

# THE COMPLETE SCOTLAND

## SKYE.

**Access.** - Road from Invergarry via Tomdoun to the coast (see previous chapter), thence by Ferry, either from Glenelg to Kylerhea or from Kyle of Lochalsh to Kyleakin. *Glenelg-Kylerhea Ferry*; weekdays only (April 1 - Oct. 31). Cars, 12 h.p. and under, 8s. single, 14s. return; above 12 h.p., 10s. and 17s. Passengers, 6d. and 9d. This route has the advantage of linking Skye with central Scotland by a *single* ferry; to reach Kyle of Lochalsh Ferry it is necessary first to cross Dornie Ferry (see previous chapter). *Kyleakin-Kyle of Lochalsh Ferry*: weekdays only. Cars up to 12 h.p., 8s. single, 13s. 6d. return; over 12 h.p., 12s. 6d. and 20s.; Motor-cycles, 2s. 6d. and 4s.; with sidecars, 5s. and 8s.; Caravans, 8s. and 13s. 6d. Passengers, 6d. Sailings dependent upon tides. MacBrayne steamers from Oban and Glasgow to Armadale, Kyle of Lochalsh, Broadford, Portree, etc. Also from Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh in connection with trains.

*Air Services*: see opening chapter.

THE Island of Skye (Gaelic, *Eilean a' Cheo* - "the isle of mist") contains some of the finest and most celebrated scenery in Scotland - Loch Scavaig, Loch Coruisk, the Quiraing, and, above all, the wild, black, storm-swept peaks and corries of the Coolins. True, the climate is one of the wettest in Scotland; but when a good day does come, it is a day to be remembered, the colouring of earth and sea and sky being gorgeous by reason of the moisture in the atmosphere. June is by far the best month in which to visit Skye. It is the driest month in the year in the Highlands; the days are long, the foliage is fresh. August is often very broken and wet. The island is of extremely irregular shape, some 50 miles from end to end and with a width varying from 4 to 25 miles. Its easternmost shores are separated from the mainland by the narrow straits Kyle Rhea and Kyle Akin, across which ferries run as stated above. Anglers and artists know and love Skye, but it is most famous as a resort of climbers and walkers. The two chief centres are Portree, Broadford, and (for climbers) Sligachan (*hotel*), all on the north-east coast.

Those with only two or three days to spend on the island may best turn such a very limited period to account as follows: -

**Broadford** (*hotels: Broadford, Campbell's (20 rooms; R. and b. fr., 8s.)*) to **Sligachan** (*hotel*), 28 miles.

Apart from the splendid road route along the coast, walkers can make this grand tour in three ways: -

- (1) Broadford to Torran (conveyance), 6 miles; Loch Scavaig, close to Coruisk (boat), 20 miles; Drumhain (walk), 22 miles; Sligachan, 28 miles.
- (2) Broadford to Elgol (conveyance), 15 miles. Hence by boat to Loch Scavaig, and thereafter as Route (1).
- (3) Broadford to Kilmarie, 12 miles (cycle, walk, or drive). Thence walk to Camasunary (4 miles), and then round by shore (very rough passing the "Bad Step") to Loch Scavaig, or from Camasunary north for 3 miles, and then over Drumhain (6 miles) to Coruisk, retracing one's steps thereafter into Glen Sligachan. (Boat from Camasunary to Loch Scavaig sometimes possible to obtain, but most uncertain.)

The road from Broadford to Torran passes through a poor, though by no means the poorest, part of the island. On the left are bare moorland undulations; on the right the finely shaped outlines of the Red Coolins, contrasting so wonderfully with the Black Coolins farther west. Beyond the roofless old church and burying-place of *Kilchrist*, **Blaven** (3,042 feet) suddenly comes into view in front, a magnificent spectacle.

Reaching the shores of Loch Slapin at Torran we take boat, if proceeding by Route (1), and round Strathaird Point, beyond which the shattered crest of the Coolins, rising sheer out of the sea in front of us, seeming to mount higher and higher as we approach, is the feature in this wondrous scene.

In Route (2) we proceed by road from Torran right round the head of Loch Slapin to Kilmarie, 12 miles, and so on over the hill to Elgol (15 miles), where we take boat to Loch Scavaig. A much shorter and less exposed boat route than (1), but including all the really fine part of the sea journey.

In Route (3), after crossing Loch Slapin (or being rowed down it to a point a mile short of Kilmarie), you take the road southwards, and then, after passing the entrance to Strathaird House and descending past the church, cross a bridge and turn to the right - not by the side of the stream but obliquely, so as to gain the regular path, which avoids the bogs at the bottom by keeping along the hillside. Where this path crosses the *col* (*about 650 feet*) there is a landmark, beyond which a steep and rough descent leads to the flat strath at the head of the sandy little bay on which is the solitary little farmhouse of **Camasunary**, amid a few acres of cultivated land. Here light refreshment may be had, and a boat possibly be hired.

From Camasunary it is 8 miles direct along the depression under the steep rocks of Blaven to Sligachan. Those who wish to walk to Loch Coruisk will find a narrow path from the far side of the stream at Camasunary, working round the steep and rocky headland at a considerable elevation above the sea. The distance is not more than 4 miles, but the walking is of the roughest description, and this path can only be recommended to stout walkers with a fair "head." About a mile from Loch Scavaig there is a place called the "*Bad Step*," which may be found somewhat trying and sensational to those not accustomed to climbing. It is a narrow ledge, with steep rocks below shelving into the sea. The "Step" is really not difficult *provided the right road be taken*. Most people who get into trouble here try to cross too high up. The proper route is only about 15 feet above high-water level. The correct way is more easily found in going to Camasunary from Loch Scavaig than in the reverse direction.

**Loch Scavaig**, as seen by those who enter it from the open sea, approximates as nearly to the sublime in scenery as anything in Britain. Visitors who approach it from the northern or land side, and see it from its head, can form little idea of its peculiar beauty, inasmuch as they have all the mountain part of the prospect either beside or behind them. It is the magnificent amphitheatre of jagged peaks, rising sheer up from the loch at its head, that gives Loch Scavaig its peculiar grandeur, hence to comprehend that rightly you must approach it from the sea. Though many of the details belong equally to **Loch Coruisk**, which is only a quarter of a mile distant and occupies the same basin, so distinct a character is imparted to Scavaig by its more open position and the constant motion of the sea-waves that the mind receives quite a

different impression from the two lochs. Coruisk occupies, as it were, a deep recess in this beautiful chamber of Nature; Scavaig forms the threshold. The mountains are built up of great slabs of black "gabbro," with scattered patches of vegetation here and there. The rock is so rough and reliable, and so broken up into handholds and footholds, that the Coolins afford to expert climbers some of the best rock-climbing in Europe. Notice how the peaks soar up into all manner of shapes, forming the most fantastic skyline in the country.

Landing on the rough ground between the two lochs, we proceed by a path which climbs above the eastern end of Loch Coruisk and commands a full view of its expanse and its rock amphitheatre. Here, in fine weather, is the best place for the midday halt, after which we resume our walk, keeping the east side of Coruisk for about half a mile, where, turning to the east up by the side of the big burn, and then passing to the right of Loch a' Choire Riabhaich, an easy climb brings one to the summit of **Drumhain** (1,038 feet). Here is a large cairn. The view of the Coolin ridge from Drumhain is most impressive; unfortunately it is often blotted out by mist and rain. By walking along the summit of Drumhain in a north-west direction for about a mile a very fine view into **Harta Corrie** may be obtained. This is one of the wildest corries in the Coolins, hemmed in by steep black rock peaks extending from Sgurr-nan-Gillean on the right to Bruach-na-Frithe and Bidean Druim-nan-Ramh on the left (see shortly).

The direct descent from Drumhain to Harta Corrie is not easy and one should therefore retrace one's steps to the cairn at the pass. From it a fair track leads north-wards across an eastern shoulder of the hill and then descends into Glen Sligachan and joins the Camasunary path at a point about 1 mile north of Loch an Athain. From here the long and tedious walk down Glen Sligachan begins, and it will take one and a half to two hours' steady walking to reach Sligachan.

