Before you go

No public body gives a route, a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 9½ km (6 miles) there and back with about 850 metres of climb, and it takes about 4½ to 5½ hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow: leave plenty of daylight for the way down. Forestry and Land Scotland calls it a challenging walk which should be attempted by experienced hill walkers only. Under snow it is a winter mountain, for winter skills, an ice axe and crampons. Heavy cornices can form on the corrie rims, Steven Fallon warns, and in early winter one walker found the corrie path under a thick layer of ice. No avalanche forecast covers it, which is no sign there is no risk.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the snow and avalanche conditions too. On the hills it is often much colder and windier than in the glen, Forestry and Land Scotland warns. Wear good boots and carry warm, waterproof clothing, plenty of food and drink, and a torch. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them, and do not rely only on a phone or GPS: in many parts of the hills reception is poor or missing, Arrochar Mountain Rescue Team says. Leave word with someone of where you are going and when you will be back. MunroMagic lists steep slopes and crags on or near the ways up, and crags near the summit.

Forestry and Land Scotland's car park at Bridge of Orchy is the best place to park for the hill path, it says: turn off the A82 at the hotel and cross the bridge, postcode PA36 4AB. In November 2026 it charged £1 for up to an hour and £3 for all day, by card or RingGo. The nearest public toilets are in Tyndrum. Stags may be stalked at any time of year, busiest in the first three weeks of October, and hinds from 21 October to 15 February, Mountaineering Scotland says. The Heading for the Scottish Hills tables name stalking on Blackmount Estate, north of the ridge, from early August to 20 October, none on Sundays: check them before you go.

After the walk

Many walkers climb Beinn Dorain as well from the bealach: this walk does not. Coire Daingean's crags are a winter climbing ground, Wikipedia says.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/beinn-an-dothaidh-from-bridge-of-orchy

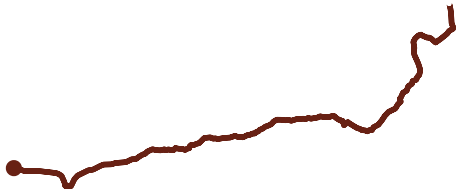
It starts at Forestry and Land Scotland's car park at Bridge of Orchy, by the hotel, NN 295 396.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for Police and Mountain Rescue, Mountaineering Scotland says, and give a six-figure grid reference and a named feature if you can. To text 999 where a call will not connect, register first by texting register to 999. Do not rely on a phone: in many parts of the hills reception is poor or missing.

