Before you go

No public body gives a route, a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 9½ km (5¾ miles) there and back with about 775 metres of climb, and it takes about 4 to 5 hours, more in poor weather or under snow. Under snow Fionn Bheinn is a winter mountain, for walkers with winter skills, an ice axe and crampons, and the corrie often holds snow well into spring, one guide says. There is no avalanche forecast for this hill, and no forecast does not mean no risk.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the snow and avalanche conditions too. It grows colder as you climb, about 1°C for every 100 metres, and the wind usually rises with height, MunroMagic says. Wear good walking boots and carry warm, waterproof clothing, food and drink. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them: on open ground in poor visibility, following paths without a compass may get you lost. Phone reception in the Highlands is often patchy or missing, Mountaineering Scotland says, so leave word of where you are going and when you will be back. If the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back.

Who owns the hill, and whether and when it is stalked, is not confirmed. Mountaineering Scotland says the busiest stalking is in the first three weeks of October for stags and from mid-January to mid-February for hinds: watch for signs on the day, follow reasonable advice from the land managers and keep dogs under close control. National Rail lists four parking spaces at the station, which has no refreshments. Trains run from Inverness to Kyle of Lochalsh; buses are few, so check them before you rely on one. Forestry and Land Scotland says there are toilets in Achnasheen, though Highland Council lists no public toilet there.

After the walk

There are other ways up Fionn Bheinn: from the east over Sail an Tuim Bhain, and a longer round over Meall a' Chaorainn to the west. It is counted with the Fannichs, but its nearest Munro neighbour, Sgurr nan Each, is about eight and a half kilometres away. On a clear day the Torridon hills stand out to the west.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/fionn-bheinn-from-achnasheen

It starts on Station Road beside Achnasheen station, off the A832, IV22 2EJ, NH 163 585.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for Police and Mountain Rescue, Mountaineering Scotland says, and give a six-figure grid reference and a named feature if you can. To text 999 where a call will not connect, register first by texting register to 999.