**Sgurr-nan-Gillean** (3,167 feet), with its graceful peak, somewhat resembling a crocketed spire, rises grandly on the left side of the valley. **Blaven** (3,042 feet) presents a magnificent appearance to the south, and on the right we pass the smooth red slopes of **Marsco** and **Glamaig**.

## THE COOLINS.

The Coolins are, as mountains, in a class by themselves, and it is necessary to give a word of warning with regard to them. They are real rock peaks, many of them quite inaccessible save to the skilled climber. Difficulties lie on every side, and the easy routes are decidedly in the minority; so that while some of the peaks and many of the passes are quite easy, they are only so *provided the right route be taken*, which is not always by any means plain even in fine weather, still less in mist or rain. A guide should always be procured, unless some of the party are well accustomed to hill-walking, or have local knowledge of the route they propose to take. Accidents have occurred owing to tourists forgetting this, and setting out alone without proper food or equipment, or in doubtful weather, to attempt feats which at a distance looked quite easy, but which, upon nearer acquaintance, turned out to be quite beyond their powers. The compass, owing to the magnetic nature of the rock, especially on the ridges, is unreliable.

The best known and most popular of the Coolins is undoubtedly **Sgurr-nan-Gillean** (3,167 feet) - "the peak of the young men" - all in all, probably the most difficult "tourist" mountain in Scotland. The easiest way up it has some steps, especially nearing the top, that are distinctly trying to the uninitiated, and several people have lost their lives on it because they did not treat the mountain with the care and respect it deserves.

The ascent from Sligachan will take three to four hours, and the descent two to three hours. The way lies south over the moor from the hotel after crossing the Red Burn at the keeper's cottage. Loch a' Choire Riabhaich is passed on the left, and the Coire nan allt Geala is gained by a rough, steep, stone shoot. Progress up this corrie is over a wilderness of boulders and screes to the ridge which extends south-eastwards from the summit. This ridge is struck at a point about 300 feet below the top. From this the route lies along and up the ridge, dipping over to the left-hand side in places where the direct ascent up the ridge is too steep. Hands as well as feet will here have to be constantly used, and a sharp lookout kept for the small cairns which indicate the right route: the nail marks on the rocks, too, are a useful guide. A little short of the summit a gap has to be crossed, which at first sight seems a bit sensational; but the rock is firm and good, and the handholds and footholds excellent. The top is a very narrow one, with precipitous cliffs all around.

The **view** is remarkably fine, the extraordinary boldness and grandeur of the rock scenery in the immediate foreground forming such a magnificent set-off to the moors below and the "wine-dark" sea in the distance. Notice, too, the play of light and shade on the ridges and tops of the other Coolin peaks to the west and south. The descent is exactly by the way you came up. A possible alternative is along the western ridge and over its tooth and then down a vertical chimney into Coire Bhasteir; but this route is very difficult (it requires the use of a rope) and must not be attempted except by a party accompanied by a good guide.

**Bruach na Frithe** (3,143 feet) - "the ridge of the forest" - is not so well known as Sgurr-nan-Gillean, but the view from it is, if anything, finer than from Sgurr-nan-Gillean, and it is much more easily scaled; in fact, there is nothing to prevent any tourist, if he can climb a hill at all, from ascending Bruach-na-Frithe. Owing to the unreliability of the compass the ascent should be attempted only in clear weather. Time, about four hours up and three hours down. The route lies up by the track beside the Red Burn to the Beallach a' Mhaim (pron. *Vaim*), 1,132. feet. From here turn south up over the long grassy slope for about 1,000 feet, and then over easy screes and rock to the summit. On nearing the summit keep below the ridge a little to the right, and so avoid all difficulties. The descent can be made by the east ridge towards Sgurr-nan-Gillean, and then down into Fionn Choire, where the walking is smooth and pleasant. It is worth while when on Bruach-na-Frithe to go round the head of Fionn Choire to the Bhasteir and Tooth.

