

## Explore for a day

# Cairngorms National Park



The Cairngorms Mountain range lies at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Dark and venerable forests of native pine sit amongst broad farmed straths and extensive tracts of moorland in this spectacular mountain landscape. 5 of the highest mountains in the UK are found within the Cairngorm massif and crystal clear rivers rise among the hills. This special place, with its vast tracts of wild land and predominance of natural vegetation, including extensive and expanding native woodlands, is a stronghold for wildlife and a paradise for outdoor lovers.

Discover the rich cultural history of the Park in museums which record the social and domestic lives of agricultural communities. Castles, battlefields, barracks and old military roads running through the glens and over high passes tell a story of less peaceful times.

Discover for yourself the rugged and magnificent mountains, visit attractive planned towns and the smaller villages scattered around the edges of the central mountain plateau and relax in the lovely and varied woodlands.

Discover the area by following the suggested routes or simply create your own perfect day.

### Symbol Key

- |  |              |  |                    |
|--|--------------|--|--------------------|
|  | Parking      |  | Information Centre |
|  | Paths        |  | Disabled Access    |
|  | Toilets      |  | Wildlife watching  |
|  | Refreshments |  | Picnic Area        |

Admission free unless otherwise stated.

### 1 Craigellachie National Nature Reserve

A perfect destination for a stroll from Aviemore, the woodland of this reserve brings together the gentle motion of silver birch trees with the constant activity of countless insects in summer. In spring and summer the woodland floor bursts into a blaze of colour as flowers like tormentil and foxglove take hold. The crags loom above the woodland like sleeping grey giants and provide a home for peregrines. Take your pick of four routes, one of which is suitable for all abilities, and enjoy the unexpected peace and solitude to be found here just minutes from the main road and the bustling village of Aviemore. Parking is available in the village. Follow signs to the Reserve from the Aviemore Youth Hostel.

Nearest Postcode: PH22 1PH  
Tel: 01479 810477  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 2 Frank Bruce Sculpture Trail

This lovely varied walk in the Inshriach forest incorporates striking and thought-provoking sculptures by the late Frank Bruce. The works depict icons of patriotism and the tragedies of world poverty, yet are placed in a beautiful and tranquil setting – a tension which gives real power to the sculptures and the whole trail experience. Great views of the river Feshie and the surrounding mountains can be had from the 4.5Km/ 2.75 mile trail. The car park for the trail is located just south of Feshiebridge on the B970.

Nearest Postcode: PH21 1NF  
[www.frank-bruce.org.uk](http://www.frank-bruce.org.uk)



### 3 Uath Lochans

The picnic site at Uath Lochans is one of the most scenic locations in Inshriach Forest and the wider Strathspey area. A 30 minute walk takes you around four small lochans through woodland, heather moorland and bogland. Starting from the car park, follow the white markers and walk clockwise around the lochans. A small bird hide overlooks the largest lochan where goldeneye ducks and greylag geese can be seen during the spring, whilst the summer months see a myriad of dragonflies and damselflies.

Nearest Postcode: PH21 1NU  
Tel: 01479 861220 [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)



### 4 Insh Marshes National Nature Reserve

This is one of the most important wetlands in Europe. A wide wandering river makes its ponderous journey through an active floodplain, giving a home to vast numbers of water loving birds. Enjoy a springtime stroll along one of the nature trails and look out for nesting lapwings, redshanks and curlews. Summer visiting ospreys keep a watchful eye out for a fishing opportunity whilst in winter the flooded marshes resound to the noisy wing beats of whooper swans. Patches of birch, aspen and juniper dot the fringes of the reserve. Look out for roe deer and foxes from two hides, which give you an excellent view.

Nearest Postcode: PH21 1NS  
Tel: 01540 661518  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 5 Ruthven Barracks

Ruthven Barracks are the smallest but best preserved of the four infantry barracks built by the British Government after the 1715 Jacobite rising. Remains of earlier castles on the site were removed to make way for the barracks. The government garrison surrendered during the Jacobite rising of 1745/46 and the departing Jacobite forces set fire to the barracks. The remains that you can see today are pretty much as they were left on that day in 1746. This imposing ruin looks particularly spectacular at night when it is floodlit.

