



26 PERTH & KINROSS SCHIEHALLION

▶ Distance: 6 miles/10km ▶ Time: 4 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



The summit of Schiehallion.

PHOTO: JEN & SIM BENSON



CHOSEN BY... JEN & SIM BENSON

The conical 3553-foot peak of Schiehallion holds an important place in history – both in our own personal history, being the first Munro either of us climbed, and in the grander history of astronomy. A memorial at the foot of the mountain commemorates the Schiehallion Experiment of 1774, in which Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne, and mathematician and surveyor, Charles Hutton, succeeded in estimating the mean density of the earth by observing the deflection of a plumb line by the mountain's gravitational pull. Groundbreaking scientific discoveries aside, the walk up

the gently rising winding trail, finishing with some enjoyable boulder-hopping to reach a summit commanding 360-degree views, is a truly memorable day out.

1 Start The walk begins at the Braes of Foss car park, taking the obvious path south-west from the back of the car park. Follow the path as it ascends gently for about 1km, reaching a R turn onto the main Schiehallion path by some ruined enclosures. The main path has only followed this route since the John Muir Trust undertook five years of work to move it from its previous course which had deeply scarred the mountainside.

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Braes of Foss car park, grid ref NN751558, postcode PH16 5NN

Is it for me? A good path up to about 800m then boulders and harder going to the top

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest towns Pitlochry & Aberfeldy

Refreshments None along route, but not far away there's the Glen Lyon Tea Room (01887 866221) or The Habitat Café, Aberfeldy (01887 822944)

Public toilets In the car park at the start

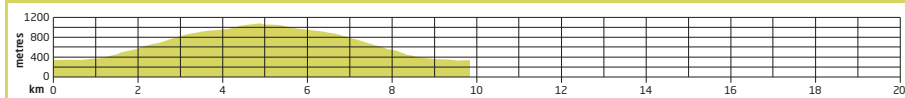
Public transport None

Maps OS Explorer OL49; Landranger 52; Harvey BMM Schiehallion, Ben Lawers and Glen Lyon

2 ¾ mile/1.1km Follow the obvious path generally west to reach the



GRADIENT PROFILE



26 PERTH & KINROSS
SCHIEHALLION▶ OS Explorer map OL49 ▶ Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

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DATE WALKED
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □TIME TAKEN
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DON'T MISS...



The Fortingall Yew that grows in the churchyard in the nearby village of Fortingall is thought it be around 3000 years old and Britain's oldest tree.

long, rising ridge of Schiehallion. Look out for ptarmigan, mountain hares and black grouse as you go; ptarmigan are often so well camouflaged against the rocky ground that they're right by your feet before you notice them. Continue up

the path to an elevation of about 800m where the path peters out onto a boulder field.

3 1/4 miles/2.9km Follow the vague ridgeline across the boulders for another 1.5km, passing several cairns to reach the summit. In good weather the way from the end of the path to the summit and back is fairly obvious, but in poor visibility it's easy to lose your way and taking a bearing is recommended. Clambering up onto the unmarked blocky plateau at the top is a fitting finale, rewarded with 360-degree mountain views. The view west across Rannoch

Moor to the peaks of Glencoe is particularly dramatic.

4 3 miles/5km Return by the outbound route, taking in the glorious views in the opposite direction as you go. Don't be tempted to cut straight down the old path as it's still recovering after many years of use. **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes

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