## *Before you go*

A trip of 6¼ miles (about 10 km) there and back: allow at least 5 hours, Forestry and Land Scotland says. A built mountain path, not waymarked, then rocks and boulders to the summit. It is often much colder and windier on the hill than at the car park, even on a clear summer day. Under snow it is a winter mountain, and no avalanche forecast covers Schiehallion.

Carry a map and compass and know how to use them, and do not rely only on a phone or GPS: if the battery fails, you still need to know where you are. Wear good walking boots; bring warm and waterproof clothing, food and drink and a torch; check the forecast; and tell someone where you are going and when you will be back. Turn back if you get tired, or if anything looks unsafe.

Start at the Braes of Foss car park, 2½ miles west along the road signposted for Schiehallion from the B846 between Aberfeldy and Tummel Bridge, or 6½ miles south-east of Kinloch Rannoch (PH16 5NN): £3 for the day, by coins, card or RingGo, free with a Blue Badge on show. More than 20,000 people a year climb the hill and the car park fills: the overflow is 600 metres east.

## *After the walk*

By the car park's entrance stands a memorial to the Reverend Nevil Maskelyne, who used the hill in the 18th century in his experiment to weigh the world. In winter, look for ptarmigan in their white coats on the snow, the John Muir Trust says.

The walk online, with its photographs and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/schiehallion-from-the-braes-of-foss

It starts at Forestry and Land Scotland's Braes of Foss car park, NN 752 557.

In an emergency, call 999 or 112 and ask for the police.



A MUNRO WALK UP

# Schiehallion



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

# *From the Braes of Foss to the Top*

*Schiehallion, the fairy hill of the Caledonians, rises to 1,083 metres. From the Braes of Foss the John Muir Trust's built path climbs to the rocky summit ridge, and the last stretch is boulders to the top. With no waymarkers on the hill, it is a day for walkers who can navigate with a map and compass, in good weather.*

*words* // Hidden Scotland *photography* // Jack Cairney

A footway leads south from the car park over two footbridges, and a few hundred metres on, the hill path leaves the lower paths and climbs onto the open moor. After the car park there are no waymarkers on the hill at all, the John Muir Trust says: come prepared to navigate. The Trust's built path, moved onto a new line to stop erosion, climbs west for about 3 km, with stone seats and a viewpoint about halfway, Perth & Kinross Council says.

The built path ends where the rocky summit ridge begins, and from there it is roughly 1.5 km across rocks and boulders to the top. There is no made line to follow and nothing to mark the way: the Trust's map calls it an undefined rocky route, and in cloud the ridge gives little help. This is where a map and compass, and the skill to use them, count most. It is also the place to decide: if the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back.

The summit is 1,083 metres, or 3,553 feet. On a clear day the view reaches across Loch Rannoch and Rannoch Moor to the hills of the central Highlands, as far as Glencoe and Ben Nevis. Come down the way you came, with care over the boulders to the start of the built path, and down it to the Braes of Foss, with plenty of daylight left for it.




Up Schiehallion and back the same way: 6¼ miles, Forestry and Land Scotland says.

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