

From the air: the A894 crossing the burn, and the burn running up its gorge to the falls and Loch na Gainmhich

Before you go

About 340 metres each way by our measure of the map, but the ground makes it slow: My Highlands gives 15 to 20 minutes each way. A narrow, rough, stony path, slippery when wet: wear boots, and leave the pushchair in the car.

Start at the small, rough lay-by on the A894 just before the road bridge over the burn, on the left heading south; no charge is published for parking. No bus stops at Kylesku or Unapool.

There are no toilets at the lay-by or on the path: the nearest are the public toilets at Kylesku, by the hotel. The falls run fullest after rain, but the path is slipperiest then. On 21 December it is light here only from about 9.05am to 3.30pm.

After the walk

Lunch is at the Kylesku Hotel, 6 minutes' drive north, every day from noon to 5pm, last seating 4.45pm: seafood from the loch, and window tables over Loch Glendhu. Booking is recommended, on 01971 910047; dogs are welcome in the bar but not the restaurant.

The walk online, with its photographs and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/a-walk-to-the-wailing-widow-falls-and-lunch-at-kylesku

It starts at the lay-by on the A894 just before the road bridge over the burn, NC 240 296.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for the police.

A WALK TO THE

Wailing Widow



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

Up a Gorge in Assynt, across the Road from Quinag

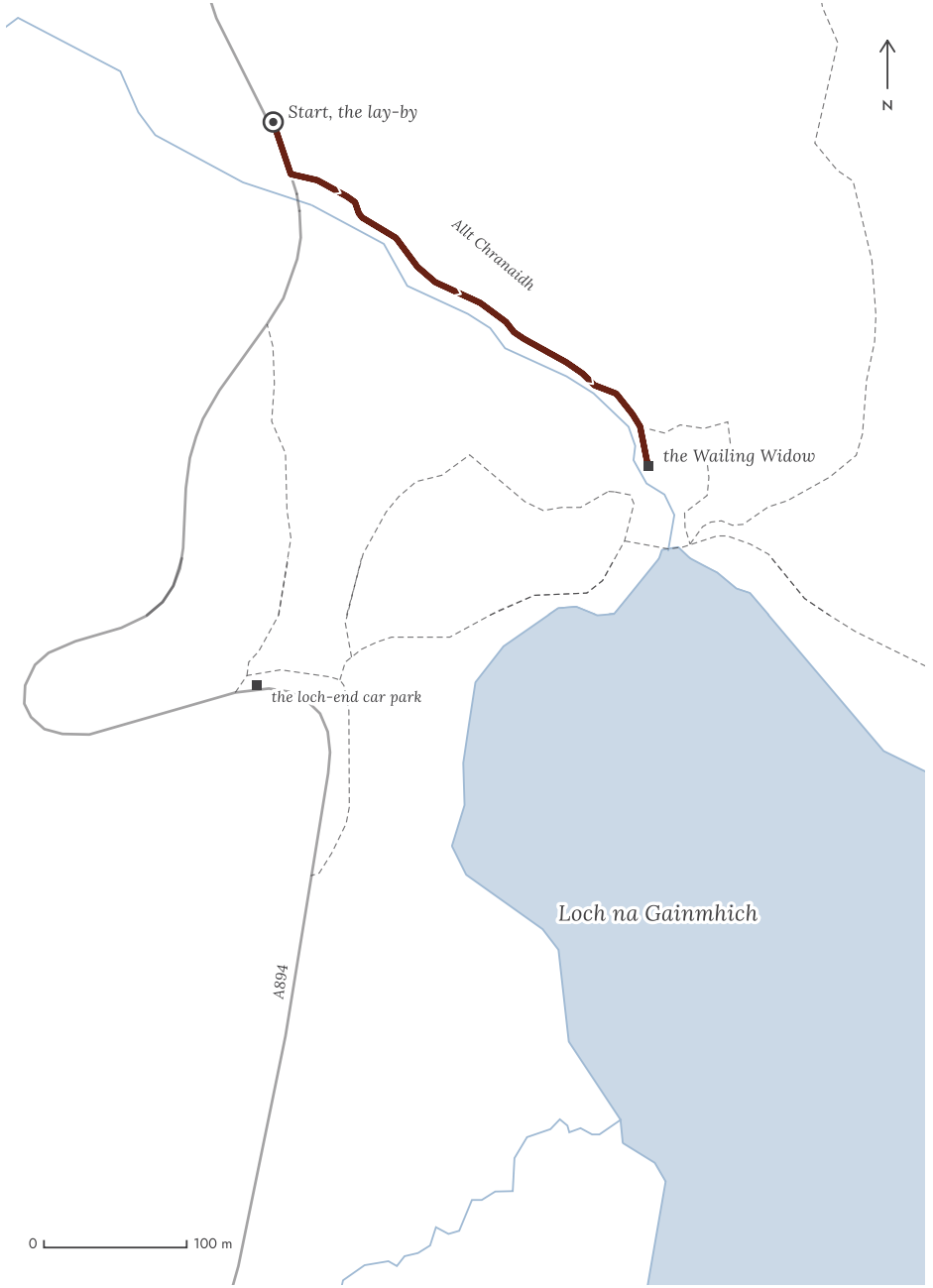
The Wailing Widow is a waterfall hidden in a gorge beside the road over the hills from Kylesku, where Loch na Gainmhich spills over a rock lip and drops about 30 metres into a narrow cleft across the road from Quinag. A short, rough path from the roadside goes up the gorge to its foot, and lunch is a few minutes north at the Kylesku Hotel.

words // Hidden Scotland *photography* // Simon Hird

The Wailing Widow is beside the A894 between Unapool and the car park at the north end of Loch na Gainmhich, south of the Kylesku Bridge. Park in the small, rough lay-by just before the road bridge over the burn: heading south it is on your left, with room for only a few cars. There are no toilets here or on the path.

A few steps south along the road, a stony path heads straight into the gorge beside the Allt Chranaidh, past a pointed rock at its mouth. The way is narrow, stony and slippery when wet, and uneven and very rough in places, Britain Express says, but there is only the one path: it keeps on up the gorge, rising about 30 metres. For the last stretch OpenStreetMap maps cliff on both sides of the gorge, and after 15 to 20 minutes, by My Highlands' guide, the falls appear at its end.

The Wailing Widow pours about 30 metres out of Loch na Gainmhich into the deep, narrow cleft. There is no way on: come back the same way. The top of the falls is a separate walk, about 10 minutes along the muddy loch shore from the car park at the north end of the loch, a few hundred metres south up the road. There is no railing at the lip, so keep well back, with children close and dogs on a lead.



There and back by the same path: about 340 metres each way, by our measure of the map.

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Fold here, the cover outwards