Nearest Postcode: PH21 1ES  
Tel: 01667 460232 [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)



### 6 Highland Folk Museum

The award-winning Highland Folk Museum brings to life the social and working conditions of Highland people since the 1700s. With collections focused on domestic life, agriculture, craft skills and sport, this fascinating open air museum records and interprets rural life in the Highlands over several hundred years. The site includes re-constructed buildings, a 1700s 'Township', a 1940 working farm, live interpretation and a range of visitor facilities, including a children's play area and audio trails.

Open Apr – Aug 10.30am – 5.30pm, Sept/Oct 11am – 4.30pm.

Postcode: PH20 1AY  
Tel: 01540 673551 [www.highlandfolk.com](http://www.highlandfolk.com)



### 7 Pattack Falls

Cold crystal water cascades over the falls in this impressive wooded gorge in Strathmashie forest. A viewing platform high up on the rocks overlooking the river is a short walk through the woods from the car park at Druiam An Aird and is a great place to appreciate this lovely place. A variety of paths and walks in this woodland are shown on an information panel in the car park. Follow the path through the pine forest above the falls for a loop walk (4.5Km / 3 miles) which takes you past the deserted settlement of Druiam An Aird.

Nearest Postcode: PH20 1BY  
Tel: 01528 544366 [www.lagganforest.com](http://www.lagganforest.com)



### 8 Glenmore National Nature Reserve

The National Nature Reserve is part of Glenmore Forest Park. A haven for wildlife and outdoor enthusiasts alike, Glenmore (gaelic for 'big glen') has a unique mixture of ancient Caledonian pinewoods, high mountain scenery and beautiful lochs. Miles of walking, from gentle forest strolls to serious high mountain adventures are here to be savoured, along with cycling, cross-country skiing and watersports on Loch Morlich. Keep your eyes peeled for red squirrels, crested tits and crossbills. Glenmore Visitor Centre offers a forest shop and café, as well as an audio-visual presentation and displays about the native pinewoods and the work being carried out to restore and expand this habitat for future generations.

Reserve open at all times, Visitor Centre open 9am – 5pm (closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day)

Nearest Postcode: PH22 1QU Tel: 01479 810477  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 9 Abernethy National Nature Reserve

Home to some of Scotland's most spectacular wildlife, Abernethy is a dramatic and awe-inspiring place, comprising a mosaic of ancient Caledonian pinewood, moorland, bog and mountain plateau. There are two visitor centres on the Reserve: the RSPB Loch Garten Osprey Centre, which provides fantastic views of these magnificent birds, and the Explore Abernethy Visitor Centre in Nethy Bridge which focuses on the ancient Caledonian pine forests of Abernethy. Whether you want to watch ospreys, take part in an early morning capercaillie watch or simply wander through the pinewoods, there is a lot to choose from in this lovely Reserve.

**Reserve open all year.**

RSPB Osprey Centre, Loch Garten: **admission charge**, open April – Aug, 10am – 6pm.

Postcode: PH25 3HA Tel: 01479 831476

Abernethy Visitor Centre, Nethy Bridge: open Sat - Wed, 12 noon - 4.30pm, Easter - Oct.

Postcode: PH25 3DG Tel: 01479 821555  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 10 Roches moutonnées at Dulnain Bridge

20,000 years ago the Cairngorms National Park was buried under a glacier over 1km / half a mile thick. As the ice moved along it ground down and shaped the rock. Roches moutonnées are classic erosional features that show us the direction the ice moved in. They have a distinctive whale back shape with a steeper drop off at one end. An example of these glaciated rocks can be seen at the east end of Dulnain Bridge where there is an information board explaining their formation.

Nearest Postcode: PH26 3LS



### 11 Grantown Museum

Grantown Museum tells the story of Grantown-on-Spey, a fine example of an 18th century planned town. The story is brought to life through the museum's extensive photographic collection. Visitors can learn the history of the people and buildings that made Grantown what it is today. Find out about Queen Victoria's royal visit in the 19th century and the coming of the railways, and how this encouraged Grantown's development as a holiday destination. A shop, research facilities and internet are available.

