




27 HIGHLAND (ISLE OF EIGG) AN SGÙRR

▶ Distance: 6½ miles/10.5km ▶ Time: 6 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging  



LEGEND OF THE HEBRIDES



CHOSEN BY... ROGER BUTLER

There's always something special about a Hebridean island but the crofts and beaches on Eigg are topped off with one of the most distinctive and eye-catching summits in Britain. The pitchstone ridge known as An Sgùrr rises above the harbour like an ancient monolith and,

while the sheer east-facing cliffs are an extreme rock climb, walkers can reach the top via paths over the surrounding moorland. This is one of the finest viewpoints on Scotland's west coast and the glistening seascape includes Rum, Skye, Ardnamurchan and the Outer Hebrides. The unusual hexagonal formations on the broad summit ridge

are the result of volcanic activity 60 million years ago and, after leaving the airy trig point, the route descends to a series of little lochs and drops to a track which passes through evocative former crofting townships on the way back to the pier.

Rising sheer from the surrounding moorland, An Sgùrr is a sight to behold on arrival to Eigg.



PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER



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► OS Explorer map 397 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

1 Start

From the pier fork L up minor lane with woods on R. Pass the community hall on R and keep ahead as a track bends L around the edge of the wood. Go through gate into open field and follow track towards a large isolated house with An Sgùrr now a dramatic landmark on the skyline. Pass through another gate at R of house and turn L on good track for 100m.

2 ¾ mile/1.25km

Take the path on R next to cairn and the first in a series of intermittent waymarks. Stay on path, sometimes boggy, as it crosses open moorland and swings west, past the eastern cliffs known as The Nose,

to contour below the north side of the main pitchstone ridge.

3 1½ miles/3km

The path steadily climbs towards an obvious gully and continues, with a little scrambling, up to an easy rocky incline and a grassy bealach on the main ridge. There are suddenly panoramic views in every direction with the mountains of Rum dominating the view to the north-west. Turn L to reach the cylindrical trig point after 500m, close to the edge of The Nose. There are sheer drops north, east and south – take extra care if the weather has closed in.

4 2¼ miles/3.75km

Return to the bealach,

descend back down the gully and turn L towards the south shore of Loch nam Bàn Mòra – a couple of paths run through the heather. Turn west at the far end of the loch (there's little in the way of a path now) and walk on S side of small hill named An Corrach. Trend north-west for 200m towards the head of a stream.

5 3½ miles/5.5km

Descend alongside the stream, through heather (no path), for 200m and then veer south-west for 200m to the ruins at Grulin lochdrach – one of two former settlements, with rows of old lazy beds, perched above lonely coves and cliffs.

6 3¼ miles/6km

A broad path now runs south-east, parallel to coast and below An Sgùrr. Follow for 1.25km to the second group of ruins at Carnan Ghrulin, where a whitewashed bothy (private) marks the start of a good track.

7 4½ miles/7.25km

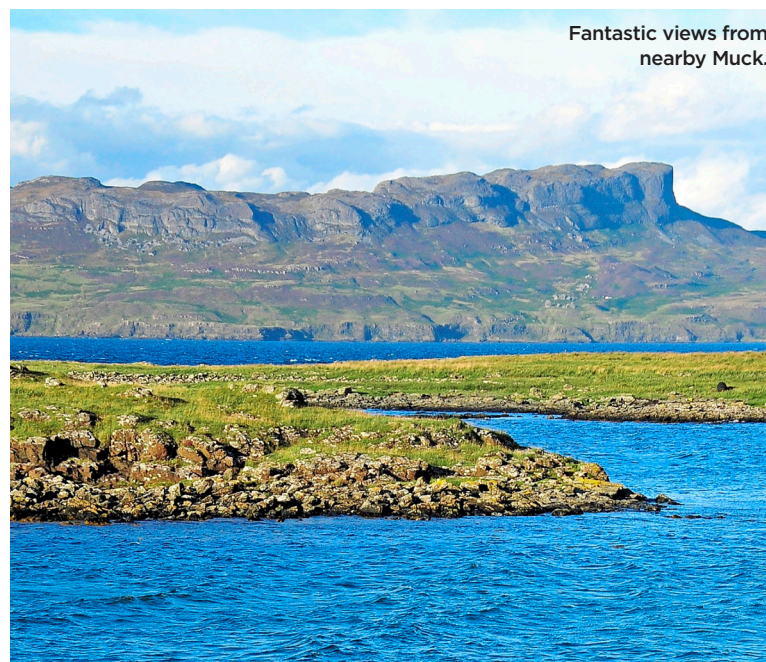
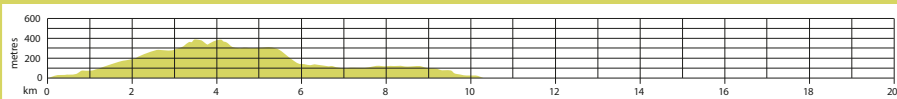
Follow for 2km, past wind turbines, and go R through gate after the large house to retrace steps back down to the pier. **CW**



PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER

Formidable pitchstone cliffs form the south side of An Sgùrr.

GRADIENT PROFILE



Fantastic views from nearby Muck.

PHOTO: ROGER BUTLER



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PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/finish By the main pier at Galmisdale; grid ref NM484838, postcode PH42 4RL

Is it for me? A rough walk to an exposed summit with a little scrambling – not recommended in mist

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest towns Mallaig & Fort William

Refreshments

Café by the pier

Public toilets At the pier

Public transport Train to Mallaig and ferry to Eigg (90 minute journey; calmac.co.uk); Sheerwater ferry from Arisaig (April-September; arisaig.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer 397; Landranger 39

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:

walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

