



DIFFICULTY	HARD
DISTANCE	16.4KM
TIME	9 HOURS
TOTAL ASCENT	1490M
PEAK BAGGER STATS	
CORBETTS	1
TRAIL 100S	1

Paps of Jura

Loch an t-Siob, at the base of Beinn Shiantaidh.

KATIE FEATHERSTONE

Visit this island in the **Inner Hebrides**, climb its highest hills, and you'll find the Paps of Jura look even more impressive from their three rocky peaks.

Dominating the island's skyline, Jura's three Paps – Beinn an Oir (mountain of gold), Beinn Shiantaidh (sacred mountain), and Beinn a' Chaolais (mountain of the sound) – are visible on the horizon from as far afield as Mull, and even Northern Ireland. As impressive as they look from the ground though, nothing beats the views from their peaks, with each providing a different perspective on the hills themselves and the surrounding landscape.

At 785m, Beinn an Oir is the highest of the three Paps, while Beinn Shiantaidh reaches

757m and Beinn a' Chaolais 733m. Despite falling well short of Munro classification, their conical shapes and rocky scree have a distinct mountain feel, emphasised by the fact that they are by far the largest hills in the area. Climbing all three in a round is a formidable task, requiring decent weather, route-finding and sturdy thighs, as well as some perseverance over a boggy approach. Your reward, as well as the breathtaking views, is the satisfaction of having completed one of Scotland's classic hill walks.

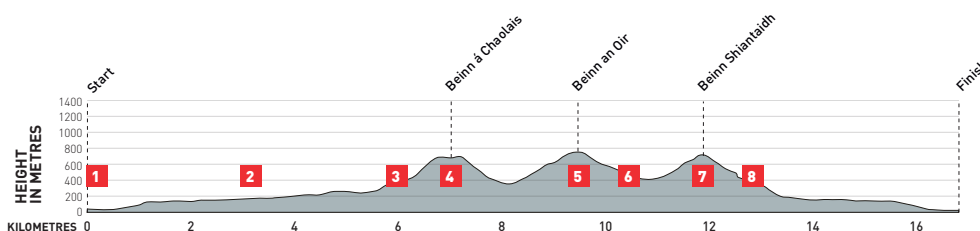
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IS IT FOR ME?

FITNESS 1490m ascent, a boggy approach and plentiful scree means good fitness is required.

TERRAIN Some track or trodden trail, with pathless sections. Notoriously boggy 3km approach, and scree-strewn flanks.

NAVIGATION While the targets are unmissable on a clear day, careful route-finding is required. Unfavourable weather provides serious challenge.



2 Inner Hebrides

CLASSIC HILLWALK



1 NR544720 Start at the parking just north of Corran River Bridge. Begin by crossing the bridge and turning right onto a path, which crosses over a stile and heads initially north-north-west. This path links with a larger path on the left, which you should follow. Slightly indistinct in places, this trail crosses boggy ground towards a picturesque Loch an t-Siob' at the base of Beinn Shiantaidh.

2 NR522735 At the head of Loch an t-Siob', there are stepping stones crossing Corran River – cross these and begin to follow indistinct paths around the northern shore of the loch, heading towards the higher ground between Beinn an Oir and Beinn a' Chaolais. Beinn a' Chaolais is our first target, and looks

quite formidable from this perspective.

3 NR495739 Begin to ascend Beinn a' Chaolais in a south-westerly direction towards the eastern side of the peak. From here, the route heads steeply uphill to the west following traces of path over patches of heather and scree towards the summit.

4 NR488734 The summit is flat, a joyful reprieve from the first steep ascent, with glorious views over Islay to the west, and back towards Beinn an Oir and Beinn Shiantaidh. If the weather is favourable, this is a good opportunity for a

quick pit stop, before retracing your steps to the south-south-west flank of Beinn an Oir. Climb Beinn an Oir following a tricky, winding path up its south-south-western side. This has a couple of areas of very loose scree, where particular care is needed to avoid sliding. Eventually, you will reach a more vegetated shoulder, overlooking steep slopes down to the enticing waters of Na Garbh-lochanan. One final steep

ascent is required, before you reach the last section of path to the summit of Beinn an Oir.