**Sgurr Alasdair** (3,309 feet) - "Alexander's Peak" - is the highest peak in the Coolins, and in every way worthy of its reputation. It is climbed from Glen Brittle, which is reached from Sligachan by a drive of two and a half hours. The route lies up into Coire Lagan, and then up the "great stone shoot," which consists of a funnel of small stones set at a steep angle, most exasperating to ascend and even more to descend, which leads up just behind the shapely summit to the ridge a short way east of the summit. The descent must be made by the same

route. The Stone Shoot is not easy to find and a guide is essential for all but thoroughly experienced climbers. Time from Glen Brittle, five to seven hours.

Full details of the ascents and climbing routes in the Coolins will be found in the Scottish Mountaineering Club's *Guide to Skye*.

To **Glen Brittle** (14 miles). - Either by the rough and hilly road from Drynoch, on the Dunvegan road, or via the Bealach a' Mhaim, a delightful and easy walk of three hours or so from Sligachan. The track becomes somewhat indistinct on the other side of the bealach, until it joins the road near the head of Glen Brittle, but the view of the Coolins from the top of the pass before descending into Glen Brittle is unsurpassed.

The route up the burn which comes down just beside Glen Brittle House, near the foot of the glen, leads in about two hours into **Coire Lagan**, a scene of supreme grandeur. It is a rock basin, hemmed in by the cliffs and screes of Sgurr Dearg, Sgurr Sgumain, and Sgurr Alasdair, and containing some of the finest examples of glaciated rock in the kingdom. Cross the burn by a plank bridge a little above the house, and then, after keeping the burn beside you on your left for a short distance - say 200 or 300 feet - bear away to the right until you reach a fair-sized loch - Loch an Fhir Bhallaich = "the loch of the spotted folk" (i.e. trout); Skirt along the side of the loch, and continuing on in the same direction Coire Lagan will come into view. Bear round to the left a little, and continue straight up, making for part of the corrie. Hereabouts a judicious selection of the route will be necessary, but by looking about carefully, small direction cairns will be noticed, and here and there a slight track, and the nail marks on the rocks, which will all help one to hit off the easiest route. After a little scramble up some extraordinary glaciated rocks you find yourself at the side of a small loch, amid a scene of the wildest grandeur (Loch Coire Lagan, 1,845 feet). The descent should be made by precisely the same way as you came up. Visitors to Coire Lagan should make a point of seeing the Cioch, a curious pinnacle projecting from the face of Sron na Ciche, on the south side of the corrie and a favourite objective of skilled rock-climbers.

**Coire na Creiche** (6 miles) is one of the wildest corries in the Coolins. From Sligachan follow the Dunvegan road for a quarter of a mile, and then strike off to the left past the keeper's house. The route now runs by a fair track up by the right of the burn to the summit of the Bealach a' Mhaim (pron. *Vaim*), a pass 1,132 feet above sea-level. The corrie lies over this pass to the left, and to obtain the best view you must descend some distance down towards Glen Brittle, on the farther side of the pass. Coire na Creiche signifies in Gaelic "the corrie of the spoil," the spot having been in the old days a rendezvous for freebooters with their booty. An easy half-day's excursion, but well worth a whole day.

Farther south, behind the shoulder of Sgurr Thuilm, is Coire a' Ghreadaidh, the stream flowing out of which has a number of very beautiful pools, one of which has a natural arch. The next corrie, Coire na Banachdich, has, quite low down, one of the finest waterfalls in Scotland.

**Harta Corrie** is another wild corrie, also well worth seeing. The route lies up Glen Sligachan, and then up into the corrie by the bed of the stream. At the entrance of the corrie is

the famous "Bloody Stone," the scene of the massacre of the Macleods by the Macdonalds. Time, five or six hours.

## PORTREE.

**Hotels.** - *Caledonian, Royal* (48 rooms; R. & b., from 5s. 6d.). *Beaumont House* (boarding).

Steamers to and from Oban, Glasgow, Gairloch, Ullapool, Lochinver, Stornoway, Dunvegan, and the Outer Hebrides. Also from Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh in connection with trains from the south.

**Portree** (the "King's Harbour" - so called from a visit of James V) is the capital of Skye. The immediate environs are sparsely wooded, but a rocky knoll on the south side, from the foot of which bathers may enjoy a good plunge, is covered with trees. The entrance to the harbour is flanked by two steep green hills, and the island of Raasay limits the eastward view.

