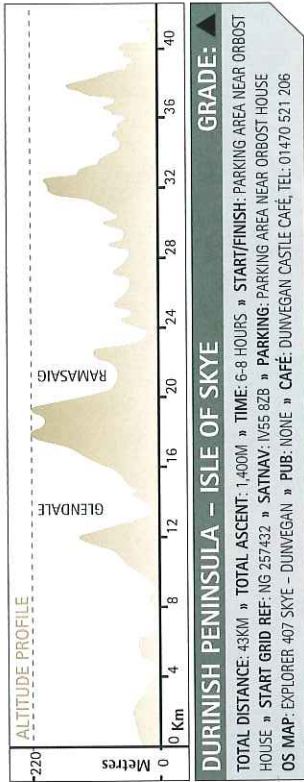


Introduction

The Durinish Peninsula lies to the west of Dunvegan and forms the most westerly point of the Isle of Skye. It can be subject to some of the most severe weather you'll find anywhere in Scotland. However, on a clear day the views of the sea, the Western Isles and the coastline itself make for a spectacular location. It is the cliff top nature of this ride which makes it unique: the cliffs drop around 200m to the sea below and are dotted with caves, stacks and arches. Wildlife is abundant in the area with puffins and eagles found on the cliffs and dolphins, whales and even basking sharks frequently spotted in the water.

The Ride

The route starts at Orbst following narrow single lane roads for its first half. It may be tarmac, but the spectacular scenery of this part of Skye captivates the attention. The two flat-topped hills known as Macleod's Tables dominate the view on this first section. Legend has it that the hills lost their summits to provide a bed and table for St Columba. Passing through small villages leads to the end of the tarmac at Ramasaig. From Ramasaig, muddy vehicle tracks bring you to Lorgill, after which it is faint sheep tracks along the cliff edge all the way back to Orbst. This is a fantastic ride in unique terrain, but it is exposed and remote and should not be undertaken in poor conditions.



Directions – Durinish Peninsula – Isle of Skye

- ➔ From Orbst, head north on the single lane road for 3km.
- ➔ Turn L at the junction with the B884 and follow this for 11km, passing Loch Erghallan and through Colbost to Glendale. The islands in the loch provide a stunning backdrop to the road and seals can often be seen basking in the sunshine on their shores.
- ➔ 1.5km after Glendale turn L off the B884 and follow the minor road past Loch Eishort to Ramasaig.
- ➔ From Ramasaig, follow the track through the cattle pens towards Lorgill. The track can be very muddy in places due to the cattle, but does improve as you leave Ramasaig behind. The terrain changes to grassy pastureland near Lorgill, which was a large village before it was forcibly cleared in the 1830s and its residents sent to Nova Scotia.
- ➔ Cross the river at Lorgill and follow a faint grassy track past the ruins of the oldcroft houses to Lorgill Bay.
- ➔ Climb steeply up the bank and follow the line of the cliff to the first (and biggest) inlet. This is 3.5km after the high point of the climb. This gorge is home to a fantastic natural arch, but necessitates a detour of approx 400m inland to get around.
- ➔ Regain the cliff edge and continue towards Idrigill Point. The views to the Cuillin Ridge are fantastic from this section, and Macleod's Maidens, three rock stacks just off the point, act as a visible marker of progress along the cliff edge. The trail is faint and indistinct in places and several inlets mean detouring inland to get around them.
- ➔ From Idrigill Point, head back inland on a better defined singletrack trail through the ruins of Idrigill village. The trail is boggy in places but improves as it enters the forest, although it undulates quite a bit. This can be a killer for tired legs.
- ➔ Cross the bridge over the Abhainn Bharcaisig and turn R, follow the track back to Orbst for 1.5km.



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