

The beach and the bay at the head of Loch Laidon, mountains in cloud beyond

Before you go

About 1.3 km each way, 2.6 km (1.6 miles) there and back, and nearly level: the track falls only 15 to 20 metres to the loch. A compacted and then gravel track, then a short unsurfaced path to the sand; wear boots or stout shoes.

Start at the car park at the end of the B846 by Rannoch Station; no charge is published. The West Highland Line stops here too. The only steps are on the footbridge to the platform and the tearoom.

A public toilet at the station is open round the clock. Keep dogs on a lead at the level crossing, and on the moor when red deer come down in the cooler months. On 21 December the sun rises at 8.52am and sets at 3.40pm.

After the walk

Rannoch Station Tearoom, on the platform, opens Saturday to Wednesday, 10am to 4pm, and may be closed in winter: check on 07944 643154. The honesty box on the platform has hot drinks and snacks at any hour.

The walk online, with its photographs and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/a-walk-from-rannoch-station-to-the-beach-on-loch-laidon

It starts at the car park at the end of the B846 by Rannoch Station (PH17 2QA), NN 422 577.

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

HIDDEN SCOTLAND

A WALK TO

Loch Laidon



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Rannoch Station over the Moor to the Sand

Rannoch Station stands alone on the moor at the end of a long road, with a tearoom in the old station building. From the station a track crosses the railway and leads to a pale sandy beach at the head of Loch Laidon, with the loch running away into Rannoch Moor and mountains on the far side. The walk goes out and back the same way.

words // Hidden Scotland *photography* // Jack Cairney

Start at the car park at the very end of the B846, beside the station. Through the gate, the old Rannoch Moor Track crosses the railway at a level crossing just south of the station. It is a working line: stop, look and listen, and keep dogs on a lead.

A compacted way swings west across the moor and crosses a small burn on a bridge, about 400 metres from the start; soon after, it becomes a gravel track. It runs on across open moor towards the loch, nearly level all the way, falling only 15 to 20 metres to the water. The track is an old drove road and right of way, ScotWays says, running 19 km to the Kingshouse.

Just over a kilometre from the start the track forks, and the old track goes on into the forest towards Kingshouse. Leave it here, on a short, unsurfaced path down beside the broom to the sand: a pale beach at the head of Loch Laidon, the loch running away south-west across Rannoch Moor. Come back the same way, about 1.3 km to the station, rising gently the 15 to 20 metres you came down.



One track and a short path from Rannoch Station to the beach on Loch Laidon, there and back: about 2.6 km, or 1.6 miles.

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