The pleasantest stroll in the immediate neighbourhood of Portree is along the north shore of the harbour to the summit of the hill called **Essie** (1,025 feet), which overlooks its entrance. Hence is a fine view of the mainland as well as of the Coolins and the Storr Rock.

**Prince Charlie's Cave** (5 miles by boat; a bargain should be struck before starting) is unremarkable in itself, and it is doubtful whether it ever sheltered the Prince. The boat trip along the coast to it, however, is very interesting, though the view is narrowed to the width of the Sound by the adjacent hills all the way. The Cave, blocked by a stone and bearing an inscription outside, lies to the north of the harbour and on the way to the foot of the Storr Rock, to which point the boat may be taken on, but the ascent from the shore is very severe.

### **The Storr Rock (2,360 feet).**

Climbing about the hills north of Portree is laborious work, and were it not for the exceptional strength of the view from the Storr Rock, we should not advise tourists to ascend it. The distance from Portree to the summit is accounted 7 miles; the path is for the most part rough, and at times swampy. To accomplish the journey there and back in seven hours requires very fair walking, and the earlier the start is made the better. We offer these words of warning because the comparatively small height of the Storr Rock, and its apparently small distance from Portree, are apt to create an erroneous impression of the time and fatigue of the journey.

There is probably no finer mountain and sea view in the north of Scotland. Its exceptional attractiveness is due to the fact that, as in the prospect from Goat Fell in Arran, the distance is to a great extent separated from the foreground by a wide belt of sea, itself saved from wearisomeness by the rocky islands and islets with which it is studded. There is no huddled-up array of intervening mountains to prevent the eye from grasping depth and height as well as distance. Further, the top of the Storr Rock is a soft, velvety greensward - a charming spot to spend hours, even to picnic upon, be the day warm and bright, and the wind no stronger than the gentle zephyr. In bad weather, it is as foolish as it is discomfiting to attempt the ascent.

The foot of the rock, or rather of its lower cliff, may also be reached by boat from

Portree (see above) in continuation of the excursion to Prince Charlie's Cave. From the stony beach the ascent is very steep nearly all the way, the climber during the last part of it taking his choice between the Portree route, as described below, and a detour round the north side of the rock; one and a half hours should be allowed for the climb.

From Portree follow the Staffin road for 5 miles to Loch Leathan, the Storr being fully in view with its square-cut top and its Needle Rock, the veritable **Old Man of Storr**, on the right. The upper cliff of which the Storr itself forms the crown is best climbed by leaving the road at the far end of Loch Leathan and making away to the left over a succession of grassy humps for a stony little ravine, whence the ridge of the cliff begins to rise steeply for the mountain-top. A scanty rill flows down this ravine into Loch Leathan. The climb up is short and steep, but its roughness makes it quite feasible. Once on the top you have only to mount the long grass-slope which bends round the tremendous black precipices forming the seaward front of the hills. From the fresh green hillocks below rise the Old Man, very gaunt and bony in his proportions, and a host of humble dependants. Many tourists who shrink from the fatigue of the Storr itself would enjoy a visit to the worthy old gentleman's verdant *al-fresco* dwelling, and they may ride their ponies to his very door-step.

### Portree to Quiraing.

*Via Uig.* Beyond **Loch Snizort** (6 miles from Portree) the road ascends a longish hill, from the top of which the view across Uig Bay and over the sea to the distant hills of Harris is some atonement for the sameness which has hitherto characterized our route. Uig (the "corner," or "nook"- a very appropriate name) is a pleasant little village, at which steamers call.

The road from Uig to Duntulm Castle rises a little rapidly and passes in about 3 miles **Kilbride**, where Bonnie Prince Charlie, disguised as Flora Macdonald's maid, landed on June 29, 1746. At **Kilmuir** (*inn*) is Flora Macdonald's grave, in a deserted-looking burying-ground up a lane on right. **Duntulm Castle** occupies a bold rocky position. The road thence to Staffin and Quiraing awards fine views over the sea to the mainland, and presents a good opportunity of inspecting the wonderful basaltic formations which mark this portion of the Skye coast. *Flodigarry House* is now an hotel (*R. and b., fr. 8s. 6d.*).

