



Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May 2017

Badenoch & Strathspey Events



For more info and to book events, please go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend

or scan this QR code with your phone

Share your big weekend stories

on social media and tag them with #CNBW17

Facebook.com/cairngormsnature

@CNPnature

If you enjoyed the event, you can make a donation by texting CNBW17 followed by an amount of either £1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10 to 70070. Your donation will go to many Cairngorms Nature projects that are currently underway. For more information, go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/terms

Nature Spectacular

We are giving you the chance to immerse yourself in a unique nature experience in the company of a Cairngorms expert. There will be opportunities to get close to some amazing species and go 'behind the scenes' with the people who live and work in the Cairngorms National Park. Not to be missed!



Get Involved

Give something back to the Cairngorms as you Get Involved with one of our volunteering events. It's immensely satisfying to offer your time to vital conservation work; whether monitoring a species, or repairing a path so that others can enjoy it. You'll have fun, meet new people and know you have made a real difference.



Family Fun

Open your children's minds to the wonder of the Cairngorms! We have it all from wee beasties to magnificent hunters and neolithic fire to woolly woods. Come and enjoy some hands-on nature experiences with events specially designed to inspire all the family. Don't forget your wellies!



What is the Big Weekend?

The Cairngorms Nature BIG Weekend is a celebration of the fantastic natural heritage of the Cairngorms National Park. With over 50 activities taking place across the National Park there will be something for everyone, from families to the more seasoned nature lover.

TV naturalist Nick Baker is the special guest again in 2017 and you can join him on a special family event or hear him talk about his life as a wildlife presenter in Blair Atholl.

This is just a taste of what will be on offer, the full programme of events can be found at www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend



Saturday 13th Events

#	Time	Event
1	Fri 12th 1900 - 2100	SCOTLAND: the BIG picture with Pete Cairns
2	0500 - 0730	Lords of the Dance - Black Grouse watch
3	1000 - 1200	Lapwing Nest Monitoring
4	1000 - 1200	Pine Martens & Red Squirrels - how to survey them.
5	1030 - 1230	"Ollie and the Otter" - wildlife fun with Emily Dodd
6	1000 - 1700	Meet the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd
7	1000 - 1200	Behind the Scenes on a Strathspey Estate
8	1100 - 1500	Wildlife Big & Small at the Highland Wildlife Park
9	1100 - 1300	Cairngorm Juniper - Thriving or Dying?
10	1430 - 1600	Vegetation Management of a Bronze Age Hut Circle
11	2000 - 2230	Evening Mammal Watching Hide
12	2100 - 0900	Night Time on the Nethy
13	1930 - 2100	Tales from the Taiga - Boreal Forest talk with Ronan Dugan

Sunday 14th Events

#	Time	Event
14	0600 - 0900	Osprey Watch: Feeding Time!
6	1000 - 1700	Meet the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd
5	1030 - 1230	"Ollie and the Otter" - wildlife fun with Emily Dodd
15	1100 - 1500	Trolls & Fairies Glenmore
16	1400 - 1600	Wild Inhabitants of the Mountain Garden
17	1400 - 1700	A Walk, Talk and Dram at Ryvoan Bothy
18	1300 - 1500	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Mosses and lichens
19	1000 - 1600	Moorland Management on a Highland Estate
20	1930 - 2130	Love Thy Nature - Film

For more info and to book events, please go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend

SCOTLAND: the BIG picture with Pete Cairns

Fri 12th • 1900 - 2100

Be inspired by Pete Cairns, renowned nature photographer, passionate conservationist and communicator. Pete's multimedia presentation showcases Scotland's wildlife and wild places but also portrays a bold vision for Scotland's future, where whole landscapes are restored, natural processes are allowed to flourish and a more diverse and resilient natural environment benefits both wildlife and human life. If you think you've seen Scotland, think again. Come along and join the discussion on SCOTLAND: The Big Picture.

Location: Boat of Garten Community Hall
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Adult: £5.00 - Child: Suitable for 12 years +

Lords of the Dance Black Grouse watch

Sat 13th • 0500 - 0730

A wonderful opportunity to witness the spectacle of a black grouse lek and other wildlife in beautiful surroundings. Breakfast, tea, coffee provided.

Location: Glenfeshie (HC Ranger Service)
 Booking: 01479 873 914 Highland Ranger Service
 Adult: £4.50 - Child: £3.50

Pine Martens & Red Squirrels How to survey them

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200

Come and find out how we survey pine marten and red squirrel activity in the pine forest. Have a go at setting up hair traps and have a peek into the secretive world of these shy charismatic mammals.

Location: Glenmore Forest Park
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Wildlife big & Small at the Highland Wildlife Park

Sat 13th • 1100 - 1500

When RSPB Scotland and the Highland Wildlife Park join forces to help celebrate Cairngorms Nature Big Weekend you can guarantee family fun and adventure. The Wildlife Park has so much for you to see and do but for this one special weekend, together we will help you discover even more.

Location: Highland Wildlife Park, Kincaig
 Booking: Normal gate fees apply - access event once in the Park.

Vegetation Management of a Bronze Age Hut Circle

Sat 13th • 1430 - 1600

Get stuck in and help preserve our cultural history whilst enjoying arguably the finest landscape view in the Cairngorms! A knowledgeable Ranger will be with you to point out flora and fauna as well as help transport you a few thousand years back in time!

Location: Rothiemurchus Visitor Centre
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Night Time on the Nethy

Sat 13th • 2100 - 0900

Fancy a night out? A WHOLE night out? The banks of the river Nethy offer a lovely location for staring at stars, listening to hooting owls, watching waders glide by and falling asleep to the sound of lapping water. Event suitable for children aged 7 and above. Children under 16 MUST be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Nethy Bridge. Details on booking.
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Wild Inhabitants of the Mountain Garden

Sun 14th • 1400 - 1600

The mountain garden is a little oasis on the site of the former chairlift station. Easily accessible to all, you can see mountain plants without having to toil up the slopes. Drop in on the garden for a chance to see some of the birds and mammals that have made it their home. You can visit the Ranger Base to watch a film of any that you miss!

Location: Meet at Ranger Base
 Booking: 01479 861327
 Free - Call to book your place

Lapwing Nest Monitoring

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200

The lapwing is one of our most iconic breeding birds of farmland and marshland. Their atmospheric calls and display flights are the essence of spring. Unfortunately, their numbers are declining both locally and throughout the UK. Join us to learn more about the lapwing and help with a morning's nest monitoring, a crucial tool in helping us understand why lapwing numbers are falling.

Location: Ruthven Barracks
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

"Ollie & the Otter" Cairngorms wildlife fun with author Emily Dodd

Sat 13th & Sun 14th • 1030 - 1230

Pop along to the Loch Garten Osprey Centre for an interactive, fun-filled morning of Cairngorms nature activities, based on Emily Dodd's new book, all about Ollie the osprey - "Ollie and the Otter". Emily will also be at the centre to read her story to our younger visitors and sign copies of her new book (suitable for ages 3-6).

Location: RSPB Loch Garten Osprey Centre
 Booking: Normal entry fees apply (01479 831476)
 Adult: £5.00 - Child: £2.00

Meet the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd

Sat 13th & Sun 14th • 1000 - 1700

The Cairngorm Reindeer Herd is Britain's only free-ranging herd of reindeer. These tame and friendly animals are a joy to all who come and see them. Reindeer are not just for Christmas! Special BIG Weekend discount rates.

Location: Glenmore
 Booking: Drop in on the day (01479) 861228
 Adult: £11.50 - Child: £5.50 - No Booking Required

Behind the Scenes on a Strathspey Estate

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200

A morning's land rover tour and walk on Kinveachy Estate looking at the integration of game, wildlife management and habitat restoration on farmland, ancient Caledonian Pine Forest and moorland

Location: Kinveachy Lodge, Aviemore
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Cairngorm Juniper Thriving or Dying?

Sat 13th • 1100 - 1300

Get to know your local mountain a bit better with a Ranger. There is a small but valuable population of juniper at Cairngorm, a prickly shrub which bears dark blue fruits used commercially to flavour gin. Come and have a go at some citizen science.

Location: Meet at Ranger Base, Cairngorm Mountain
 Booking: 01479 861261
 Free for pre-booked places

Evening Mammal Watching Hide

Sat 13th • 2000 - 2230

Looking for a wildlife watching experience with the chance to see pine marten, badger, red and roe deer and more? Come and enjoy our famous dusk wildlife, in the comfort of a purpose built warm hide, with one of our professional wildlife guides.

Location: Confirmed on booking (Rothiemurchus)
 Booking: enquiries@speysidewildlife.co.uk
 Adult: £25.00 - Child: £10.00

Trolls & Fairies Glenmore

Sun 14th • 1100 - 1500

Follow the Troll Trail and explore the magical Ryvoan pass with lots of Troll activities & antics along the way. Reach the mystical Green Lochan, find the fairies and explore their emerald watery world.

Location: Glenmore Forest Park
 Booking: Not required - just drop in
 Free

Moorland Management on a Highland Estate

Sun 14th • 1000 - 1600

Spend the day behind the scenes at Phoinies Estate and see how the land is managed. Explore how good practices increase biodiversity and benefit wading birds. Find out how peatlands reduce CO2 emissions and help prevent flooding and visit some successful renewable energy projects.

Location: Phoinies Lodge
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Love Thy Nature - Film

Sun 14th • 1930 - 2130

Screening of new film narrated by Liam Neeson - Love Thy Nature points to how deeply we've lost touch with nature and takes viewers on a cinematic journey through the beauty and intimacy of our relationship with the natural world. The film shows that a renewed connection with nature is key both to good health and to solving our climate and environmental crises.

Location: Boat of Garten Community Hall
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online



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May 2017

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Family Fun



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Osprey Watch: Feeding Time!

Sun 14th • 0600 - 0900

Join a guided trip to watch these magnificent hunters from the sky splash into the water and take home their breakfast. A guide will be in radio contact with you when (hopefully!) a bird enters the sky above the pond. Our hides provide the best opportunity to see and experience an osprey at such close quarters!

Location: Rothiemurchus Fishery
 Booking: Call 01479 812345
 Adult: £25.00 - Child: £15.00

Tales from the Taiga Boreal Forest talk with Ronan Dugan

Sat 13th • 1930 - 2130

Ronan Dugan shares stories of adventure from his time alongside Capercaille in the natural Russian Taiga. Ronan will also compare the forests of Russia to Scotland and share what conservation lessons he has learnt along the way.

Location: Boat of Garten Community Hall
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Donations to Boat of Garten Wildlife Interest on the night

A Walk, Talk and a Dram at Ryvoan Bothy

Sun 14th • 1400 - 1700

Meet at Ryvoan Bothy and join author of Scottish Bothy Bible, Geoff Allan for dram and talk at the bothy, then return to Glenmore lodge for coffee and book signing.

Location: Glenmore Lodge / Ryvoan Bothy
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh - Mosses & lichens

Sun 14th • 1300 - 1500

Explore rarely heard stories from the tiny secret world of lichens and bryophytes. Join scientists from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh to get a closer look at the amazing diversity and strange beauty of these frequently overlooked organisms.

Location: Feshiebridge Sculpture Trail
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online