Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this way. By our map it is about 6.5 km (4 miles) there and back with about 450 metres of climb, and it takes about 2.5 to 3.5 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Under snow Glas Maol is a winter mountain: go only with winter gear, an ice axe and crampons and the skill to use them. Cornices can hang over the steep slopes, and above 1,000 metres the wind chill is significant. The ski centre bans skiing in the Glas Maol bowl for the risk of avalanches, and after Christmas 2010 a walker was caught by a slab avalanche on a steep slope towards the top of the piste. The Scottish Avalanche Information Service names the Cairnwell and Glas Maol ranges in its Southern Cairngorms area: read that forecast.

Check the mountain forecast. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them: Tayside Mountain Rescue Team warns never to rely on a phone or GPS alone, and the ski centre asks walkers to have a backup means of navigation at all times. Walking can be dangerous, the centre says, and all walkers must take responsibility for their own safety. No dogs on the centre's runs and tows. Deer stalking can take place all year, most of all in October for stags and in January and early February for hinds: find out before you go.

The Glenshee Snowsports Centre's car park is on the A93 at the Cairnwell Pass, sat nav AB35 5XU: free for the first 50 minutes or with a chairlift ticket, then £4 for the day, the centre's page says. The centre has toilets and washrooms by its buildings, across the road from the car park. The A93 has snow gates at the Spittal of Glenshee and at Braemar.

After the walk

Creag Leacach, about 2.5 km to the south-west, and Cairn of Claise, about 3 km to the north-east, are Munros too, and many walkers add one of them: this walk keeps to Glas Maol and comes back the way it went.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/glas-maol-from-the-glenshee-ski-centre

It starts at the Glenshee ski centre car park on the A93 at the Cairnwell Pass, NO 141 775.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for Police and Mountain Rescue, Mountaineering Scotland says, and give your location as exactly as you can, ideally a six-figure grid reference and a named feature. Do not rely only on a phone or GPS.

A MUNRO WALK UP

Glas Maol



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From the Glenshee ski centre

