

**Walk description:**

Many people stop at the visitors' centre at Glenfinnan and walk towards the shore of Loch Shiel to climb up the tower of the memorial to Bonnie Prince Charlie at the head of the loch. A few more will walk up to the viewpoint behind the visitors' centre to catch the superb views down Loch Shiel, but most will then move on to other places. It is worth considering this gentle stroll up the valley, under the viaduct which was built by Sir Robert McAlpine in 1897/8 at a cost of £318,904. The viaduct carries the train from Fort William to Mallaig - and watch out for The Hogwarts Express!! The route is on a private road (please don't take your car) and is good for wheelchair access throughout, perhaps with some assistance on a stretch with a gentle climb. It's a good walk for kids too. Those who are keen can continue their walk a further seven miles to Loch Arkaig and beyond.

**Access information:**

Glenfinnan is on the A830(T), 16 miles west of Fort William. The visitors' centre is well signposted just off the road and there is ample parking there too. From the visitor centre walk along the main road towards Mallaig, cross a bridge and a few yards further there is a sign on the right for Glenfinnan Lodge, pointing out the start of the walk.

**Additional info:**

Please check access information on the board at the start of the walk - especially during the stalking season (Sept / Oct).

**Start grid ref:** NM905818**OS map:** Explorer 398: Loch Morar & Mallaig**Walk length:** 5.59 miles**Duration:** 120 minutes**Height gain:** 40 metres**Contributor:** Jim Lowery**Weathercall:** Get a local forecast for this walk.

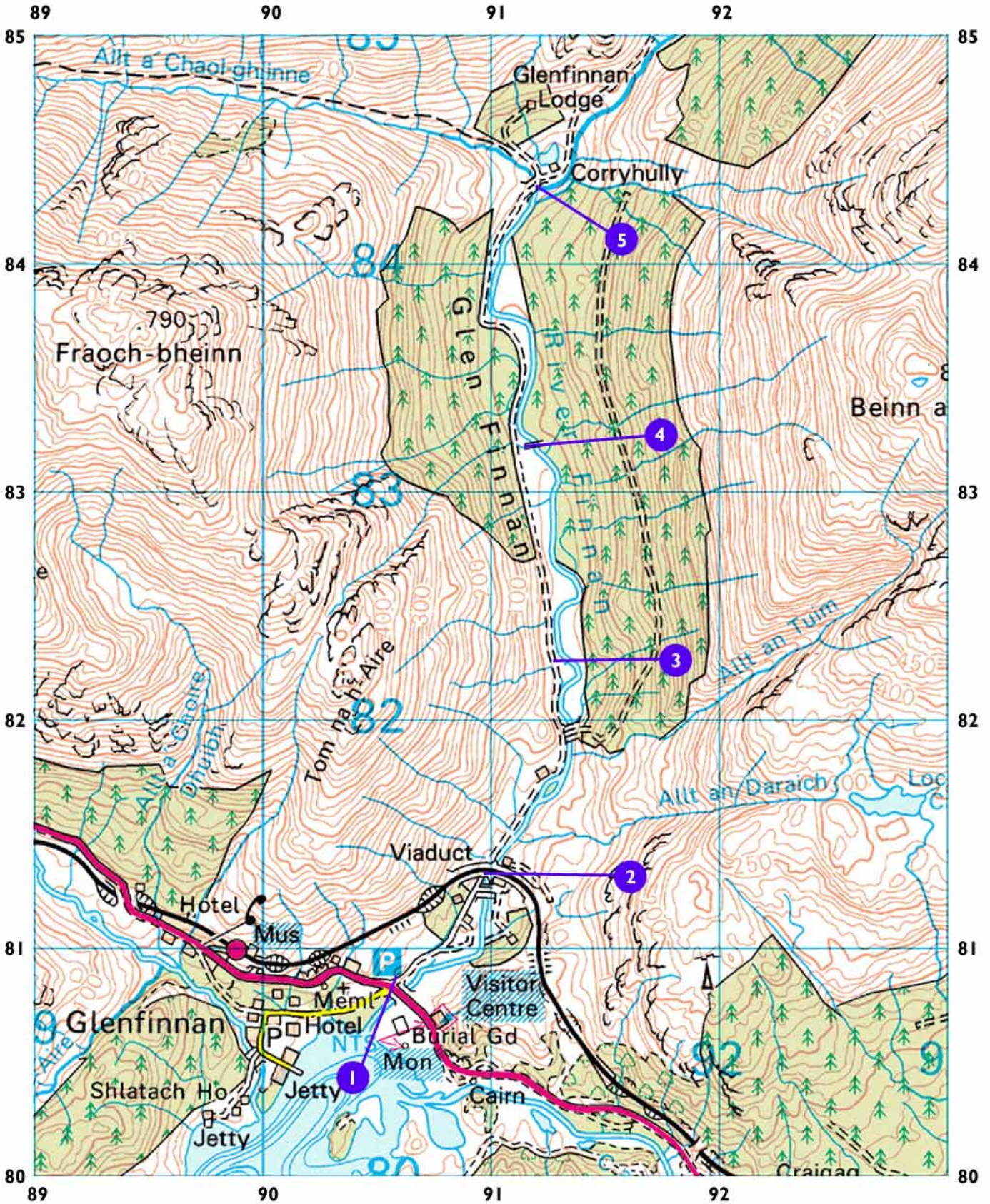
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**Features:**

- Mountains
- River
- Toilets
- National Trust/NTS
- Wildlife
- Great Views
- Good for Wheelchairs
- Good for Kids
- Mostly Flat
- Public Transport
- Ancient Monument






1: 50 000 (x2)

Glenfinnan viaduct



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- 1**  Track to Glenfinnan Lodge. This is a private road but with a right of way to walkers. The route is very easy to follow; it is wide and excellent for wheelchair access well beyond the viaduct. (Grid ref: 905818)
- 2**  Glenfinnan Viaduct. The route passes under the viaduct and continues up the valley. Pass Tom Dubh - a small hill and a cottage named after it. The viaduct is built of mass concrete - one of the pioneering efforts of Robert McAlpine. It makes a very good subject for photography with views up, around and through the arches. Look out for the pine tree on the north side which seems to be growing bent to 90 degrees at one point, probably due to wind blowing through the arch. (Grid ref: 909813)
- 3**  Here the route comes into a wide, flat-floored valley. Continue along the road and looking ahead you can see Glenfinnan Lodge perched up in Corryhully - near our destination. (Grid ref: 913823)
- 4**  Wooden bridge. Cross the bridge and continue up the valley. (Grid ref: 911832)
- 5**  Bridge. This is the end of our route up the valley - stop for lunch and admire the view down the valley. Enjoy the quietness. Ahead and above is Glenfinnan Lodge. To the left of it is a track through to Loch Beoraid at the western end of which you could link up to Walk 955 but it is quite a climb from here and at the other end! The track to the right will take you to Loch Arkaig and on. There is a mountain bothy at Loch Arkaig. (Grid ref: 912843)