

THE ISLE OF MULL

MULL, ULVA, GOMETRA, IONA AND ERRAID

by
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Second Edition 2017
ISBN: 978 1 85284 961 0
Reprinted 2021 (with updates)
First edition 2011



Printed in Czechia on behalf of Latitude Press Limited on responsibly sourced paper

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

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Acknowledgements

My thanks are due to Douglas Grierson, Access Officer, Argyll and Bute Council, and to Jan Dunlop of the Mull and Iona Community Trust for invaluable help and advice about the feasibility of the routes. The map of the estates on Mull is reproduced by permission of the Community Trust. I also much appreciate the advice and co-operation given by Jamie Howard of the island of Ulva.

But, of course, special thanks are due to my wife, Vivienne, who kept me fed, watered, motivated and dry during our weeks on Mull, while I was researching and writing the book. And Teal, our dog, tested many a bog, and swam or paddled in everything that resembled a lake or a river.

Front cover: Islands and skerries south of Ulva, viewed from Ormaig

THE ISLE OF MULL



Abandoned croft, Aoineadh Mòr

Gradually, the dramatic headland of Ardmeanach comes into view, bold sweeps of vertiginous cliffs and waterfalls; this is Mull's wild landscape at its best.

columns, smaller, less upright and more recumbant than on Staffa.

Those just wanting a short walk now need only retrace their steps. To continue, if you try to go beyond Aoineadh Mòr you will encounter a deep inlet, which is impassable. So, from the ruined croft, backtrack a little to locate a steep path slanting diagonally up the cliffs onto the headland. Only indistinct paths and rough but not unpleasant going exist for much of the next section. Soon another steep-sided geo forces the route inland until coastal walking can be resumed. ◀

Cross a fence (NM 379 247), and carry on, keeping seaward of the hillock, Torr an Locha, to reach a gap in a wall, and then continue across the top of a grassy ravine running down to a small beach. Head for a gate in a wall, and then keep to the right of a dilapidated wall with Loch a' Chrionain in view to your right.

Next you encounter a gated track, which passes a **cottage** (NM 390 243) and enters scattered woodland before becoming surfaced. Now simply follow the lane out to a T-junction, and turn right to return to **Lower Ardtun**.

INTRODUCTION

Mull is not one island, but a group of islands, only one of which, Calve Island, is to the east, sheltering the harbour of Tobermory. Few of the islands – Erraid, Erisgeir, Inch Kenneth, Iona, Eorsa, Little Colonsay, Staffa, Ulva, Gometra and the Treshnish Isles – are large enough, or sufficiently easy of access to warrant inclusion in a guidebook for walkers. These are gathered in the south-west between the Treshnish headland and the end of the Ross of Mull.

Of those not included in this book, the Treshnish Isles and Staffa

are accessible as non-residential tourist destinations during the summer months, and are well worth visiting for their geology and natural history, but do not yield walks of any length; in any case, the call of the ferry means that time on the islands is limited.

STAFFA AND THE TRESHNISH ISLES

Staffa is renowned for Fingal's Cave, a magnificent geological cave of basalt columns linked beneath the waves to the Giant's Causeway in County

