



Glen Tanar & Upper Deeside Events
Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th May 2017



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

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.



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



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!



Saturday Events

| # | Time | Event |
|----|-------------|--|
| 29 | 1000 & 1300 | Birds of the Forest Walks |
| 30 | 1000 - 1200 | Willow's Deathbox |
| 31 | 1300 - 1500 | Neolithic Firemaking and grow your own bonfire |
| 32 | 0930 - 1100 | Dram at the Dam experience |
| 33 | 1000 - 1500 | River Dipping for water bugs and beasties! |
| 34 | 1000 & 1300 | Family Fun Woodland Activities |
| 35 | 1000 & 1300 | Powerful Pollinators |
| 36 | 1000 & 1300 | Tracks & Signs -Who is out there? |
| 37 | 1000 - 1200 | Working with Nature on a Highland Estate |
| 38 | 1400 - 1600 | Behind the Scenes at Balmoral Estate |
| 39 | 000 - 2200 | Evening Ramble: Beasties, Bats and Birds |
| 40 | 1000 - 1600 | The Mountains & The People Conservation Volunteering |

Sunday Events

| # | Time | Event |
|----|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 41 | 1300 - 1600 | Camp Fire Capers |
| 42 | 1300 - 1600 | The Gift of Trees |
| 43 | 1300 - 1500 | Wee Beasties In The Big Woods |
| 44 | Starts at 1000 | Woodland trust tree planting |

45 1900 - 2100 Big Weekend Closing Event SCOTLAND : the BIG picture at Balmoral with Pete Cairns

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

SCOTLAND: the BIG picture at Balmoral with Pete Cairns

SUN 14th • 1900 - 2100

An evening with 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: Balmoral
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Adult: £5.00 - Child: Suitable for 12 years +

Birds of the Forest Walk

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200 & 1300 - 1500

A guided walk in the forest to see a wide range of birds and discover why the forest is important for them. Plenty of spare binoculars will be available.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Neolithic firemaking and grow your own bonfire

Sat 13th • 1300 - 1500

Learn how to use a Neolithic style flint and steel to make a spark and use local fungi as tinder to make an ember; then pot a small tree to start growing your own bonfire at home.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Powerful Pollinators

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200 & 1300 - 1500

Discover the amazing variety of our pollinating insects, learn how you tell your bumblebee from your hoverfly and what we can do to help these tireless workers. We will open live traps set last night to see what moths have been caught and go for a short walk to hunt for more pollinators. If you can't make these, there will also be a stand throughout the day by the visitor centre where you can find out about planting for pollinators, making bug homes and more!

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online or drop in



Working with Nature on a Highland Estate

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200

A morning's walk on Wildlife Estates Scotland accredited Glenmuick Estate to look at the management of different habitats from woodland to moorland - and how traditional game and wildlife management blends with new activities including deer farming.

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

Evening ramble: besties, bats and birds

Sat 13th • 2000 - 2200

A two hour Ranger led dusk walk at Glen Tanar in search of evening wildlife. Approximately 4km walk with regular stops on good paths. Be aware this walk takes place during dusk and darkness - please bring a torch.

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

Wee Besties In The Big Woods

Sun 14th • 1300 - 1500

A short walk through the woods looking for minibeasts and small animals, including some pond dipping. Suitable for families, all children must be accompanied.

Location: Cambus o' May Forestry Commission Scotland
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Willow's Deathbox

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200

Show and tell of local and protected animal's pelts, skulls, bones, feathers and furs. Learn how to identify animals in your woodlands by the signs animals leave behind.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Dram at the Dam experience

Sat 13th • 0930 - 1100

A guided tour of the distillery, filling store and warehouse, followed by a short 10 minute walk up to the top dam, to see the distilleries' water supply. Whilst there, enjoy a taste of our award-winning Royal Lochnagar 12 Year Old Single Highland Malt from European oak casks, and a limited run of 1800 bottles.

Location: Crathie, Near Ballater
 Booking: 01339 742700
 Adult: £20.00 - Child: £5.00

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Get Involved

Family Fun



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The Mountains & The People Conservation Volunteering

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1600

Join us for a day of conservation volunteering on the 7 Bridges path in Ballater which has been affected by flooding. We will be improving the surfacing on sections of the path along the edge of the River Dee which was washed away last year.

Location: Ballater 7 Bridges path. Meet at car park at the end of Old Line Road, Ballater.
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online

Woodland trust tree planting

Sun 14th • Starts at 1000

Join a team from Woodland Trust to plant a new area of trees on the Invercauld Estate. Woodland Trust work to create thousands of new woodlands across the UK with volunteers and landowners. They are enriching local landscapes and unlocking the benefits of native woodlands for future generations. Come and play your part in creating a new generation of woodland in the National Park.

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



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Cairngorms
 NATIONAL PARK
 Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh

River dipping for water bugs and beasties!

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1500

Water based fun and discovery! Ever wondered what weird and wonderful creatures live in the river? We will be exploring the river bed and learning about what lurks beneath the banks. Discover why the water of Tanar is so special and meet some of its very clever inhabitants. You might even pick up some tips on what you can do at home to help keep the river clean and healthy.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online or drop in

Family Fun Woodland Activities

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200 & 1300 - 1500

Discover the intriguing world of our woodlands through interactive fun activities. Find out more about some of our woodland creatures and get close up and personal with the trees and their surroundings.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online or drop in

Tracks & Signs who is out there?

Sat 13th • 1000 - 1200 & 1300 - 1500

Join our rangers on a walk to find out what animals are lurking in the woods of Glen Tanar. Also a chance to have a look at our show and tell of local and protected animals' pelts, skulls, bones, feathers and furs. Learn how to identify animals in your woodlands by the signs they leave behind.

Location: Glen Tanar Visitor Centre - free coach from Ballater
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online



Camp Fire Capers

Sun 14th • 1300 - 1600

Camp fire capers - explore around the wonderful Invercauld Estate, collect sticks and other things from nature and learn how to light a small fire without matches. It's not the easiest thing to do but a great skill to learn and a fab party piece. There will also be marshmallows for everyone to toast! Suitable for kids 3 years + (with a well behaved adult!)

Location: Ballater Curling Pond
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online



Behind the Scenes at Balmoral Estate

Sat 13th • 1400 - 1600

Spend an afternoon in the company of the Queen's Head Stalker and find out how Balmoral Estate manages their deer. Meet the highland pony who brings the deer down to the larder and go inside to find out how the meat is processed. Visit the target areas to see how stalkers are trained and finish the discussion in the magnificent Balmoral ballroom.

Location: Balmoral Castle Estate, meet at estate office.
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Adult: Free - Child: Suitable for 12 years +

The Gift of Trees

Sun 14th • 1300 - 1600

Trees are our enduring allies and human survival has been entirely dependent on forests and woodlands. However, over the centuries, both trees and beneficial human interaction has been in steep decline. Today's workshop intends to re-connect you with trees and traditional skills in a sustainable and appreciating way. You will learn some traditional woodcarving, identify trees, and prepare Mesolithic tinder for flint and steel fire-making methods. Through hand-skills and traditional lore you will come to appreciate trees in a whole new way.

Location: Ballater Curling Pond
 Booking: Go to www.cairngorms.co.uk/bigweekend
 Free - just book your place online