**Admission charge.** Open Apr to Oct, Mon–Sat, 10am – 4pm.

Postcode: PH26 3HH  
Tel: 01479 872478 [www.grantownmuseum.co.uk](http://www.grantownmuseum.co.uk)



### 12 Tomintoul Museum

At 1164 ft (354 metres) above sea level, Tomintoul is the highest village in the Highlands and perhaps unsurprisingly, the flax and linen industry that it was built to support in 1775 did not succeed. However, farming, whisky distilling and winter sports remain important in this attractive village and local artefacts and pictures in the Tomintoul Museum provide an interesting record of life here. The main collection includes reconstructions of a farmhouse kitchen and of the old village smithy. There is also a display on peat cutting and some fascinating material on local history and wildlife.

Open Apr–Oct Mon–Sat 10am–5pm; during Jul & Aug also Sun 1pm–5pm.

Postcode: AB37 9ET Tel: 01807 580285



**Facilities nearby**

### 13 Scalán Seminary

The Scalán, a plain 18th century house in the Braes of Glenlivet, was once a Seminary and one of the few places in Scotland where young men were trained for the Catholic priesthood during the turbulent years of the 18th century. This secluded College played a vital role in keeping the Catholic faith alive in northern Scotland, despite repeated attacks by Hanoverian soldiers. You can walk through the silent rooms and imagine the quiet faith of those students of long ago. To reach 'secret Scalán' take the B9008 in the direction of Dufftown. Scalán is signposted off this road 5 miles north of Tomintoul. At the end of the road, park at the last farm buildings on the right and take the right hand track. After 1 Km / around half a mile, you cross the River Crombie on a wooden bridge. You will find Scalán facing you.

Nearest Postcode: AB37 9JS [www.scalan.co.uk](http://www.scalan.co.uk)



### 14 Corgarff Castle

Set in splendid isolation at the head of Strathdon and in a strategic position in the Lecht Pass, this medieval tower house was built around 1550. After being abandoned as a home in the late 17th century, the castle was pressed back into service as a barracks in the mid 18th century and the distinctive star-shaped perimeter wall added. For 95 years soldiers patrolled Strathdon, hunting down Jacobite sympathisers and latterly helping stamp out the illegal production and smuggling of whisky. Today you can visit the reconstructed barracksrooms and get a sense of barrack life in 1750 when redcoats from Pulteney's 13th Foot were stationed here.

**Admission charge.** Open Apr–Sep 9.30am – 5.30pm. Oct – Mar, open weekends only, 9.30am – 4.30pm.

Postcode: AB36 8YP  
Tel: 01975 651460 [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)



### 15 Glen Tanar National Nature Reserve

Glen Tanar provides a great opportunity to explore Scotland's classic Caledonian pine forest in search of its elusive wildlife. A darting red squirrel or an acrobatic Scottish crossbill might be above your head as you wander through ancient trees or, from the banks of the rushing river, you might see the silvery flash of a salmon powering upstream. Choose from a range of waymarked paths, picnic areas by the river or viewpoints with benches. There are also opportunities for fishing, mountain biking, horse riding and bird watching.

**Reserve open all year.**

Visitor centre open 10am–5pm (except Tue) Apr – Sept; 10am–5pm (except Tue & Wed) Oct – Mar

Postcode: AB34 5EU Tel: 01339 886072  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 16 Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve

Muir of Dinnet blends woodland, heath, open water and an impressive example of nature's sculptural work, all on one site. Visit the Burn O'Vat, a giant pothole formed by glacial meltwater and grinding rocks, and feel the walls swallow you up in their damp embrace. Elsewhere, wander through birch woodlands, or savour the peace and tranquility of a summer reflection in the clear water of the lochs. You can also explore some local history by following the Little Ord Trail to visit the Iron-Age hut circles, see the crannog islands and a 1200 year-old Pictish stone.

**Reserve open all year.** Visitor centre open daily Easter – Oct, 9am–5pm and from Oct – Easter from 10am–4pm (staff permitting). Strong footwear is recommended.

Postcode: AB34 5HB Tel: 01339 881667  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



### 17 Ballater Old Royal Station

At the centre of Ballater is a beautiful wooden building that was formerly the royal railway station. The railway was vital to the development of Ballater and was much used by royalty and visitors to Balmoral Castle as well as giving 'ordinary' people the opportunity to visit Royal Deeside for long or short holidays. The recently restored station now houses the Tourist Information Centre, a restaurant, shops, an exhibition and small museum. Visitors to the exhibition are able to board the Royal Carriage and glimpse the opulence within. Another highlight is the royal waiting room, fitted out as it was during Queen Victoria's day.