The road from Uig to Quiraing ascends very steeply inland near a small burn. Pedestrians cut off the corner. In about 5 miles passengers leave their conveyances and pursue a grass-track which leads to the centre of Quiraing.

*Via Staffin.* The reconstruction (1937 - 8) of the road up the east coast between Portree and Staffin provides a very interesting alternative route to that by Uig, and also makes feasible a fine circular excursion, either by Staffin - Uig direct, or the longer loop by Duntulm Castle. The road needs no special description. For the Storr rock see previously.

**Quiraing** (*Cuith-fhir-Fhinn*, "recess of the men of Fingal") is perhaps the most eccentric piece of scenery in Britain, and as such it will always command a constant flow of visitors during the season. It consists of an assemblage of rocks of almost every conceivable shape, from a flat table to a sharp needle. The material of which they are composed, technically called

amygdaloidal trap, has a black crumbly appearance, suggestive of cinders, and has neither colour nor solidity to recommend it. The *Table*, flat and grass-grown at the top, rises inside a ring of these heaps - giants, as they might be, sitting round.

From the *Staffin Inn* boats may be obtained, and the columnar rocks ("staves") which surround **Loch Staffin** seen to advantage. A picturesque waterfall, conspicuous from the sea, descends from the cliff, 2½ miles south-east on the coast-track to Portree.

### **Loch Bracadale and Dunvegan.**

From Sligachan a road goes to the west coast at **Struan** (*hotel*), at the head of **Loch Bracadale**, one of the largest of the arms of the sea indenting the coast of Skye.

At the southern extremity of Duirinish are **Macleod's Maidens**, three basaltic columns. The tallest is 200 feet high, whilst the others are only about half as lofty. They rise sheer out of the sea, and are backed by cliffs from six to seven hundred feet high. Near the centre of Duirinish, and visited from **Dunvegan** (*hotel (temp.), 10 rooms; R. and b., 5s.; golf*), are two isolated hills, called on account of their curious flat summits **Macleod's Tables**. Each is about 1,600 feet in height.

**Dunvegan Castle**, for centuries the seat of the Macleod chiefs, stands on a rock having the sea on three sides, and formerly could be reached only by a boat and a subterranean passage, but access is now obtained by bridge.

It is said to have been founded in the ninth century, its high tower being added four hundred years later, and a third portion being built in the reign of James VI. In recent years it has been put into thorough repair. It is among the houses that claim to be "the oldest inhabited castle in Scotland." Johnson, Boswell and Sir Walter Scott are among those who have been entertained within its walls. One of the treasures of the castle is a "Fairy Flag," which on being waved will bring relief to the chief or any of his clan. The charm was to act three times and has twice been employed. There are relics, also, of the famous chieftain, "Rory More."

The south-west corner of Skye lies between the sound of Sleat and Loch Eishort. The road from Broadford reaches the coast at Loch na Dal, a mile beyond which is **Isle Ornsay** (*Duisdale and Isleornsay Hotels*); on the far side of the Sound, wild and gloomy Loch Hourn extends inland among the mountains for 15 miles. At Knock are the ruins of a castle and at Armadale (*Armadale Hotel and Ardvasser Inn*) is the castle of Lord Macdonald.

### **THE OUTER HEBRIDES.**

The Hebrides, or Western Isles, are commonly divided into two portions, the Outer and the Inner Hebrides. The former, often called the Long Island, comprise Lewis - with Harris - North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, Eriskay, and Barra, with Vatersay, Mingulay, and Berneray, extending from the Butt of Lewis in the north to Barra Head, in the south, a distance of about 130 miles. Fifty miles west of the Outer Hebrides is the small island of St. Kilda.

The Inner Hebrides are more widely scattered along the coast. The largest are Skye, Mull, Jura, Islay, Rum, Eigg, Coll, Tiree, Colonsay and Orsonay.

