Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for this walk. By our map it is about 9.7 km (6 miles) there and back with about 1,060 metres of climb, and it takes about 5 to 6 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. It is often colder and windier up there than in the glen, and the weather can change quickly. Under snow it is a winter mountain: most call-outs in these hills come from slips on hard snow without crampons or from losing the way in mist, Killin Mountain Rescue Team says. No avalanche forecast covers Stob Binnein: the Scottish Avalanche Information Service forecasts six other areas, which is no sign there is no risk here.

Check the mountain forecast. Wear good walking boots and carry warm, waterproof clothing, plenty of food and drink, and a torch in case the day runs long. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them, and do not rely only on a phone or GPS. Tell someone where you are going and when you will be back.

By car, leave the A84 between Strathyre and Lochearnhead at the junction beside Mhor 84 and follow the narrow, winding single-track road west through Balquhidder and along Loch Voil and Loch Doine for about 12 km to its end at Inverlochlarig. It is single track, so give it time, and start early enough to be down in daylight.

After the walk

Stob Binnein and Ben More are a Site of Special Scientific Interest for their rare upland plants; the national park names ptarmigan, golden eagles, red deer and mountain hares among what you may see.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/stob-binnein-from-inverlochlarig

It starts at the free car park at the end of the public road at Inverlochlarig, at the head of Balquhidder Glen, NN 445 184.

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

A MUNRO WALK UP

Stob Binnein



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Inverlochlarig

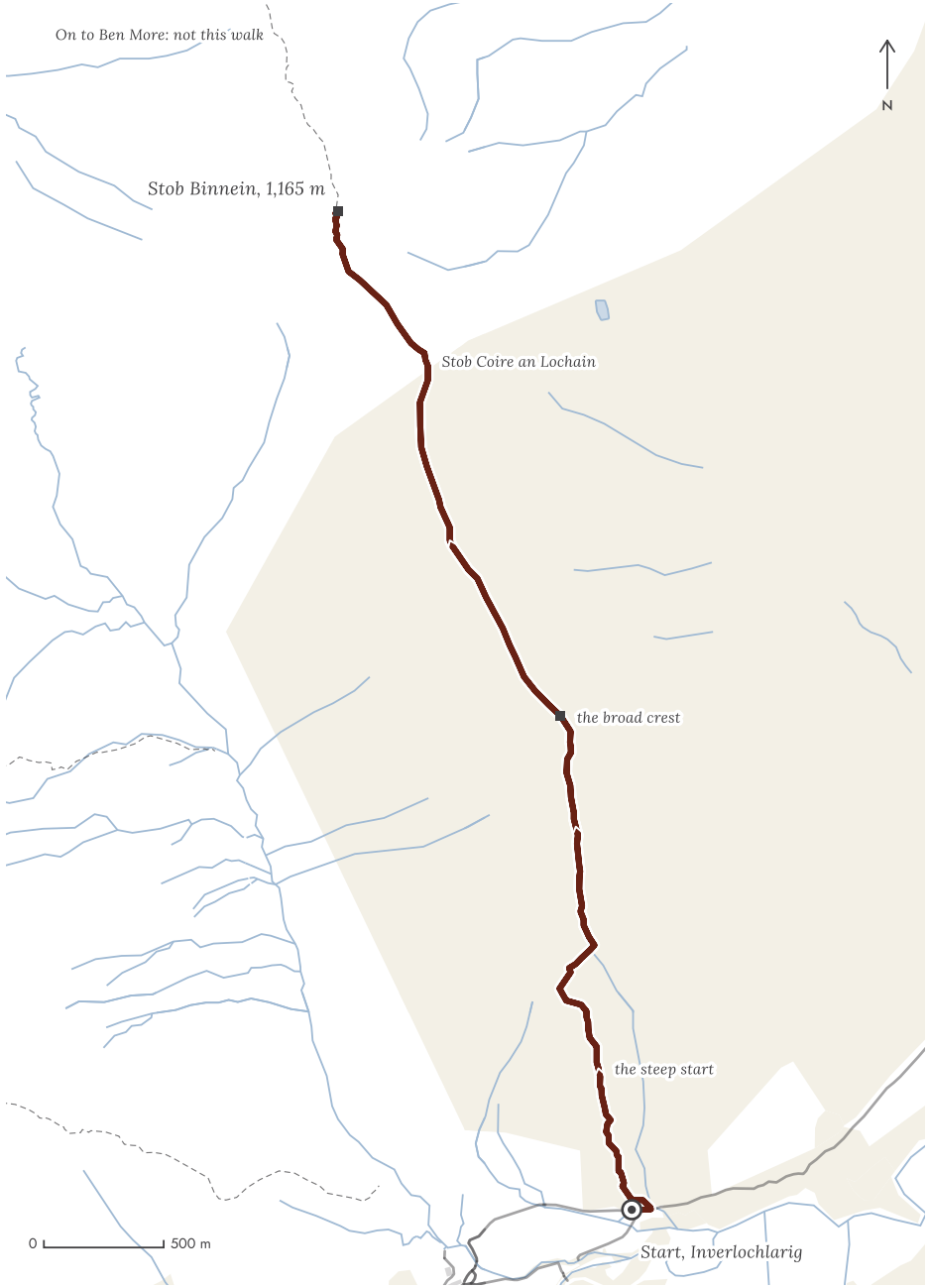
Stob Binnein rises to 1,165 metres at the head of Balquhidder Glen, beside Ben More. This is the way up it on its own, from the car park at the road end at Inverlochlarig: a path up the long south ridge, over Stob Coire an Lochain to the summit, and back the same way. The national park's own way starts from Benmore Farm and goes over Ben More first. There are no waymarkers out on the hill: a day for walkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

The walk starts from the free car park at the end of the public road, which the farm keeps for walkers. The way onto the hill is over a stile on the north side of the road. Inverlochlarig is a working hill farm with sheep, cattle and wild red deer: keep a dog under close control wherever there is livestock, and follow any signs at the start.

A faint path climbs the grassy lower slopes and soon steepens, zigzagging up to Stob Invercarnaig, the shoulder at the south end of the ridge. This is the steepest stretch of the day. Beyond it the ridge widens into a broad grassy crest and the slope eases for a while. This is the place to decide: if the cloud is coming down, the wind is rising or anyone is tiring, turn back.

The path climbs to the top of Stob Coire an Lochain, Stob Binnein's southern top, with a small cairn by a tiny lochan. It dips a little, then climbs the last crest, rockier and loose in places, to the summit at 1,165 metres. A path leaves the top to the north, down to the pass under Ben More: that is not this walk. Go home the way you came, back over Stob Coire an Lochain and down the south ridge. In cloud, check the line with your map and compass before you leave the top.



Up Stob Binnein and back the same way: about 5 to 6 hours.

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