**Admission charge for museum and exhibition.**  
Opening Jul–Aug 9am–6pm daily; Sep–Jun 10am–5pm daily.

Postcode: AB35 8RB  
Tel: 01339 755306



### 18 Crathie Kirk

Set in the heart of Royal Deeside, this picturesque parish church has strong connections to the Royal family, who worship here when in residence at Balmoral. The Church, which features fine woodwork and stained glass, offers some great views around the Deeside countryside and the nearby River Dee.

Open Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm (to 4pm in Apr & Oct) and from 1pm – 4pm on Sundays.

Postcode: AB35 5UL  
Tel: 01339 742208 [www.braemarandcrathieparish.org.uk](http://www.braemarandcrathieparish.org.uk)



### 19 Braemar Castle

This 17th Century castle has a colourful past and an exciting future. Built by the Earl of Mar in 1628 it has been a hunting lodge, fortress, garrison for Hanoverian troops and family home for the Clan Farquharson. Since 2007, this castle has been in the management of the local community and there is an ongoing process of restoration. Set amid the stunning scenery of the Cairngorm mountains, this castle with its castellated turrets, a star shaped curtain wall and a bottle necked dungeon, is an interesting place to visit and learn more about the intriguing events it has witnessed.

**Admission charge.** Open 11am – 4pm Sat & Sun from Easter - Oct and Wed from Jul - mid Sept.

Postcode: AB35 5XR  
Tel: 01339 741219 [www.braemarcastle.co.uk](http://www.braemarcastle.co.uk)



### 20 Linn of Dee

Dramatic waterfalls cascade through the natural rock gorge at the Linn of Dee, a well-known beauty spot and a fine place to stop and have a watery contemplation. There are walking trails through the woods and picnic spots beside the falls. In the winter, banks of icicles can add Narnia-esque wonder. There is a way-marked walk from here to Derry Lodge, a disused hunting lodge in a beautiful pinewood with great views of the Cairngorm mountains. At almost 11km / 7 miles in length it will take around 3 hours to complete but is on an open forestry track most of the way so, whilst undulating, the going is easy.

Nearest Postcode: AB35 5YB  
[www.discoverroyaldeeside.com](http://www.discoverroyaldeeside.com)



### 21 Blair Castle and Atholl Estates

Blair Castle, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl, is at the heart of the extensive Atholl Estates. The collections displayed in this historic castle – including arms and armour, furniture, paintings and family treasures - give a rich impression of Scottish life over seven centuries. The gardens and parklands include superb woodlands, an adventure playground and a deer park. Equal to this is the magnificent landscape of the estate offering scenes of rolling farmland and wild open hills. Walking, cycling, horse riding and tractor tours are among the range of outdoor activities available.

**Admission charge for castle, charges for various outdoor activities.** Blair Castle is open daily from Apr – Oct from 9.30am – 5.30 pm and Sat/Sun from Nov–Mar, from 10am – 4pm. Atholl Estates Information Centre is open 9.00am - 4.45pm daily, Easter - Oct.

Postcode: PH18 5TH  
Tel: 01796 481355 [www.blair-castle.co.uk](http://www.blair-castle.co.uk)



### 22 Atholl Country Life Museum

Discover life in Atholl in this small, lively museum in the former village school. Learn about the local personalities that shaped life in Highland Perthshire and beyond, visit the old post office, peep at the school or get face-to-face with what may be Scotland's only stuffed Highland cow! The museum, originally created by a local farmer, has twenty eight displays. A visitor information centre and Ranger Base are also located within the same complex.

**Admission charge.** Open Easter weekend and weekends throughout May. Open daily Jun – Sep, 1.30pm – 4pm and from 10am weekdays in Jul & Aug.

Postcode: PH18 5SP  
Tel: 01796 481232 [www.atholldcountrylifemuseum.org](http://www.atholldcountrylifemuseum.org)



### 23 Killiecrankie & Soldiers Leap

On 27 July 1689 the peace and tranquility of this beautiful gorge was shattered when the first shots in the Jacobite cause were fired. The battle, a victory for Claverhouse's Jacobite army (although it left him among the 2500 dead) was the inspiration for poetry, prose and music.

