

Wednesday 21st May

STRONG WALK

WALK 10 – MOUNT KEEN. BALLATER TO GLEN TANAR. (Munro)

For this exciting trek, local vehicles take us to the Glen Muick Estate, where we begin our ascent towards Cairn Leuchan. We then branch off on foot, on a well defined land rover track and continue over moorland and rugged terrain, descending into Glen Tanar. Here we cross the bridge over the Water of Tanar, and start our ascent up the Mounth Road to Mount Keen, Scotland's most easterly munro. Retracing our steps back to the bridge, we then continue beside the river through the stunning Glen Tanar Estate via Etnach, passing the Half Way Hut and Boat House to the stables, where we join our transport back to Ballater.

Terrain: Some muddy indistinct paths and a burn crossing.

- **Depart from Green Hut Ballater at 8am**
- **Distance 22km**
- **Approx Walking Time 8hrs.**
- **Ascent 734m**
- **Landranger 44**

MODERATE WALKS

WALK 11 – CREAG NAN GABHAR (Corbett)

We leave our transport at Auchallater car park, taking the path towards Loch Callater for a short distance, soon turning right to begin a steady climb, passing grouse butts before reaching Sron Nan Gabhar. Traversing the ridge, a panoramic view of the surrounding mountains can be enjoyed on a clear day. After reaching Creag Nan Gabhar we leave the path and drop down to the Bealach Buidhe and on to the bothy by the end of the Loch. We return to Auchallater carpark following a good land rover track alongside the Callater Burn.

Terrain: Mostly on good paths, although pathless for part of the descent.

- **Depart from Green Hut Ballater at 9am – BUS**
- **Distance 16km**
- **Approx Walking Time 5-6 hrs.**
- **Ascent 650m.**
- **Landranger 43**

WALK 11A – BALLATER'S 3 PEAKS CHALLENGE

Pit your endurance against Ballater's three local peaks – Sgor Buidh, Craigendarroch, and Craig Coillich. Enjoy magnificent outlooks up and down the Dee Valley, bird's eye views of Ballater village, and stunning vistas of Lochnagar and beyond on this rollercoaster route around Ballater. We'll start at a gentle pace along the Cinder Path towards Sgor Buidh, then onto a land rover track with a steady ascent to the summit. From the top you can see the other two peaks below. The return track to the Pass road offers vistas of majestic Lochnagar and the layers of mountains in front and beyond. After a short distance on the Pass road, the route will take us up and over Craigendarroch, the Hill of Oaks. Then on across Ballater bridge, with the opportunity of an opt-out of our third peak – a 4.5 km loop up and down Craig Coillich. A short, steep ascent will reward us with another stunning view down to the village, then a gentler descent through the woods leads to the forest track and return to Ballater centre.

WALK 11A Continued...

Terrain: Land rover tracks, rough paths through the woods with some steep ascents and descents, roots/rocks/steps.

- **Depart from Green Hut Ballater at 9am - ON FOOT**
- **Distance 17.5km**
- **Approx Walking Time 6hrs.**
- **Ascent 785m.**
- **Landranger 44**

EASY WALK

WALK 12 – RIVER DEE, DALHEFOUR WOOD AND KNOCK CASTLE

A slightly longer 'easy' walk taking in the River Dee, woodlands, forest tracks and farmland, culminating at Knock Castle, the scene of historical clan animosity and a tragic family event. The route is mostly flat on good tracks, but with one longer incline, and a stretch on a rough woodland track which involves negotiating some fallen trees. Poles recommended for this section, but anyone of average fitness and agility should manage fine. Look out for glimpses of the castle through the trees before we get there, and see if you can spot birds and squirrels in the woods. After exploring the castle ruins, you will enjoy a relaxing ride back to Ballater.

Terrain: Good tracks, a couple of ascents, one short rougher section on a narrow woodland path

- **Depart from Green Hut Ballater at 9:30am – ON FOOT**
- **Distance 11km**
- **Approx Walking Time 4hrs.**
- **Ascent 253m.**
- **Landranger 44**