Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk, and no guide times it on its own. By our map it is about 11 km (7 miles) there and back with about 820 metres of climb: allow about 5 to 6 hours, by our map's distance and climb, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Leave plenty of daylight for the way down. Under snow it is a winter mountain, and no avalanche forecast covers it: the Lochaber avalanche forecasters have called the hills east of Loch Treig "no man's land", between their two areas. Having no forecast does not mean there is no risk.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the snow and avalanche conditions too. Even on a clear summer day it is often much colder and windier on the hill than below. 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: this is open moorland with few landmarks, and one guide rates the navigation here demanding. There are no waymarks or signposts on the hill.

The Loch Treig road leaves the A86 about 13 km east of Spean Bridge and runs south for about 6 km to Fersit. By our map it is one lane wide. Park at the road's end, just before the houses. Do not count on a toilet, a shop, fuel or a phone signal near the hill. Corrour Estate calls stalking a vital part of its habitat management, so follow any signs on the day.

After the walk

Many walkers join Chno Dearg to Stob Coire Sgriodain, about two kilometres to the west, in a round from Fersit: a longer day, and not this walk. One guide gives another way up, by Creag Dhubh and Meall Chaorach to the east, to miss the worst of the bog. Corrour Estate gives the name simply as Red Hill.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/chno-dearg-from-fersit

It starts at the parking area at the end of the Loch Treig road at Fersit, just before the houses, NN 350 781.

In an emergency, dial 999, ask for the police and then for mountain rescue, Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team says.

A MUNRO WALK UP

Chno Dearg



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Fersit

Chno Dearg, 1,046 metres, is the higher of the two Munros east of Loch Treig, between Glen Spean and Corrour. This is the usual way up, from Fersit at the end of the Loch Treig road: over the River Treig and the Allt Chaorach Beag by bridges, up the long, grassy north-west slopes to the summit, and back the same way. The ground is wet and tussocky, the path fades high up and two small burns have no bridge: a day for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

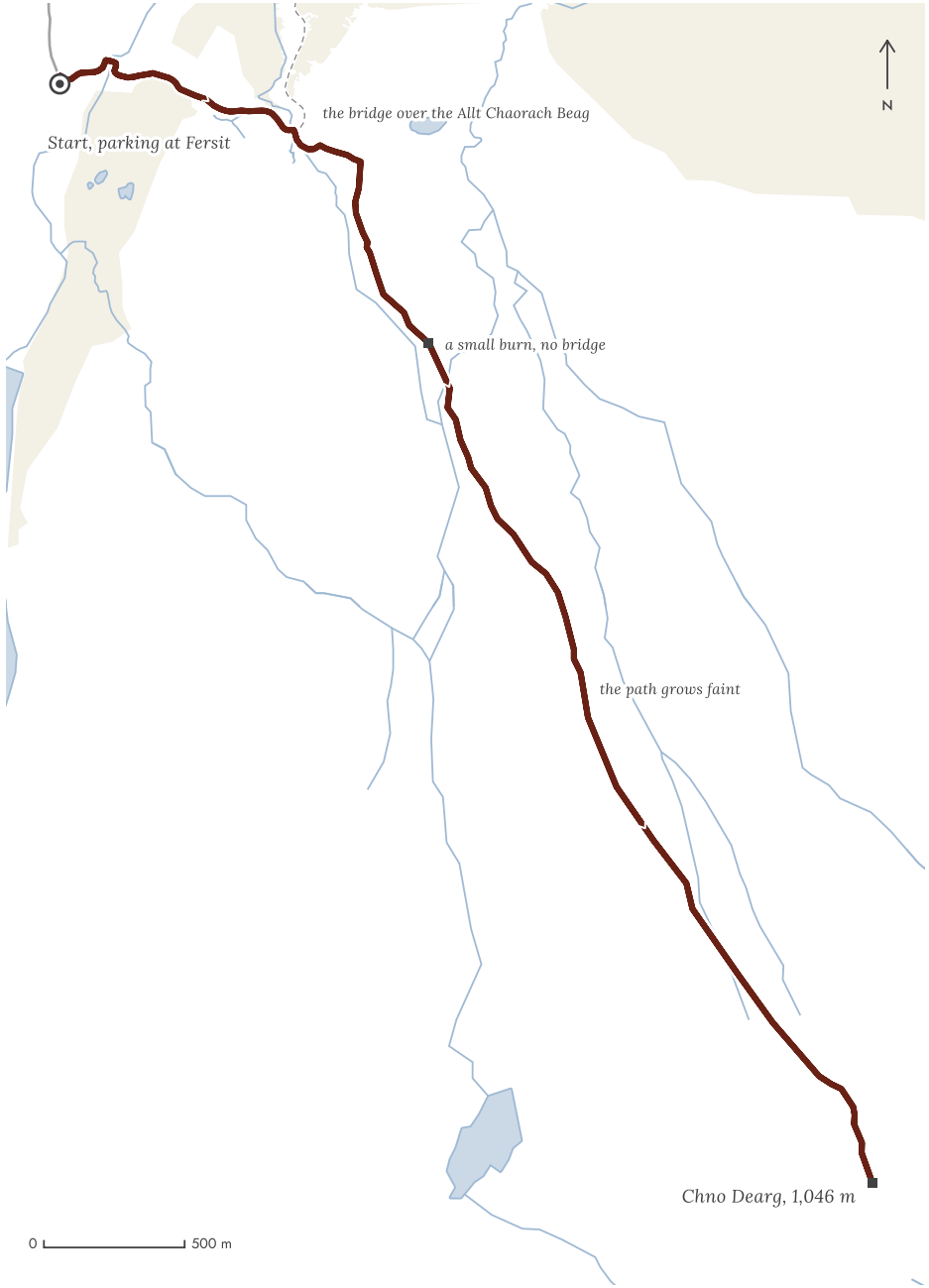
words // Hidden Scotland

From the parking, walk east down the track and over the River Treig and the railway by their bridges, then through the gate past the houses and the farm. One walker tells of cattle roaming the fields beyond the farm: give them a wide berth. About a kilometre out a track bridge takes you over the Allt Chaorach Beag.

Beyond it a path heads south by the burn and up the moor. The ground is wet and tussocky, with a faint path and soggy vehicle tracks, one guide says. About 2 km out the path crosses a small burn with no bridge. Burns can rise fast in a day: turn back if one is too full to cross.

About 620 metres up the path grows faint on the long north-west slope and gradually disappears, one guide says: walk on a bearing. About 765 metres up a second small burn has no bridge either. Near the top the slope steepens into boulder fields, the steepest stretch about 36 metres in every 100. If the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back.

The summit is a bouldery dome with a large cairn for shelter. There are crags to the east and south-east within a kilometre, MunroMagic says: know where you are in mist. Come down the way you came. The broad top has few landmarks, so in cloud take a bearing for the north-west slope before you leave, and check it often: one walker coming down in mist found nothing like a path at first. The path on south-west to Stob Coire Sgriodain is not this walk.



Up Chno Dearg by its long north-west slopes and back the same way: about 5 to 6 hours, by our map's distance and climb.

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