

PASS OF KILLIECRANKIE (Moderate)

What you'll see: Lovely wooded hillsides and the Soldier's Leap

A VERY pleasant and scenic, circular walk over the hillside above the Pass of Killiecrankie, then back through the Pass, alongside the River Garry. There is an National Trust for Scotland visitor centre at the north end of the Pass, just off the old A9, which can be visited either before, or after the walk.

The walk is best started from the B8019 at the south end of the Pass, where there is a car park on the other side of Garry Bridge. Walk up the single track road that leads north off the B8019, passing the church at Tenandry and continue for 500m, until just beyond the entrance to the house at Fonvuick. Take the waymarked path that leads off left, along the edge of the fields and go through a gate to the base of a steep slope. A rising traverse now leads back towards Tenandry through lovely birch woods before the path climbs up and loops around to pass ruined cottages at Corhulichan.

At the highpoint of the path, just beyond a solitary larch tree, a small path can be followed off right through the heather to the top of Craig Fonvuick. This provides a splendid viewpoint across Killiecrankie to Ben Vrackie and the Beinn a' Ghlo massif, then up the Glen Garry and the River Garry to Blair Castle.

Back on the main path, descend towards the farm at Ardtulichan, then go through birch woods and along the bottom edge of the tree line. Pass through two gates, then drop down and traverse the hillside to the road beyond Balrobbie Farm, which leads over the river to Killiecrankie. Now head towards Pitlochry on the old A9, taking care on a short section that has no pavement; it is possible to keep off the road by crossing it and following a path towards the hotel.

Opposite the entrance to the hotel a track leads down to the floor of the Pass, over a railway tunnel to the River Garry and the Soldier's Leap. Here, a fleeing Redcoat is said to have made an amazing leap over the river to escape his victorious Jacobite pursuers following the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689.

The track now leads alongside the river through the wooded and steep sided slopes of the Pass of Killiecrankie. It is hard to believe that this is one of



the main arterial routes into the Highlands and that the slopes above hold a railway and two roads, all stacked one above the other. Lower down, cross to the other side by a footbridge, then climb steps beside some fine Douglas Firs at Garry Bridge to regain the car park.

The essentials

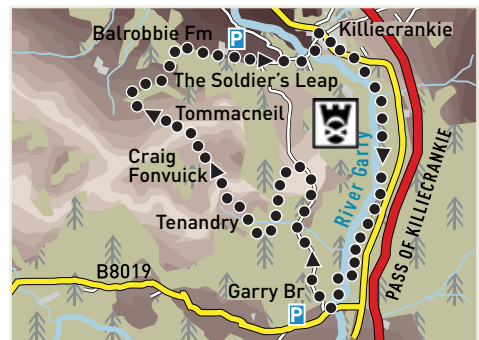
MAP OS LANDRANGER SHEET 43

DISTANCE UP TO 5 MILES (8 KM)

APPROXIMATE TIME 2½ HOURS

GRADE MODERATE

START/FINISH GARRY BRIDGE CAR PARK (NN 913 610), JUST OFF THE A9 NORTH OF PITLOCHRY



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