Before you go

No public body gives a way up Ben Chonzie, a distance or a time. By our map it is about 12.7 km (8 miles) there and back with about 700 metres of climb, and it takes about 4 to 5 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Under snow it is a winter mountain, for walkers with winter skills, an ice axe and crampons. No avalanche forecast covers Ben Chonzie: the Scottish Avalanche Information Service forecasts six other areas, which is no sign there is no risk here.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the snow and avalanche conditions too. The weather can change quickly, and the hills are often much colder and windier than lower ground. 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. Mobile signal on the hill is not to be relied on: Mountaineering Scotland advises registering for the emergency text service before you go. Leave word with someone of where you are going and when you will be back.

Take the sign for Glen Lednock from the A85 at the western end of Comrie and follow the single-track road for about 4½ miles. By our map there is free parking on a grass verge beside the road at Coishavachan. It is small and can be busy on summer weekends and holidays: arrive early and leave the track and the gates clear. No source read names a bus to the start or toilets at it. Stags may be stalked at any time of year, busiest in the first three weeks of October: keep to well-known routes. A dog that chases wildlife, birds or livestock must stay on the lead at all times.

After the walk

Other ways up Ben Chonzie come from Loch Turret to the east and from Glen Almond to the north. This walk keeps to Glen Lednock, to the summit and back. The nearest Munro, Meall Greigh, is about sixteen kilometres to the north-west.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/ben-chonzie-from-invergeldie

It starts where a track leaves the Glen Lednock road at Coishavachan, just south of Invergeldie, NN 742 272.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for the police, then mountain rescue, and give a six-figure grid reference and a named feature.

A MUNRO WALK UP

Ben Chonzie



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Invergeldie

Ben Chonzie stands between Glen Lednock, above Comrie, and Glen Almond to the north, and rises to 930 metres. This is the usual way up, from Invergeldie: a track up the glen of the Invergeldie Burn, then a boggy hill path to an old fence line and along the broad ridge to the summit, and back the same way. There are no waymarks out on the hill, and the top is broad and featureless: a day for walkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

The walk starts where a track leaves the Glen Lednock road at Coishavachan, just south of Invergeldie. The track runs north past the white houses and through a gate, then up the glen of the Invergeldie Burn. It crosses the burn by a bridge and climbs more steeply through more gates. Higher up it drops to cross back over the burn below a small dam, then climbs the other side. Keep on the main track where it forks. It climbs out onto heather moorland, where by our map a small burn crosses it with no bridge, on stepping stones. A track goes off to the left, to the north: keep on up the broad southern slopes.

About 4½ km up, by our map, before the top of the ridge, the hill path leaves the track on the left at a right-hand bend, by a small cairn. Keep to it: the track goes on east across the moor, not to the top. The path is boggy, crosses a small burn with no bridge and climbs steeply, past old stone grouse butts and a line of old metal fence posts. Then it turns sharply right along the broad ridge to the summit.

The summit is 930 metres, with a large stone shelter on the top. The top is a broad, featureless plateau, and in low cloud walkers lose their way on it. Go home the way you came, along the fence posts and down the hill path to the track. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top: if the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back.



Up Ben Chonzie and back the same way: about 4 to 5 hours.

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors