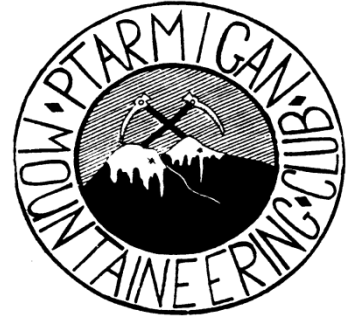


Ptarmigan Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club



Website: www.ptarmiganmc.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter

July 2023

The Meet on Sunday 2nd July is to Glen Nevis

DETAILS OF THE MEET

The bus will leave Waterloo Place at 07.30 and travel via Shandwick Place (bus stop opposite Boots), Haymarket, Roseburn, PC World and with a comfort stop at Callander or Tyndrum, to arrive at Glen Nevis (Poldubh car park [NN146683]) at approximately 11.00 – 11.15.

The bus will leave Glen Nevis at 17.00.

Bookings and cancellations: either 1. (Preferably) Email bookings@ptarmiganmc.org.uk
or 2. Text and phone Tim Featherstone 075 49 48 0321

Emergency Number 075 49 48 0321 must be taken on the hill with each party and should be used to advise the bus convener of any problems or significant changes of plan.

Main map required: OS Landranger Sheet 41

The fare will be £25 and, while cash can be taken in the bus, it would be preferred if you could pay by bank transfer IN ADVANCE of the outing. The day before is fine. Please pay to:

PTARMIGAN MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (note name is not yet changed); 80-17-68; 00248765

For those without access to this facility, please post a cheque payable to the club, to Adrian Casey, 8 Succoth Place Edinburgh EH12 6BL.

Given the significant rise in our costs, primarily the fee we pay to the coach operator, we must, regrettably, increase our fares and subscriptions for 2023. The subscription for 2023 is £30 for an individual, £50 for partners sharing the same address, £17.50 for those who are already members of Mountaineering Scotland, either individually or through another club, and £10 for non-walking members.

Route Options

This is one of our most ambitious destinations, with the bus able to reach the large car park at Poldubh. It's a long journey but the mountains rise directly from the road; so single or paired Mamore objectives are quite do-able, although THE Ben, Ben Nevis, is just a bit out of reach in the time available for all but the very fittest.

There are a huge choice of Munros and Corbetts en route. In the first section to Killin there are Ben Ledi, Stuc a' Chroin and Ben Vorlich and the Lochearnhead Corbetts Meall an t-Seallaidh and Creag MacRanaich. On the next stretch to Crianlarich, there are Sgiath Chuil, Meall Glas, Beinn nan Imirean and Ben Challum to the north of the A85 and Ben More, Stob Binnein and Cruach Ardrain to the south. From Dalrigh there is access to Beinn Dubhchraig and

Ben Oss, Beinn Chuirn and Ben Lui. Beyond Tyndrum there are groups of Corbetts both east and west of the road, plus the Munros Beinn Dorain, Beinn an Dothaidh and Beinn Mhanach. Beinn Chreachain and Beinn Achaladair can be approached from Achallader farm.

Of the Blackmount hills, Meall a' Bhuiridh and Creise should be within range. In Glencoe itself, on the south side, there are the two Buachailles, Bidean nam Bian and Sgor na h-Ulaidh, and the Corbett Beinn Maol Chaluim. On the north side there is the serious challenge of the Aonach Eagach or a gentle stroll (usually) up Beinn a' Chrulaiste.

Ballachulish Munros: Beinn a Bheithir, which offers two Munro summits: Sgorr Dhonuill, 1001m, NN040555 and Sgorr Dhearg, 1024m, NN056558.

From Glen Nevis

Munros

Ben Nevis, 1344m [NN166712]. Faster parties can climb the Ben via the tourist track starting opposite the Youth Hostel in Glen Nevis. Owing to the time available a return by the route of ascent is recommended.

Sgùrr a'Mhàim, 1099m [164667]) and the top, Sgùrr an Iubhair, 1001m, are approached from just east of the bridge at Achriabhach. The first hill gives a long haul up, and is linked to Sgùrr an Iubhair by the splendid Devil's Ridge, which gives some enjoyable scrambling. Descend by the path on the E bank of the Allt Coire a'Mhusgain. Fitter parties may be able to include Stob Bàn, 999m, in this route.

Mullach nan Coirean, 939m [122662] and Stob Bàn, 999m [147654] can be climbed separately or combined to give an interesting day. The first can be approached from Achriabhach. Stob Bàn may also be climbed direct from Achriabhach via its N ridge or via the Allt Coire a'Mhusgain path.

