

# In brief

**Category:** Moderate walk

**Map Reference:** OS Landranger 14  
and Pathfinder 99 NB 10 / 20

## Urgha to Reinigeadal Track

**Walking Distance:** 5.5km / 3.5 miles

**Time:** allow 3-4 hours

Parking is available in the village

## Reinigeadal to Maraig Road

(to start of track from Maraig to Urgha)

**Walking Distance:** 6.5km / 4 miles

**Time:** allow 2-3 hours

## Maraig to Urgha Track

**Walking Distance:** 6km / 3.75 miles

**Time:** allow 2-3 hours



Our walking and cycling routes are part of a series of self-guided trails through the Outer Hebrides. For more information scan here.



[www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk](http://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk)  
[www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/apps](http://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/apps)

OUTER  
HEBRIDES

3

Rhenigidale  
Walking  
Route



**Our islands offer great opportunities to explore the outdoors, with walks providing you with the chance to get close to nature, history and heritage of our islands or just to get out, enjoy the fresh air and get fit.**

Choose coastal walks around the Outer Hebrides or opt for wildlife walks, such as hiking through the nature reserves or walks to spot eagles, deer and other exciting island inhabitants.

History lovers can choose the Bonnie Prince Charlie trail walks in Uist, while a selection of hiking trails take in historic sites and monuments providing ample points of interest along the way.

Whether you are looking for leisurely strolls along island beaches, or challenging hikes through rugged mountain terrain, walking on our islands gives you a chance to really connect with the outdoors and keep fit at the same time.



For more information and to download other walking and cycling routes, visit: [www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk](http://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk)

## Outdoor Safety

Staying safe whilst walking is mostly a matter of common sense:

- Check the weather forecast before you set out
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear
- Always tell your accommodation owners what time you expect to arrive
- Always bring a map and compass with you – and know how to use them
- Take bus timetables and phone numbers for local taxis in case you have problems on the walk or return [www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/visitor-info](http://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/visitor-info)
- Ticks are often found in the heather. Dress appropriately to avoid them hitching a lift! Cover your arms and make sure your trousers are tucked into your socks and check yourself after walking. Further advice can be found at: [www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Lyme-disease](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Lyme-disease)
- Similarly, midges are prevalent at certain times of year. Wear repellent and they will be less likely to bother you!

## Scottish Outdoor Access Code

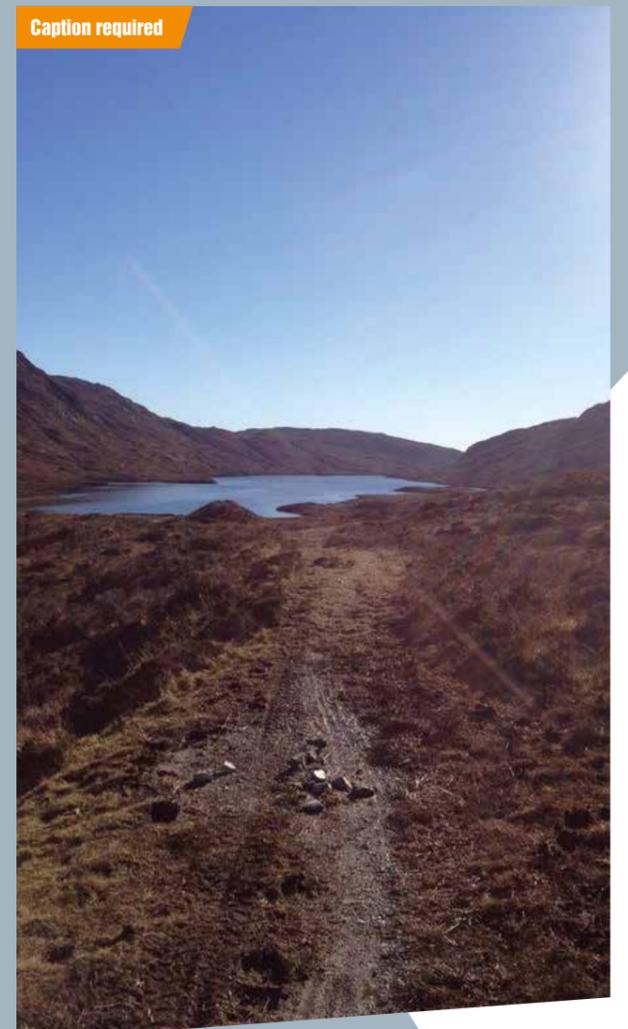
Scotland has some of the best access laws in the world - you have the right to walk on most land, provided you behave responsibly and respect the rights of others. Full information on access rights and responsibilities can be found at: [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

If you keep to the following guidelines you won't go far wrong:

- Do not disturb livestock or wildlife
- Keep dogs under control, especially at lambing time
- Leave gates as you found them
- Take all your litter home
- Park your car without blocking access for other vehicles.

