Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 13.5 km (8½ miles) there and back with about 940 metres of climb, and it takes about 5 to 6 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 Narnain: 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. Ticks can carry Lyme disease: check for them after the walk.

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 translates as hill of notches, the park says, for the rocky ground on the Loch Long side, where the direct way up involves a little scrambling. That way is not this walk.

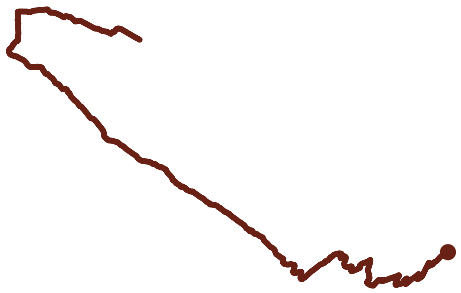
The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/beinn-narnain-from-succoth-by-the-bealach-a-mhaim

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 Narnain



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

By the Bealach a' Mhaim

Beinn Narnain is one of the Arrochar Alps, rising 927 metres over the head of Loch Long. This is the national park's way up by the glen, from the Succoth car park: through the forest, up the glen below the Cobbler, then south-east over false summits to the stony top and back. There are no waymarks out on the hill, and the glen has streams to ford and a burn with no bridge. 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 climbs through the forest in a long series of zig-zags to a forest road, then carries on up the hillside beyond it. Forestry and Land Scotland is still checking its forest after recent storms: follow any signs and turn back if anything looks unsafe.

Above the forest the path runs up a wide glen, past the flanks of the Cobbler and Beinn Narnain. By our map it fords five small side streams, and higher up crosses the Allt a' Bhalachain, not far below its source, with no bridge. After heavy rain any of them can run high: if a crossing looks unsafe, turn back. At the head of the glen the Cobbler's path turns south. Keep north instead, on Beinn Ime's path, to the Bealach a' Mhaim.

From the bealach the park's way heads east, then south-east over a series of false summits to the stony top. The view on a clear day takes in the Cobbler, Beinn Ime and many hills further afield. Go home the way you came, back to the bealach, down the glen and through the forest: the direct way to Loch Long involves a little scrambling. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top.



Up Beinn Narnain and back the same way: about 5 to 6 hours.

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