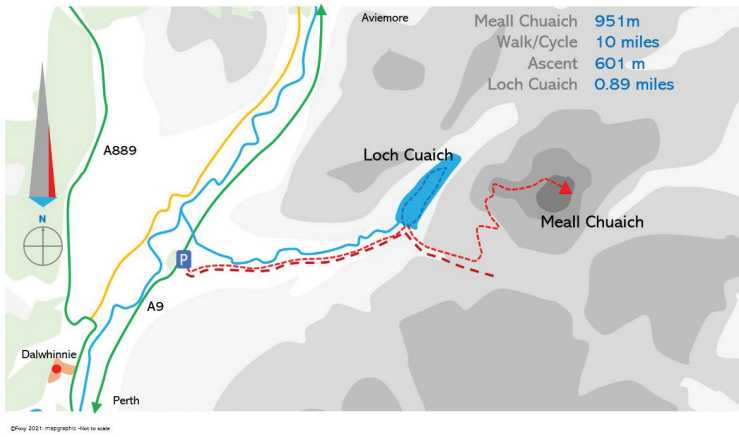


Meall Chuaich + Loch Cuaich



It's this way...

Three days later the weather has cleared. As I have to drop my daughter off at Inverness airport, I take the opportunity to drive the extra one hour south to Meall Chuaich and Loch Cuaich near Dalwhinnie.

Meall Chuaich is one of the more accessible Munros with an easy walk in and a relatively gentle ascent. There is a layby just south of the gate that marks the track up to Loch Cuaich; from here it is an easy bike in for almost three miles to the base of the mountain. I leave my bike propped against a stalkers' hut and from there it is another hour and a half to the summit, a steep haul to start with before the gradient eases.

There is relatively little bog and for once my boots remain dry. When I reach the summit there is a cold wind blowing and I only spend a few minutes there before I jog back down to my bike. I peddle the short distant from the stalkers' hut up to the loch to unload my gear. It's a quick process to inflate my pack raft, seat and buoyancy aid and soon I am pushing out over the shallows until I reach deeper water. The sun has come out now and the wind has stopped. It is perfect conditions for an afternoon float in the mountains, a far cry from the DNF on the Storr a couple of days earlier.



The easy cycle in to Loch Cuaich.



Perfect conditions for an afternoon on Loch Cuaich.