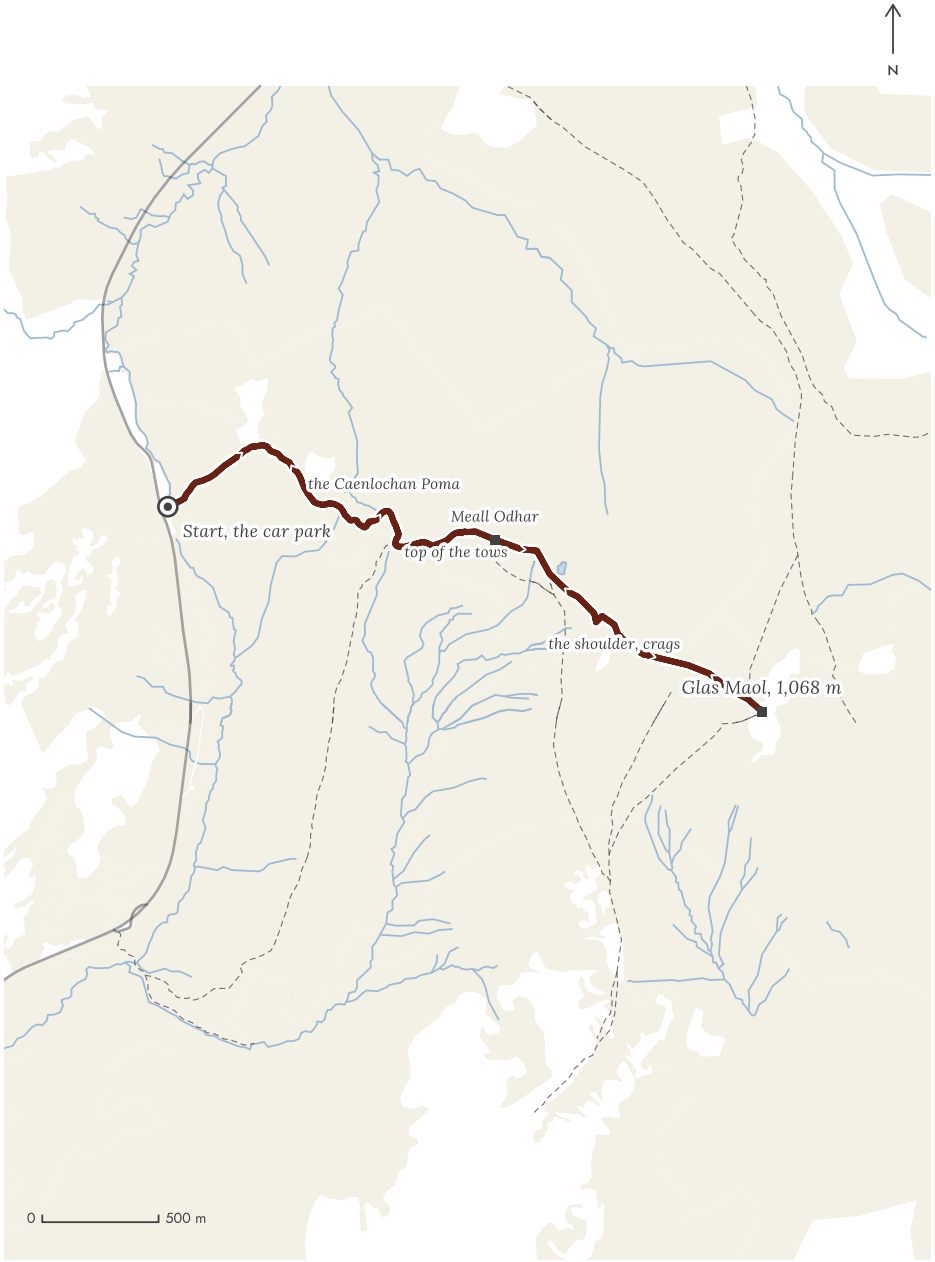
Glas Maol is 1,068 metres, the highest point in Angus, a broad, flat-topped Munro above the Glenshee ski centre on the A93. This is its usual way: up the ski area's tracks beside the tows, over Meall Odhar and up a broad shoulder to the summit cairn and trig pillar, and back the same way. It is a short Munro, but its plateau has no landmarks in mist and winter comes in fast: for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the south end of the car park the ski area's main track climbs east, steeply at first. It is gravel and stones, one guide says, very steep from the car park and more treacherous on the way down. Several side tracks leave it: keep to the main track as it bends up the slope among tows, pistes and snow fences, crossing the line of the Caenlochan Poma about 1.2 km out. In the ski season keep outside the snow fences and managed areas, never walk up a tow line, running or not, and watch for steel winching cables and vehicles on the slopes, by day or night.

About 1.4 km out the main track ends. A shorter track climbs on to the top of the last tows, about 1.7 km out and about 880 metres up, and a grass path crosses the top of Meall Odhar, 922 metres, and drops a little to a dip below Glas Maol, where it turns faint. From the dip the path climbs south-east up the broad shoulder, steep and stony: by our map about 45 metres in 100 at its steepest. Munro Magic warns of crags within a kilometre of the summit and steep crags west of Glas Maol. Keep to the path and well back from the edge.

The slope eases onto the summit plateau, broad and flat, with the cairn and trig pillar about 3.3 km out. The plateau has no paths or landmarks, and in cloud walkers drift off line without knowing it. Before you leave the top, take a bearing north-west for the shoulder and Meall Odhar. If the cloud comes down, the wind rises or anyone is tiring, turn back by the way you came, and take great care on the gravel track down: it is treacherous.



Up Glas Maol from the Glenshee ski centre and back the same way: about 2.5 to 3.5 hours.

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