**Access.** - Stornoway in Lewis reached by steamer from Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh in connection with the evening trains from London and the early morning trains from Edinburgh and Glasgow. Tarbert in Harris by early morning steamer from Kyle, Lochmaddy and Lochboisdale in North Uist and South Uist by steamer from Kyle or Mallaig, and Castlebay in Barra by early morning steamer from Oban. In addition to



MacBrayne's steamers the islands are served by coasting steamers from Glasgow, etc. During summer one of the coasting steamers makes several runs to St. Kilda as weather permits, and may allow passengers to land for a short time.

*Air Routes* (see Introduction).

**The Outer Hebrides** consist chiefly of bleak stretches of bog or moorland, and the scenery is only saved from being monotonous by the numerous lakes and inlets of the sea, and by picturesque ranges in Harris, South Uist and Barra. Sporting visitors to the Outer Hebrides are mainly attracted by the salmon and trout in the streams and lakes.

**Stornoway**, with a population of 3,771, is the only important town in Lewis, the northern part of the principal island of the Outer Hebrides. It is the centre of an important fishing industry. Great developments were anticipated a few years ago in Stornoway owing to the enterprise of the late Lord Leverhulme, at that time the proprietor of Lewis. Several of these projects had to be abandoned, owing to the opposition of the conservative Lewismen. **Stornoway Castle** he presented to the burgh. (*Hotels: Caledonian, Commercial, Imperial, Lewis (16 rooms; R. and b., 8s.), Royal County. Golf: Visitors, 2s. per day; 5s. per week; 15s. per month; ladies, 10s. per month.*)

**The Standing Stones of Callernish**, at the head of Loch Roag, on the west coast, 15 miles from Stornoway, form one of the largest and most perfect Stone Circles in Scotland. Nearby is an old "black house" which has been acquired by the Scottish National Trust for preservation, and is open for inspection. Eight miles west of Callernish is the famous **Broch of Carloway**.

**Holm Head**, near Stornoway, was the scene of a terrible disaster on January 1, 1919, when the naval yacht *Iolaire* ran ashore during a storm, there being only about 30 survivors out of a party of some 280 Service men returning home for New Year's leave.

**Harris**, the southern part of the island, is in Inverness-shire, is mountainous in surface, and is chiefly occupied as deer-forests. From it come the true Harris tweeds. The chief town is **Tarbert** (*Harris Hotel*). *Clisham* (2,622 feet), the highest mountain in the Outer Hebrides, can be conveniently ascended from Tarbert. There is some good salmon and sea-trout fishing held by the hotels at Tarbert and Obbe or Leverburgh, also sea-fishing, etc. Near Leverburgh at **Rodel**, on the southern extremity of the island, are the considerable remains of an ancient church.

Some 52 miles west of Harris, its nearest neighbour, is the lonely island of **St. Kilda**, an inhospitable spot on which, nevertheless, a population of about seventy managed to find an existence until 1930.

**Lochmaddy** (*hotel*) is in **North Uist**, the third largest of the Outer Hebrides. It is in effect the county town for the portion of the Outer Hebrides from North Harris southwards, which form a part of Inverness-shire. From Lochmaddy a road leads across the island to **Carinish** (*hotel*) at the south end of the island and situated at the north side of the *North Ford*, which connects North Uist with **Benbecula**.

**Benbecula** is traversed by a road 5 miles long from north to south, with an hotel at

Gramisdale at the North Ford and a hotel at Creagorry at the South Ford. The South Ford is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile wide and although apparently safer than the North Ford is just as dangerous.

**South Uist**, 21 miles long, is the second largest of the Outer Hebrides. A fair road runs along the west side of the island from **Carnan** (*hotel*) at the South Ford to **Pollachar** (*inn*) at the south end of the island. Near the road are the ruins of the Birthplace of Flora Macdonald. **Lochboisdale** (*hotel*) is a favourite resort for anglers. The principal hills on the island are **Ben Mhor** (2,034 feet) and **Hecla** (1,988 feet). The ascent of the former is worth doing.

**Eriskay**, south of South Uist, is interesting as being the first place in Scotland on which Prince Charlie set foot and is celebrated as having been the principal source from which the late Mrs. Kennedy Fraser obtained "The Songs of the Hebrides."