

Craigellachie NNR, Aviemore



Within walking distance of Aviemore, Craigellachie is one of nine National Nature Reserves in and around the Cairngorms National Park and offers breathtaking panoramic views. Native birch woodlands burst with colour and life throughout the year, tranquil lochs attract dragonflies and damselflies, and rugged crags provide a nesting site for peregrines.

Nepalese youth group



Getting young people interested in the environment can sometimes be a challenge, but that is exactly what Nepal Scotland Association wanted to achieve with the help of Backbone and the Cairngorms National Park Authority.

A group of nine 13 – 21 year old Nepalese young people stayed for two nights in the Highland Council Outdoor Centre at Badaguish, near Aviemore. As part of their outdoor learning experience, they had the opportunity to explore Loch Morlich by canoe, and enjoyed a ranger-led guided walk around Craigellachie National Nature Reserve where they found out about the history of the area and the different habitats, plants and animals.

Tika Limbu, one of the group, said, "The walk at Craigellachie National Nature Reserve was interesting and educational. We learnt about new plants and their benefits, and how the peregrine kills its prey – it was fantastic! Finding out about medicinal plants was great. I will definitely recommend others to come here."

By the end of their stay, the young group felt that they had learnt a lot about the local wildlife and environment, but they also realised how many fun and interesting activities there are just waiting to be discovered in the outdoors.



"Today was the most amazing experience I've had in my life"

Inspired?
Here's how...

This project was organised by Nepal Scotland Association and Backbone. If you would like to organise a similar project, please contact Backbone
☎ 01997 414703 🌐 www.backbone.uk.net

Top things to do

Wildlife watching

Famous for the breeding ospreys at nearby Boat of Garten, this area of the Cairngorms National Park has a wealth of wildlife-watching opportunities. Follow the trails or take part in a ranger-led event.


Walking


Access to the Reserve is past the Catholic Church or Youth Hostel. There are four separate trails leading around Craigellachie, offering you the chance to explore the lochs, hills and woodlands. The all-ability Lochan Trail skirts the banks of Loch Puladdern, the Buzzard Trail leads you through the higher birches to the old reservoir and the Woodland Trail winds through the trees. For the more energetic, the Viewpoint Trail takes you near the summit where you will have stunning views of the Cairngorm plateau. An audio guide for your mobile phone is available.

Adventure activities

This varied landscape of lochs, forests and mountains provides many opportunities for adventure activities from canoeing and windsurfing to Land Rover safaris and sled dog tours.

 Aviemore Visitor Centre
01479 810930

 www.visitcairngorms.com

Cycling

Nearby Glenmore and Rothiemurchus have many cycle routes of varying distances and terrains. Bikes can be hired locally and maps are provided.

Steam train

Relive the age of steam by travelling on a steam locomotive from Aviemore to Boat of Garten and Broomhill. The 20-mile round trip takes one hour.


 01479 810725




Castles, museums, galleries


Loch an Eilein, in the Rothiemurchus Estate has a 13th century ruined castle, an award-winning picnic site and a gallery that boasts a huge display of local artwork and crafts. The trail around the loch is suitable for all abilities. The Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore is an ideal place to learn how people lived in rural Highland villages many years ago.

 Loch an Eilein Centre 01479 811085

 Highland Folk Museum 01540 673551


How to get here

Nearest train station is Aviemore (400m)


 ScotRail 08457 550033

Local and national bus services at Aviemore

 Stagecoach/Rapsons 01463 222244

 Citylink 0871 266 3333

Community Travel Grant

 <http://outdoors4all.org.uk/ctg.html>

Pick up a copy of *The Cairngorms Explorer* leaflet in the Visitor Information Centre for useful information about how to get to and around the Park without a car.

Eating

There is a good range of eating places available in and around Aviemore.

Access for all


Accessible trails at Craigellachie NNR

 www.phototrails.org

Mobility scooters are available for hire from the Glenmore Visitor Centre.

 01479 861220


Disabled toilets in Aviemore require a RADAR key

 RADAR www.radar.org.uk

Accommodation


Scottish Youth Hostel Association

 SYHA Aviemore 01479 810345


 SYHA Cairngorm Lodge 01479 861238

Badaguish Outdoor Centre (Speyside Trust) runs residential activity programmes for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

 01479 861285


 www.badaguish.org

Highland Council also has an outdoor centre and lodges at Badaguish.

 Highland Council @ Badaguish
01479 861734

Further information


Scotland's National Nature Reserves

 www.nnr-scotland.org.uk


Visit Cairngorms

 www.visitcairngorms.com

Highland Council Ranger Service

 01479 873914

Visitor Information Centres

 Aviemore 01479 810930

 Glenmore 01479 861220

Staying longer?

Explore nearby:

- Glenmore NNR and Forest Park
- Loch Garten Osprey Centre, Abernethy NNR
- Invereshie & Inshriach NNR