

4 BENBECULA to LEWIS

In the villages and on the main roads, there are many private houses offering bed and breakfast. There are convenient hotels at Tarbert on Harris, and at Stornoway on Lewis.

Scalpay

Landranger Map: 14

*OS Maps Central Grid Reference:
NG 220 970*

There is no public transport along the eight miles of metalled road from Tarbert to the bridge connecting Scalpay and Harris. Scalpay is bare moorland, rising to just over 300 feet. The few hundred residents live in houses strung out around two harbours on the west side of the island.

Charles spent most of his time near the north harbour, just half a mile along the road from the ferry. Charles' landing point on the island is reputed to be Ard na h-Adhadh (NG 216 968), a small promontory, just to the east of the pier on the south side of the north harbour.

Loch Seaforth to Stornoway

Landranger Maps: 14, 8

*OS Maps Central Grid References:
NB 270 171, NB 300 220, NB 350 260,
NB 430 310*

For the journey to the head of Loch Seaforth, it is possible to hire a boat with a boatman at Tarbert or Scalpay. Apart from walking, the only alternative is a car journey from Tarbert. It is not known precisely where Charles landed at the head of the loch. However, it must have been somewhere near the present-day settlement of Arivruaich (NB 240 174).

The terrain between Arivruaich and Stornoway is an undulating wasteland of rock, heather and grass. The navigational difficulties met by Charles' guide were caused by the maze of streams and lochans, that interrupt the walker's progress in any direction. Even in daylight, anyone walking across country will be wise to use a compass. Otherwise, it is very easy to go astray in such a featureless wilderness.

The A859 goes all the way from Arivruaich to Stornoway. The less intrepid can follow it, rather than strike across the heather. Bed-and-breakfast accommodation can be found along the way at Balallan and Laxay.

Distance: 18 miles (29 km)

Height of ascent: 560 feet (170m)

Naismith time: 6 hours 44 mins

Arnish

Landranger Map: 8

*OS Maps Central Grid Reference:
NB 430 310*

Arnish (NB 430 308) is a peninsula forming the west side of the entrance to Stornoway harbour. Kildun House, where Charles stayed for two nights, no longer exists. It has long been replaced by a factory complex.

It is possible to drive all the way to Arnish from Stornoway. The route starts along the A859. Having crossed the bridge over the River Creed, it is necessary to take the first turning on the left. An unfenced road then leads to the factory complex.

Gaelic Place Name Details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Translation</i>
Ard na h-Adhadh	ahr̥t na h-a-agh	height of the hind
Ard an Aiseig	ahr̥t an ashek	promontory of the ferry