The Visitor Centre tells both the story of the rich natural history of the Pass and the bloodthirsty story of the battle. A short stroll through attractive woodland takes you down to the historic Soldier's Leap where one man escaped the battle by making a spectacular jump across the River Garry. Continue on the path for 1.5Km / 1 mile to a footbridge crossing the River Garry. Views from the bridge are stunning, particularly when autumn colours fill the landscape.

**Parking charge.** Site open all year; Visitor Centre Apr - Oct, daily 10am – 5.30pm.

Postcode: PH16 5LG  
Tel: 0844 4932194 [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



### 24 Glenshee

Glenshee is Scotland's hidden route north to The Highlands, a beautiful tranquil glen and the southern gateway to the Cairngorms National Park and Royal Deeside. The landscape is spectacular; fertile farmland gives way to rolling hills and at the head of the glen some of the highest peaks in Perthshire crowd in to form a rugged landscape. An excellent range of outdoor activities are on offer, from rugged mountain walks to fishing, winter sports and gentle strolls on quiet tracks. With a rich Pictish and medieval history, Glenshee (the Glen of the Fairies) has more than its share of myths and legends. Learn more about these stories along with the wildlife, history and heritage of the area at the Glenshee Pottery and Visitor Centre.

Pottery and visitor centre open from 10am – 5pm daily from Apr – Dec.

Postcode: PH10 7LP  
Tel: 01250 882238 [www.glenofthefairies.co.uk](http://www.glenofthefairies.co.uk)



### 25 Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve

Corrie Fee stands like a giant stone armchair in the Angus Glens and is a wild amphitheatre of rocky landscape sculpted by the power of ice and water. The area is now a haven for the plants, birds and animals that are equipped to cope with the challenges of this harsh mountain environment. Park in the car park by the ranger base in Glen Doll. The reserve is accessed on foot 3.5km/ 2.2 miles along a forest track.

Visitor Centre open 9am - 6pm Apr - Sept and 9am - 4.30pm Oct - Mar.

Postcode: DD8 4RD Tel: 01575 550233  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



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Scotland's Protected Places  
natural and historic protected places.

Explore and discover some of Scotland's natural and historic protected places.

Find out more at [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk).

**Cairngorms National Park Authority** works with others to ensure that the unique aspects of the Cairngorms National Park are cared for, sustained and enhanced. Find out more at [www.snht.gov.uk](http://www.snht.gov.uk).

**Scottish Natural Heritage** is the government agency charged with looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes across all of Scotland, for everyone. Find out more at [www.snht.gov.uk](http://www.snht.gov.uk).

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**National Nature Reserves** are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural world. Local Scottish Natural Heritage reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at [www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk).

**Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly!**  
Find out more at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**Know the code before you go...**  
Find out more at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**Many sites are accessible by public transport.** For bus and train times please contact Traveline Scotland on 0871 200 22 33 or go to [www.travelineScotland.com](http://www.travelineScotland.com). The National Cycle Network Route 7 runs through the western edge of the National Park. Find out more at [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk).

**Parking charge.** Site open all year; Visitor Centre Apr - Oct, daily 10am – 5.30pm.

Postcode: PH16 5LG  
Tel: 0844 4932194 [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

Open Mon – Sat, 10am – 5pm (to 4pm in Apr & Oct) and from 1pm – 4pm on Sundays.

Postcode: AB35 5UL  
Tel: 01339 742208





## ITINERARIES

Discover the area by following the suggested routes.

### Itinerary 1

#### March through Strathspey and reel at its beauty!

This itinerary takes you through the wide valley of the River Spey and along the western edge of the Cairngorms National Park. Follow the fast-flowing river upstream towards its source in the distant Corrieyairack Forest. Enjoy some quiet scenic back roads, savour the wildlife rich woodlands in the strath, be intrigued by attention-grabbing sculpture and engage with Highland history at the strategically important Ruthven barracks. Go on to experience life in a Strathspey township of past years before finishing the day at the impressive Pattack falls. You might enjoy reliving the day over a fine Speyside malt whisky!

