

Ben Ledi walk. 4 mile northwest of Callander

Rough walking, lengthy with steep sections and many 'false summits'. In good conditions, it is a relatively easy climb on mountain grasses and some slightly squelchy peat beds to the summit of Ben Ledi. A serious walk in winter conditions - allow double time. In fresh drifted snow the track can be impassible. The headwall of the corrie to the east of the summit ridge forms a dangerous cornice after heavy snow - keep well clear..

Ben Ledi is not a 'Munro' but is in a prominent position on the southern edge of the Highlands and can therefore be seen from many parts of the southern Highlands in Scotland's National Park.

The Route

Traditional route is from Stank car park (about 4 mile north Callander off A84, turn left at 'Forest Cabins' sign to cross a metal bridge,). This route is well marked and visible all the way to the top.

If planning to go all the way over to return by Stank Glen, be aware that the right turn off the Bealach nan Corp IS NOT MARKED and is easily missed. If you find the track rising gently, or pass a small lochan you have missed the turn and will end up on Ben Vane if you don't turn around!

Description

Take the wide gravelled path which starts at the bridge and climb steeply through plantation for about half a mile to exit the woods and continue at the other side of a timber track. Another half mile, a long flight of rough stone steps and a gentle slope takes you into a dip to cross the burn and a stile where the engineered track ends at height about 1500 feet.

After crossing the stile the track veers SSE and climbs fairly steeply below craggy outcrops, **don't be tempted** to short-cut up the crags as they are steeper than they look! Half a mile past the stile the track climbs suddenly to the right and doubles round to head approx NW for one mile up the long east shoulder to the summit. Be warned there are 3 false summits!

At the summit

- The view to south east over Callander extends past Stirling, the Wallace monument and the Ochil hills to the Firth of Forth and Kincardine bridge and beyond.
- A little west of south and about 16 miles away is the distinctive lump of Dumgoyne hill at the end of the Campsie hills with the high-rise towers of Glasgow beyond. A little further west on a clear day the firth of Clyde and Goat Fell on Arran may be seen.
- Further round to the west, behind Ben Venue, is Ben Lomond, and now almost due west, The Cobbler (looking as if it has two horns) and the Arrochar Alps.
- A little west of north west, at about 20 miles is the distinctive peak of Ben Lui with its huge corrie. 12 miles to the north west beyond Ben Vane are the Crianlarich peaks including the distinctive twins of Ben More and Stobinian.
- 20 miles away to the NNE is the Lawers range and Tarmachan Ridge, then round to the north west and a mere 7 miles distant is Glen Ample, Stuc a Chroin, Ben Vorlich, and slightly closer, Ben Each.
- Closer still, to the east below Ben Ledi is Loch Lubnaig, to the south Lochs Venachar and Achray, and to the west is Glen Finglas, with a glimpse of Loch Katrine and in the distance, Loch Arklet.

You can now return by the same route as that used in the ascent,

OR

Continue in a generally northerly direction along the ridge past the ragged summit of Creag Coire na Fuaire then to follow an old fence for less than a mile to Bealach nan Corp (the pass of the dead - an old coffin road), approximate GR558110. Turn right here (if the ground starts to rise again you have missed the turn off and you'll end up on Ben Vane) to follow a rough track down beside the burn for about half a mile to cross a stile and join a newly formed gravel path. Keep to the left (don't take a path joining on the right) and cross a burn by huge stepping stones. A little further down this path, re-cross the burn by a bridge and continue down the track with the burn on your left. Drop down to join a forest road wher you turn right for just a few yards before turning left onto a track beside the burn heading down into the woods. About 200 yards down the path a splendid waterfall is on the left. Continue down the path to another forest track, but turn off almost immesiately to the left to pass through a little more woodland before joining a timber road leading down to the riverside. Join the riverside pathway and head downstream for about 3/4 mile to the carpark.

