

THE HEBRIDES

by
Peter Edwards

CICERONE

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This book is dedicated to Fiona, Dougal Mòr and Mara

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UPDATES TO THIS GUIDE

While every effort is made by our authors to ensure the accuracy of guidebooks as they go to print, changes can occur during the lifetime of an edition. Any updates that we know of for this guide will be on the Cicerone website (www.cicerone.co.uk/705/updates), so please check before planning your trip. We also advise that you check information about such things as transport, accommodation and shops locally. Even rights of way can be altered over time. We are always grateful for information about any discrepancies between a guidebook and the facts on the ground, sent by email to updates@cicerone.co.uk or by post to Cicerone, Juniper House, Murley Moss, Oxenholme Road, Kendal, LA9 7RL.

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Front cover: Port a' Ghràig, Oronsay, with the Paps of Jura beyond (Walk 9)

WALK 6

Ardlussa to Corpach Bay and Am Miadar

ROUTE INFORMATION

Start/Finish	Parking area at Ardlussa (NR 646 879)
Distance	24km (15 miles) return
Total ascent	855m (2805ft)
Time	6–7hrs
Terrain	There are ATV tracks for much of the way, traversing some rough terrain, including some boggy sections; the terrain is complex in places and in poor visibility navigation can be challenging
Maps	OS Explorer 355, Landranger 61
Public transport	456 bus from Feolin Ferry or Craighouse: Ardlussa is the northern terminus
Parking	Park on the hard standing a short way along the Lussa River track: let the estate know if you're leaving a car there overnight (phone the number below)
Note	In the deer stalking season (1 July–15 February) contact the head keeper at Ardlussa Estate on 01496 820323 in advance of your walk

This fine out-and-return route crosses the north of Jura from Ardlussa on the east coast, climbing up and over the island's mountainous spine before descending to Corpach Bay on the wild west coast. When the ground is dry the ATV tracks followed for much of the way make this one of the least-challenging cross-island routes on Jura: after wet weather, however, you may find yourself traversing a soggy morass. The reward comes in the splendid views en route and the opportunity to explore a sublime stretch of Jura's magnificent western coastline.

This is a splendid place to spend a night or two if you can – the coast to northeast and southwest is well worth exploration – at the very least you should factor in a few extra hours if walking out and back the same day. Corpach Bay and Tràigh a' Mhiadair

are wonderful places to camp: the timings, distance and ascent given above are roughly half each way. Carrying camping gear will slow progress a bit.

