



# The Visitor Economy of Cairngorms National Park

This is a summary of the annual tourism economic impact research undertaken for Cairngorms National Park for the calendar year 2020, with comparisons to 2019. For context, trends from 2009-2020 are also shown. Outputs in this report have been generated using STEAM, the tourism specific economic impact model, owned and operated by Global Tourism Solutions (UK) Ltd.

Due to the significant disruption to the visitor economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, outputs for 2020 are not reflective of usual economic outputs for the area.

2020	552k visits to Cairngorms National Park in 2020	263k visits were made by visitors staying in Cairngorms National Park as part of a holiday or short break, generating 1m nights in local accommodation						
	1.3m Visitor Days and	Tourism visits to Cairngorms National Park	On average, staying visitors spend 3.8	289k visits were made by day visitors to Cairngorms National Park				
	Nights Spent in the Park in 2020	supported 2,829 full time equivalent	nights, spending a total of £37m on local	Staying visitors to the Park	Day visitors generated a			
	A total of £104m was generated within the local economy through visitor and tourism business expenditure	reaching effects	accommodation bandemic had far on all parts of the d supporting services	generated a total economic value locally of £89m in 2020	total economic value locally of £16m in 2020			
Trends 2019-2020	Economic Impact -66.2%	Visitor Numbers -73.3% Visitor Days -69.8%						

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Key Figures: Visitor Numbers: 2020										
Visitor Numbers		Serviced	Non-Serviced	SFR	All Staying Visitors	Day Visitors	All Visitors			
2020 (thousands)	000s	146.27	106.34	10.35	262.96	288.51	551.47			
2019 (thousands)	000s	586.88	378.45	32.37	997.71	1,069.12	2,066.83			
Change 19/20 (%)	%	-75.1	-71.9	-68.0	-73.6	-73.0	-73.3			
Share of Total (%)	%	27	19	2	48	52	100			
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# 2020

- Staying Visitors encompass all tourists staying overnight for at least one night in one of the following types of accommodation:
  Serviced Accommodation including Hotels, Guest Houses, B&Bs, Inns
  - Non-Serviced Accommodation including Self-Catering properties such as Houses, Cottages, Chalets and Flats, as well as Camping and Caravanning, Hostels and University / College accommodation
  - Staying with Friends and Relatives (SFR) unpaid overnight accommodation with local residents

**Day Visitors** visiting the area on a non-routine and non-regular leisure day trip from a home or holiday base



Day Visitors 52% of Visits

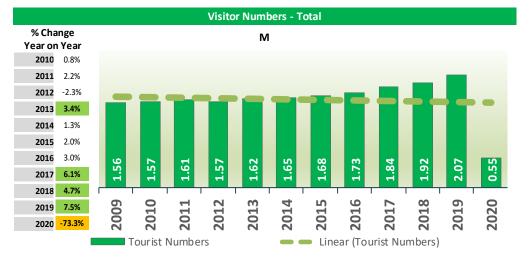
#### **Tourism Visits**

### In 2020, Cairngorms National Park received 551,470 tourism visits

There were an estimated 551,470 tourism visits to Cairngorms National Park in 2020, down 73.3% on the previous year. Between 2009 and 2019 the area had seen the total number of visits rise by 32% to a total of 2.07m visits. The significant drop off in trade, accounted for by the COVID-19 pandemic, affected all parts of the visitor economy, with the area's serviced accommodation sector suffering the largest fall in trade (-75.1%) between 2019 and 2020, followed by day visitors (-73.0%) and the non-serviced accommodation sector (-71.9%).

**Visitor Types** 

Day visitors accounted for 52% of all visits made to the area, but there were difficulties in tracking day visitor numbers during the pandemic. As a result, day visitors (and wild campers) who stayed away from retail outlets and closed visitor attractions, will have been under-represented. While both the day visitor and serviced accommodation sector continued to struggle throughout the year, the non-serviced accommodation sector did partially recover, but total visitor numbers again reduced in all sectors as restrictions were re-introduced.



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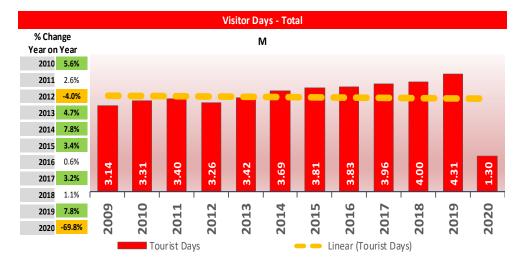
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#### **Visitor Days and Nights**

# In 2020, visitors generated 1,301,090 days and nights spent locally

Visitor Days take into account those visitors who stay at any destination for more than a day. For example, if a family of five stay three nights, they will not only account for five visitors, but also fifteen visitor days.

Despite the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, 1,301,090 visitor days were spent in the Park in 2020 (4.3m were spent in 2019). Staying visitors to the Cairngorms generated 1,012,580 days in the area, and day visitors spent an additional estimated 288,510 tourism day visits to the area during 2020. The effect of the pandemic on visiting behaviour and operating conditions meant that many visitor facilities were closed for significant periods and events and activities, including snow sports, that would ordinary happen did not occur. A host of businesses which would ordinarily be bringing visitors into the area, were closed due to restrictions. As a result, staying visitor days were down significantly by 68.7% for the year, with day visitors down by 73.0%.



