Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 10 km (6 miles) there and back with about 900 metres of climb, and it takes about 4 to 6 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Be ready for changeable weather: it is often much colder and windier on the hill than at the loch. Under snow it is a winter mountain, and no avalanche forecast covers Ben Vorlich: 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. 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. Paths can be hard to follow in cloud. Leave word with someone of where you are going and when you will be back.

Ardvorlich is about 5 km east of Lochearnhead along the South Loch Earn Road, which is one lane wide with passing places: take extra care on it. There is no car park. Park on the roadside near the bridge without blocking access, and never in a passing place; the spaces fill early on fine weekends. From 1 March to 30 September you need a permit or a campsite booking to camp round Loch Earn. Start early enough to be down in daylight.

After the walk

Many walkers go on to Stuc a' Chroin, the next Munro to the south-west, by a steep, rough way with some scrambling. This walk does not, and keeps to the summit of Ben Vorlich and back. The name means the hill of the bay.

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

It starts on the South Loch Earn Road at Ardvorlich, by the bridge over the Ardvorlich Burn, NN 633 232.

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

A MUNRO WALK UP

Ben Vorlich



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Ardvorlich

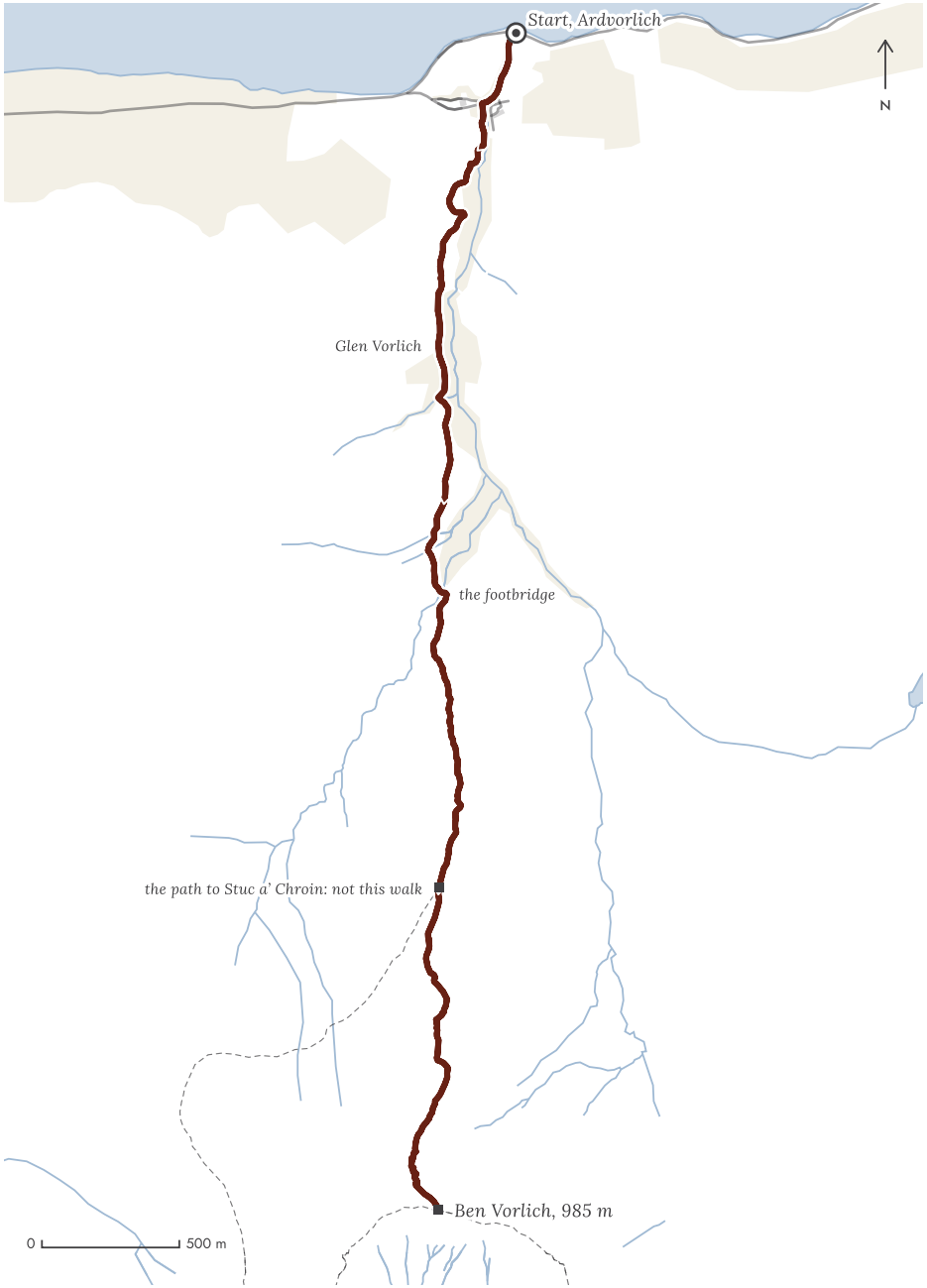
Ben Vorlich stands above the south shore of Loch Earn, and its summit is 985 metres, the national park says. This is the usual way up, from Ardvorlich: the drive and the track up Glen Vorlich, then the hill path up the north ridge, and back the same way. There are no waymarks out on the hill. Any Munro needs a good level of fitness and navigational skills, with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

The walk starts on the South Loch Earn Road at Ardvorlich, by the bridge over the Ardvorlich Burn. Signs lead walkers up the drive and round Ardvorlich House to the east, onto a track that climbs above it through gates and stiles. Ardvorlich is a working estate: keep a dog under close control where there is livestock, and keep away from fields with lambs, the national park asks. The track climbs Glen Vorlich beside the burn, crossing side burns on small bridges and one at a ford with no bridge. The ground beside it can be wet and boggy after rain.

A little over 2 km up, by our map, a footbridge crosses the Allt a' Choire Bhuidhe, and the track gives way to the hill path. It climbs south up the broad north ridge and grows steeper towards the top. About 3.5 km up, a path goes off to the right, round below the summit towards Stuc a' Chroin, a steep, rough way with some scrambling. This walk does not take it. Keep on up the ridge. The last stretch is the steepest part of the walk, on loose stones that can roll underfoot.

The summit is 985 metres, the park says, marked by a trig point, with views across both the Highlands and the Lowlands. Go home the way you came, down the north ridge, over the footbridge and down the track past the house. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top: the summit ridge has paths going off in several directions.



Up Ben Vorlich and back the same way: about 4 to 6 hours.

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors