

# 7 SOUTH UIST to BENBECULA (1)

On this leg, the only stretch that Charles actually walked was from the east coast of Benbecula to Rossinish. The area is very remote and desolate. The nearest hotels and guest houses are on the A865, some five miles to the west along the B891. Having reached Rossinish, Charles' destination, it is necessary to continue the walk to the A865 at Market Stance, where a car can be met for transport to a hotel or guest house.

## Ouia or Wiay

*Landranger Map: 22*

*OS Maps Central Grid Reference:*

*NF 830 480*

The island can be visited by taking a boat from Peter's Port (NF 848 457), a little harbour at the end of the B891.

Arrangements to make the journey can be made with the fishermen, who live in the houses by the side of this road. The island is uninhabited, and nowadays is used only for grazing sheep. The whole island can be explored in half a day. The only feature of interest is a large cave, which Charles and his friends may well have used. It is impossible to say exactly where the boat landed. It could have been on the west coast, or in Bàgh na Haun, the inlet on the south-east corner.

## Ouia to Rossinish

*Landranger Map: 22*

*OS Maps Central Grid Reference:*

*NF 830 480*

The place where Charles landed on his journey from Ouia is probably the Carnanard-Wiay peninsula (NF 856 468). It is best approached from the minor road that branches off the B891 at Hacklet (NF 481 803). It is

an easy walk of about a mile from this road to the end of the peninsula.

After returning to the road, the route to Rossinish is over a flat, featureless moorland scattered with hundreds of small lochs. It is important to follow a very definite line to the west end of Loch Uiskevagh. Otherwise, there are great dangers of becoming lost in a complex maze of lochs. The line is always north-west, and keeps to Druim na Lice, the highest land. After about a mile, two small bothies, close together, come into view in the distance immediately ahead. Being very close to the head of Loch Uiskevagh, they make a very useful landmark at which to aim. From the head of Loch Uiskevagh, the route to the Rossinish peninsula continues to skirt the loch, before threading a way between the lochs. It is not known precisely where Charles spent his time in Rossinish.

Although the moor is practically flat, the terrain is tough and unyielding for walkers. It is not surprising that Charles became exhausted when he crossed it in bad weather.

This is a demanding expedition requiring good route-finding skills and considerable stamina. It should not be underestimated.

*Distance: 5 miles (8 km)*

*Height of ascent: 100 feet (30 m)*

*Naismith time: 1 hour 39 mins*

## Rossinish to Market Stance

*Landranger Map: 22*

*OS Maps Central Grid Reference:*

*NF 850 540*

The easiest way out to Market Stance (NF 806 535) is by the cart track that skirts

round the base of Rueval. From Rossinish, this track is reached by following the well-worn path leading westwards from the narrow neck of land connecting the peninsula to the mainland.

*Distance: 5 miles (8 km)*

*Height of ascent: 70 feet (20 m)*

*Naismith time: 1 hour 43 mins*

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## Gaelic Place Name Details

<i>Name</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>Translation</i>
Druim na Lice	drooim na leech-eh	ridge of the slab

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