

GINNY'S RUGGED WALKS



THE BROADFORD
HOTEL

CHIHUAHUA STROLL

Stage 1: [Walk Highlands](#)

Stage 2: [Walk Highlands](#)

Distance - 2-5 miles

Duration - 1-3 hours

Difficulty - Easy

Stage 1: To the left of The Broadford Hotel. This picturesque walk follows a shore side path to reach Broadford pier and then continues out to the low headland beyond. There are good opportunities for spotting wildlife and flowers. The optional alternate return is boggy.

- From the large car park overlooking Broadford Bay, walk north - keeping to the right of the play area - to reach a footbridge. Turn right across this, with excellent views out over the bay.

- Once over the bridge keep right on the footpath - signed for Broadford Pier and Irishman's Point - that runs parallel to the road through the trees adjacent to the shoreline. This fine path soon emerges at Broadford's main pier.

- From here go through the gate straight ahead - signed for Irishman's Point and Corry Lodge. When the track forks take the right hand branch which follows the shore. At a second fork keep right again, following the path between the shore and trees, and passing a derelict building. When the track reaches a gate leave it and take the grassy shoreline path to the right. This keeps close to the shore until the low cliffs of Rubh' an Eireannaich or Irishman's Point. There are good views of the low lying island of Pabay which is inhabited and even issues its own stamps.

- The driest way back is to retrace your steps, but if you don't mind a bit of boggyess you can continue on the path which now climbs up to the flat grassy area above the low cliffs. Cross a stile and continue on the wet path as far as a broad grassy bay. It is possible at low tide to continue right round the shoreline to Camas na Sgrianadin, where there is a track - and then follow a cycle path back to Broadford, but this route involves crossing slippery rocks and is impossible if the tide comes in. Instead follow a faint path that cuts inland from the middle of the grassy bay.

- This is very boggy, but eventually joins a rough track. This leads to a gate; pass through into a grassy field. At the far end of this is another gate, leading back to the outward route. Now retrace your steps along the track to Broadford Pier and back to the start using the path beyond.

Stage 2: To the right of The Broadford Hotel. A pleasant though pathless walk on a little-visited part of Skye's coast. Excellent for bird-watching and for views in fine weather.

No path on the peninsula but the route follows the coast and the going is surprisingly good, sometimes on rocks on the shore and sometimes on firm grass interspersed with hundreds of tiny pools.

- The walk begins up the Waterloo minor road off the A87. There is little parking here, so instead it's best to use the layby opposite the Hebridean Inn on the A87 (but do not use the Inn's car park). Begin the walk by heading along the pavement eastwards (right as you face the sea) then turn left along the Waterloo minor road.

This passes some attractive cottages and has fine views across Broadford Bay.

- At the turning area at the end of the road, continue straight ahead on a path. This soon heads through a gate. On the far side the surfaced path turns right here towards Breakish; leave it and instead turn left on wet ground to reach the coast, then bear right along it.

- The walk continues along the coast. The terrain gives fairly easy walking, sometimes on slabs of rock on the shore but mostly on firm grass just above, with a few boggy patches. There are countless small pools of water in the short grass, but the grass between is dry. After almost a kilometre, the coast swings to the right; follow it around an inlet. Beyond, the going continues in much the same vein. There are many dykes of rock running out to sea.

- At the end of the peninsula the green mound of Eilean na Ruadhaich is accessible at low tides. From here you can see Kyle of Lochalsh and the Skye Bridge. This is a great spot for birdwatching and if lucky dolphins in the bay and otters in the water near the coast; we've also watched otters from here. Return by the same route noting the difference the change in the tide will have made to the scenery and wildlife.

LABRADOR TRAIL

Stage 1: [Walk Highlands](#)

Stage 2: [Walk Highlands](#)

Distance - 4.5 miles

Duration - 4 hours

Difficulty - Moderate

Stage 1: This walk climbs through woods to head under an escarpment to reach the remains of a cleared village. The walk is very wet underfoot, waterproof boots or wellies recommended.

Path, faint and very boggy in places.

- The car park is opposite Torrinn on the far side of Loch Slapin and has a green sign. It is also the parking for the ascent of Blà Bheinn - there are toilets provided by the John Muir Trust. From the parking area head back down towards the road, just before the cattle grid take the path on the right and cross the footbridge and then head steeply uphill on a track through trees. This land is now part of a large estate owned by the conservation charity the John Muir Trust. The Trust is currently slowly changing the conifer plantations here so that they will support a wider range of trees and wildlife.

