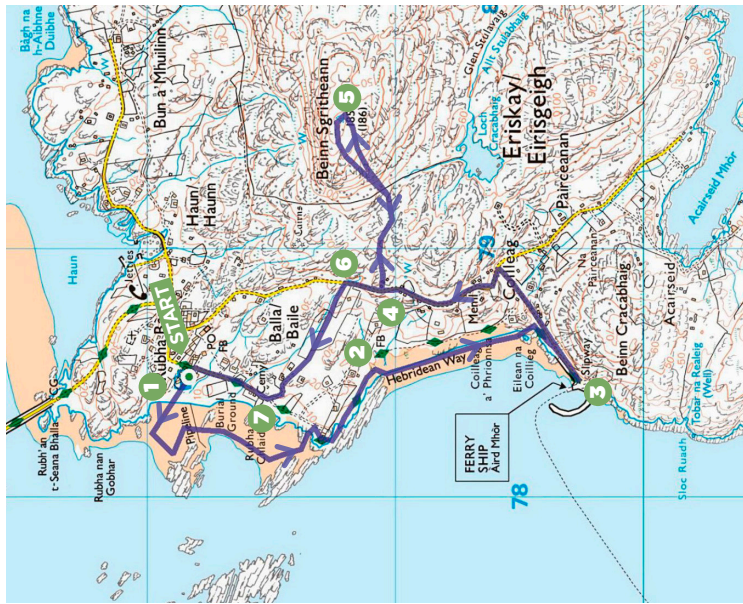
lochans, some of which may be dry in summer. It's an intriguing and little-known geographical feature caused by a landslide. Continue down the ascent route. [CW](#)

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE: walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

25 OUTER HEBRIDES ERISKAY

OS Explorer map 453 Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop



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DON'T MISS...
The Eriskay ponies, the last survivors of Scotland's native horse. Usually found on the hills grazing the slopes, but have been known to turn up just about anywhere, including outside the pub!

Where road plateaus, pause in layby on L to take in the expansive view over the beach and pier below. Continue until you pass a single white house on L and reach a stone seat on your R.

4 2 miles/3km Take path behind seating area and follow faint track to pick a route through boulders, eventually reaching rusty gate. From here, the way to the summit of Beinn Sciathan (Ben Scrien) is straightforward. Head R of rocky outcrop, ascending gently via grassy staircase; steady climb of around 20 mins up to trig point (longer if you pause to take in views behind you!). Be aware if undertaking this walk in winter; some sections may be boggy.

5 2½ miles/4.5km From the summit, there are panoramic views over the Sound of Barra, the Sound of

Eriskay and the Minch, with sea eagles often seen soaring the thermals. Retrace steps to gate before descending to the road. Turn R to reach the path opposite a telegraph pole, overlooking football pitch.

6 3½ miles/5.6km From road, turn L and descend to football pitch, home of Eriskay FC, staying to the side of R touchline. Path hugs fenceposts down to the road, where you will reach the Commonwealth War Graves.

7 4 miles/6.5km Facing the bone-white gravestones in the cemetery, turn R along the road back to the Am Politician pub starting point to enjoy a well-deserved drink! [CW](#)

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE: walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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