HIDDEN SCOTLAND

A MUNRO WALK UP

Beinn an Dothaidh



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Bridge of Orchy

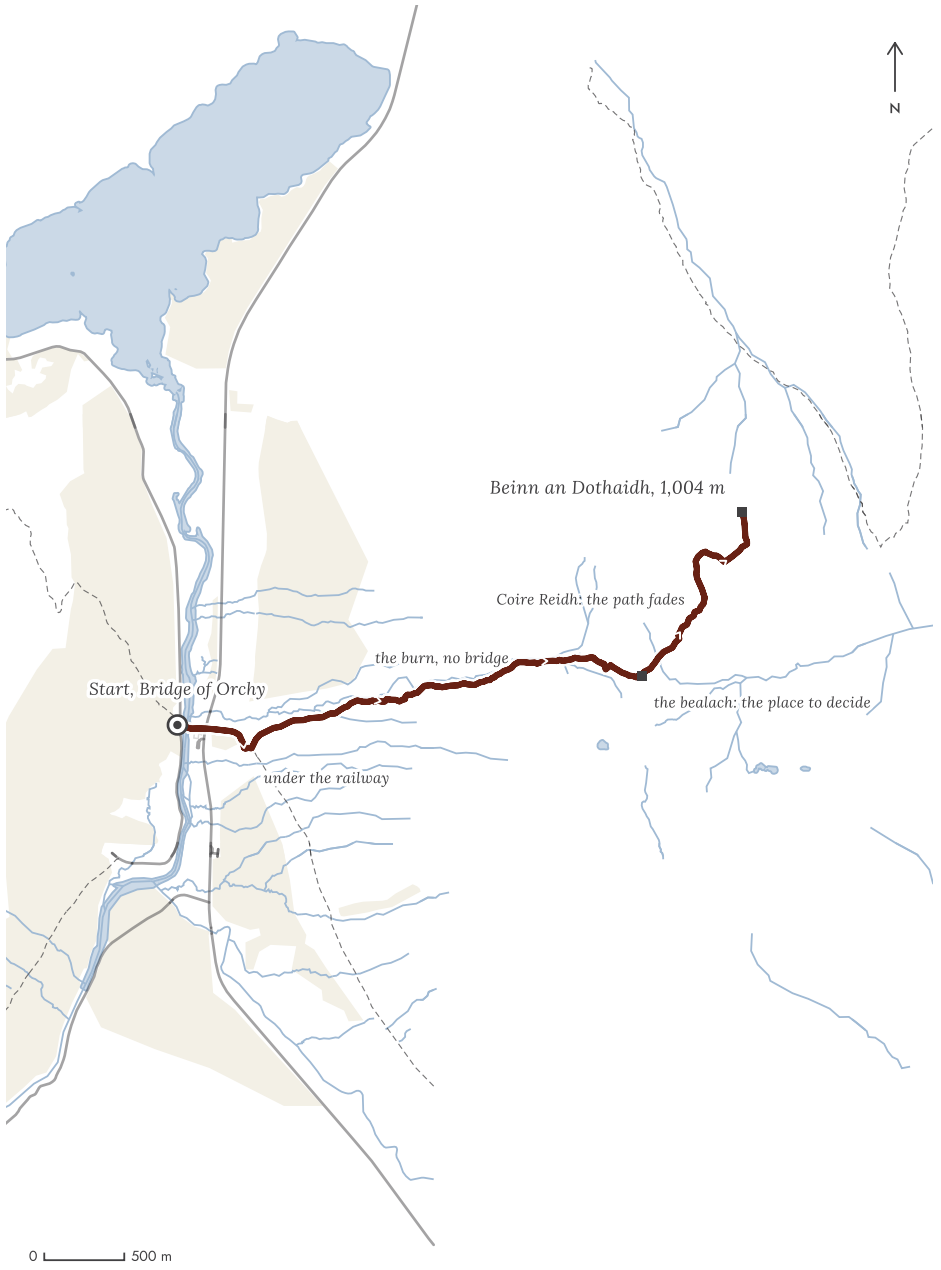
Beinn an Dothaidh, 1,004 metres, is a Munro just north of Beinn Dorain, climbed here by Coire an Dothaidh and Coire Reidh, there and back. The path is wet and fades in places, and crags fall away close to the summit: a day for experienced hillwalkers with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the car park walk back over the old bridge, past the hotel, and cross the A82 with care, then climb Station Brae and go under the railway by the West Highland Way's underpass. Beyond the gate the hill path leaves the Way and climbs east beside the Allt Coire an Dothaidh into the corrie. Much of the path is wet, eroded peat, bad underfoot in wet weather. About 2.7 km out, by our map, it crosses the main burn with no bridge. Streams can rise markedly in a day, MunroMagic warns: if a crossing looks unsafe, turn back.

The path steepens through the head of the corrie and by our map passes within about 20 metres of a mapped crag below the bealach. The bealach has a cairn. Turn left, north-east, for Beinn an Dothaidh: the path to the right, south, climbs Beinn Dorain. This is the place to decide: if the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back. From the bealach the path bears north-east up Coire Reidh and crosses a small burn with no bridge. Higher up it is very wet and boggy, one guide says, and one walker found it fading across Coire Reidh. There are no waymarks: in cloud check your line often with the map and compass.

The path turns north-west to the summit, 1,004 metres, with a cairn. Crags drop steeply from the rim, north and east, and by our map lie within about 50 to 60 metres of the summit: keep back from the edge, above all in mist. Paths go east towards Beinn Achaladair and west over the west top: neither is this walk. Go back the way you came, and at the bealach turn right, west, down the corrie to Bridge of Orchy, not left up Beinn Dorain.



Up Beinn an Dothaidh by Coire Reidh and back the same way: about 4½ to 5½ hours.

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Beinn an Dothaidh