- As the path climbs, Loch Slapin comes into view below and the rounded Broadford Red Hills can be seen across the water. The crofting townships of Torrinn and Kilbride are directly opposite on the far side of Loch Slapin.

- After the trees are left behind there is a great view back of Blà Bheinn, the Cuillin peak which is not part of the main ridge but looks across at the rest of the Black Cuillin, a popular climb as it is not as

difficult or exposed as some of the other Cuillin peaks. Continue along the path, with the long escarpment of An Càrnach looming on the right. Go through a kissing gate in the deer fence.

- On the open moor the path dips to cross a stream and then curves round to the left and continues on a fainter path which is very wet underfoot. Eventually it runs along the higher ground keeping the fence on your right.
- After a rise, the path dips to reach a fence with gate ahead. Go through the gate to explore the remains of some of the houses of Keppoch. This township, known as Ceapach in Gaelic, once supported over 50 families who grew crops in ridge and furrow lazy beds, kept cattle and cut peat for fuel. In 1852 the landlord evicted 44 families, many of whom were forced to emigrate to Australia. By 1875 there was no-one left living here.

Stage 2: A short, attractive walk to the remains of a medieval castle, visiting a Chambered Cairn on the way back.

- Continue on the path until you reach the B8083 road. Go right on the road until you cross the Abhainn Cille Mhaire.
- Take the first left into Kilmarie. Continue along the road until you see a metal gate on the left leading to a woodland path. If you pass Kilmarie house then you've gone too far.
- Follow this path and cross the ornate bridge over the Abhainn Cille Mhaire. Kilmarie House was until 1994 owned and lived in by Ian Anderson, the singer and flautist who fronted Jethro Tull, since 1968. He sold the estate at a very reasonable

price to the John Muir Trust who now manage the land with conservation as the first priority. The house - and most of the ground on this route - remain privately owned and the current owners request that walkers observe the access code and in particular keep dogs under tight control to protect the wildlife along the route.

- Immediately after crossing the bridge take the path on the right running parallel to the river. The path heads out to the bay passing a ford with stepping stones. Don't go through the gate but keep to a grassy path alongside the fence. At one point the fence turns left (leading towards a stile) - continue straight on here across a tiny stream to reach another stile further on. Cross this stile and follow the boggy path beyond.

- A clear, and in places boggy, path follows the coast climbing very gently. In a short distance it joins a clearer path coming in from the left (this route is used for the return). After a small rocky headland, the built remains of Dùn Ringill can be seen on the right near the cliff edge. The path leads over to the Dùn. The entrance is intact and can be passed through to give a good view up and down the coast from the Dùn. Dùn Ringill was the original seat of Clan Mackinnon before they moved to Castle Moil at Kyleakin. It was built on the site of an earlier iron age broch or fort.

- After exploring the coast and enjoying the views, return back along the path to where you came up from the left earlier. This time continue on the main path; soon it crosses a stream on the edge of the wood. One path goes downhill left from here to return to the outward route;

instead, follow the path uphill to the right into the trees. Soon this path passes a bench; a very short distance beyond this turn left along another grassy path. This passes the remains of some stone buildings with a view of the twin summits of Bla Bheinn ahead. Turn left at yet another fork and the path soon becomes a track.

- Continue along the track. Soon it heads down towards a dip with a rise ahead; look out on the left before the dip for a path heading into the trees (a sign here reads ‘No Camping, No Fires’). This path leads back down through the woods to the footbridge crossed near the start of the walk. Immediately before reaching the footbridge, look left to see a prominent but overgrown grassy mound. This is the Kilmarie Chambered Cairn, one of the best examples on the island. Near the top of the cairn (on the same side as the stream) is a small square opening or cist; these were used for burial. A beaker found in the cist here is in the National Museum of Scotland. Take great care not to disturb or damage the site before returning over the bridge.

SPANIEL WAY

Stage 1: [Walk Highlands](#)

Stage 2: [Walk Highlands](#)

Distance - 8 miles

Duration - 6.5 hours

Difficulty - Moderate

Stage 1: 8 Miles. An easy-going walk tracing the line of the railway line for the marble quarries at Kilchrist. Good views of Blaven and the surrounding hills.

Waymarked, easy going, path suitable for all terrain prams and wheelchairs except for one steep section to the second quarry which can be avoided.

- From the car park cross the main road and follow it in the direction of Northwest for a few minutes. Just before you get to the bridge over the Broadford River turn left onto a path running next to the river. Follow this as it skirts around the Broadford Hotel and emerges onto the Torrin road in a few hundred metres. Turn right onto the road and follow it out of Broadford and slightly uphill past a small conifer plantation.