Corbetts

Mam na Gualainn, 796m [115625] (see Through Walks and Lower Level below)

Grahams

Tom Meadhoin, 621m, [087621] could be combined with an ascent of Beinn na Gucaig, 616m [062653] or either of these hills could be climbed on their own with a descent through the very attractive Gleann Rìgh.

Other hills

Meall an t-Suidhe, 711m [139729] can be traversed from the Distillery, descending via the Ben Nevis tourist track to Glen Nevis.

Through-Walks and Lower Level

There are also plenty of low-level options. There are cycle or footpaths from Callander to Killin, and through-routes between Lochearnhead and Callander and Ledcharrie and Balquhitter, notably by Kirkton Glen. Further west large sections of the West Highland Way are accessible, with possible detours east into Auch Glen or west from Victoria Bridge. In Glencoe there is a possible – though potentially boggy – circuit of Lairig Gartain and Lairig Eilde.

Possible through-walks include leaving the bus at North Ballachulish and walking along the B883 to Callert, then over the right of way to Lairigmòr and picking up the West Highland Way over to Glen Nevis. For faster parties the Corbett Mam na Gualainn could be added on to this route or taken as a target on its own. A slightly shorter and easier variant is to leave the bus at Inchree and walk through to meet the West Highland Way at Blar a' Chaorainn.

Alternatively, the Glen Rìgh forest offers various low-level attractions in its own right.

There are low-level walks in Glen Nevis and the Fort William area, the pièce de résistance being the spectacular Nevis gorge with its (in)famous wire bridge and waterfall at Steall.

The Club's Code of Good Practice notes that parties should comprise two, preferably three, people and those members must have a map of the area and compass and know how to use them. A first aid kit, survival bag, whistle and torch should also be carried. The group should stick together and be alert for signs of anyone feeling unwell or getting into difficulties. For those members who have one it does no harm to carry a mobile phone, though it is important to understand that there is no guarantee of signal availability and this should never be relied upon.

Disclaimer: The routes outlined above are merely descriptions of walks in the area; they do not represent invitations or recommendations by the Club or any of its Officers to members to go on these routes. It is the individual and sole responsibility of each club member to choose a route that is within their capability taking due account of the timings given and the weather conditions prevailing

WhatsApp Group

You are reminded that we have now set up a WhatsApp group to enable members to exchange plans for the day in advance which may take some pressure off the bus convener. The group currently has 17 members. If you have not already joined and would like to do so, please email secretary@ptarmiganmc.org.uk with your mobile number and **you** will be sent a link.

What we did last month

“Our outing to Glen Lyon on 4 June all looked a bit too good to be true with 21 on the bus and a forecast for pretty much full sunshine for the whole day. Leaving Edinburgh in the mist which gradually cleared we set off after a brief stop in Aberfeldy. What could go wrong? A few miles further and we were stopped in our tracks by an unexpected temporary road closure at Camuserney – just before the unfortunately named village of Dull. The closure, due to some bridge work, was for the Sunday morning only. After some discussion and resisting the temptation to spend the day in Dull, it was agreed that we would return to Aberfeldy and detour through Kenmore to reach Glen Lyon – which we reached an hour or so after our intended time of arrival. Emily, Iain, James, Katerina, Rob & Tim set off to do some or all of the round of four Munros from Invervar (Carn Gorm, Meall Garbh, Carn Mairg & Meall Na Aighean). A second group of 6 (Alistair, Dave, Justin, Karen, Norman and Wendy) set off southwards to tackle some of the northern outliers of Ben Lawers – specifically Meall Greigh, Meall Garbh and possibly also An Stuc. A third group of nine (Alex, Cherie, Emma, Ewan, Graham, Lesley, Peter, Colin and me) – which choice may or may not have been influenced by the possibility of a visit to the excellent tearoom at Bridge of Balgie, stayed on the bus to the terminus at Innerwick and set off up the Corbett Beinn nan Oighreag. I can testify that it was hot work but Graham and I made it to the summit where – appropriately – there was a family of Ptarmigan chicks. A stop at Bridge of Balgie was very necessary on the way back. By the time we set off, the road to Aberfeldy was open again and we had time for a stop there for further refreshment.” (Douglas Tullis) **Graham & Douglas on the summit of Beinn nan Oighreag**
(Pics by Douglas Tullis)



Ptarmigans on Beinn nan Oighreag (Picture by Peter Smith)



Ptarmigan & tiny chicks: (Picture by Douglas Tullis)

