



North of Tanera Beg with Assynt mountains in background | Doug Cooper

# Summer Isles

No. 24 | Grade A | 15km | 4-5 Hours | OS Sheet 15 | Tidal Port Ullapool

**Start**  Achiltibuie (013 096)

**Finish**  Achiltibuie (013 096)

**HW/LW** HW/LW at Tanera Mor is around 5 minutes before Ullapool.

**Tidal times** In the vicinity of the Summer Isles the direction and times of the small amount of tidal flow is variable.

**Tidal rates** The average spring rate does not exceed 0.5 knot between the islands of the Summer Isles.

**Coastguard** Stornoway, tel:01851 702013, VHF Weather 0910 UT



**INTRODUCTION** This area is a sea kayaker's paradise. It offers a wealth of islands, coastlines and wildlife to explore. With no real tidal concerns and relatively sheltered waters it is a perfect place to spend some time. This trip forms a brief tour of all the main islands of the Summer Isles.

**DESCRIPTION** Putting in at the beach to the east of Achiltibuie pier offers ample parking on the grass, looking out to Tanera Mor. A 3km crossing will take you across Badentarbat Bay to the Summer Isles. Tanera Mor is the largest and only inhabited island of the Summer Isles and its perfect large natural harbour, 'The Anchorage' is where you will first arrive. It's worth landing here to stretch the legs and explore the old schoolhouse and post office found on the island. Leaving The Anchorage head around the south of the island to Mol Mor, where you will start to get a taste for the fantastic colours and shape of the sandstone cliffs that surround these islands.

Heading across to Tanera Beg, which has never been inhabited, it is worth paddling to the south-eastern extremity. Here you will find a beautifully ornate sandstone arch. Leaving the arch, paddle the sheltered lagoon found between Eilean Flada Mor and Tanera Beg. There are landing spots to be found in this lagoon area if you wish to explore Tanera Beg, or spend time watching the seals found here.

The small skerries in this area are well worth exploring for the wildlife that they conceal, on your way back to Tanera Mor. The natural harbour on the north-western tip of Tanera Mor again provides shelter for the wildlife, as well as another easy landing spot before the journey back to Achiltibuie.

Heading around the exposed northern tip of the island provides you with more sandstone cliffs to enjoy, along with the stunning views back to the unique north-west highland landscape. This view will guide you the final few kilometres back to the beach where you started.

**TIDE & WEATHER** With no real tidal streams in and around the Summer Isles, weather is the only consideration when planning your trip. Once amongst the islands they offer a lot of shelter from any wind or swell. Getting across Badentarbat Bay and around the exposed north and south parts of Tanera Mor require planning to make the best use of any wind and to ensure a crossing is possible there and back. If a crossing of the bay is possible but there is a rough sea off the south of Tanera Mor, then a good day's paddling can still be had using the shelter of the islands and not circumnavigating Tanera Mor.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** Achiltibuie has good amenities including a shop, petrol station and hotel with a public bar. For further exploration of the Summer Isles there are good launching and landing sites at Old Dornie jetty (983 113) and by Badenscallie burial ground (036 062). If there are non-paddlers in the group there are regular boat trips to the Summer Isles in the summer season from Achiltibuie pier.



Excerpt abridged and adapted from *Scottish Sea Kayaking* by Doug Cooper & George Reid ISBN 0954706129, published by Pesda Press, Caernarfon. For details of this and other books, as well as downloads of further mini-guides and route cards in this series, visit: [WWW.PESDAPRESS.COM](http://WWW.PESDAPRESS.COM)

Trip Name & Number	
Page Number	VHF Weather
Date	Weather Forecast
Coastguard Contact	

TIDAL INFORMATION

Tidal Port		Mean Sp Range			Local Port		
		Mean Np Range					
Tidal Port Tide Times (UT)	Height in Metres	Tidal Range in Metres	HW/LW	+1 Hr for BST?	Local Port HW/LW Time Difference	Local Port HW/LW	Sp or Np Tides

TIDAL STREAM TIMES

Location	Direction of Tidal Stream	Tidal Stream Time Diff.	Tidal Port HW (BST?)	Tidal Stream Start Time	Tidal Rate	Est. Max Speed
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ROUTE PLAN

Location	Notes	ETA	ETD
Start			
1st			
2nd			
3rd			
4th			
5th			
Finish			