- After reaching the top of the uphill section look for a signed path leading from the road to the left. Take this path which quickly reaches the remains of the railway line used to transport marble from the quarries at Kilchrist to the pier at Broadford. The quarries ran from the early 18th century until the last quarry closed in 1912. The railway was a relatively late innovation, although it is believed that the same route was used for an aerial ropeway before engine power took over. Follow the old railway as it contours along

the side of Strath Suardal, passing through two gates above houses at Suardal.

- The lower quarry is marked by heaps of waste marble at the side of the line. Continue on the path and climb up a steep section to the remains of the higher quarry. Here the circular remains of a winding wheel used to pull wagons up the steep incline can be seen. There are also more waste heaps and the remains of buildings. From here, looking down the valley, there are good views of Blaven, one of the Cuillin Munros.

- Return along the marble line. After a fairly short distance you reach the sign to Cill Chriosd church. This is worth the 1.4km detour to explore the ruins of the main church of the area, busy when Strath Suardal was heavily populated as it was one of the most fertile parts of the island. The churchyard has an interesting collection of headstones and fine views over Loch Cill Chriosd. Returning to the main route, continue along the path until, having passed a clear bend in the road below, a path, signed for Coire-that-achan branches off to the left. Take this path to the road and after crossing the road follow the path passed the remains of a chambered cairn and down towards the Broadford River.

- The route crosses the river on a wooden bridge and then follows a path and track around the edge of Coire-that-achan. Next to the barn, the remains of the stone house can be seen. Johnson and Boswell stayed here in 1786 during their tour of the Hebrides. Although Boswell suffered from toothache and terrible hangovers, they enjoyed their visit and Boswell climbed Beinn na Caillich behind

the house. Conditions were cramped though, with at least 11 people staying in the house which belonged to the Chief of the Makinnons of Strath.

- From the barn and sheep fank walk up the track, passed the more modern farmhouse, to the road end. Here turn right and walk along the pleasant minor road passed Old Corry to emerge on the main A87. Turn right and after a very short while cross the road where a small layby gives access to the path and cycle track just beyond the main road. Turn right onto this path and follow it all the way back to Broadford.

Stage 2: 10 Miles. The ruined coastal villages of Suisnish and Boreraig are a reminder of the Clearances; the walk to visit them gives an easy though long circuit with fine views.

- Park opposite the ruined church of Cill Chriosd four kilometres out of Broadford on the road to Elgol. The ruin dates from the sixteenth century when this was the heart of one of Skye's most fertile and populous districts; following the declining population and the forced evictions of the Clearances the church fell into ruins and was superseded in 1840 by a new church at Broadford. Walk along the road towards Broadford until a track goes off to the right. Turn up this track which leads to the ruins of an old Marble processing factory. Keep to the left of these ruins following a rough track uphill. When the track reaches an excellently maintained footpath, turn right along it. This is the Marble Line, the route of a railway line that ran between Broadford and a series of Marble quarries which closed in 1912; they had been worked for at least a century and in 1907 a railway was built

to transport the marble to Broadford, but the company soon folded. Skye Marble was highly prized, being used in Iona Abbey and Hamilton Palace.

- Pass the first spoil heaps and go through a gate to continue to the upper quarry. On the ground a circular structure is all that remains of a winding wheel that once pulled the trains up the incline you've just ascended. A path goes off to the right here, but ignore it and continue on the path rising uphill. After passing a cairn at the summit of the pass, with great views back towards Bla Bheinn, the track becomes a path and goes through a gate. A sign announces the start of the Beinn nan Càrn Native Woodland project; the moorland beyond the gate having been planted with scattered native trees. There is now a stream and valley down to the left, and the path climbs again slightly before beginning its descent to the coast.

- Pass to the right of some sheepfolds and continue down to the shore as the path becomes indistinct amongst old green fields and ruined houses. This is Borerraig, as fertile, sheltered and beautiful a spot as any village on Skye, but it was brutally cleared by Lord Macdonald in 1853, all residents being evicted and their homes burned to make way for the more profitable sheep. On a fine sunny day it is easy to imagine the children playing amongst the fields.

- From Borerraig the route follows a coastal path; first cross the stream by a stone slab bridge just above the shore. After crossing an elevated greensward the path passes to the left of the last building in Borerraig, keeping right on the shoreline where the cliffs press close. Most of the

way it is a beautifully graded path as it was originally the main route to Borerraig, but in places the path has been destroyed by the decaying cliffs and you have to weave between the rocks; there are several fine waterfalls cascading down from the black slabby cliffs. Look out for seals and otters on the shoreline section, before the path ascends to a higher level and continues to Suisnish.

