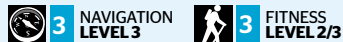


• Distance 18km/11 miles • Time 6hrs • Type Island: moorland, hill and coast



Plan your walk



WHERE: Circular walk from Raasay pier via Dun Caan and Hallaig.

START/END: Raasay pier (NG554342).

TERRAIN: Moorland, coastal paths, tracks and quiet road. Route is initially well signposted; Hallaig section needs careful navigation. Beware midges in summer!

MAPS: OS Explorer 409; Landranger 24.

GETTING THERE: Caledonian MacBrayne ferry from Sconser on Skye to Raasay, several crossings a day - it's a 20-25-minute journey (© 08000 66 5000, www.calmac.co.uk). Citylink coaches from Glasgow and Inverness to ferry terminal at Sconser (www.citylink.co.uk). Nearest train station: Kyle of Lochalsh, from which coaches and buses to Sconser (© 0871 200 2233, www.traveline.info).

EATING & DRINKING: Borodale House (formerly the Isle of Raasay Hotel), (© 01478 660222; www.isleofraasayhotel.co.uk);



Raasay is one of the northern group of the Inner Hebridean Islands, situated between the Scottish mainland and the Isle of Skye. It's a lovely, quiet island easily reached from Skye by regular daily ferry services, so it's quite feasible to combine a day return with a walk on the island.

The 20-25-minute ferry ride is worth every penny for the superb views back to the Skye mountains. Raasay's highest point - the flat-topped and distinctive Dun Caan - is well within the ability of most walkers. Despite its modest height (443m/1453ft), it offers a wonderful panorama. During his Hebridean tour with Samuel Johnson in 1773, Boswell famously danced a reel on the summit.

1. START From Raasay pier, take the path opposite signed for Dun Caan. This follows a dismantled railway incline past the ruins of the former iron ore workings, which date back to the First World War. The path

enters a forest and crosses a valley; two large piers of the railway viaduct still stand. Soon after exiting the forest you reach the minor Inverarish-Fearnas road.

2. Opposite are a car park and the old mine workings. Follow the signs for the Burma Road Trail (a reference to its construction by German prisoners of war). About 500m further on, Dun Caan is signposted on your R. Go up the footpath beside the Inverarish Burn, which leads over moorland towards Loch na Mna, one of a number of picturesque lochans dotted around the hillside. You can either keep below the crags beside the loch or go along the ridge above. From Loch na Meilich, a good path zigzags up steep grass slopes to the craggy summit of Dun Caan (NG 579395). The views from here are superb, encompassing the peaks of Skye, Torridon, Applecross and Kintail.

Continued...

Sconser Lodge Hotel, Skye (© 01478 650333; www.sconserlodge.co.uk). **SLEEPING:** Borodale House (see over); Allt Arais B&B, 1 mile from Raasay ferry terminal (© 01478 660237, www.allt-arais.co.uk); Raasay Youth Hostel (© 01478 660240); Sconser Lodge Hotel, Skye (see above). There is a wide selection of accommodation on Skye. **VISITOR INFORMATION:** Portree Tourist Information Centre, Isle of Skye (© 0845 2255121; www.raasay.com); also www.visitscotland.com/walking.

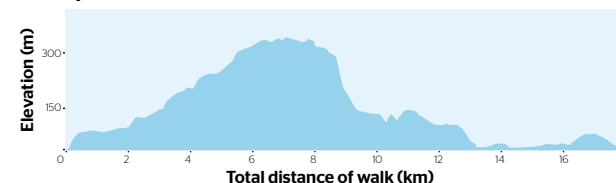
GUIDEBOOKS: *25 Walks: Skye and Kintail* by Hamish Brown (£8.99, Mercat Press, ISBN 978 18 4183 007 0); *Pathfinder Guide: Skye and the North West Highlands* by John Brooks and Neil Wilson (£10.99, Jarrold Publishing, ISBN 978 07 1170 850 1).

3. The simplest and quickest way back is to retrace your steps. After descending from the summit, cut to the L to join a path that heads southwards along a moorland terrace between Loch na Mna and a band of cliffs on the east. Once you're clear of the cliffs, descend to the ruins of Hallaig (NG592384), a cleared village. (NB Beware the midges around this area in summer!)

4. The path out of Hallaig can be difficult to distinguish. It crosses a burn and goes through woodland, rounding the foot of Beinn na' Leac. Once you reach the memorial cairn displaying Sorley MacLean's emotive poem 'Hallaig', inscribed in both Gaelic and English, you'll find the going much easier.



Steepness of walk



5. Beyond the memorial cairn, the path becomes a grassy track that provides a wonderful coast walk to the road at North Fearnas. After the first house, take a diagonal path

downhill to the foot of a stream, then follow a path along the shoreline to Eyre Point (NG571343) and the road back to the ferry. *Route devised by Fiona Bartrop*



Route and gradient profile created using Anquet Maps v06. Download more maps from www.Anquet.co.uk