

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 circular routes to enjoy with fine views, a rich local history and abundant wildlife. This leaflet suggests six 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 any others in your group.

About COAT

The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust works to build and improve paths, it also gives information about access in the Cairngorms area. Leaflet sales help this work. Find out more at: www.cairngormsoutdooraccess.org.uk



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

Visitor Information Centres:

Ballater: **01339 755 306** (open all year)
Braemar: **01339 741 600** (open all year)
Crathie: **01339 742 414**

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

useful web sites:

www.discoverroyaldeeside.com
www.aberdeen-grampian.com
www.visitcairngorms.com
www.cairngorms.co.uk

Ballater Paths



Explore Deeside



Ballater Paths Map



one mile



one kilometre



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Craigendarroch Circular Walk

Distance: 2 miles (3.2km)

Approximate time: 1½ - 2 hours

Start: Station Square

Terrain: Steep and rocky in places

Attractive paths in the oak woods of Craigendarroch, just a few minutes from the centre of Ballater.

From Station Square take the Braemar road (A93) west for 400m, then turn right into 'Craigendarroch Walk'. Follow waymarks around the circular path or climb to the summit for panoramic views towards the Cairngorm Mountains, including Lochnagar, and across Ballater and the valley of the River Dee (see cover photo).

Old Deeside Railway Path

Distance: 5 miles (8km) return

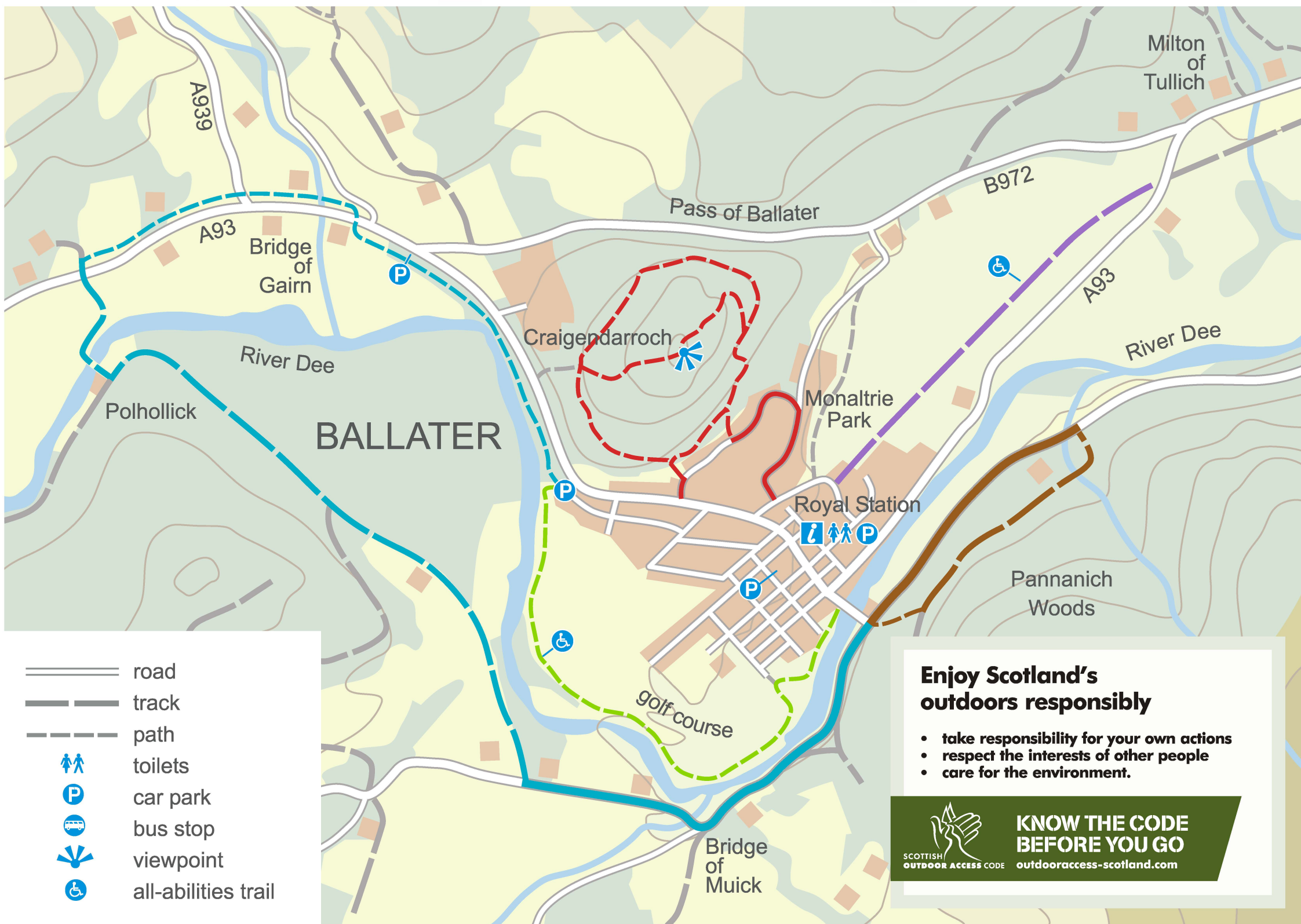
Approximate time: 1½ - 2 hours

Start: Station Square

Terrain: Gentle gradient on good path.

Follows part of the cycle route along the line of the old Deeside Railway, east from Ballater towards Cambus o'May.

Start from Station Square and follow the clear path until it reaches the main road (A93). Return by the same route, as there is no footway or pavement alongside the main road.



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

SCOTTISH OUTDOOR ACCESS CODE outdooraccess-scotland.com

Seven Bridges Circular Walk

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Approximate time: 2 - 3 hours

Start: Station Square

Terrain: A level route on tracks and paths.

A level route best walked anti-clockwise to enjoy the scenery. As the name suggests, the route crosses seven river and railway bridges along the way.

Start from Station Square and go along Braemar Road before crossing the railway bridge and following Dundarroch Road to the car-park by the river.

Turn right and continue to follow blue way-marks past Polhollick Bridge and return by the road south of the River Dee.

Golf Course Walk

Distance: 2 miles (3.2km)

Approximate time: 1½ hours

Start: Station Square

Terrain: Level well-made paths.

A circular walk alongside the River Dee, around the golf course, with fine open views of the surrounding countryside.

Start from Station Square and go along Bridge Street to the river, before following the green way-markers upstream. The riverside path from the car park at the west end of Ballater is suitable for all-abilities.

Dogs must be kept on a lead when walking beside the golf course.

Pannanich Woods Circular Walk

Distance: 1½ miles (2.5km)

Approximate time: 1 hour

Start: Station Square

Terrain: path and forest track

A short walk in woods south of the river from Ballater.

Start from Station Square and go along Bridge Street towards the river, before crossing Ballater Bridge to reach Pannanich Woods. After passing the old Canadian loggers camp, return via the pavement.

Please help conserve the local Capercaillie population (a rare ground-nesting bird) by keeping any dogs on leads between early March and September.

Old Deeside Railway Line

Distance from Ballater to Cambus o' May on old railway line 3.5 miles (6 kms). Distance of complete circuit 7.5 miles (11.5 kms)

