Before you go

No public body gives a way up, a distance or a time for this hill. By our map it is about 6.7 km (4 miles) there and back with about 540 metres of climb, and it takes about 2.5 to 3.5 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Under snow it is a winter mountain: crampons may be needed on icy slopes, a cornice can form on the east side of the ridge, and Killin Mountain Rescue Team says most incidents in its area come from slipping on hard snow without crampons or losing the way in mist. No avalanche forecast covers this hill, and the hill road is ungritted and not kept open in winter.

Check the mountain forecast. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them, and do not rely only on a phone or GPS. The broad tops are disorienting in cloud, the paths are faint and fading in places, the ridge on to Meall a' Choire Leith can be quite confusing in mist and the summit cairn is easy to pass. If you have not been trained to use a map and compass in poor visibility, turn back early by a safe route. Wear waterproof boots for the bog. Deer stalking can take place at any time of year, the first three weeks of October being the busiest and hinds being stalked from 21 October to 15 February: find out before you go.

The hill road from Loch Tay or Bridge of Balgie is one lane wide with few places to pass, unsuitable for caravans and other large vehicles. The parking place has room for only a few cars, and there is more parking just above the north end of the lochan. Never park in a passing place. There are no toilets at the start or on the hill.

After the walk

Meall a' Choire Leith, a Munro of its own about 3 km to the north, is the hill many walkers add to this one: this walk keeps to Meall Corranaich and comes back the way it went. Others climb Meall Corranaich from the National Trust for Scotland's car park by Coire Odhar.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/meall-corranaich-from-lochan-na-lairige

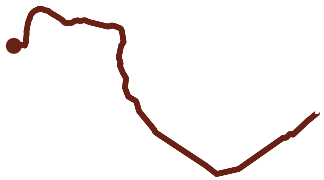
It starts at the small parking place by the cairn at the north end of Lochan na Lairige, on the hill road between Loch Tay and Glen Lyon, NN 593 415.

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 Corranaich



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Lochan na Lairige

Meall Corranaich is 1,067 metres, at the western end of the Ben Lawers range, above Lochan na Lairige. This is the way from the hill road at the north end of the lochan: a gravel path through the heather, a path across the slope and then up the hill's broad south-west shoulder to the summit, and back the same way. The ground is boggy at first, the last climb is steep and the broad top is confusing in mist: for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

From the parking place walk a few metres back along the road towards the lochan, where a gravel path leaves it on the left and climbs north through the heather, with bog close beside it. Keep to the path from the road: walkers who cut straight up behind the cairn have found a rough trudge through boggy tussocks. About 500 metres out the path forks. The one straight on, north-east into Gleann Da-Eig, is the way to Meall a' Choire Leith, a Munro of its own. For Meall Corranaich bear right, south-east.

The path runs south-east and then south across the slope above Lochan na Lairige, past patches of bog, and it is fainter on the ground here than above and below. Much of the way lies in the Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve: keep to the path as far as possible, and keep dogs under control. About 1.9 km out the path bends east and climbs the broad south-west shoulder by a line of old fence posts, a sure way up if a roundabout one. The last 500 metres or so rise more than 30 metres in every 100, on grass and stones.

The summit, 3.3 km out, is a small cairn beside the old fence posts on a broad, grassy crest, and it is easy to walk past. Crags lie near the top, and in winter a cornice can form on the east side of the ridge: keep well back, and never try to come off the hill to the east. Before you leave the top, take a bearing south-west for the path, the fainter one. The way down is the way you came.



Up Meall Corranaich from Lochan na Lairige and back the same way: about 2.5 to 3.5 hours. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Fold here, the cover outwards