

Shortest distance 215km, there is no choice.

The 8.3km you're carried on the ferry doesn't count to your cycling distance, but the time taken counts to your cycling time.

The hill track for the Coulin Pass is fairly well maintained, so you should be able to ride all of it. I've found if I go too fast I get snake bites, so watch where you put your wheels!

You go through some small villages so some food and shelter should be available. There's only a hotel at Strathcarron.

There is a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig .

<http://www.calmac.co.uk/timetables/summer-timetables.htm?id=summer-skye—mallaig-armadale.png>.

If you don't get the last ferry there might be room at the hotel in Armadale, but it's not cheap!

I stayed at <http://www.mallaigbackpackers.co.uk/>.

Log from 2007, using Morar instead of Mallaig, hostel at Glenancross long closed.

W11 (220km). Morar, Kyle of Lochalsh, Strathcarron, Gairloch, Ullapool.

13/09/07, 136m? (computer gave up), 13hr54, 0734-2128, Dry until dinner time then rain never let up, strong westerly.

Onto ferry at 0810 and reached Armadale at 0840 so a late start. Over the new bridge to Kyle for a stamp at the Coop. Opposite is the road to Plockton, I went along here and then following lovely lanes to Achmore reached the Achnasheen road. I got a stamp at Invercarron PO, there is a pub there as well, but little else. Continuing on the A890 I got to Achnashellach station.

I crossed the level crossing went up hill bearing right to the Coulin Pass. Generally rideable with a touring bike but I got off a couple of times on the descent when the wind tried to send me into the ditch. I was very relieved to get to the Kinlochewe road without a puncture.

Along Maree the wind was OK but over the pass to Gairloch I had to stop once when the wind caught my cape. Till receipt at shop in Gairloch, there are pubs and an ATM.

Fortunately the wind never hit me again quite as hard and the trip round Gruinard to Dundonnell was fairly painless. A break at the Hotel here, a slight tailwind up Destitution Road and lights on at Braemore Junction. By now the wind had dropped a lot and the main drag to Ullapool went quickly. Booked in at the YH and got a chinese takeaway, looking forward to a day off and washing and drying out.