#### Key Figures: Visitor Days: 2020

Visitor Days	Serviced	Non-Serviced	SFR	All Staying Visitors	Day Visitors	All Visitors	
2020 (thousands)	000s	260.88	705.64	46.05	1,012.58	288.51	1,301.09
2019 (thousands)	000s	975.03	2,118.54	146.66	3,240.23	1,069.12	4,309.34
Change 19/20 (%)	%	-73.2	-66.7	-68.6	-68.7	-73.0	-69.8
Share of Total (%)	%	20	54	4	78	22	100

# Average length of stay in days for different visitor types to Cairngorms National Park in 2020

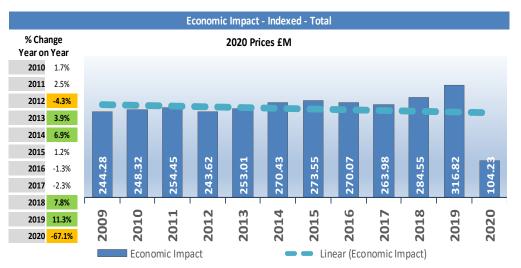


#### **Total Economic Value**

## In 2020, the visitor economy was worth a total of £104m

By 2019, the annual value of tourism activity had grown steadily since 2009 by 30% to £317m (all monetary figures in this narrative report are indexed, unless stated, to allow direct comparison). Between 2019 and 2020, however, tourism activity in the Cairngorms National Park was substantially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and as such, the economic impact of tourism was estimated to have fallen substantially by -66.2% to a figure of £104.23m.

The total economic impact in 2020 comprised the expenditure of visitors on goods and services, totalling £84.22m, and the *indirect* and *induced* economic effects of local businesses and residents spending tourism revenues locally, accounting for a further £20.02m. The economic impact was especially noticeable within serviced accommodation, which saw a drop of -65.7% on the previous year, resulting in a loss of around £100m, with an addition loss of 66m within the non-serviced accommodation sector, which experienced a drop of -65.3%.



#### Key Figures: Economic Impact (historic prices): 2020

Economic Impact		Serviced	Non-Serviced	SFR	All Staying Visitors	Day Visitors	All Visitors
2020 (£ Millions)	£M	52.10	35.09	1.318	88.51	15.73	104.23
2019 (£ Millions)	£Μ	151.75	101.15	4.320	257.22	51.31	308.54
Change 19/20 (%)	%	-65.7	-65.3	-69.5	-65.6	-69.4	-66.2
Share of Total (%)	%	50	34	1	85	15	100

## Average economic impact generated per person by each type of visitor to Cairngorms National Park in 2020

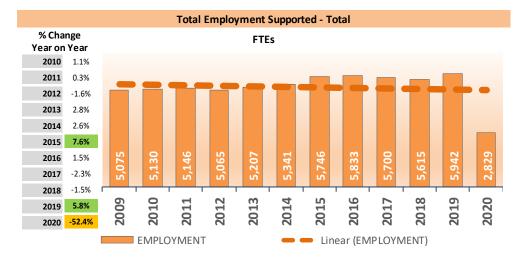
Day	Staying with Friends	All	Non-Serviced	All Staying	Serviced
Visitors	and Relatives	Visitors	Accommodation	Visitors	Accommodation
£54 per	£13 per Day	£80 per Day	£50 per Day	£87 per Day	£199 per Day
Day	£58 per Visit	£192 per Visit	£328 per Visit	£332 per Visit	£359 per Visit
Day			• •		• •

#### **Employment Supported**

## In 2020, the visitor economy supported 2,829 Full Time Equivalent jobs

The expenditure and activity of visitors to the Park supported a total of 2,829 Full-Time Equivalent jobs (FTEs) in 2020, a drop of -52.4% from a total of 5,942 FTEs in 2019. Total employment includes the jobs generated by the expenditure of visitors on goods and services, totalling 2,517 FTEs, and a further 312 indirect and induced jobs supported through local businesses.

The furlough scheme was an important employment support mechanism for the visitor economy during the pandemic. FTEs supported by the scheme are not included in the STEAM estimated employment totals for 2020 as they were not directly or indirectly supported by the activity of visitors, but rather through government subsidy. Survey data for UK visitor destinations suggests relatively low incidence of redundancy, due to the presence of the furlough scheme although it is important to note that not all sectors / employment would have been supported by the scheme.



#### Key Figures: Employment: 2020

Employment Supported by Sector		Direct Visitor Employment						
2020	Accommodation	Food & Drink	Recreation	Shopping	Transport	Total Direct	Induced	Total
Totals	1,775	271	115	138	218	2,517	312	2,829

#### **Definitions:**

- Accommodation: Payments for overnight stays in accommodation, such as room rates for serviced accommodation, or pitch fees and hire charges for non-serviced accommodation.
- **Recreation:** Covering expenditure on a wide range of leisure activities such as museum, event, concert / theatre and attractions attendance as well as sports participation and spectating.
- **Transport:** Expenditure within the destination on travel, including fuel and public transport tickets.
- Food and Drink: Spend on eating and drinking at restaurants, cafes and other venues, takeaway food, snacks and groceries.
- **Shopping:** What visitors spend on items including clothing / jewellery, household items, music / films / games, gifts and smaller items, books and maps, plants and garden items.
- Indirect: The expenditure by local tourism businesses within the local supply chain.



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# STEAM Comparative Headlines: 2019 and 2020

Due to the significant disruption to the visitor economy caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, outputs for 2020 are not reflective of usual economic outputs for the area.



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# STEAM Comparative Headlines: 2009 to 2019

Outputs for the period to 2019 show recent performance levels in the area prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



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