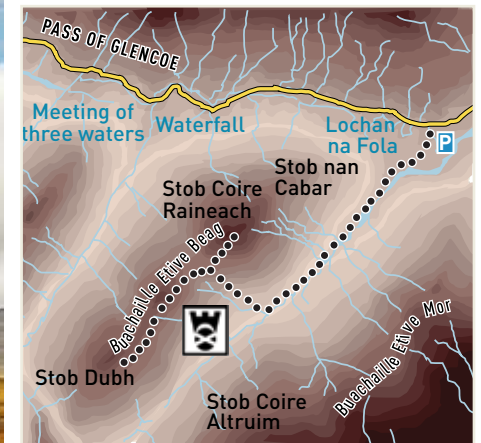


BUACHAILLE ETIVE BEAG, GLEN COE (Strenuous)



What you'll see: Memorable views from the summit ridge

THE 'wee' buachaille as it is affectionately known by walkers is rather dwarfed by its eastern big brother, Buachaille Etive Mor.

This is a pity because while it lacks the position and the rocky ridges and buttresses of Stob Dearg, the frontal peak of Buachaille Etive Mor, Buachaille Etive Beag is still a fine hill with a memorable summit ridge.



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Things are not helped by having its highest summit, 958m Stob Dubh, furthest from the Glen Coe road and partly obscured by 925m Stob Coire Raineach and Stop nan Cabar in front. It is only when Mor and Beag are viewed from the west down Glen Etive, that the 'wee' buachaille can compete. In fact, of the two end peaks the 'wee' buachaille's is the highest by two metres.

Two Munros for a relatively shortish day is always good value and Buachaille Etive Beag certainly offers that.

The peak can be climbed from various directions. The western ridge from Glen Etive is unrelentingly steep, the northern flanks from Lairig Eilde in Glen Coe involve an eroded and

boggy path, while the southern flanks from Lairig Gartain in Glen Coe offer a significantly drier route. The latter allows the walker a certain amount of route independence.

Park west of Altnafeadh and east of Lochan na Fola at a large car park in an old quarry, from where the right of way leads up Lairig Gartain and over into Glen Etive.

Follow this path alongside the River Coupall to where it is possible to head directly up the shallow corrie to the col of Mam Buidhe between Stob Coire Raineach and the unnamed point 902m. The going is reasonable underfoot but steep. The rocky ridge on the right gains the summit of Stob Coire Raineach and feels

The essentials

MAP OS 1:50,000 SHEET 41

DISTANCE 7.5 MILES [12 KM]

GRADE STRENUOUS

APPROXIMATE TIME 4-5 HRS

START/FINISH LAIRIG GARTAIN CAR PARK

as hard work in descent as it does in ascent, but once that is over a steady climb gains point 902m from where the ridge levels and narrows into a delightful but easy arete leading to the stony summit of Stob Dubh.

Your reward is spectacular views south down the sweep of Glen Etive to Loch Etive and the granite peaks of Stob Coir' an Albannaich, Glas Bheinn Mhor and Ben Starav. Bidean dominates in the west and not surprisingly the big Buachaille asserts its authority in the east. After you have had your fill, retrace your outward route back to Glen Coe visitor centre.



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