

Dunvegan to Stein

No. 16 | Grade A | 16km | 4-5 Hours | OS Sheet 23 | Tidal Port Ullapool

Start  Dunvegan (245 497)

Finish  Stein (264 564)

HW/LW HW/LW in Loch Dunvegan is around 45 minutes before Ullapool.

Tidal times In the loch the direction and the times of the small amount of tidal flow is variable.

Tidal rates The tidal streams in the loch are very weak. The maximum spring rate may be found in the channel south of Isay and will not exceed 0.5 knots.

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

INTRODUCTION This trip offers wildlife, history, geology, coral beaches and a pub to finish. On a hot summer's day, it is fantastic to linger and enjoy the coral beach. On a day with strong winds, the area still offers shelter to enjoy a paddle when most other venues are too exposed.

DESCRIPTION Setting off from the small seaweed-covered beach you are instantly surrounded by the wildlife haven of Garbh Eilein. Enjoy your ringside seat, but try not to disturb the seals as there are regular seal-watching boat trips in this area. Camalaig Bay gives a stony beach to land on, and also gives the opportunity to explore the remains of a broch on the hillside above. Heading up the coast towards the island of Lampay you will have ever-improving views of the majestic Outer Hebrides. On a clear day you can see the islands of North Uist, Harris and Lewis. When arriving at Lampay you will see the beautiful coral beach opposite, which is an ideal place to land. The fantastically ornate pieces of white 'coral' that make up this beach are technically 'algae', but 'algae beach' has not quite the same appeal!

Leaving the beach make the small crossing to the island of Isay, the Norse name translating into 'Porpoise Island'. It is well worth paddling around the west side of Isay and exploring the islands of Mingay and Clett. These islands give continued wildlife along with some good examples of basalt cliffs. Whilst coming down the east side of Mingay you will also notice the small disused lime kiln, which is unique in its setting. Before leaving the islands take the time to land at the old abandoned village on Isay's eastern shore. In the 19th century this island supported a community of ninety people, with its own fishing station and general store. Today you can explore the ruins of over eighteen cottages, along with the grand main house.


Having taken in the unique natural and human history of Isay, then the picturesque village of Stein is the finishing point. On route there it is well worth passing the small skerry of Sgeir nam Biast for a final paddle amongst the common seals. On a sunny day you will then be able to sit in the pub garden at Stein and enjoy the sun setting over the Western Isles whilst reflecting on a great day's paddle.

TIDE & WEATHER This trip can be undertaken at any state of the tide, as the tidal streams within the loch are barely noticeable. The main consideration for this trip is the weather. The route described works best with the wind from a southerly direction; if it is from the north consider starting at Stein. In stronger winds the area around Isay is more exposed to the conditions and it may be worth considering just paddling out of Dunvegan and remaining in the shelter of the small islands and skerries at its southern end. Here it is protected from the full force of the sea and wind, so it is possible to paddle here when most other areas will be too rough.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Both at Stein and Dunvegan there are good amenities with pubs, hotels and restaurants. If a transport shuttle is not possible with two cars, consider hiring a taxi from Dunvegan to collect you at the pub in Stein. Alternatively, take two days to explore this area more thoroughly, one exploring the islands from Stein and the other exploring the islands closer to Dunvegan.



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

 Dunvegan Castle | Doug Cooper



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			