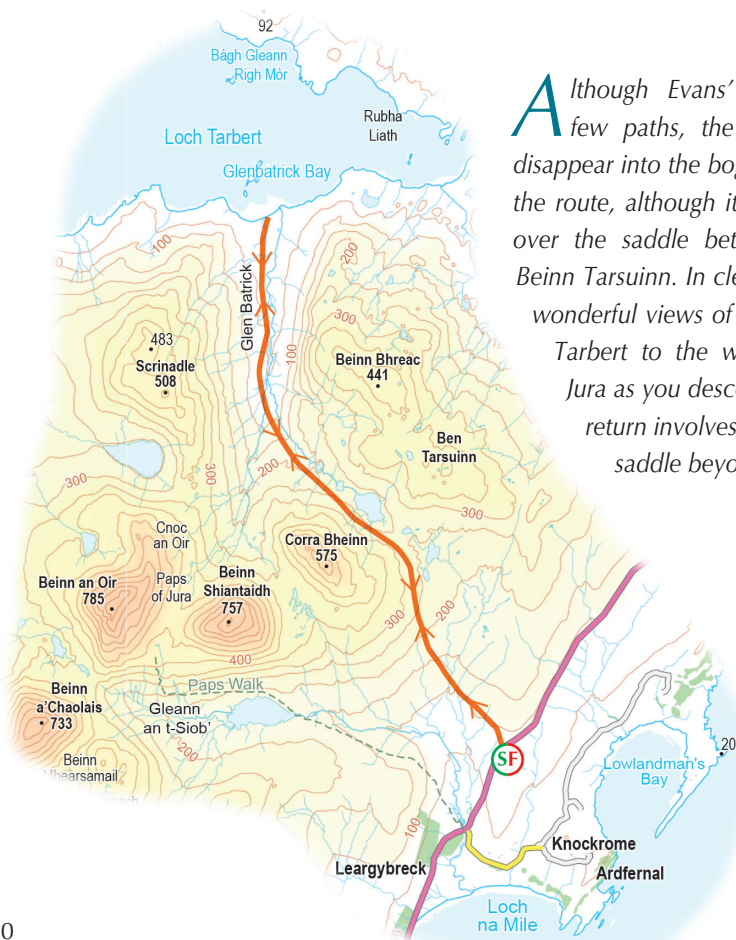


WALK 7

Evans' Walk to Glenbattrick Bay (and return)

ROUTE INFORMATION

Start/Finish	Left-hand side of the A846, just over 1km northeast of Three Arch Bridge (NR 550 732)
Distance	18km (11 miles)
Total ascent	525m (1722ft)
Time	6–7hrs
Terrain	A good path for much of the route; this may be lost in the boggy ground at either end of the walk, and after heavy rain several burns can be impassable
Maps	OS Explorer 355, Landranger 61
Public transport	456 bus from Feolin Ferry or Craighouse – ask the driver to let you down by the start of Evans' Walk (the scheduled stop is Three Arch Bridge)
Note	During the deer stalking season contact the head keeper of the Tarbert Estate in advance on 01496 820207



Although Evans' Walk is one of Jura's few paths, the path itself can tend to disappear into the boggy ground at each end of the route, although it is easy enough to follow over the saddle between Corra Bheinn and Beinn Tarsuinn. In clear weather you will enjoy wonderful views of the Paps and across Loch Tarbert to the wild fastness of northwest Jura as you descend into Glen Battrick. The return involves a fairly tough climb to the saddle beyond Loch na Fùdarlaich.



Climbing to the Bealach Bairc-mheall above Kinloch with the Skye Cuillin in the background

Walk a short distance north of Kinloch Castle to the junction by the bridge that leads to the community hall. Turn left here and continue for 150 metres before turning left at a metal gate. Follow the track past the old castle garden walls to the generator and continue along the Allt Slugan to the edge of the woodland before emerging onto rising open ground. (The path is distinct and easy to follow as it climbs beside the river.) Cross a couple of burns flowing into the river along the way, go through a gateway in an old deer fence and pass a small sluice dam before reaching the Coire Dubh at around 270m. Continue along the level path next to the Allt Slugan, soon arriving at a dilapidated stone dam – where the path marked on the OS Explorer map runs out. Cross the river here: 180m above the corrie to the southwest is the low point of the **Bealach Bairc-mheall** (466m) between Barkeval and Hallival. The path running directly up to the bealach isn't obvious at first, but it keeps to the left of the burn tumbling down into the corrie.

From the bealach climb northwest to the first cairn (575m) on the summit ridge of Barkeval – the actual summit is around 700 metres west along the ridge. Pass around a couple of weathered basalt

outcrops and pick up a vague path to the summit cairn (591m).

The **superlative views** south and southeast onto Hallival, Askival and Trollaval, towering over the Atlantic Corrie, are reason enough to include Barkeval in the traverse. In clear conditions there are fine views southwest down Glen Harris, northwest to the rounded granite hills of Orval, Ard Nev and Fionchra and north to the Skye Cuillin.

Retrace your route to the bealach, then follow the long ridge, steadily rising southeast to **Hallival**. From below, a band of cliffs run around the summit, presenting something of an obstacle. However, a route through these cliffs can be found without difficulty by keeping to the northwest ridge.

The summit is marked by a cairn and the **views are tremendous**, particularly on to Askival's impressive north ridge. Beyond Askival, the summits of Trollaval, Ainishval, Sgùrr nan Goibhrean and Sgùrr nan Gilleaen are visible.