

Ben More and Stob Binnein

Start / Parking: NN425268 Park in the layby on the north side the A85 beside Loch Iubhair, to the east of Benmore Farm.

Maps: OS Landranger 1:50,000 Sheet 51 and 57
OS Explorer 1:25,000 Sheet

Ascent: 1,297m / 4,255 feet

Route Distance: 9km / 5½ miles

Grading: A strenuous expedition. Suitable for experienced hillwalkers who are prepared to carry the proper equipment. There are no easy escape routes from either summit.

Route and Information:

The twin peaks of Ben More and Stob Binnein rise to 1,174 metres (3,852 feet) Grid Ref NN432244 and 1,165 metres (3,822 feet) Grid Ref NN434226 respectively making them the 16th and 18th highest points in the land. The summit of Ben More is a steep sided triangular pyramid with crags mainly restricted to its southeast face. From the top of Ben More there is a classic view of the ridge running up to Stob Binnein, not forgetting to mention the views of the Mamlorn hills to the North.

The shortest and most direct ascent, if not necessarily the best, is from Benmore farm heading southeast into Benmore Glen then ascending southeast to the summit of Ben More.

From the layby, follow the road-side to Benmore Farm. Take care crossing the carriageway and climb the stile over the roadside fence where a signpost points the way to Ben More. Follow the Land Rover track for a few hundred metres then take a southeast line for the top heading up the unrelenting, steep Sron nam Forsairean ridge. Ben More translates as "big hill" and they're not kidding - the contours tell no lies!

Stob Binnein is relatively straightforward; simply head south from the summit of Ben More to the Bealach-eadar-dha-Beinn at 862m (2,828 feet) Grid Ref NN433236, then walk south-southeast up the ridge to the summit.

For the return home, the easiest way is to back track to the bealach then drop down west into the valley and follow the Benmore Burn back to the farm.

This is the shortest but not the best route for these mountains.