Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 15 km (9¼ miles) there and back with about 1,000 metres of climb, and it takes about 6 to 7 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. It is often much colder and windier up there than at the loch, and the weather can change quickly. Under snow it is a winter mountain, and no avalanche forecast covers Beinn Ime: the Scottish Avalanche Information Service forecasts six other areas, which is no sign there is no risk here.

Check the mountain forecast. Wear good walking boots and carry warm, waterproof clothing, plenty of food and drink, and a torch in case the day runs long. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them, and do not rely only on a phone or GPS. Leave word with someone of where you are going and when you will be back.

By car, follow the A82 from Glasgow to Tarbet on Loch Lomond, then turn left on the A83, which reaches Arrochar after a mile. Parking at Arrochar is pay and display. The nearest toilets, shops and cafés are in Arrochar village, across the loch. Start early enough to be down in daylight.

After the walk

The name means the butter mountain in Gaelic. Shepherds from Glen Croe once brought their animals to summer here, and the ruins of their shieling huts lie on the slopes facing Glen Kinglas, off this walk.

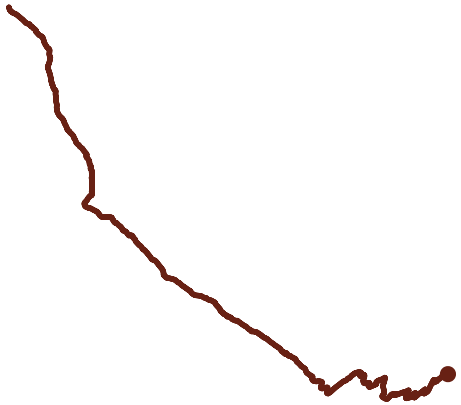
The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/beinn-ime-from-succoth

It starts at the Succoth car park at the head of Loch Long, five minutes' walk from Arrochar, NN 294 048.

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

A MUNRO WALK UP

Beinn Ime



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Succoth

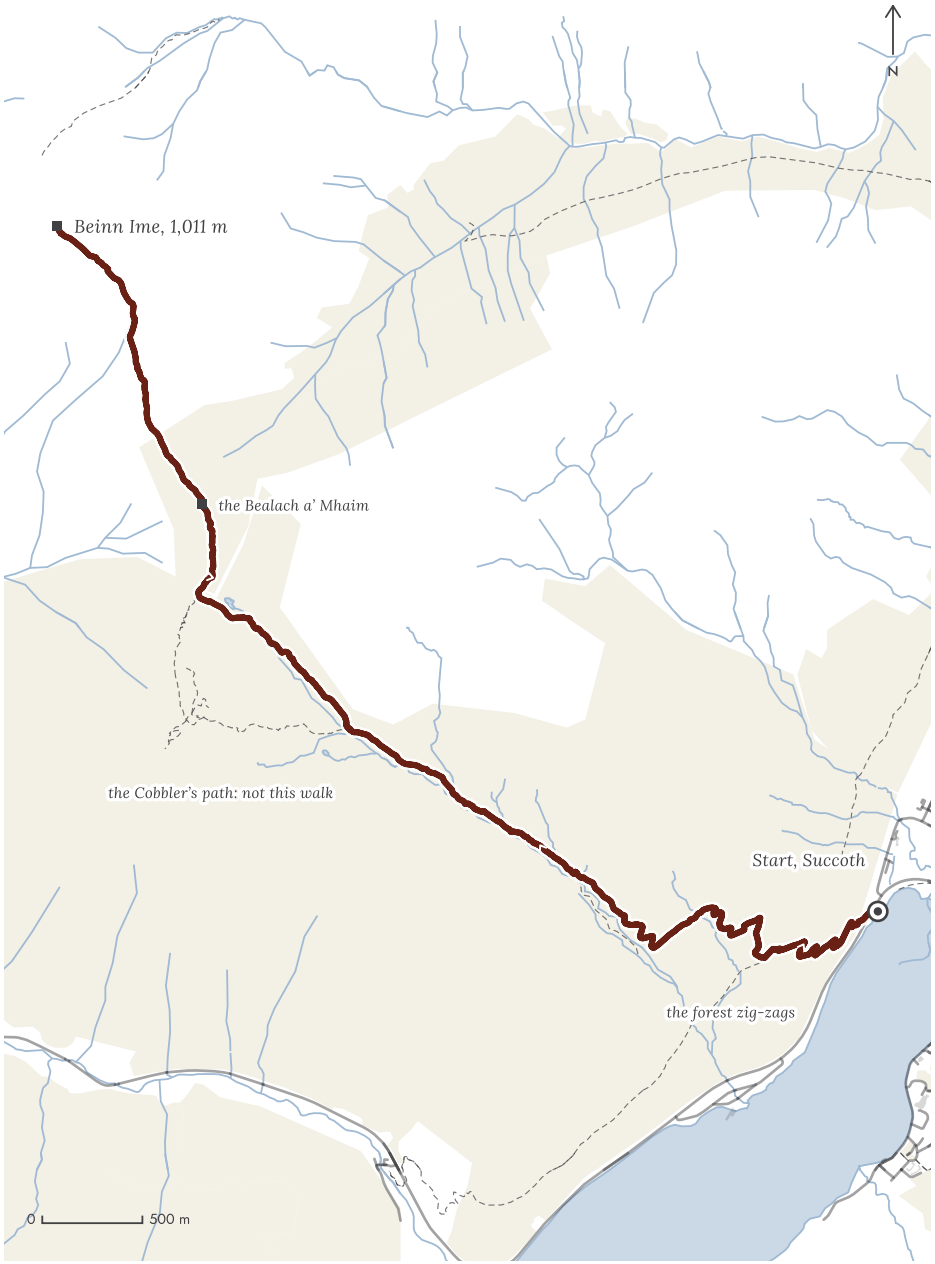
Beinn Ime is the highest of the Arrochar Alps, the hills west of Loch Lomond, at 1,011 metres. This is the national park's way up it, from the Succoth car park at the head of Loch Long: through the forest, up the glen below the Cobbler, to the top and back the same way. There are no waymarkers out on the hill, the path grows fainter above the bealach and there is a little scrambling at the top. For experienced hillwalkers only, with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

The walk starts at the Succoth car park, close to Arrochar. By our map the path starts across the A83, so cross the road with care: it is a 40 mph road here. The path is signposted and climbs through the forest in a long series of zig-zags. Above them it carries on through the trees and out into a wide glen, with the flanks of Beinn Narnain on the right and the Cobbler ahead on the left.

By our map the path crosses several small burns in the glen with no bridge, and higher up it crosses the Allt a' Bhalachain itself, also with no bridge. About 4 km up, a path goes off to the left for the Cobbler. Keep on up the glen to the Bealach a' Mhaim, between Beinn Ime and Beinn Narnain. Paths go off from here to Beinn Narnain too: it is a Munro of its own and not part of this walk.

From the bealach the path grows fainter, and there is a little scrambling at the top. By our map the way climbs the hill's south-east side, the steepest part of the walk. The summit has a mysterious oval stone enclosure on it, and on a clear day the view runs south along the Cowal Peninsula over hills and sea lochs. Go home the way you came, back to the bealach, down the glen and through the forest. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top.



Up Beinn Ime and back the same way: about 6 to 7 hours.

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