

# North Skye 13: Fairy Glen



*Fairy Glen is a popular tourist destination, located east of Uig on Trotternish. The landscape is the result of Holocene landslips at the western margin of the Paleocene lava escarpment, weakened by the underlying Upper Jurassic Staffin Shale Formation. It is worth visiting towards dusk, when the low-angle sun highlights the curious spires and mounds of basaltic lava, and when tourist numbers may have diminished.*

**Aspects covered:** Landslipped masses of basalt lava on the western margin of the Paleocene lava field.

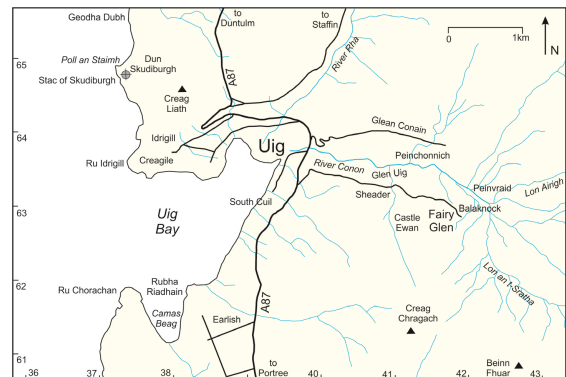
**Route:** [Uig](#) - [Fairy Glen](#) (- return [Uig](#)).

**Distance:** <1 kilometre (<1 mile).

**Time:** 1 hour.

**General comments:** A popular tourist location, best appreciated towards the end of the day when lighting is best and tourists may have gone home.

[Uig](#) is located on the west side of Trotternish, 24 kilometres (15 miles) NW of [Portree](#) on the A87 road. Take the minor (dead-end) road on the south side of [Uig](#) for 1.5km (1 mile) towards [Balnacknock](#) to the pay carpark. Do not park on the roadside and spoil other people's visit. [Fairy Glen](#) is immediately adjacent. Being a tourist-popular destination, there are no specific requirements for this excursion, other than camera.



**Figure North Skye 13.1:** Location map for the Uig area.



**Figure North Skye 13.2:** Annotated Google Earth® images for the Fairy Glen area.



**Figure North Skye 13.3:** Annotated oblique Google Earth® image for the Fairy Glen area.

The Fairy Glen area comprises meandering paths around the spires, mounds and pools that are the result of landslips that have developed (most likely in the Holocene Epoch), whereby fragments of the Paleocene lava field have moved over the underlying mechanically weak Upper Jurassic strata of the Staffin Shale Formation.

It is recommended that you simply enjoy the views and explore the area as you wish.



**Figure North Skye 13.4:** Fairy Glen.



**Figure North Skye 13.8:** Fairy Glen.



**Figure North Skye 13.5:** Fairy Glen.



**Figure North Skye 13.9:** A stone circle attributed by some weak-minded people to the fairies. In reality, a crude attempt to mimic the handywork of the fairies, whose labours are only seen by believers when everyone has gone home.



**Figure North Skye 13.6:** Fairy Glen.

Return to the carpark.

End of excursion.



**Figure North Skye 13.7:** Fairy Glen.