**“The walk to Rhenigidale from Urgha, near Tarbert, is one of the most spectacular walks in Harris.”**

Caption required



Explore...

## The Route

**The walk to Rhenigidale from Urgha, near Tarbert is one of the most spectacular walks in Harris, but it is also challenging, requiring strong footwear and a head for heights. In return it offers some of the best panoramic views in the island, and a sense of being alone with nature, which is hard to find in the modern day world. The walk can be completed in two hours, but who would want to hurry it? Four hours is a reasonable time to allow yourself, with plenty of pauses to survey the view.**

You can also continue and take the longer circular route via Maraig and return to Urgha which is approximately an additional 8 miles.

### Beinn a' Chaolais

**1** The track to Rhenigidale starts at the car park on the east side of the bridge across the Lacasdal Lochs, on the road from Tarbert to Scalpay. The track climbs steeply up the side of Beinn a' Chaolais, crossing and recrossing Abhainn an t-Stratha on its way to the bealach (or pass) between the tops of Trollamur (330m) and Beinn Tarsuinn (323m).

From the track there are excellent views back across East Loch Tairbeart and

across to the rocky lands of the Bays, and behind them the hill of Beinn Losgaintir.

The highest point of the path is around 280m. From here it descends gently through deep peat, with its own plant life of mosses and lichens among the heather. Just beyond the summit, a path cuts off to the right, leading to the now deserted village of Molinginis.

At one time there was a path linking Molinginis with Reinigeadal along the shore, but this is no longer passable.

### View from the path



### The Sgriob

**2** Dropping steeply a magnificent view opens out, over the headland of Rhenigidale and across Loch Siophort to the empty hills and valleys of Pairc. Well out to sea are the Shiant Isles, once occupied by resident shepherds, but now only visited occasionally by crofters tending to their sheep. Beyond the Shiant Islands you can see the mountains of mainland Scotland.

The path now starts on the zigzags of the Sgriob, down a rocky cliff face to the head

of Loch Trollamarraig. The descent is steep, and calls for caution to be taken. Below lies Loch Trollamarraig. In the deeper water can be seen porpoise, dolphin and gannets, with seals and otters to be found in the shallower water. Sea trout can also be found in the loch and stream.

The path reaches the shore near the bridge across Abhainn Cheann a' Loch, which comes rushing down the steep Glen Trollamarraig, thundering over a spectacular waterfall at the head of the valley itself.

### Moorland



### Ceann a'Loch

**3** After a rest at the head of Loch Trollamarraig, you can head off again along the path and over the bridge across the stream of Abhainn Kerram. The main track climbs steeply inland, and crosses the headland of the Srom Mor.

A large boulder with intricate folding marks a tremendous view back to the cliff path as you descend the Sgriob.

The path then drops sharply once more to the sea, and crosses the stream of Allt Dubh, coming from the hill slopes of Toddun, (528m) high above us.

The deserted village of Gearraigh Aleteger, present a very picturesque scene on the sides of Abhainn a' Ghearraidh. From Gearraigh Aleteger climb again, high above the ruins of the houses.

### Path along the coast



### Rhenigidale

**4** The track passes through another gate, and joins the new road, into the village of Rhenigidale. The village was settled in the 1820s by people evicted from the North Harris deer forest. Prior to that there were boundary shepherds, keeping the march between the farms of Scalpaigh and Maraig. Until 1989 the only access to Rhenigidale was by boat or across the moors.

Now there is a road to the village bringing a new way of life. If the village has lost some of its charm to visitors, the inhabitants will soon tell you what a difference it has made for them to be within easy reach of the shops and of a doctor! There is a Gatliff Trust Hostel in the village, which provides basic accommodation. If you wish to return to Tarbert, you can retrace your steps to Urgha or you have the option to carry on via Maraig and back to Urgha.

### Rhenigidale to Urgha via Maraig

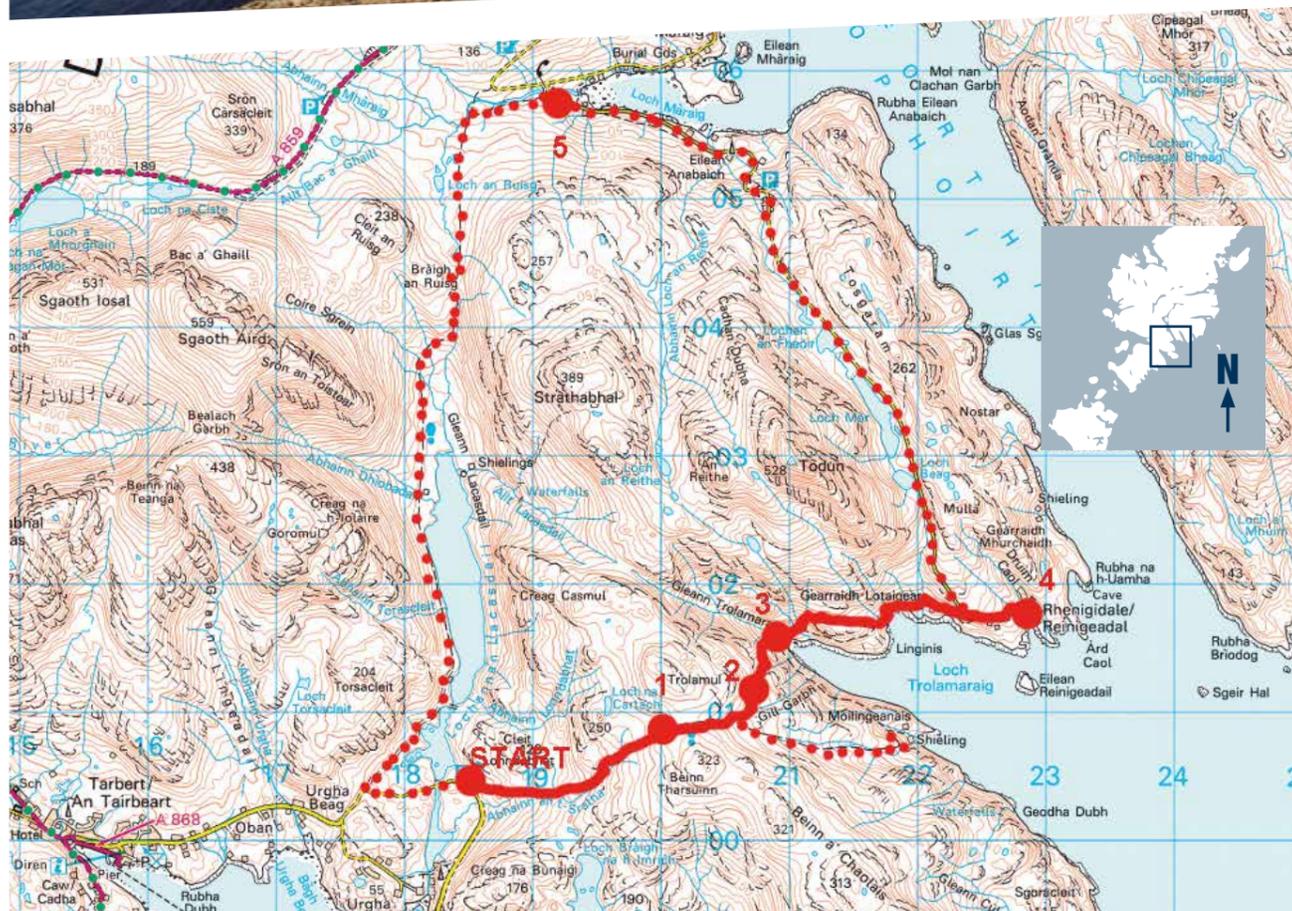
**5** For the strong walker there is a further route which can be taken, along the road to Maraig, with its spectacular views over Loch Siophort. At the bridge over the river at the head of Loch Maraig, turn off the road through a gate on to a track, this will lead you to the old pack road from Tarbert to Stornoway, back to the car park at Urgha.

This track follows the Maraig River for a time, then turns

sharply south. From here it rises steadily along Braigh an Ruiss, then drops to the head of Loch Lacasdal.

On both sides of the loch can be seen the green patches of shielings to which the crofters used to bring their cattle, thus keeping them away from the crops on the crofts. The path follows the west shore, under the cliff faces of the hill Torsacleit.

Continue along the track until you meet the main road from Tarbert to Scalpay. There turn east, along the road, back to the car park.



### Views to the Shiant

