



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for nature

Glencoe

Woodland walk

Description

Set amongst beautiful birch woodland and surrounded by Glencoe's magnificent mountains, this walk starts from Glencoe Visitor Centre. The circular route will take you through woodland, home to pine martens, roe deer and red squirrels, and bring you to the ruins at Inverigan, one of the sites of the Glencoe Massacre. From here, you can either walk to Glencoe village, or follow the trail which leads back to the Visitor Centre.

Grade

Easy

Terrain

The path is undulating and is unsurfaced

Distance

1 mile / 1.5km

Time

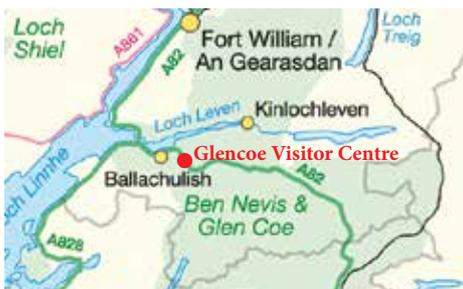
30 mins

OS Map

Landranger Sheet 41

Facilities

Parking
Suitable for picnics
Restaurant at Visitor Centre
Toilets
Shop
Dogs welcome on lead



The Trust is supported by



1 You can start the walk from the viewing platform at the Glencoe Visitor Centre, or from the car park. Both of these start points are great places to see Glencoe's towering mountains – formed through violent volcanic eruptions and later sculpted by massive glaciers which flowed through the glen. You can find out more about the amazing events that formed Glencoe's landscape at the Visitor Centre.

2 A little further along the path, look up at Meall Mor and you might be able to see tiny white dots on the hillside – some of the Blackface sheep which graze here. Grazing is part of our conservation work in the glen. Some habitats, like the flower-rich grasslands which thrive on the lime-rich soil of Meall Mor, need to be grazed to keep scrub down and allow the rare alpine plants which grow here to flourish.

3 As you follow the **BLUE TRAIL**, moving away from the Visitor Centre, you will enter an area of conifer forest. These trees were planted by the Forestry Commission to provide timber, but the Trust is slowly felling the conifers and replanting with mixed native species such as birch, ash, rowan, Scots pine and willow. Today the woodland is home to red squirrels, a protected species and Britain's only native squirrel. Look out for their nests, known as dreys, which they build out of twigs in the branches of the conifers. The squirrels tend to spend most of their active time above ground in the trees, so it's worth looking up to see if you can spot them. One of the biggest threats to red squirrels is the presence of grey squirrels, which were introduced to the UK from North America in the 1880s. Part of our work at Glencoe is to conserve the habitats where the red squirrels live.

4 If you follow the **BLACK TRAIL**, it will lead you to a small hill, a great vantage point for looking down over the award-winning Visitor Centre, which has been constructed along the best ecological guidelines. From here, you can either walk the short distance to the Visitor Centre or retrace your steps to the **BLUE TRAIL**.



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Inverigan



Aonach Eagach ridge



Red squirrel

5 Carry on walking along the **BLUE TRAIL** until you come to the site at Inverigan. The ruined house you see here dates from the late 1800s, but it is thought that an earlier house stood here – one of the clachans that was ‘put to the sword’ during the Massacre of Glencoe. On 13 February 1692, 38 men, women and children, all MacDonalDs, were murdered in cold blood by troops carrying out government orders. Many more died trying to escape into the freezing winter mountains. Look for the nine Scots pine trees which commemorate the nine people thought to have died at this spot during the Massacre.

Please take care on this section as the Forestry Commission use lorries to extract felled timber.

From here, you can either follow the **BLUE TRAIL**, which will lead you back to the Visitor Centre, or follow the path to the left which runs alongside the main road to Glencoe village. To reach the village you must cross the main road (A82) to the police station and walk around the Glencoe Mountain Rescue Centre. Please take care when crossing the A82, which is an extremely busy road.

6 Stop when you arrive at the gate on the **BLUE TRAIL**. This is a good place to see the surrounding mountains. Looking north-east you can see the distinctive dome of the Pap of Glencoe or Sgorr na Ciche, its Gaelic name.

The peak to the right of this is Sgorr-nam Fiannaidh, which translates from Gaelic as the Peak of the Fair-haired Warriors. This is the highest point on the Aonach Eagach ridge (Notched Ridge), which stretches 5½ miles (9km) from the Pap of Glencoe in the west to the Devil’s Staircase in the east, and is the most exposed ridge walk in the UK. Keep looking round to the right and you will see Aonach Dubh, which means the Black Ridge, the first of the mountain group called the Three Sisters.

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To Glencoe village
2 miles

Inverigan

Caravan Site

Glencoe
Visitor Centre

A82

River Coe

-  Gate
-  Car park
-  Information panel
-  Trails