

10 BENBECULA to SKYE

As Charles climbed Rueval from the Rossinish hinterland, and reached his final embarkation point by boat, the routes described here are not those that Charles actually followed. They are routes that can be followed from the A865, using accommodation in the centre of Benbecula.

Rueval

Landranger Map: 22

OS Maps Central Grid Reference:

NF 850 540

The most convenient starting place is by the main A865 on Benbecula at Market Stance (NF 806 535). The route starts along on an unmetalled road running due east. After half a mile, it deteriorates into a cart track, that loops round the southern slopes of Rueval. Rueval can be climbed from anywhere at its base. The easiest approach is obviously from its west side, which is not very steep. The summit provides splendid views over the whole of Benbecula.

Distance: 3 miles (5 km)

Height of ascent: 330 feet (100 m)

Naismith time: 1 hour 10 mins

The Embarkation Point

Landranger Map: 22

OS Maps Central Grid Reference:

NF 850 540

Most of the journey to the south shore of Loch Uiskevagh can be done by car, using the narrow metalled road going north from the B891 at NF 801 483. At the end of the road, near a modern bungalow, there is a fence that bars further progress by car. The last few hundred yards to Loch Uiskevagh have to be

done on foot along a path from a gate in the fence.

The precise embarkation point is not known. However, it is possible to make a reasonable guess from the information given in the various accounts of Charles' departure.

The fact that they reached the embarkation point by boat from the northern shore of Loch Uiskevagh suggests that MacEachain would have chosen a place at the eastern end of the southern shore. Also, they would have wanted the boat not to be visible from the loch. Indeed, Lady Clanranald told O'Sullivan that Charles was waiting to leave 'in a nook'. On this basis, it seems likely, that Charles left from the Sound of Orasay (NF 870 505), a short stretch of water hidden between the mainland and the island of Orasay Uiskevagh. It is some two hundred yards east of the path from the gate