#### Craigellachie National Nature Reserve (1)

Park in the centre of Aviemore and walk towards the south end of the village. Shortly after you pass the railway station, a sign for the Catholic Church points to a road on your right. A smaller sign post here directs you towards the Aviemore Youth Hostel and the Reserve. Take the marked path and follow it under the A9 trunk road to reach the Reserve.

#### Frank Bruce Sculpture Trail (2)

At the roundabout at the south end of Aviemore, turn left onto the B970 signposted for Coylumbidge, Glenmore and the Cairngorm Mountain Railway. After 1.2 Km / 0.75 miles turn right onto the B970 signposted 'Insh and Feshiebridge'. After 8km/ 5 miles you will reach Feshiebridge. Immediately after passing through the settlement you will see the Frank Bruce Sculpture trail signposted on your right.

#### Ruthven Barracks (5)

Continue your journey on the B970 and after 11.5Km / 7 miles you will reach the Ruthven Barracks, clearly visible on a castle mound overlooking the Insh Marshes and the town of Kingussie.

#### Highland Folk Museum (6)

Follow the B970 as it crosses underneath the busy A9 and over the river and the railway, into Kingussie. Turn left in the High St, onto the A86, following signs for Newtonmore and Spean Bridge. After 3.2 Km / 2 miles you will see the Highland Folk Museum on your left, on the outskirts of the village of Newtonmore.

#### Pattack Falls (7)

Continue following the A86 through Newtonmore. Turn right to follow the A86 in the direction of Spean Bridge and Fort William. Pass through the village of Laggan. 7 Km / 4.4 miles from the village you will see the Druin an Aird car park on your left.

### Itinerary 2

#### The High Ground

This itinerary will lead you from the peaceful pinewoods of Abernethy and picturesque villages of Strathspey up through some of the most wild and romantic scenery of the Cairngorms National Park. The old military road from Strathspey over the hills to Aberdeenshire is truly spectacular. Visit the highest village in the Highlands and cross the Lecht Pass to find Corrigarriff Castle in a lonely but strategic position at the head of lovely Strathdon.

The road from Tomintoul over the Lecht is closed by snow occasionally in winter. If you are driving this way in wintry conditions, please check before you set off that the road is passable.

#### Abernethy National Nature Reserve (9)

There are two main access points to the reserve at Loch Garten and Nethy Bridge. The Loch Garten Centre is signposted off the A95, 7 Km / 4.5 miles north east of Aviemore and 14.5Km / 9 miles south west of Grantown-on-Spey. Follow signs for Boat of Garten and 'RSPB Ospreys'. Travel through the village of Boat of Garten, and turn left onto the B970, in the direction of Nethy Bridge, still following the 'RSPB Ospreys' signs. After 1 Km / 0.6 miles, turn right onto a road for Loch Garten and follow this road for a few minutes. Entrance to the reserve is on your right hand side.

#### Roche Moutonée (10)

Continue along the Loch Garten road. As you approach the village of Nethy Bridge turn right at the junction to rejoin the B970 in the direction of Grantown-on-Spey. Cross the bridge in the centre of the village then turn left immediately onto a road signposted for Dulnain Bridge and drive for a few minutes until you reach the A95 where you turn right, in the direction of Grantown-on-Spey. After 2Km / 1.5miles take the A938 for Dulnain Bridge. The car park for the Roche Moutonée is on your right hand side.

#### Tomintoul Museum (12)

From Dulnain Bridge, turn left to rejoin the A95 in the direction of Elgin and Tomintoul. Shortly after you cross the River Spey, on the outskirts of Grantown-on-Spey, turn right onto the A939 for Tomintoul. Follow this spectacular road into the hills for 20 Km /13 miles until you reach Tomintoul. The museum is in the village square in the building it shares with the Visitor Information Centre.

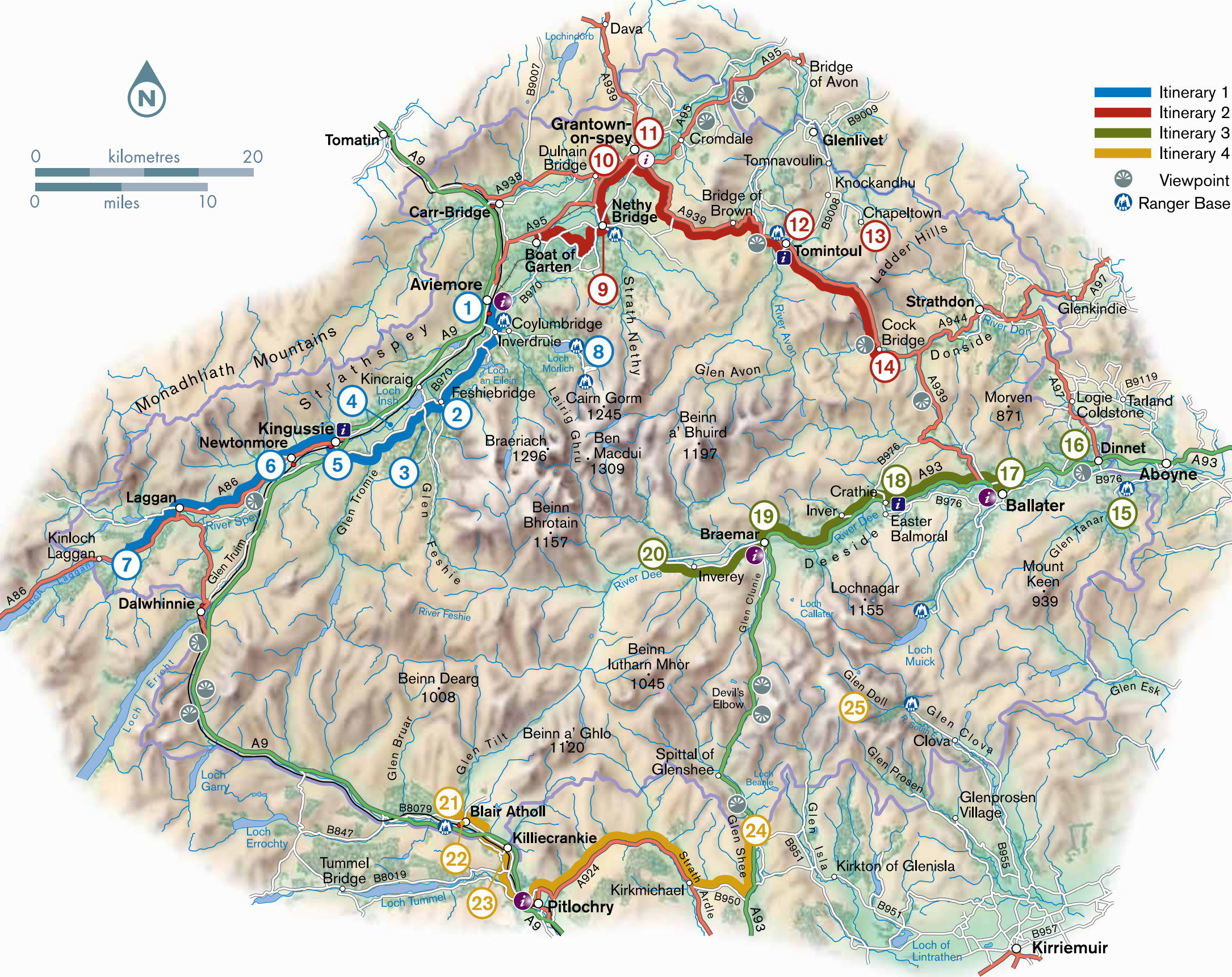
If you have time, the Crown Estate Visitor Centre is at the end of the village and is another interesting place to learn about the surrounding area.

#### Corrigarriff Castle (14)

From the centre of Tomintoul continue on the A939, which turns left out of the main street, following signs for Braemar. On the outskirts of the village turn right to follow the A939, signposted for the Lecht Ski Centre and Braemar. Follow this breathtaking road (one of the highest main roads in the UK) as it climbs up towards the Lecht.

At the Well of Lecht, a car park can be found on the left hand side of the road (just before you turn a sharp corner). A pleasant walk from here takes you to the ruins of the Lecht Mine. This is the largest Manganese mine ever worked in Scotland and employed more than 60 men and boys until it closed in 1846. A leaflet on the mine is available from Tomintoul Museum and there is a small interpretive display inside the mine building.

