

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Glen Affric-Dog Falls-Coire Loch Circuit (Highland)

Route Summary

A fairly short walk in pine forest at beautiful Glen Affric. The 238m overall ascent on the route is compensated for by the scenic attractions of the fast-running River Affric, the peaceful Coire Loch, and the fabulous view westwards up the Glen from the highest point reached.

Duration: 2.5 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: No public transport services nearby. Car park at the Dog Falls picnic area where the walk starts/ends. Forestry Commission charges apply (e.g. £2 per day).

Length: 6.130 km / 3.83 mi.

Height Gain: 238 meter. **Height Loss:** 238 meter.

Max Height: 313 meter. **Min Height:** 182 meter.

Surface: Moderate. Good forest roads and well-maintained paths.

Child Friendly: Yes, if children are used to walks of this distance and overall ascent.

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes, on lead on public roads and in the Dog Falls car-park.

Refreshments: Try the Bog Cotton Cafe or Slaters Arms pub in Cannich. Alternatively, there are options in Beauly.



Map © Thunderforest/OpenStreetMap

Description

This pine forest walk in Glen Affric combines three of the way-marked Forestry Commission routes at the Dog Falls car-park and picnic area 4 miles west of Cannich. Often described as the most beautiful glen in Scotland, Glen Affric contains the third largest area of ancient

Caledonian pinewoods in Scotland and is surrounded by moorland and high mountains. The area holds various important reserve and conservation designations and is an understandably popular destination for hikers, climbers and mountain bikers. Water plays a big part in the environment here, too. In addition to the River Affric there are many lochs



(and little lochans), most notably Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Loch Affric. To take advantage of all that water, the Affric-Beauly hydro-electric power scheme is based around Glen Strathfarrar, Glen Cannich and Glen Affric. Walking alongside the Glen Affric river, tumbling over rocks with mature woodland on either side, makes for a very scenic start to the walk, where the route also visits the viewpoint for the impressive Dog Falls gorge. Heading away from the river into the forest, the route then passes Coire Loch, a beautiful little highland lochan where rare dragon-flies and damsel-flies may be spotted. The principal focal point on the route, at the highest point, is the Glen Affric viewpoint where there is an information board identifying the breath-taking array of hills you can see in front of you, above Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Loch Affric. For more information, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Affric

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affric-Beauly_hydro-electric_power_scheme

<https://forestryandland.gov.scot/visit/glen-affric>

Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the Glen Affric Dog Falls car-park

(57.31232; -4.85205)

Start the walk at the Glen Affric Dog Falls car-park, about 4 miles west of Cannich. Facing the bridge over the River Affric (but NOT crossing the bridge), take the path to the left with the river on your right side. There are opportunities to divert to the river-bank for some fine views of the river.



(2) Cross road and up steps

(57.31354; -4.84660)

In just over 350 m, follow the path up to the access road. Take care crossing the road and walk up the steps on the other side. Carry on taking the woodland path. (365 m)



(3) Go right and downhill to Dog Falls viewpoint

(57.31371; -4.84414)

In 160 m, go right and downhill to follow the sign-posted Dog Falls path as it crosses the road again, descending to a protected viewpoint over the impressive Dog Falls gorge. (522 m)



(4) Dog Falls viewpoint

(57.31336; -4.84404)

In about 40 m, check out the viewpoint for the impressive Dog Falls gorge on the River Affric. When you are ready, re-trace your steps over the road and back into the pine wood. At the Dog Falls sign, go right to continue following the path through the trees which will descend to the access road again. Cross the road and follow the path down to the river where you cross the wooden pedestrian bridge. (561 m)



(5) Take left fork at y-junction after bridge

(57.31313; -4.84117)

In 325 m from Dog Falls, soon after crossing the pedestrian bridge, take the left fork at a paths y-junction. (885 m)



(6) Coire Loch

(57.31292; -4.83334)

In 600 m, you will arrive at an information board near Coire Loch. When you are ready to leave the pretty scene, carry on taking the path you were on. In the 300 m, or so, the path joins rough forest road, which you turn right onto. (1.5 km)



(7) Go right at t-junction - marked Car Park

(57.30939; -4.83200)

In about 500 m from the Coire Loch info board, at a signposted junction, go right to take the direction indicated for the car-park. (1.8 km)



