

PWA1 Glencoe Lochan and Woodland, Glencoe

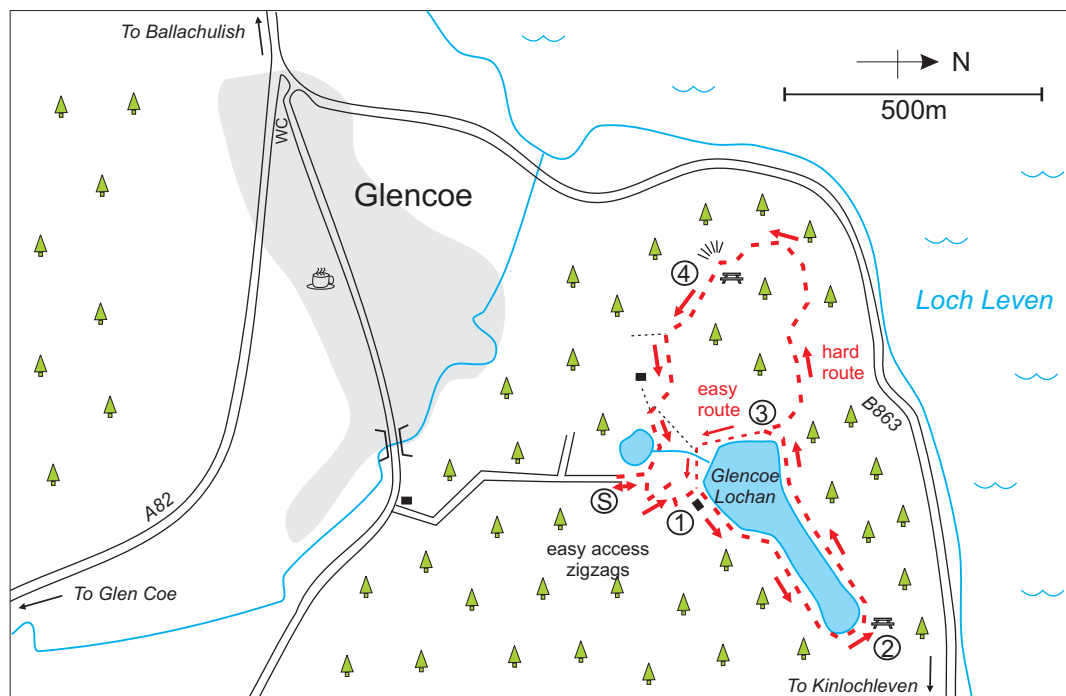


Outline Information

Distance: 1/2.5 miles (2/4 km)
Time: 45 mins/1 hour 30 mins
Grade: Easy/Moderate
Map: OS Explorer OL384
Grid Ref: 104594

This walk combines two waymarked forest trails in the Glencoe Estate woodlands to give a varied route with great views of the lakes and mountains. The lochan and many of the paths were built by Lord Strathcona in the 19th Century for his Canadian wife. It is a beautiful place and you come across patches of redwoods as well as getting a wonderful view of the Pap of Glencoe across the lake.

Though the full route is tough going and you really need an ATP, the short 1 mile route just around the Lochan is suitable for all and the path to access the lake has been built in gentle zigzags (with rest benches) to make it suitable for wheelchairs. Good paths all the way, but the woodland section is very undulating with some short, steep ascents.



Getting there

Drive through the centre of Glencoe village and over the bridge. Turn left by the lodge, sign to hospital and forest walks. Go up the track and take the right fork. Car park at the end of the road.

S. The walk starts along the red route, so follow the red feather waymarkers up the easy access zigzags to a cross-roads where you go left. Climb gently up the slope, ignoring paths to the left and right until you reach Glencoe Lochan by a green wooden hut. *Now Forestry Commission, the lake and surrounding woodland was created by in the 19th Century Lord Strathcona on the Glencoe estate. His wife was Canadian and of Native American heritage, and though the woodland was created to help her feel at home, she never settled.*

1. At the hut, go straight ahead to walk around the lochan along the smooth, level gravel path (very nice going!). Look out for dense firs on your right and the small islands in the lochan which are now covered in rhododendrons. Continue round the lake, where there are strategically placed benches and picnic tables along the way! It's also worth heading out onto the wooden platforms for the view out over the water. These have been built for fishing, but you can get a pushchair onto them, but they wobble as they are floating.

2. At the end of the lake, you get a lovely view along the length of the lochan to Creag Gorm on the other side of Glen Coe. Ignore the blue route to the right and head back along the opposite shore. Look out for a great view of the Pap of Glencoe (Sgorr na Ciche) which is reflected in the water on a clear day.

3. For the easy route, bear round to the left and cross the lochan dam to return to the green hut. Turn right and simply follow the zigzags back to the car park.

For the harder woodland route, before you reach the lochan dam once more, turn right by a picnic table to follow the yellow marker posts into the woodlands. *This section of the route is rougher and quite steep in places and we recommend ATPs only.*

Follow the obvious path into the tall scots pine woodland, with rhododendron undergrowth, mosses and ferns. Follow the undulations, steep in places, out of the rhododendrons and into dense pine forest. Go round through the trees into mixed woodland. Head uphill over a rough stretch taking care as there is a drop to the right. As you drop back down into pine forest, you get a view of Loch Leven through the trees to your right. Look out for the redwoods!

Continue along the path which has some awkward tree roots until it levels out temporarily at a viewpoint with a picnic table for a well deserved break! Here you get a lovely view down Loch Leven towards Ballachulish with Creag Ghorm on the left and Beinn am Aonaich Mhoir on the right shore. The viewpoint is fenced, but be aware of drops on either side and keep little walkers under control.

4. Carry on along the path from the viewpoint downhill over roots and rocks and then back uphill to a bench before dropping down again. Continue to a fork where you take the left fork heading slightly uphill. At the T-junction turn right and bump down the easy steps. Turn left away from the house and continue along the nice flat path, past a small pool on your right to return to the car park.

Enjoyed this walk? Then why not try [PWA5 Lower Black Loch](#) or [PWA2 Crinan Canal](#)?