



25 HIGHLAND BEINN DEARG MHEADHONACH

▶ Distance: 5½ miles/8.8km ▶ Time: 3-4 hours ▶ Grade: Challenging



SEE
FEATURE
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The rugged approach
to the summit.

PHOTO: THEO FORD-SAGERS

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Free parking in car park at eastern end of the bridge at Sligachan, grid ref NG487299

Is it for me? Navigation is easy, but the path isn't always clear and some bogginess is likely. Some of the route is quite steep, and you'll be very exposed in bad weather

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Portree

Refreshments The Sligachan Hotel, (Tel: 01478 650204)

Public toilets Sligachan Hotel (make sure you buy something at the bar)

Public transport Stagecoach operates a coach service that connects Sligachan with Portree and Broadford on Skye (Nos. 50 and 52)

Maps OS Explorer 411; Landranger 32



CHOSEN BY...

THEO FORD-SAGERS

If you dream of reaching lofty viewpoints among the legendary mountains of the Isle of Skye, but the Cuillin ridge is a bit beyond you (it's about as demanding as ridges get in the UK after all) this simple walk is an ideal cheat. It's perfectly accessible, starting and finishing close to the main road that passes through Sligachan, and there's no scrambling required, yet the sight of the northern parapets of the Cuillin ridge from the summit of Beinn Dearg Mheadhonach (meaning the 'middle red hill') will knock your socks off. It's not quite as

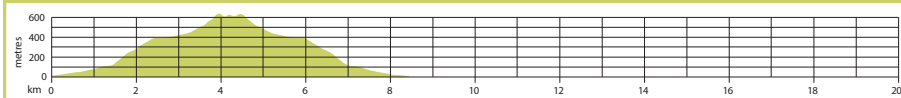
high as the two summits that extend north around the shady basin of Coire na Sgàirde, but this peak feels like it occupies a privileged spot in the heart of somewhere very special.

1 Start

Begin at the roadside gate on the east side of the river, the opposite bank from the hotel. Take the clearly defined footpath as it ascends south-east, and keep to the L, alongside Allt Daraich (which means 'oak stream') on your L. As the path passes trees and a bunkhouse (Sligachan Lodge), enter a gate on L, after which the route becomes poorly defined and boggy. Follow along the top of a dramatic gorge. When the water



GRADIENT PROFILE



25 HIGHLAND BEINN DEARG MHEADHONACH

► OS Explorer map 411 ► Buy maps at: ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop

bends L, don't follow it, but continue straight on.

2 ½ mile/0.8km

From here, the path remains poorly defined. Make out across the moor, heading south-east towards the rounded ridge which descends towards you. It's squelchy in parts, but the path becomes clearer once you reach the base of the slope. Assess the weather before continuing; you'll be increasingly exposed from this point upwards.

3 1 mile/1.8km

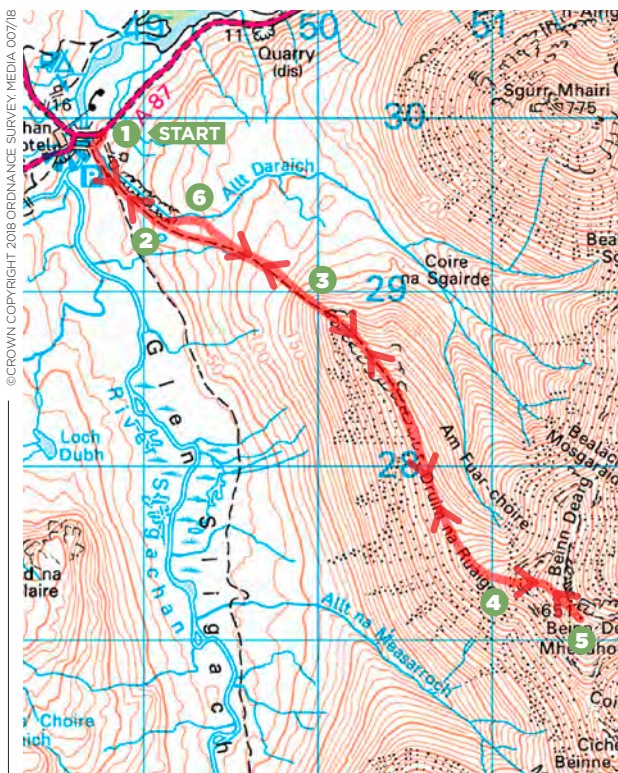
Follow the path as it climbs up onto the ridge. This is the steepest part of the route, and is mainly quite firm underfoot. After the cairn, which is slightly L and above the main path, the gradient along the rounded ridge (Druim na Ruaige) is gentler. Follow the top of the ridge to the scree, which marks the start of the final climb.

4 2 ¼ miles/3.6km

When you reach the scree, look for the small cairn close by. It signals the start of the best path upwards, which zig-zags up the crest towards the summit. (There's a more minor path to the L which climbs up the side of the scree, but this one becomes tricky and is less direct.)

5 2 ½ miles/3.9km

As you approach the top, veer R and walk about 150m



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to reach the summit of Beinn Dearg Mheadhonach. The view of Sgurr nan Gillean, Marsco and Blabheinn from here is hard to beat.

6 5 miles/8km

Return along the way you have come, but leave time for a small diversion. At the boggy valley floor, veer R, and aim to reach Allt Daraich a few hundred meters upstream from where you previously left the gorge. You'll find

waterfalls and a gorgeous hidden pool. Skinning dipping here is hard to resist on a warm day, but please keep the water pure as people drink it downstream! **CW**

VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:
lfto.com/cwroutes

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



OS MAPS



Ordnance Survey

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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

