

13 SKYE to MORAR

The Landing Place on Morar

The best base for doing these two walks is the town of Mallaig, where there are many different types of accommodation available

Landranger Map: 40

OS Maps Central Grid Reference:

NM 720 970

Although the various contemporary accounts disagree on where the boat landed, the most likely possibility is Mallaigvaig (NM 690 976), a small bay just north of Mallaig. The walk to it begins at the east end of Mallaig harbour, where a signpost, marked *Circular Walk*, indicates the path between two cottages on the south side of the road. After a few yards, the path turns sharp left into a shallow valley, that leads all the way to the little settlement of Mallaigvaig. The circular walk is completed by returning to Mallaig along the metalled road.

Distance: 2 miles (3 km)

Height of ascent: 30 feet (10 m)

Naismith time: 25 mins

The Landing Place on Loch Nevis

Landranger Map: 40

OS Maps Central Grid Reference:

NM 720 970

The most likely place for Charles' emergency landing on the shore of Loch Nevis is a small bay near Sròn Raineach (NM 708 981), a promontory that can be reached easily from Mallaigvaig. The path begins behind the modern bungalows at the end of the road. It contours round the headland above Loch Nevis for a mile or so, before descending to the sheltered little bay at Mallaig Mor. This is

probably the place where Charles and his friends first encountered the militia.

The path stops here. The easiest continuation is to climb to the top of the steep slope directly ahead. The route is then straight forward to Aonach Beag and Aonach Mòr, the northern and eastern shoulders, respectively, of Carn a Gobhar. From here, it is possible to descend to the loch using the steep wide gully between Aonach Beag and Aonach Mòr.

The gully descends to the small bay, just to the east of Sron Raineach. Charles probably used the gully to run up the hillside. To the west of it, the hillside is too thickly wooded to allow anyone to run. To the east, the slope looks too steep to climb at all.

The place where Charles and friends rested after escaping from the militia is probably just above the present tree-line. It is unlikely to be much higher because the shore-line cannot be seen from above the trees, and it would have been impossible for anyone to watch the militia sailing away.

The return journey to Mallaig should reverse this route. While it is tempting to try and walk from Sron Raineach along the shore, the beach is strewn with gigantic boulders that are extremely difficult, if not dangerous, to negotiate. The route along the shore is definitely not recommended.

Distance: 4 miles (6 km)

Height of ascent: 1760 feet (530 m)

Naismith time: 2 hour 5 mins

Eilean na Glaschoille

Landranger Map: 40

OS Maps Central Grid Reference:

NM 720 970

This island is in Inverie Bay on the southern side of the Knoydart peninsula. There are

no roads into the Knoydart peninsula. The easiest approach is by the ferry that plies from Mallaig to Inverie. The only other way is by walking some 18 miles from Kinloch Hourn or Loch Arkaig.

Once at Inverie, a pleasant walk of about two miles westwards follows the path by the loch via Scothouse to the house at Glaschoille. Some fifty yards away from the shore at this point is the island, Eilean na Glaschoille. At low tide, it is possible to wade across to it.

The island is just a rock about twenty

yards long. It is covered with bracken and heather, but there is nowhere to hide. It is therefore very surprising that Charles and his friends waited there while John MacKinnon went to Scothouse to meet Clanranald. The presence of so many men on the island would have been very obvious to anyone on the shore.

Distance: 4 miles (6 km)

Height of ascent: 0 feet (0 m)

Naismith time: 1 hour 12 mins

Gaelic Place Name Details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Translation</i>
Aonach Beag	aonakh bek	small mountain
Aonach Mòr	aonakh mohr	large mountain
Carn a Gobhar	karn a go-ar	cairn of the goats
Eilean na Glaschoille	elen na glas khol-yeh	island of the grey wood
Sròn Raineach	srohn raanyackh	nose of the ferns