- On reaching a fence, follow the path round the fence to the right. Shortly after turning a corner in the fence, go through the gate on the left and descend to the barn below. Go through another gate to the right of the barn where a good landrover track begins. Follow this track to another ruined house; you are now in Suisnish.

- There are lots more ruined houses on the hillsides above and below - Suisnish being cleared at the same time as Borerraig. The geologist Archibald Geikie was visiting the area at the time of the clearance, and his recollection is worth quoting here: 'A strange wailing sound reached my ears... I could see a long and motley procession winding along the road that led north from Suisnish... There were old men and women, too feeble to walk, who were placed in carts; the younger members of the community on foot were carrying their bundles of clothes... while the children, with looks of alarm, walked alongside.... A cry of grief went up to heaven, the long plaintive wail, like a funeral coronach, was resumed.. the sound re-echoed through the wide valley of Strath in one prolonged note of desolation.'

- The landrover track soon turns northwards for three kilometres until reaching the pebble beach at Camas Malag, the sublime views of the southern end of the Cuillin, Bla Bheinn and the Broadford Red Hills improving with every step.

- Camas Malag is the terminus of a minor road, which is followed uphill away from the coast, passing the present day Torrin Marble Quarry, before reaching a junction with the Broadford/Elgol road. Turn right and follow the minor road, with care as it can be busy with cars in the summer months. It leads past pleasant native woodland and reedy Loch Cill Chrìosd (a haunt of Whooper Swans) to return to the start point.

WOLFHOUND WANDER

Website: [Walk Highlands](#)

Distance - 5.25 miles

Duration - 5 hours

Difficulty - Challenging

Beinn na Caillich rises impressively above Broadford, it's forbidding steep slopes of rock and scree deterring it from becoming a more popular ascent. That first steep pull is rewarded with some fine ridge walking and truly stunning 360 degree views.

Boggy approach and return. Very steep and bouldery initial ascent, easier ridgewalking above, but with a steep scree descent to negotiate.

- The walk starts from Coire-chat-achan, at the end of the minor road (signed Old Corry) off the A87(T) just north of Broadford. Parking is limited as the road end is also needed for turning vehicles; if busy, there is further space back along the road. From the road end, strike out across the moorland to the west, turning northwest to follow the stream when you reach it. You are aiming for the daunting slopes of Beinn na Caillich ahead (sometimes spelt Cailleach).

- Upon reaching the steeper ground of scree and rocks, it's easiest to aim just left of the prominent broken rocks. Higher up, the slope begins to become slightly less steep, and there are great views back over Broadford Bay.

- Eventually the boulders relent and an open grassy slope leads up to the summit. Beinn na Caillich is a magnificent 360 degree viewpoint, and at the last moment the peaks of the Cuillin are revealed. In

1772 noted geographer and traveller Thomas Pennant climbed the peak, the first recorded ascent of a Skye mountain. He was more impressed by the view in the opposite direction, writing 'the prospect to the west was that of desolation itself; a savage series of rude mountains, discoloured, black and red, as if by the rage of fire. The serrated tops of Blaven affect with astonishment: and beyond them, the clustered height of Quillin.'

- The mammoth cairn can be seen for miles around and is said to be the burial place of a Norwegian Princess from the time of the Viking occupation of Skye. According to legend, she wanted to feel the winds from her homeland around her grave. From the cairn, head past the trig point and down the ridge which curves gently towards Beinn Dearg Mhor.

- After the col the ridge sweeps dramatically up to the summit of Beinn Dearg Mhor. From here the views of the Cuillin are a little foreshortened by the flat summit plateau, but there are good views back to Beinn na Caillich.

- From here, there is another tricky section, as the descent southeast to Bealach Coire Sgreamhach (well-named the pass of the scree) is down a very steep scree slope. There is a well-worn route down the scree slightly to the right of the true ridge-line; this makes the descent slightly easier, though it requires care.

- You'll be relieved to reach the security of the bealach. The walk continues south up rocky ground to climb the smaller peak of Beinn Dearg Bheag, with a fine outlook over Loch Slapin.

- The walk continues along the ridge, first southeast and then turning east to give a straightforward descent with great views.

- There are good views back of the whole horseshoe. At the foot of this ridge, head across the boggy ground to cross the Allt Beinn Deirge. There's no path for the final stretch northeast, aiming directly back to the start of the walk.

MASTIFF MOUNTAIN PASSAGE

****Warning:** Walk Highlands has removed this walk from their website due to how intensely boggy the route has become. It might be impassable at times. We can no longer recommend it.**