Before you go

No public body gives a route, a distance or a time for this hill. By our map it is about 6.75 km (4¼ miles) there and back with about 750 metres of climb: about 3 to 4 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. The summit is far above the chairlift's top station, so plan the whole hill on foot: the chairlift takes walkers down only if the operators allow it, with no guarantee.

Check the mountain forecast, and carry a map and compass: visibility can change markedly with the cloud level, Munro Magic warns, and streams can rise in a day. In mist the ski tows lead off in every direction, and the ground below the upper tows is rubble, rotten wood and scrap metal. Keep to the path you came up. If the cloud comes down, the wind rises or anyone is tiring, turn back.

Under snow this is a winter mountain, with avalanche ground on its upper slopes. The Scottish Avalanche Information Service counts the hill in the core of its Glencoe forecast, and a slide near the summit in February 2010 carried two skiers about 610 metres. Crampons and an ice axe are essential, and the ridge on to Creise is exposed. Before the forecast's full winter service, no forecast does not mean no risk. In the ski season the path crosses several runs: ask at the resort first.

Deer management may take place on the Blackmount at any time of year, though walkers are welcome. By our map toilets stand by the base cafe and near the top station, and none on the hill.

After the walk

Creise lies about 1.2 km west, over a steep, loose descent and a short scramble. This walk keeps to Meall a' Bhuiridh and comes back the way it went.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/meall-a-bhuiridh-from-the-glencoe-ski-centre

It starts at the Glencoe Mountain resort's car park, off the A82 on the edge of Rannoch Moor, NN 266 525.

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.

HIDDEN SCOTLAND

A MUNRO WALK UP

Meall a' Bhuiridh



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From the Glencoe ski centre

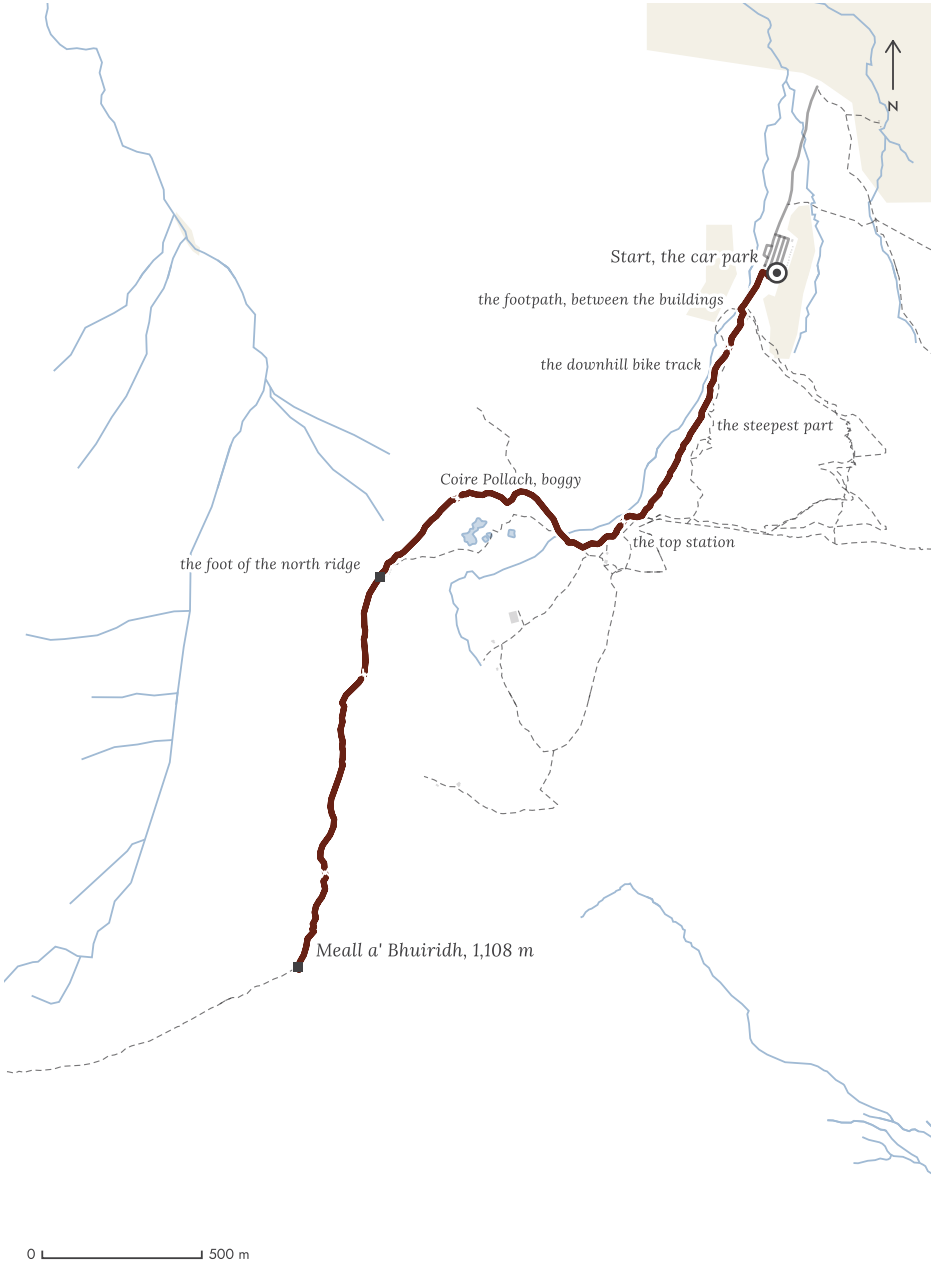
Meall a' Bhuiridh is 1,108 metres, the hill of the Glencoe Mountain resort, on the edge of Rannoch Moor above the A82. This is its usual way: up a footpath under the resort's chairlift, across Coire Pollach and up the broad north ridge to the summit, and back the same way. It is a big, bouldery hill above a ski area, with crags near the summit, a sheer drop beyond it and avalanche ground under snow: for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the car park, walk past the lower station of the chairlift and up the resort's road to its end by the buildings, about 200 metres out. The path is easy to miss here: go between the two buildings to the sign marked Footpath. The path climbs under the chairlift, very steep and rough in places, rubbly and muddy, and in wet weather more of a tumbling waterfall. Early on it crosses the resort's downhill bike track. The resort calls its bike tracks extremely steep, and riders may meet walkers on them: look both ways before you cross. Higher up the path is rougher and looser, then levels out.

The plateau by the top station is about 1.1 km out and 660 metres up, damp underfoot. The chairlift is not part of this walk. West of the top station a footbridge crosses a burn. Keep to the main path round the south side of Creag Dubh into Coire Pollach, where the ground is boggy. At the foot of the north ridge, about 2 km out and 730 metres up, the path turns south and climbs.

The broad ridge grows steeper and more bouldery as it goes, with a scree route of sorts zigzagging up through the boulders, and crosses two ski runs. In mist the lifts' supports can draw you off the path. The summit, about 3.4 km out, is bouldery, with a large cairn. There are crags within a kilometre of it, and beyond the cairn the ground drops sheer towards Lochan Easain: keep back. A loose path goes on west to Creise, with crags and scrambling. It is not this walk, and never the way back. Go down the way you came, north.



Up Meall a' Bhuiridh from the Glencoe ski centre and back the same way: about 3 to 4 hours. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors