

## Welcome to Ballater

Ballater, renowned for its Royal connections lies on a meander of the River Dee under the shelter of Craigendarroch. As you will see, Ballater is a very attractive village that has helped put the 'Royal' into Royal Deeside. Ballater is the nearest settlement to, and was the railhead for, Balmoral Castle, which lies eight miles along the River Dee to the west.



## Ballater Paths

A network of paths and tracks lead out of the village, providing a variety of routes to enjoy with fine views, a rich local history and abundant wildlife. This leaflet suggests 6 routes of varying length, all starting and finishing in Ballater so you can give the car a rest! Each colour-coded route is shown on the map and there are corresponding coloured waymarkers along each route to help guide you. However, please take a few minutes to read the route descriptions on the map before you set out, just to make sure that your chosen route is suitable for you and others in your group.

## Other Walks

A visit to Ballater wouldn't be complete without visiting the Burn o' Vat in the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve and don't miss the nearby Cambus o' May forest with its wee lochans – a haven for dragonflies.



For information on paths, local events, facilities and accommodation:

### Visitor Information Centres:

Ballater: 01339 755 306 (open all year)

Crathie: 01339 742 414

Useful web sites:

[www.visitballater.com](http://www.visitballater.com)

[www.visitabdn.com](http://www.visitabdn.com)

[www.deesideway.org](http://www.deesideway.org)

[www.visitcairngorms.com](http://www.visitcairngorms.com)

[www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)

If you enjoyed Ballater Paths then look out for other Community Path Leaflets to help you explore more of the Cairngorms National Park.

# Ballater Paths

## Explore Deeside



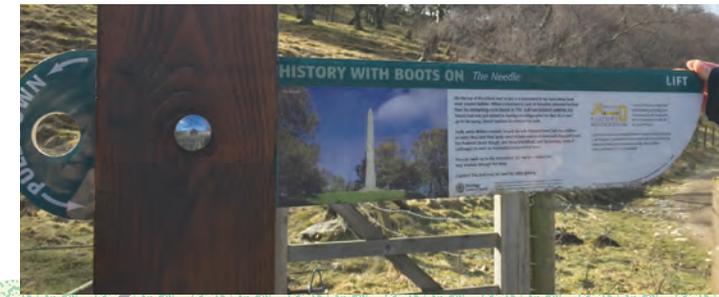
## Deeside Way

An attractive walk following the old Deeside railway, with fine views of the River Dee and surrounding hills. The Aboyne and Deeside Railway Company wanted to build the line through to Braemar but Queen Victoria was 'not amused' and said no! So it ended at Ballater, but a stretch of trackbed west of the village is a reminder of the original plan.

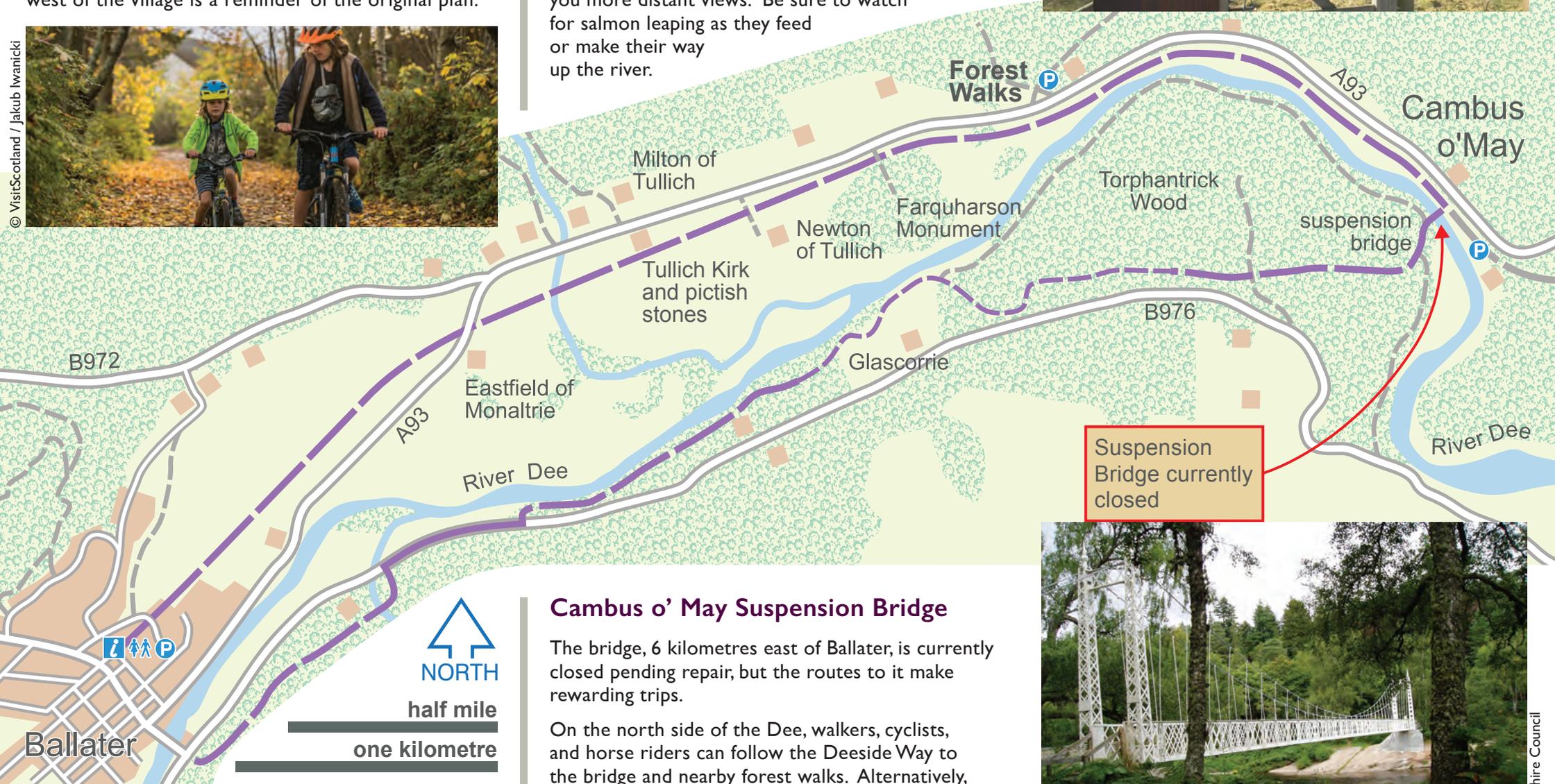


## The River Dee

The source of the Dee is about 4,000 feet high on the side of Braeriach, one of the highest of the Cairngorm Mountains. Famous as a great salmon river, the Dee tumbles past Ballater on its way to Aberdeen giving the river a total length of 85 miles. All of the paths in this leaflet either pass close to the river or give you more distant views. Be sure to watch for salmon leaping as they feed or make their way up the river.



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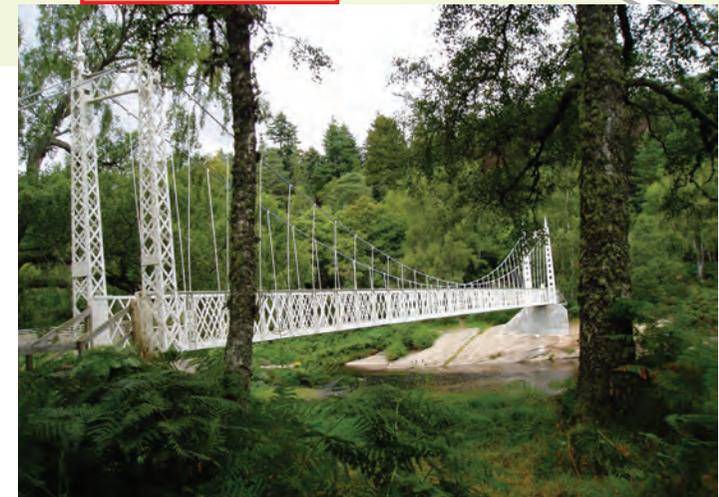
Suspension Bridge currently closed

## Cambus o' May Suspension Bridge

The bridge, 6 kilometres east of Ballater, is currently closed pending repair, but the routes to it make rewarding trips.

On the north side of the Dee, walkers, cyclists, and horse riders can follow the Deeside Way to the bridge and nearby forest walks. Alternatively, walkers can take pleasantly-wooded purple-waymarked paths and tracks south of the river.

Both routes are on the map above.



# Ballater Paths



© Faye Swan

## Seven Bridges Circular Walk

Discover the old railway line to Bridge of Gairn before following the banks of the Gairn and Dee then crossing the impressive Polhollick Bridge. A great route to enjoy views over Glen Muick and Pannanich Hill.

Mostly earthy and surfaced paths with some sections of narrow rough and rocky paths, steps and the bridge. A short section of tarmac road and road crossings.

 5.5 miles / 9 km  
Allow 3 hrs

## Craigendarroch Circular

Paths wind their way through the oakwoods of Craigendarroch rewarding you with beautiful views of Lochnagar and the Cairngorms from the summit.

Mostly wide earthy paths with some sections of narrow rough and rocky paths, sections of steep uneven steps.

 2 miles / 3.2 km  
Allow 2 hrs

## Deeside Way

Follow the first part of the Deeside Way out of Ballater to Cambus o'May along the old railway line.

Mostly wide, smooth, firm path. Short even sections at the start. Some sections can be damp after heavy rain.

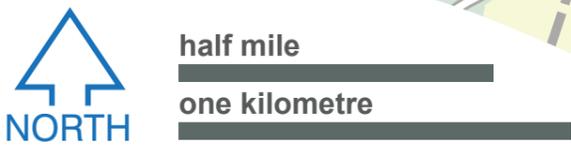
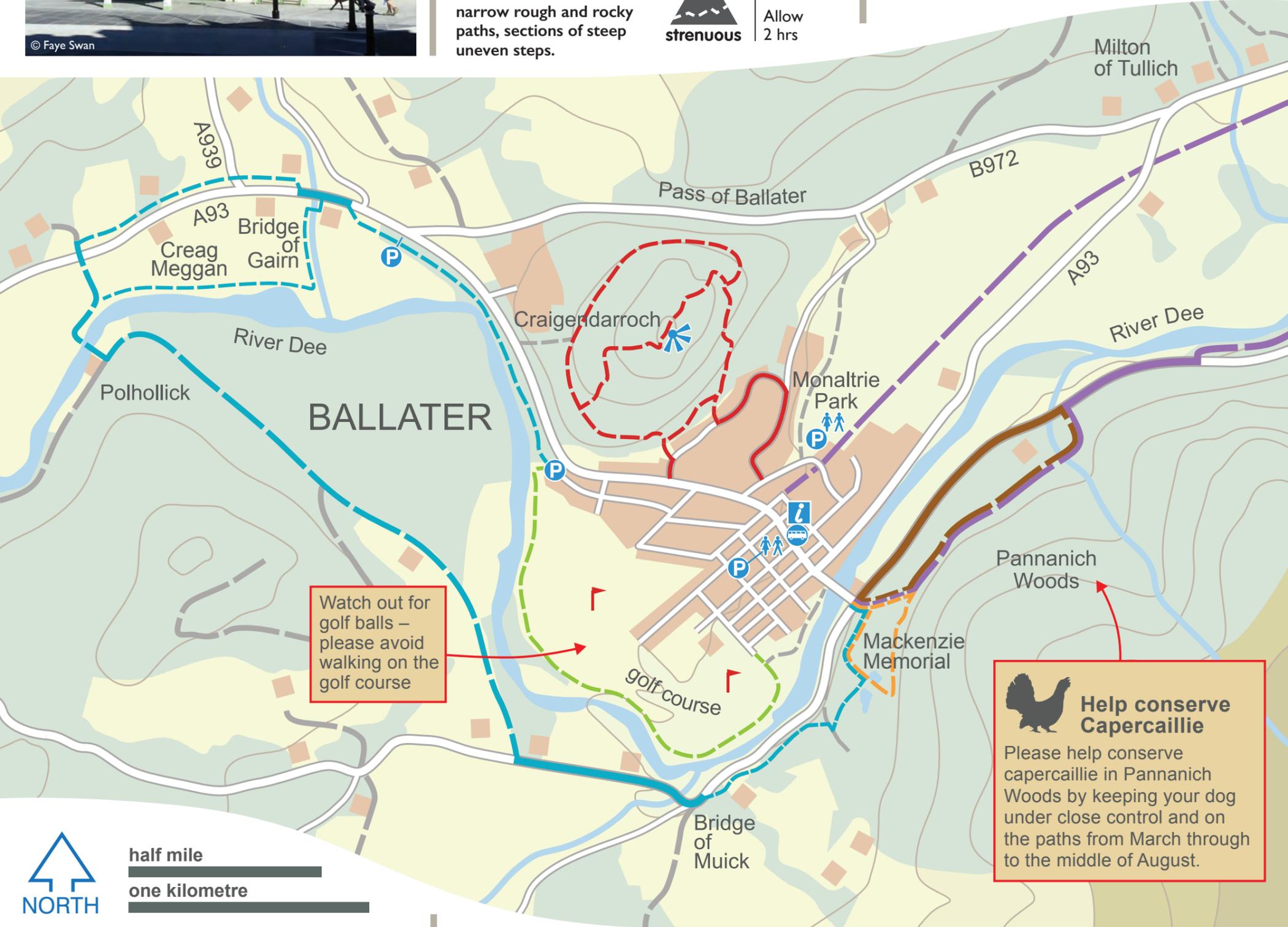
 5 miles / 8 kms (return)  
Allow 2 hrs

## Pannanich Woods Circular

Discover the old Canadian logger's camp in the woods and learn all about their role in the second world war.

Short section of moderate slope with firm earth path that can be muddy after heavy rain. Sections of wide firm forestry road and pavement.

 1.5 miles / 2.5 km  
Allow 1 hr



-  road
-  track
-  path
-  toilets
-  car park
-  bus stop
-  viewpoint

 **KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO**  
SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE [outdooraccess-scotland.scot](http://outdooraccess-scotland.scot)

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© Alistair Cassie

## Golf Course Walk

Explore the Dee on this beautiful riverside walk.

Mostly wide earthy paths with some sections of narrow rough and rocky paths, one section of steep uneven path. Not suitable for wheelchairs or buggies.

 2 miles / 3.2 km  
Allow 1.5 hrs

## Mackenzie Memorial Walk

Explore beautiful birch woods and soak up the view at the Mackenzie Memorial.

Mostly wide firm stone path and firm forest road one short section of narrow rough rocky earth path.

 0.75 miles / 1.3 km  
Allow 45 mins