



# 25 ABERDEENSHIRE LOCHNAGAR

Distance: 11¼ miles/19km Time: 7-8 hours Grade: Challenging



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FEATURE  
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Lochnagar's summit.



PHOTO: DAVID MARSH



### CHOSEN BY... DAVID MARSH

Lying within the boundaries of the Queen's Balmoral Estate, Lochnagar has long had royal connections. It's a favourite of Prince Charles, who even wrote a children's book called the Old Man of Lochnagar and, surprising as it may seem, Queen Victoria climbed to the summit in 1848. Also beloved of both Charles and Victoria is the lodge called Glas-allt-Shiel on the edge of Loch Muick, a refuge for Victoria after the death of her husband Albert. Lochnagar was also the subject of one of Lord Byron's poems which ends with the lines: "Oh for the crags that are wild and

majestic! The steep frowning glories of dark Loch na Garr!" Regardless of its cultural or regal significance, this varied route combining those frowning glories with the tranquil beauty of Loch Muick, is one of the finest hill walks in the Cairngorm area.

**1 Start**  
Leaving the car park walk SW, passing the Visitor Centre. Emerging from the trees, turn R and head across the valley on the track, crossing the bridge over the River Muick. Continue across the flat valley floor to the trees and buildings of Allt-na-giubhsaich.

**2 1 mile/1.5km**  
Continue ahead, ascending

## PLAN YOUR WALK



### ROUTE

**Start/parking** Spittal of Glenmuick Car Park (P&D) grid ref NO309851

**Is it for me?** A long walk with 900m ascent but on mainly good paths bar one bouldery section  
**Stiles** None

### PLANNING

**Nearest town** Ballater (9 miles)

**Refreshments** Several options in Ballater

**Public toilets** Spittal of Glenmuick

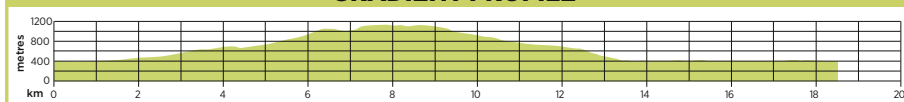
**Public transport** None

**Maps** OS Explorer OL53, Landranger 44; Harvey Superwalker Lochnagar

through the trees, on the L side of the burn initially. The track fords the burn to continue the ascent on the R side of it. 300m after passing the gorge of Clais Rathadan, turn L onto a well-engineered path and follow towards the



## GRADIENT PROFILE



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LOCHNAGAR

OS Explorer map OL53 Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](http://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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bealach between Lochnagar and its subsidiary top of Meikle Pap. Before bealach is reached, on L is a memorial to climber Bill Stuart.

**3** **3¾ miles/5.9km** Shortly after the memorial, the path curves L to ascend steep, bouldery slopes onto the plateau. After passing a 1078m top, stay on the faint path close to the edge, rather than the main path set back from it, and follow it as it curves W and then NW with a further steep ascent. After passing the cairned top of Cac Carn Mór on the L and several dramatic gullies on the R, head NNW away from

the cliffs to a conical top of Cac Carn Beag, on which the trig point and summit are situated.

**4** **5¼ miles/8.4km** Retrace steps to the cairn at Cac Carn Mór and take the clear path heading SE, descending to reach the watercourse called Glas Allt. The path runs along its L side initially before fording it just above the 700m contour. 400m beyond the ford, the path veers R and steepens markedly as the dramatic Falls of the Glasallt are passed. Continue steeply down into the trees to reach Glas-allt-Shiel lodge.

**5** **8½ miles/13.6km** Turn L on track by Loch Muick's shore and follow NE to loch's end. Just after boat house, turn R off track and continue around loch, passing shingle beach, to where the River Muick exits loch. Cross using footbridge and follow path NE to meet track. Turn L and follow back to Spittal of Glenmuick and car park. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**

[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](http://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING