Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 8 km (5 miles) there and back with about 830 metres of climb, most of it on one long, steep slope, and it takes about 4 to 5 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Leave plenty of daylight for the steep way down. Under snow it is a winter mountain: most call-outs in these hills come from slips on hard snow without crampons or from losing the way in mist, Killin Mountain Rescue Team says. No avalanche forecast covers Beinn Tulaichean, and that is no sign there is no risk here.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the snow and avalanche conditions too. There are no waymarkers or signposts on the hill, and the weather can change quickly: even on a clear summer day it is often much colder and windier up there than in the glen. Wear good walking 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. If you have not been trained to use them in poor visibility, be ready to turn back early by a safe route.

By car, leave the A84 between Strathyre and Lochearnhead at the junction beside Mhor 84 and follow the narrow road west through Balquhidder and along Loch Voil and Loch Doine for about 12 km to its end at Inverlochlarig. It is single track and winding, so give it time. The farm keeps the car park free for walkers, but a community plan of 2022 found no toilets there, so plan for none. The land may be in use for deer management and farming.

After the walk

From the summit many walkers go on along the ridge to Cruach Ardrain as well: a longer day, and not this walk. The national park suggests walking the two together from Crianlarich, over Cruach Ardrain first. Inverlochlarig was one of Rob Roy MacGregor's homes, and he died here, the farm says.

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

It starts at the free car park at the end of the public road at Inverlochlarig, at the head of Balquhidder Glen, NN 445 184.

In an emergency, dial 999 and ask for the police, who will send help. Tell them where you are as exactly as you can: a grid reference is very useful, the national park says.

A MUNRO WALK UP

Beinn Tulaichean

A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Inverlochlarig

Beinn Tulaichean, 946 metres, rises above the farm at Inverlochlarig, at the head of Balquhidder Glen. This is the usual way up, from the car park at the road end: round the farm and up the glen track, then straight up the hill's steep south-east shoulder to the summit, and back the same way. The path on the lower slope is faint and the ground boggy, with crags to keep clear of higher up: a day for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the car park, go through the gate and west along the farm road towards Inverlochlarig, over the bridge across the Inverlochlarig Burn. Just beyond it a sign points walkers onto a path round the farm, by the burn, which can be muddy. It joins the track up Inverlochlarig Glen. Inverlochlarig is a working hill farm, with about 3,000 Blackface ewes, a herd of 60 cattle and wild red deer: keep a dog under close control wherever there is livestock, and follow any signs on the day.

Through the gate on the glen track, the hill path soon leaves it and heads up the slope, past a big boulder with a tree growing from it. The ground at the foot is boggy, so keep to the higher ground where you can. On the steep grass above, the path is faint, and two guides find it fades to nothing, so be ready to pick your own line with the map. Keep to the left of the lower crags. Higher up, a band of crags crosses the slope; one guide says it can be walked round.

The broad ridge above grows better defined as it climbs, and near the top the path turns north along the crest to the summit. Munro Magic names steep slopes and crags near the summit as the hazards here; the top has many rocky outcrops, though a way through them is not hard to find. If the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back. Go home the way you came, and in cloud check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top. On the way down keep a little to the west side of the crest, above the crags. One guide calls the descent confusing in places and steep on tired knees, so take it slowly.



Up Beinn Tulaichean by its south-east shoulder and back the same way: about 4 to 5 hours.

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