A MUNRO WALK UP

Fionn Bheinn



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Achnasheen

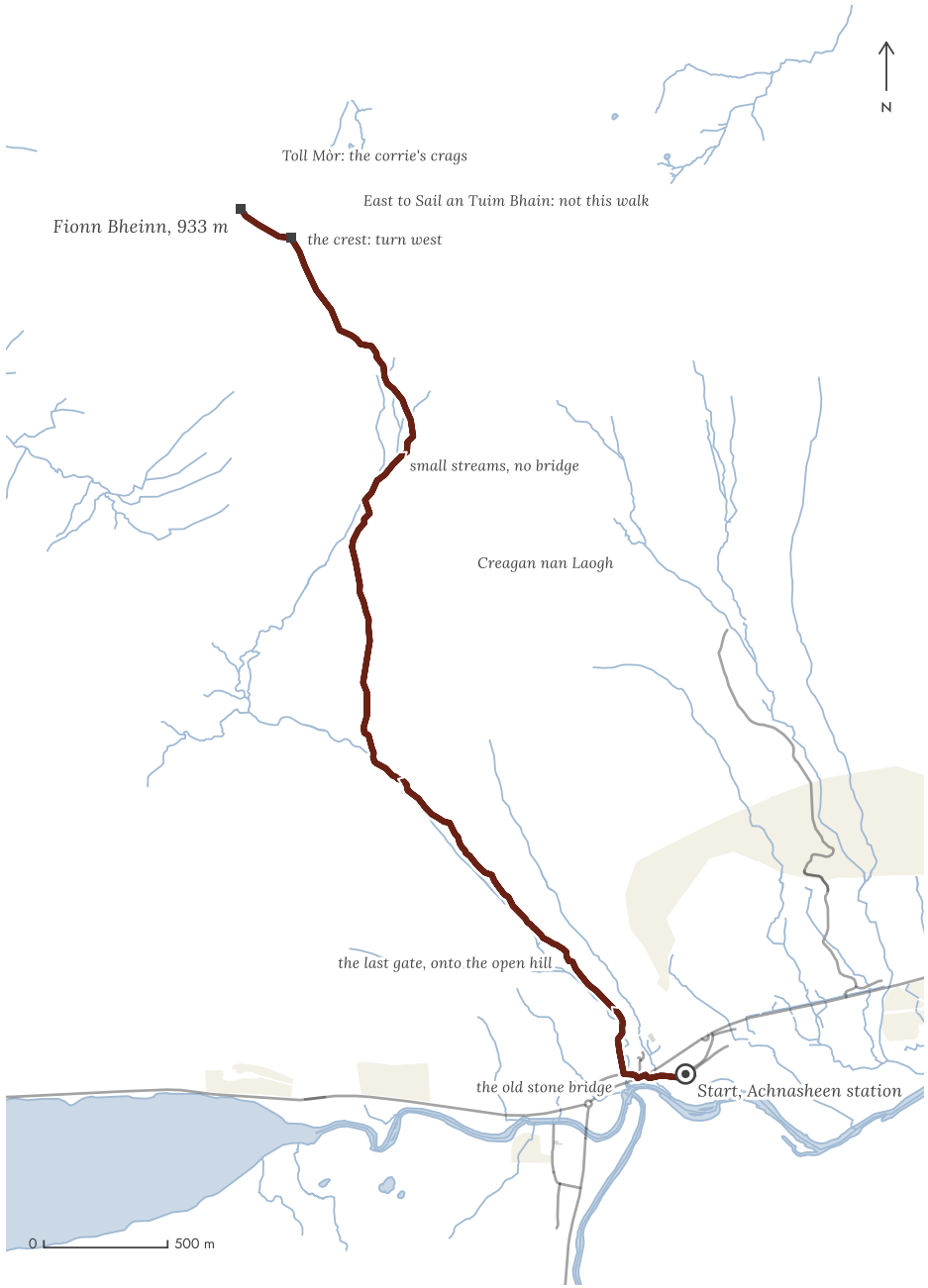
Fionn Bheinn, 933 metres, stands by itself above Achnasheen, on the south side of Loch Fannich. This is its usual way up: from beside the village's railway station over the old stone bridge, up a hill path beside the Allt Achadh na Sine to the summit ridge, and back the same way. The ground is rough, wet and boggy, and the summit sits on the edge of a craggy corrie: a day for experienced hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the station walk west along Station Road to the A832, then a few metres along its pavement to the old road by a red phone box. A sign points the way over the old stone bridge on the Allt Achadh na Sine. Turn right through a signed gate onto a track: the hill path begins at a gate just past the track's small bridge. There is a locked gate in a deer fence by the water board's buildings: one guide says the gate behind the buildings should be open.

A faint path climbs with the burn on your left and a fence on your right to a last gate, about 1 km out, and then it is open hillside, rough and soggy: one guide warns of boggy and sometimes pathless ground. About 2.6 km out a track meets it: keep to the path. It climbs towards Creagan nan Laogh, then turns north towards the main ridge. Between about 3.5 and 3.7 km by our map small streams cross it with no bridge. Stream levels can rise markedly in a single day, MunroMagic says: turn back if one is too full to cross.

About 4.45 km out the path meets the crest and turns west to the summit, 933 metres. It stands on the very edge of Toll Mòr: by our map the crags of the corrie rim lie about 16 metres from the path along the crest and about 23 metres from the summit, and MunroMagic lists steep slopes on or near the ways up. Keep back from the edge, above all in mist, in a high wind or under snow. Go back the way you came, east along the crest and then south off the ridge: the path on east to Sail an Tuim Bhain is not this walk. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the summit.



Up Fionn Bheinn by the burn and back the same way: about 4 to 5 hours.

Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Fionn Bheinn