

Major technical difficulties approaching from the south:

Thearlich-Dubh Gap	The TD gap involves a 10m abseil (or downclimbing Severe/VS) to gain the bottom of the cleft, followed by 25m of greasy chimney crack graded V Diff by the SMC and HS by plenty of other people. If there is a traffic jam at the Gap (not unusual) then the gully leading down west from the Gap may be taken. Contour around to the next ridge which leads back over Alasdair to the main ridge with one tricky step. But of course you will only have to do the whole thing again in the future if you do!
King's Chimney on Sgurr Mhic Coinnich	A superb 30m Diff
An Stac	The direct ascent of this to the "Inn Pin" is possible at about Diff standard, but it is so loose and unpleasant that it is generally wisely avoided by skirting it and walking up the screes to the west.
Inaccessible Pinnacle	The "Inn Pin" is a steep Moderate climbed via its East Ridge (30m). Descent is usually by abseil from a fixed wire sling down the short West Ridge (Difficult, 20m).
North Top of Bidein Druim nam Ramh	North Top of Bidein Druim nam Ramh
Naismith's Route	(V Diff 35m) is the accepted way of reaching the Bhasteir Tooth, though easier options exist.
Season	Summer conditions

There are many other places where it would not be unusual to feel the need of a rope. 50m of 8.5 or 9mm will suffice, especially if you are happy leading Very Difficults on a single half rope.

To British hill-goers and rock-climbers Skye is the Black Cuillin, perhaps the only true mountains in the UK, and without a doubt the most distinctive. Since Victorian times the name has conjured up images of climbing or scrambling on great faces or narrow edges of superb rock, the sea a constant backdrop and the Outer Hebrides floating at the edge of sight.

The reality is no less than the dream. A twelve kilometre long ridge of jagged peaks curves round the great hollow of Loch Coruisk, with towers of bare rock, plunging cliffs, corries sculpted from ice-smoothed slabs and cupping blue-green lochans. These mountains entice and intimidate in equal measure, their Gaelic names a roll call of some of the greatest pioneers of Cuillin exploration - John Mackenzie (Sgurr MhicCoinnich), Norman Collie (Sgurr Thormaid), Sheriff Alexander Nicolson (Sgurr Alasdair).

Though there are Extreme rock climbs to be had, and more awaiting first ascents, the real glory of the Cuillin is perhaps to be found in long mountaineering routes or in scrambles along the crest. An early guidebook recommendation of the Dubhs ridge, the round of Coire Lagan, Pinnacle Ridge of Sgurr nan Gillian and the Blaven - Clach Glas traverse as capturing the essence of the Cuillin still holds good today.

The traverse of the whole ridge in one outing is still regarded as a major prize in British mountaineering. With its 3000 metres of ascent, technical and route finding difficulties, frequent exposed sections, lack of water and the fickle West coast weather it remains a major achievement, probably more often failed on than succeeded.