Once over the Lecht, the road drops down into Strathdon and onto Cockbridge. At the bottom of the hill you will see the sign for Corrigarriff Castle on your right hand side.



### Itinerary 3

#### Royal Connections

This itinerary takes you through the heart of Deeside, a popular visitor destination since Queen Victoria made Balmoral Castle the official summer home of the Royal Family. With colourful grouse moors, Scots pine woods and misty blue mountains, this regal landscape sits in the magnificent valley of the River Dee, which is scattered with attractive towns and villages. Visit the station in Ballater where the Royal Family and their guests arrived for summers on Deeside and follow in royal footsteps along the river to Crathie Kirk. The life and times of the noble families of Deeside can be glimpsed further upstream at Braemar Castle and the day ends at the lovely waterfalls at the Linn of Dee, a popular Royal beauty spot.

#### Ballater Old Royal Station (17)

The Old Royal Station is in the centre of Ballater on the A93.

#### Crathie Kirk (18)

Head west out of Ballater on the A93, following signs for Braemar. 11Km / 7 miles from Ballater you reach the village of Crathie. A free car park is on the left hand side of the road and Crathie Kirk is on the opposite side.

A scenic alternative to the A93 is the B976 South Deeside Road. This road runs along the opposite bank of the River Dee between Ballater and Crathie.

#### Braemar Castle (19)

Continue west on the A93 and 12.5 Km / 8 miles from Crathie the village of Braemar will come into view. Just as you see the village, you will see the car park for Braemar Castle on the right hand side of the road.

#### Linn of Dee (20)

Turn right off the A93 into the centre of the village of Braemar. This road is signposted for the Linn of Dee. Follow this road through the village and up the broad valley. After 6 miles you will arrive at the Linn of Dee. Car parking is signposted over the river.

### Itinerary 4

#### Cateran Country

Set among the rolling hills of Highland Perthshire, this route takes in picturesque Strathardle and beyond into the wilds of Glenshee - the heart of Cateran country. The Caterans were marauding cattle rustlers who would descend from the uplands, often by night, to raid cattle from the more prosperous glens. From the Middle Ages until the 17th century, the Caterans raided far and wide but the rich farmlands of Glen Isla and Strathardle were particularly favoured. By custom they would return by a different way from which they came, using ancient drove roads through remote glens. Visit these rich farmlands and remote glens; starting in the wooded valley of the Garry and the Tummel and climb over the moors to Strathardle and on to Glenshee.

#### Blair Castle (21)

The Castle is in the middle of Blair Atholl on the B8079.

#### Killiecrankie and the Soldiers Leap (23)

Leaving Blair Castle, turn left onto the B8079 and continue south out of Blair Atholl. Continue on the B8079 following signs for Killiecrankie and enjoy the drive along this lovely wooded valley. You will see the Visitor Centre on the right hand side, once you have passed through the village.

#### Glenshee Visitor Centre (24)

Back on the B8079, continue south following signs for Pitlochry. This road becomes the B8019 and then the A924 before it reaches the town of Pitlochry. In the centre of Pitlochry, just after a set of traffic lights, turn left onto West Moulin Road, signposted for 'Moulin, Blairgowrie, Braemar'. Continue along this scenic road into Strathardle for 19Km /12 miles until you reach Kirkmichael. Directly after you have passed through the village, turn left onto the B950 signposted 'Glenshee, Braemar'. After 6.5 Km / 4 miles you reach a junction with the A93. Turn left onto the A93, in the direction of Braemar and the Glenshee Ski Slopes. In 5.5 Km / 3.5 miles, just after the B951 branches off the right for 'Glenisla, Kirriemuir', you will see the Glenshee Pottery and Visitor Centre in a group of trees on your right hand side.

If you fancy a stroll, a delightful 7 km / 4.5 mile walk on the quiet road from Cray to Blacklunans can be accessed just past Cray house on the B951. Turn right at the old church and find a suitable parking space. The route takes you along the full length of the unclassified lane from Cray to Blacklunans. Return the way you came.

#### Into the Angus Glens (25)

If you are in no hurry, extend the route by carrying on to the bustling town of Kirriemuir and up into the lovely Angus Glens to visit Corrie Fee National Nature Reserve.