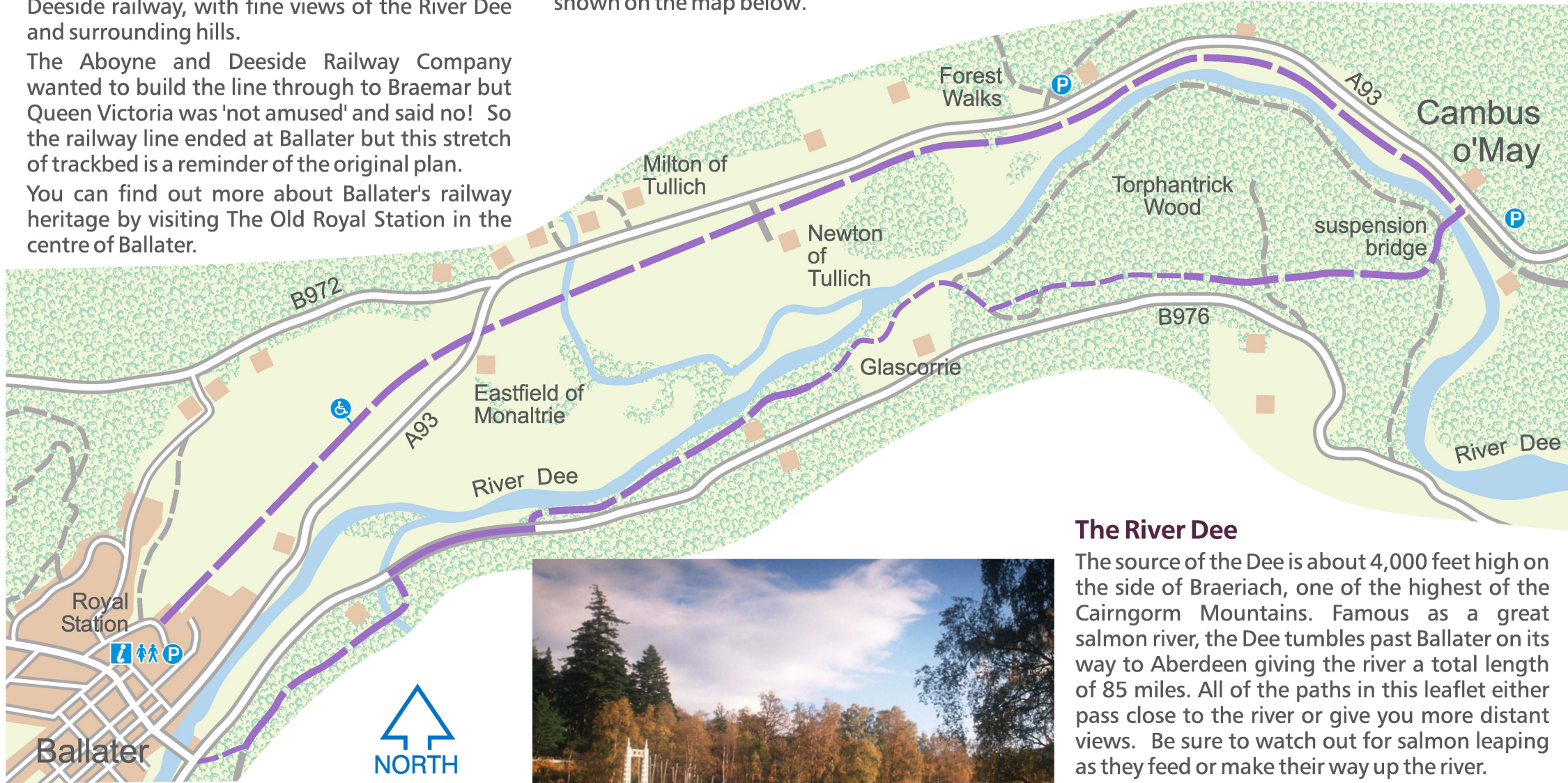
An attractive circular walk following the old Deeside railway, with fine views of the River Dee and surrounding hills.

The Aboyne and Deeside Railway Company wanted to build the line through to Braemar but Queen Victoria was 'not amused' and said no! So the railway line ended at Ballater but this stretch of trackbed is a reminder of the original plan.

You can find out more about Ballater's railway heritage by visiting The Old Royal Station in the centre of Ballater.

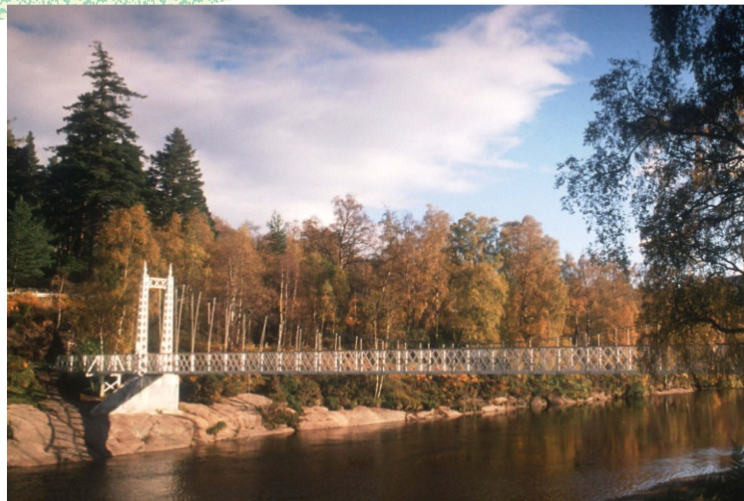
Cambus o'May Suspension Bridge

Six kilometres to the east of Ballater lies the picturesque suspension bridge over the River Dee, a short walk from the small car park just off the A93. The site is a great place for a picnic and has wonderful views up and down the river. Walkers, cyclists and horse riders from Ballater can get to both the Cambus o' May suspension bridge and the forest walks by following the old Deeside railway line as shown on the map below.



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 out for salmon leaping as they feed or make their way up the river.



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one mile

one kilometre