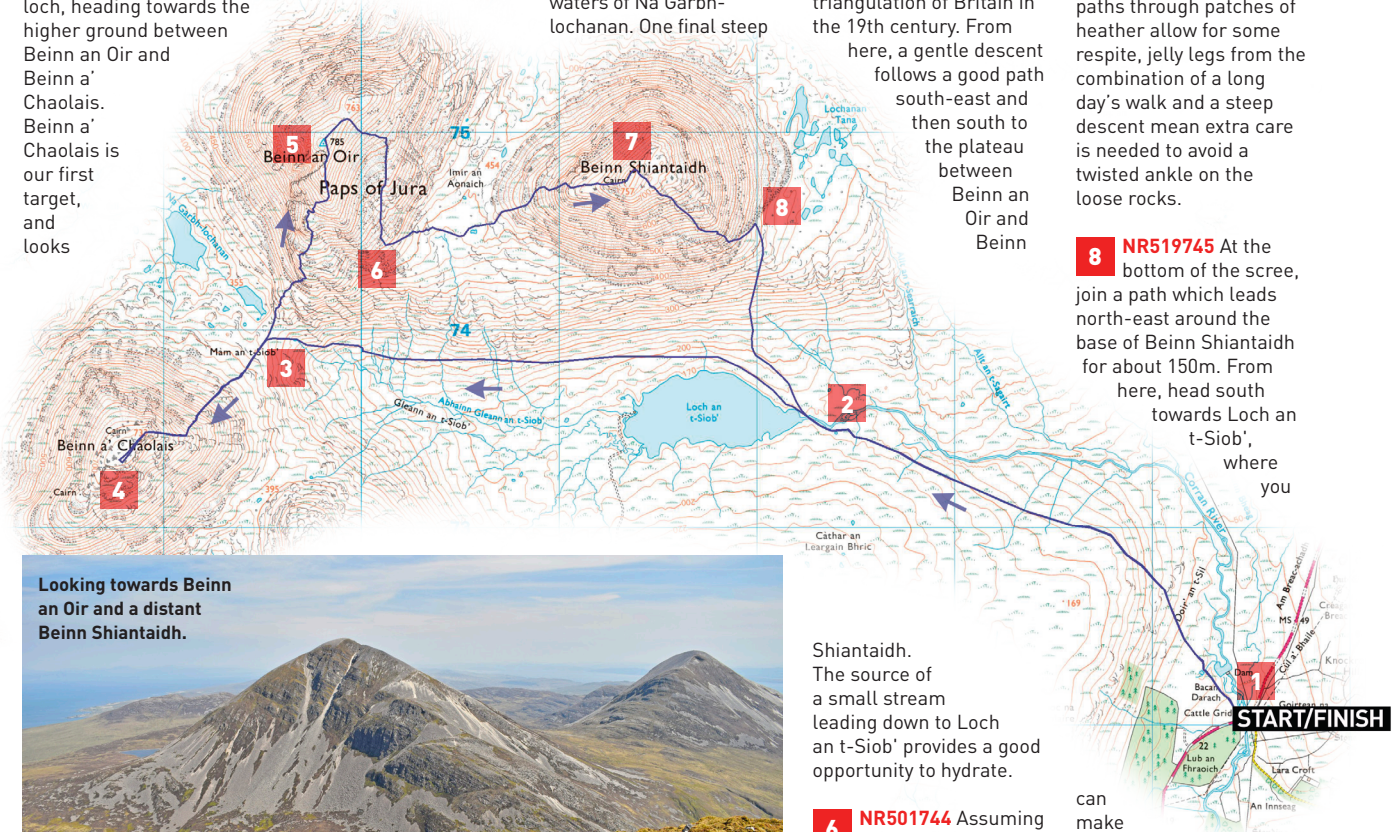
5 NR498749 From the summit of Beinn an Oir, continue to the scant remains of two rectangular drystone buildings on the north-east saddle. This is the remains of a Colby Camp, left by OS parties during the principal triangulation of Britain in the 19th century. From

here, a gentle descent follows a good path south-east and then south to the plateau between Beinn an Oir and Beinn

obvious diagonal cut through the solid quartzite crags, clambering through this aids the steepest part of the ascent. From here, head east-north-east over an initially grassy shoulder and final area of sharp boulders to the summit.

7 NR513748 From the summit of Beinn Shiantaidh, you have a view over Carra Bheinn towards Loch Tarbert and the north of Jura. The final descent, for which you should head down from the summit in a south-easterly direction, covers difficult terrain comprising mostly of small boulders and areas of loose scree. While faint paths through patches of heather allow for some respite, jelly legs from the combination of a long day's walk and a steep descent mean extra care is needed to avoid a twisted ankle on the loose rocks.

8 NR519745 At the bottom of the scree, join a path which leads north-east around the base of Beinn Shiantaidh for about 150m. From here, head south towards Loch an t-Siob', where you



Looking towards Beinn an Oir and a distant Beinn Shiantaidh.



Shiantaidh. The source of a small stream leading down to Loch an t-Siob' provides a good opportunity to hydrate.

6 NR501744 Assuming you still have time and energy to complete the final Pap, make your way east across the plateau to the south-western side of Beinn Shiantaidh. An indistinct path leads up towards an

can make your way back to the stepping stones, and retrace your steps along the boggy path back to Corran River Bridge.

GET THERE	EAT & DRINK	STAY OVER	BEST MAPS
Park just north of Corran River Bridge, 5km north of Craighouse. Garelochhead Coaches buses between Feolin and Inverlussa several times a day. Deer stalking between 1 July and 15 February, so phone the Hillphone service (01496 820151) to check you can walk safely.	In Craighouse, the Antlers is run by Jura's community, or there is also Jura Hotel.	Corran House B&B is conveniently located within walking distance of the start. Jura Hotel also has a campsite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OS Explorer 355 (1:25k) Harvey Superwalker XT25 Jura (1:25k)

