Before you go

No public body gives a distance or a time for the whole way. By our map it is about 5.5 km (3½ miles) there and back with about 670 metres of climb, and it takes about 3 to 4 hours, more with stops, in poor weather or under snow. Under snow it is a winter mountain, in the Glencoe avalanche forecast's area: in the winter of 2010, the avalanche service records, a large natural avalanche swept across the path up to the bealach, and one winter party found the built path a strip of black ice. Go then only with winter gear and the experience to use it.

Check the mountain forecast, and under snow the Scottish Avalanche Information Service's Glencoe forecast. Wear sturdy footwear and carry waterproof and warm layers, water and food. Carry a map and compass and know how to use them: visibility can change markedly with the cloud level, MunroMagic warns, and on open ground in poor visibility following a path without your compass may get you lost. If the cloud comes down, the wind rises or anyone is tiring, turn back by the way you came. The National Trust for Scotland manages the hill, and the Heading for the Scottish Hills tables list no stalking issues.

The car park is on the south side of the A82, about 7 km west of the Kingshouse Hotel, and by our map it is free. When it is full, one guide says, there is a lay-by just uphill and another towards The Study. No source lists toilets, and one guide says there are no facilities, so plan for none.

After the walk

Stob Dubh, at 958 metres the higher of the hill's two Munros, is up the path south-west of the bealach, and most walkers climb both, Wikipedia says: this walk keeps to Stob Coire Raineach. Stob Dubh has a scrambly crest near its top with a real airy feel, Steven Fallon says.

The walk online, with its film and map:
hiddenscotland.com/walks/stob-coire-raineach-from-glen-coe-by-the-lairig-eilde

It starts at the car park at the foot of the Lairig Eilde, on the south side of the A82, NN 188 562.

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

Stob Coire Raineach



A HIDDEN SCOTLAND WALK

From Glen Coe

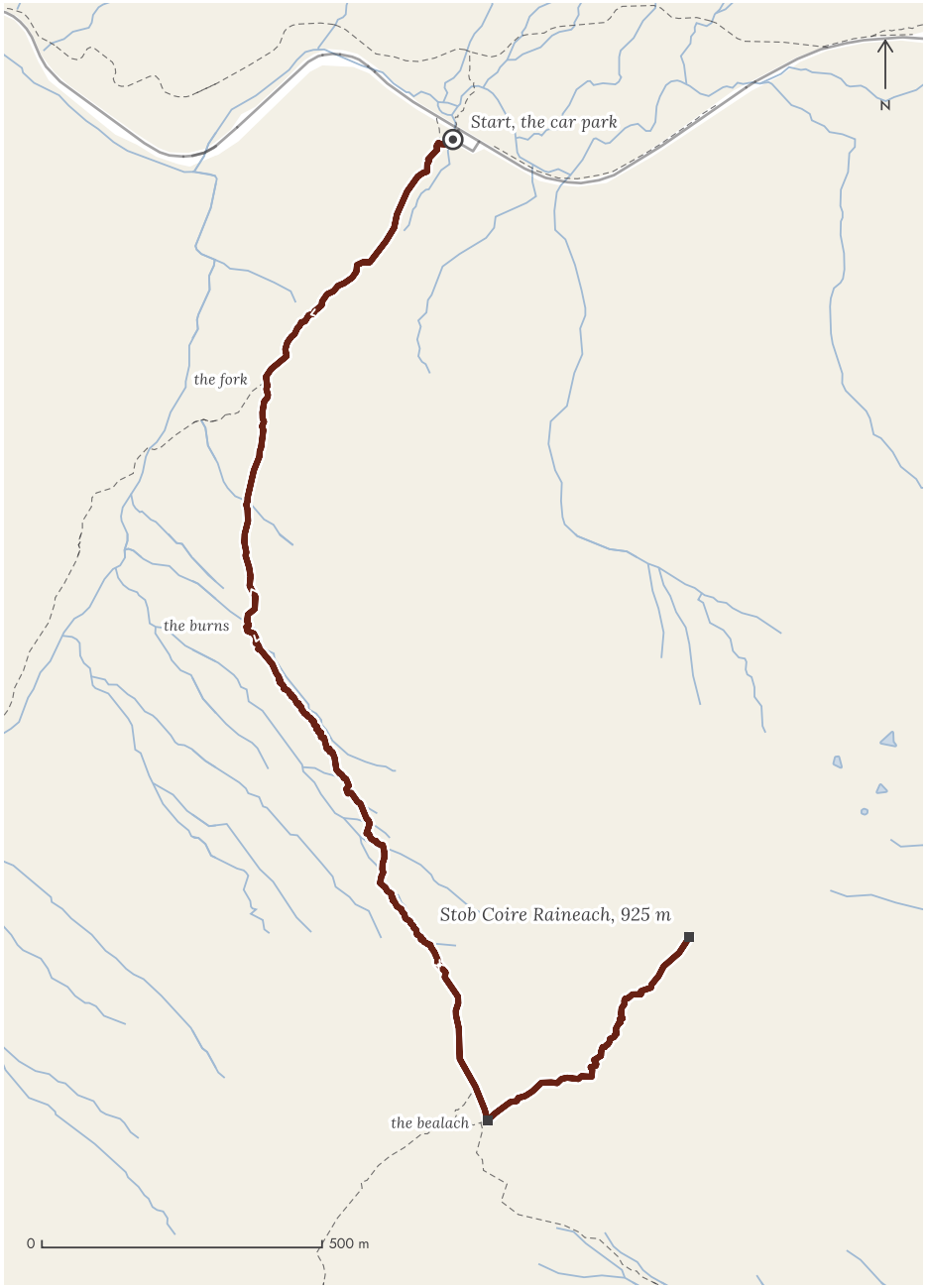
Stob Coire Raineach is 925 metres, the northern and lower of the two Munros on Buachaille Etive Beag, at the head of Glen Coe. This is its usual way on its own: the Lairig Eilde path from the A82, a built path up to the bealach between the hill's two tops, then north-east up a stony ridge to the summit, and back the same way. It is a short Munro, but a steep one, from beside a fast, busy road: for hillwalkers who can find their way with a map and compass.

words // Hidden Scotland

The car park is on the south side of the A82, a fast trunk road, 60 mph by our map, and it can be very busy in summer and at weekends. Turn in and out with care. If you park in a lay-by, walk in single file, well in to the verge, and keep children and dogs close. The Lairig Eilde path climbs gently south-west. About 600 metres out it forks: keep left, uphill.

The left fork fords a small burn about 800 metres out and another about 1 km out, with no bridge. The built path then climbs more steeply, about 435 metres in about 1.6 km to the bealach, fording four more small streams. One guide calls it a consistently steep ascent, hard going in wet or windy weather, and erosion is taking its toll. Streams can rise markedly in a day after rain, MunroMagic warns: if they are running high, turn back.

At the bealach, about 750 metres up, a small cairn marks the junction: one path climbs south-west to Stob Dubh, another drops south-east to the Lairig Gartain. Turn left, north-east. A worn path climbs about 600 metres to the summit through scree and small boulders, with loose ground where care is needed. There are crags near the top and the north side is steep and craggy: keep to the path. Go down the way you came, turning right, north, at the bealach cairn, and right again at the Lairig Eilde path.



Up Stob Coire Raineach from Glen Coe and back the same way: about 3 to 4 hours.

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