

Ben Nevis Challenge

Trip style: Challenge walks

Destination: 📍 Scottish Highlands

Trip code: GLC03-CHA01

Grades: 1-5

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 63kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The lofty peak of Ben Nevis has long beckoned walkers and climbers up for a challenge. Its name translates as 'mountain with its head in the skies', and conquering Britain's highest and most iconic mountain at 1344 metres above sea level (4,411ft) rewards with serious bragging rights and (on a clear day) staggering views over Glen Nevis and beyond. What's more, staying at our cosy country house near Glen Coe means you'll share the challenge with a small group of fellow, like-minded walkers, ready for the adventure.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- The sense of achievement at bagging Britain's highest mountain
- Sharing the experience with fellow walkers
- Enjoying sociable evenings at our country house
- Soaking up the increasingly jaw-dropping views as you climb the main track
- Meeting like-minded walkers in a small, friendly group
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 12 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: A local leg stretcher

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km) Ascent: 3,200ft (980m) Today we'll go for a warm up walk where there's the chance to get to know each other. Our route climbs over undulating mountain ridges to the summit of Mam na Gualainn. From the top, Loch Leven stretches out below you, then we'll carry on climbing to reach the summit of Beinn na Caillich. Afterwards we'll descend to join the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven.

Day 3: Ben Nevis

Distance: 10 miles (16.5km) Ascent: 4,500ft (1,380m) An early start sees us in beautiful Glen Nevis, under the towering hulk of 'the Ben's' western slopes. Before you know it, we'll be at the half-way Lochan, then counting down the series of huge zig zags up the flank of the mountain until we reach the magnificent rocky summit plateau. You'll need to be able to keep a steady pace, but we'll have plenty of stops to rest, eat, and stay hydrated. We'll return the same way. You'll need to be reasonably fit with stamina (we allow up to nine hours in total for the whole journey including ascent and descent) and will need to have done some hill walking. The main track we follow (once a bridle path for ponies to access a now-ruined observatory on the summit) follows broad rocky slopes.

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Alltshellach

For a combination of mountain views, olde-worlde charm, and somewhere comfortable to sleep, this stately Scottish house in North Ballachulish has an enviable setting right on the shores of Loch Leven. The walking opportunities here are as every bit rugged and romantic as you'd expect, especially around Glen Coe, the Mamores, Kinlochleven, Bidean nam Bian, and Ben Nevis – the 1,345-metre-high peak towering above glistening lochans and glacial valleys in the north-west Highlands. You can also spend time in Fort William and ride the Hogwarts-esque Jacobite steam train as it makes its way through beauty spots such as Loch Eil, Glenfinnan, and Arisaig to the fishing port of Mallaig.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.