

North Side Trail

Distance: 3km

Walking Time: 1hr



What to bring:

The west coast is known for its high rainfall, so a raincoat and waterproof footwear are always a good idea – just in case!

Directions:

Start at the village hall. Walk out of the village centre on the main track and turn right before the bridge. At the gate turn right again up a grassy ride and through a field. Please close the gates behind you so the livestock does not escape!

Follow the path alongside a drystone wall. There are fine views across to the summits of Hallival and Askival. - watch out for eagles; both sea eagles and golden eagles can often be seen flying over Kinloch Glen.



Golden Eagle

Where Eagles Dare

Rum was the site of the first re-introduction of Sea Eagles to Scotland in the 1980s; since then they have spread to other islands such as Skye and Mull. Rum also has a few pairs of Golden Eagles living here all year round; they make large nests in trees or cliffs and scour the island for prey, including grouse, seabirds and red deer calves!

Look along the sides of the trail for the small flowering plants which love the boggy ground here. You might spot the delicate yellow flowers of tormentil and bog asphodel or the tiny blue flowers of the common milkwort. On sunny days you may also see butterflies. - small bordered fritillaries and green hairstreak butterflies in early summer, and large heath and grayling butterflies in midsummer.



tormentil



bog
asphodel



milkwort

When you come to the fork in the trail take the left fork steeply downhill alongside the waterfalls of Primrose Burn. Continue through a gap in the wall and into a stand of Larch trees. Larch is a deciduous conifer, whose needles turn a distinctive orange and drop off in the autumn.

Continue on the path alongside the river and across a wooden bridge. You may catch a sight of a dipper, a small bird with a distinctive white breast, flying low over the water or bobbing up and down on a rock.

Turn left after the bridge and walk downstream until you meet the main track which leads on to Kilmory, Harris and the rest of the island. Small brown trout and a sea trout can be found in Kinloch River.

Turn left when you reach the main track and follow it back to the village.

Dippers find their food underwater, walking along the riverbed with their wings held out for stability. They have special white eyelids to protect their eyes underwater, and can stay submerged for up to 30 seconds!