(8) Carry on for Car Park

(57.31085; -4.84524)

After 1.2 km, arriving at a walks signpost, carry on taking the forest road in the direction of the car-park. (3.3 km)



(9) Veer left and uphill for viewpoint

(57.30832; -4.85823)

In 800 m, at a signed junction, go left and uphill for the Glen Affric viewpoint. (4.1 km)



(10) Right up steps to viewpoint

(57.30541; -4.86359)

After walking uphill for 500 m, take the signed path, up steps, to the Glen Affric viewpoint. (4.6 km)



(11) Glen Affric viewpoint

(57.30564; -4.86420)

In less than 100 m you will have arrived at the breath-taking Glen Affric viewpoint where there is an information board identifying the hills you can see ahead of you, above Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin and Loch Affric*. When you are ready, retrace your steps to Waypoint 9 where you turn left to descend to the River Affric and Dog Falls car-park where you started the walk. (4.7 km)

**Note: Often described as the most beautiful glen in Scotland, Glen Affric contains the third largest area of ancient Caledonian pinewoods in Scotland. For more information, see:*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Affric



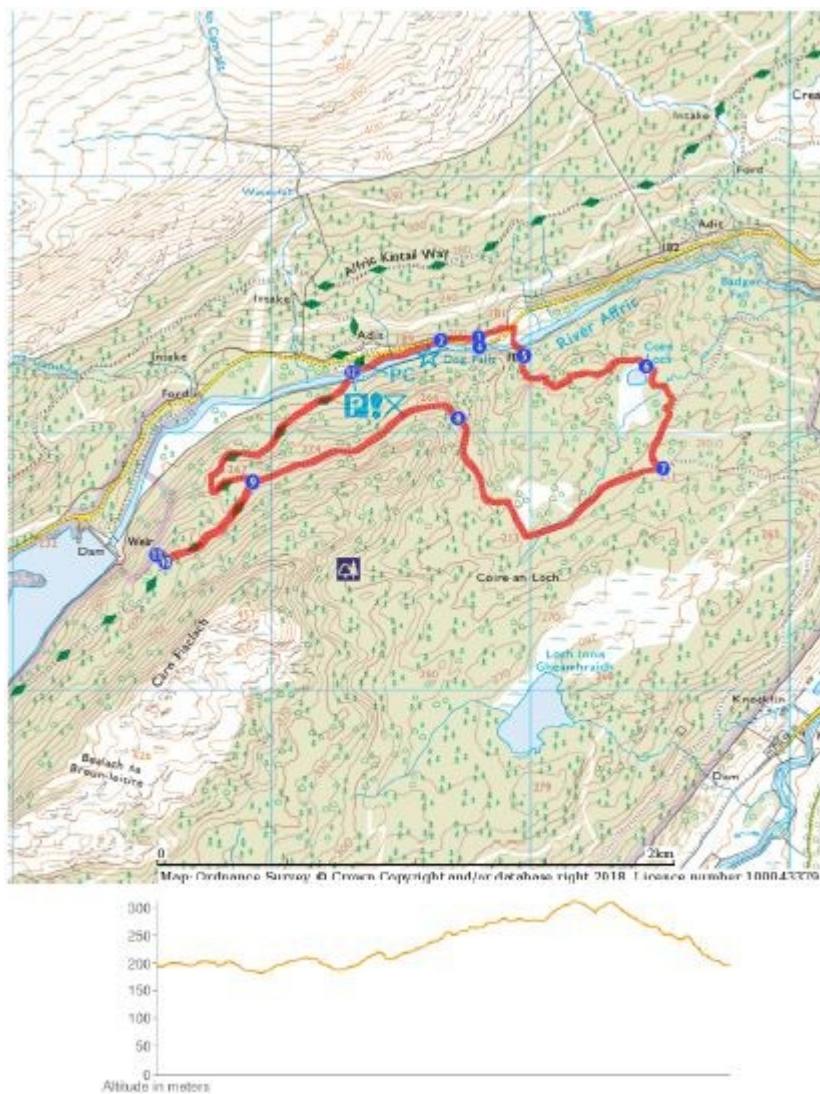
(12) Finish walk back at car-park

(57.31230; -4.85221)

After descending on forest roads for 1.4 km, cross the bridge over the River Affric to finish the walk at the car-park where you started. (6.1 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on AllTrails](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)