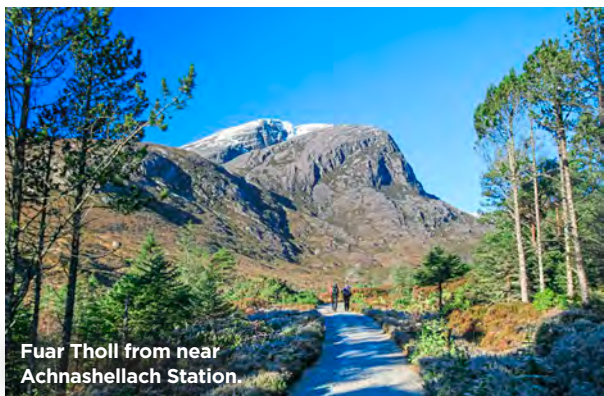




28 HIGHLAND FUAR THOLL

Distance: 8¾ miles/14km Time: 6-7 hours Grade: Challenging



Fuar Tholl from near Achnashellach Station.

PHOTO: DAVID MARSH



CHOSEN BY...

DAVID MARSH

Although slightly short of being a Munro at 907m (2976 feet), Fuar Tholl is nevertheless a magnificent mountain. Its name means 'cold hole' in Gaelic, which is appropriate as the mountain's most striking feature, the towering Mainreachan Buttress, is a noted ice climbing venue in winter. Locally the mountain is known as 'Wellington's Nose' due to its apparent likeness to the victor of the Battle of Waterloo's appendage. While you might not see the resemblance, what you will notice is the outstanding scenery. This area, the Coulin Forest, is just

as rugged and dramatic as its more famous neighbour, Torridon, to the north. What's more, this is a mountain that's genuinely reachable by public transport as the route starts from near Achnashellach station on the scenic Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh line.

1 Start

From lay-by walk E on the A890 and turn L by red phone box towards Achnashellach Station. Turn R after Garden Cottage and cross the railway line to the W of the platform. Follow the track to the crossroads then turn L onto forestry track with views to Fuar Tholl. After 500m look for small cairn and turn hard L at it onto path that leads down

PLAN YOUR WALK



ROUTE

Start/parking Lay-by on A890 at Achnashellach, grid ref NH005484

Is it for me? The approach is on good stalkers' paths but there is steep, pathless, rocky terrain on Fuar Tholl itself including a descent on scree. There is also a river crossing (no more than ankle or calf-deep usually) which might be difficult after heavy rain

Stiles None

PLANNING

Nearest town Dingwall

Refreshments None

Public toilets None

Public transport

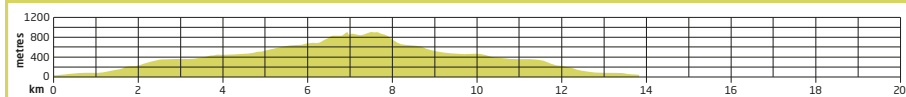
Achnashellach Station is on ScotRail's Dingwall to Kyle of Lochalsh line (scotrail.co.uk)

Maps OS Explorer 429; Landranger 25

close to the River Lair. Path runs NW near river to emerge from the woodland at gate.

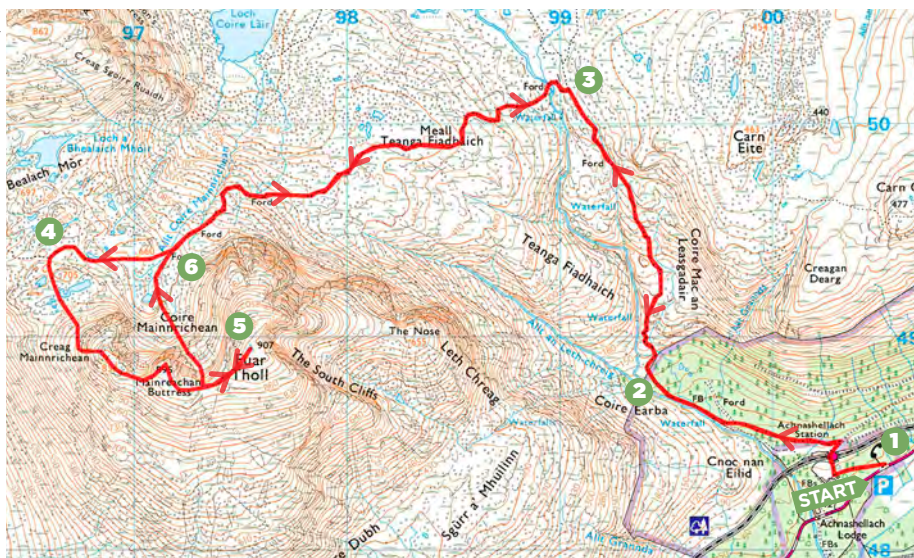


GRADIENT PROFILE



28 HIGHLAND
FUAR THOLL■ OS Explorer map 429 ■ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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**2** 1 mile/1.5km

Follow rocky stalkers' path as it climbs on E side of River Lair gorge. Ignore path forking L and continue until the magnificent Coire Lair reveals itself ahead with the Munros of Beinn Liath Mhor on the R and Sgorr Ruadh to the L.

3 1¼ miles/3km

At cairn, take path on L that descends to the river to ford it. If crossing looks tricky where path meets the river, a few metres downstream a small island in the river makes crossing easier. Once over continue towards the cliffs of Fuar Tholl on the good stalkers' path, ascending steadily, eventually passing beneath the Mainnrichean

Buttress. Stay on path past the Buttress. After small lochan on R, there is a climb to the path's highest point, marked by cairn.

4 3¼ miles/6km

Turn L at the cairn and head SSE, pathlessly initially, towards Creag Mainnrichean, through knobby terrain, passing between small lochans and onto scree. Round the looming crags to the R to pick up a faint path heading up the steep, rocky NW ridge. As the gradient eases a small cairn is reached. Walk SE over 857m top then detour NE to the 895m top of the Mainnrichean Buttress itself. Descend SE then E to a col then ascend to Fuar Tholl's summit with wind shelter.

5 4¼ miles/7.5km

Drop back to the col and turn R at the small cairn to descend the scree slope on zig-zagging path. At the bottom of the scree the path continues on steep grass to the stalkers' path used earlier.

6 5¼ miles/8.5km

On reaching it, turn R and follow it back to the River Lair to return to the start via the outbound route. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON
OS MAPS ONLINE:**

[walk1000miles.co.uk/cw/routes](https://www.walk1000miles.co.uk/cw/routes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



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DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING