

Climb Ben Nevis



Highlights

Take on mighty Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, with a one- to three-day guided trek. These expert-led tours are run all year round and can be tailored to suit any needs. If you're short of time you can hire a guide for the day, otherwise why not try our multi-day adventure and explore the local area as well?

At 1,344 metres Ben Nevis towers over Scotland's west coast. The view from the British Isles' highest point is breathtaking, extending to over 190 kilometres in clear conditions – as far as the Isles of Mull and Skye! And it's not just the view that's special - the lush wooded valleys and rocky slopes are home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, including moss campion, purple saxifrage and butterwort and red deer, snow buntings, and golden eagle.

These guided treks can be undertaken at any time of the year. If you're tight for time you can hire a guide for the day, setting off from near Fort William and walking for between six and eight hours. A weekend tour makes more of an occasion out of the ascent and you'll get the chance to explore the local area and maybe see the Ben from a variety of angles. The Ben can be tackled on either of the two days so you have the flexibility to choose the best weather for the ascent. One day will be spent exploring the local area, perhaps walking in beautiful Glen Nevis or majestic Glen Coe.

For the more experienced or truly adventurous there's also the possibility of attempting the ascent in winter, when the mountain is caked in snow and ice. This three day option gives you the chance to get to grips with crampons and ice-axes with training provided by an experienced mountain guide. Exhausting, exhilarating and when you reach the summit worth every step of the way. Standing on the top of Britain's highest mountain the view in all directions is as spectacular as it is unforgettable.

Is it for me?

Climbing Ben Nevis should only be undertaken by keen walkers with a good level of fitness. If you are particularly unfit you may want to try something a little gentler, perhaps some hiking in the surrounding valleys.

Expect at least six hours of walking for both summer or winter ascents. You'll be in excellent hands with local guides who have expert knowledge of the mountains and weather conditions. The path is well-trodden and there's nothing technical, unless you want there to be – the steep north face offers some great climbing and scrambling.

The winter ascent poses much more of a challenge. Only attempt this if you've done a fair amount of hill-walking. Training and equipment are provided so you don't need any prior experience of winter walking, but be prepared to be bushed after three days of epic adventure!

Accommodation

Food and accommodation is not included on this trip but Fort William offers a wide range of hotels, hostels, guest houses and B & Bs. Your tour guides are well placed to recommend the right place for you or your group depending upon your personal preference and budget. Whilst many places provide packed lunches, there are also plenty of local shops for you to prepare your own. A choice of restaurants and pubs offer food and drink possibilities for the evenings.

Prices from

150 GBP (3 days) per person

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Itinerary

The Ben Nevis climb can be done either within a small group as part of a 3 day package or in 1 day with a private guide. There is no maximum group size as additional mountain leaders will be used if numbers dictate. This package can be tailored to meet your individual requirements and can be planned for any days of the week, not just at weekends.

Ben Nevis Group Climb

A guided climb up Ben Nevis and a day exploring beautiful Glen Nevis and/or majestic Glen Coe. A typical itinerary might be:

Day 1: Arrival in Fort William

Evening departure from Edinburgh/Glasgow or meet-up in Fort William.

Day 2: Ben Nevis

A guided climb up Ben Nevis using the normal 'tourist route', although other variations, including the traverse of the Carn Mor Dearg Arête, are also possible. The pace is dictated by that of the slowest person in the group so don't think it's a race or feel badly about slowing everybody down! If you are particularly unfit, however, please be honest when booking so the climb can be tailored to suit you. Evening in Fort William.

Day 3: Glen Nevis or Glen Coe

A guided walk or climb, depending upon energy levels, exploring beautiful Glen Nevis or majestic Glen Coe. Late afternoon departure for home/airports.

Climb Ben Nevis with a Private Guide

Climb Ben Nevis with a fully qualified local private guide. The itinerary is tailored to your needs and varies depending on the weather, time of year and route chosen. You will meet your guide at your accommodation in Fort William or at a designated start point. After a full briefing and kit check you hit the trail. You will typically spend anything between 6 and 8 hours on the mountain with regular stops for photos, snacks, drinks, and lunch. Transfers, accommodation and meals can be arranged for groups. If booking for winter and you have no experience of winter walking, you should plan for a minimum of 2 days private guiding so that you can spend the first day learning essential winter skills.

Details

Getting there

Getting to Fort William...

Pick up, transfers and drop offs for Glasgow (2.5 hours) or Edinburgh (3 hours) airports can be arranged - please contact us to arrange this. Alternatively you can make your own way to and from Fort William by car or train.

Evening arrival the day before is recommended as the tour departs from Fort William in the early morning.

Price includes

Price is per person for the 3 day group trek. Price for the private guide is £90 a day per person.

Includes qualified guide and ice-climbing equipment and tuition if doing the winter ascent.

Not included Accommodation, meals, transfers (although airport pick up and drop off can be arranged at an extra cost).

When is best

Ben Nevis can be climbed all year round although winter requires greater preparation and the use of ice axes and crampons. Climbs between May and September offer the best chance of settled weather and longer hours of daylight.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

1 day - 3 days

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

Stout walking boots (winter mountaineering boots for winter climbs), warm and waterproof clothing, daypack and trekking poles. Ice axes and crampons provided for winter climbs.

Reviews (1)

Reviews of this experience

“ I had a brilliant time and want to do it again next year. Ian our guide was fabulous. Really lovely group we met up with. Went at our own pace and made it. Harder than kilimamjaro and way more rewarding as I made it to the top. With no altitude sickness a trek like this is hard but doable.

Would recommend it to anyone. See you next year! ”

Laki reviewing Climb Ben Nevis