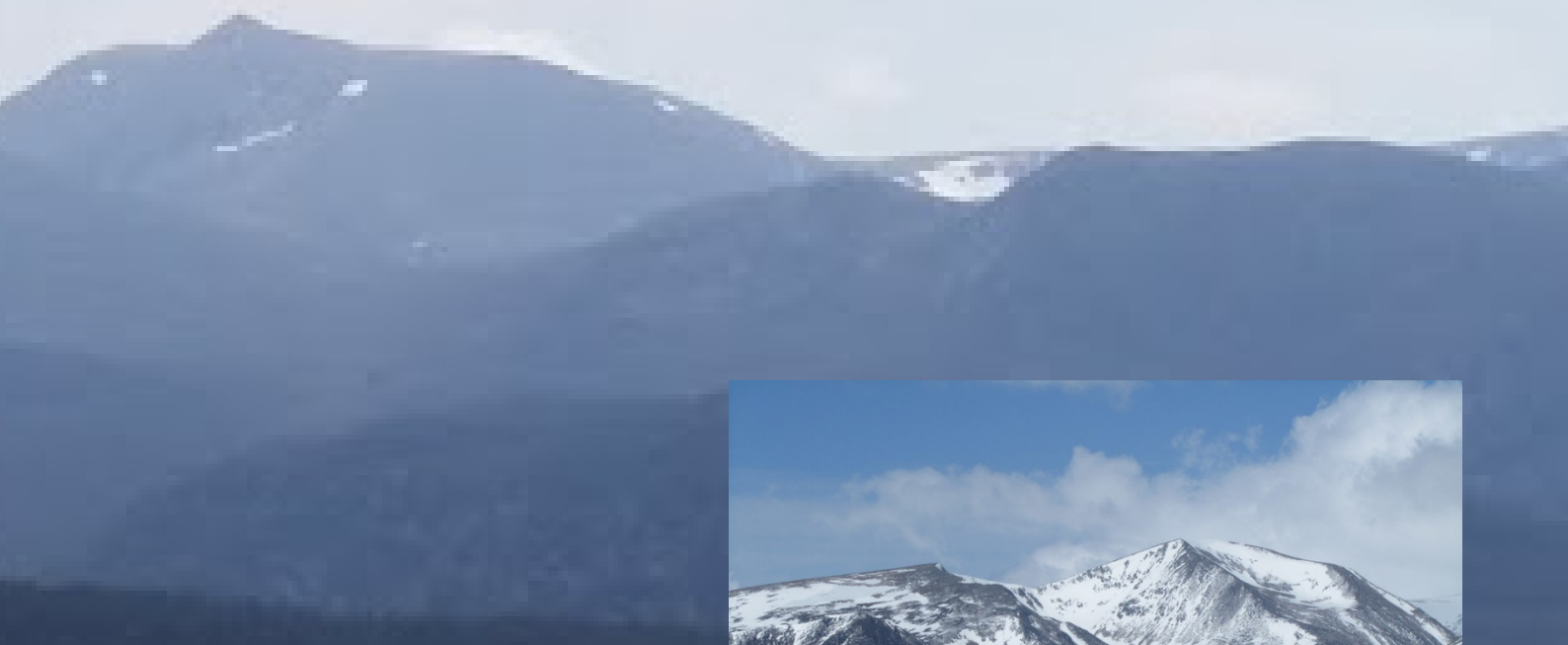


Ballater Walking Festival

15th to 21st May 2021



2021 BWF Walk Descriptions Free Walks.

Saturday 15 May.

Moderate

WALK 1. Cairn Leuchan and Pannanich Hill

Distance 14 km (7.5 ml). **Ascent** 700 m. (2333 ft.) **Approximate time** 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: N0 370 958

Departure. 09.00. **Walk from Ballater. Assemble at the Hut on the Green.**

We leave Ballater by the Royal Bridge and enter into the forest. We pass the Mackenzie Monument and continue up past the old Curling Ponds. Here we turn right and approach the Glen Muick Estate. Passing through a gate we take a steep ascent up to the Pannanich Ridge to the trig point where there are stunning views of the Dee Valley. We then follow the ridge round to the right passing Craig Vallich and on to a small bothy. We continue on up to Cairn Leuchan past peaty bogs. We return by taking the land rover track back towards Ballater passing Alan's Prop and taking the Seven Bridges path back to Ballater from the Bridge of Muick, to the Royal Bridge and home.

Saturday 15 May.

Easy

WALK 2. Cambus O'May Circular

Distance 12km (7.5 ml). **Ascent** Negligible

Approximate time 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: 370 958

Departure. 10.00. **Walk from Ballater. Assemble at the Hut on the Green.**

We depart from Ballater via the Royal Bridge and enter the Pannanich forest. We turn left leading us to the site of the Dalmochie lumber camp. We turn right on to the B976 then cross over to the river path leading to Torphantrick Wood. We cross the Dee via the Cambus O'May suspension bridge and then proceed along the Deeside Way passing the picturesque 'Cut Away Cottage'. We return to Ballater passing the Cambus O'May Creamery which produces artisanal cheeses and the Tullich graveyard which houses war graves and displays celtic relics.

This is a long flat walk. The path on South side of the river is less defined but the Deeside Way is level and is popular with cyclists and walkers.

Sunday 16 May.

Moderate

WALK 3. Heart Break Ridge Circular

Distance km 20km (12.6 ml). **Ascent** 484 m (1589 ft) **Approximate time** 6 hrs.
Map. Landranger 44. **GR Start and End:** NO 370 958
Departure. 09.00. **Walk from Ballater. Assemble at the Hut on the Green.**

We meet at the Hut on the Green and depart over the Dee Bridge taking the Seven Bridges Path to the Bridge of Muick. We then continue on up the Mount Keen Path via Balintober Farm. We climb slowly to the stalkers hut on the ridge, taking in stunning views. We turn left and pass around Craig Vallich and along Pannanich Hill. At the top, the views of the Dee Valley are amazing. We continue down Heart Break Ridge and over Bellamore Craig to the B976 with Headinch to our right. We cross the road into Torphantrick Wood and continue south west along the River Dee past Glascorrie and Dalmochie. We then join the B976 and return to Ballater via the Royal Bridge.

Sunday 16 May.

Easy

WALK 4. Chapel Loch, Mill of Sterin Circular

Distance 10 km (6 ml). **Ascent** Mainly flat. **Approximate time** 4 hrs.
Map. Landranger 44. **GR Start and End:** NO 370 958
Departure. 10.00. **Walk from Ballater Assemble at the Hut on the Green.**

We meet at the Hut on the Green and depart over the Royal Bridge taking the Seven Bridges Path via the MacKenzie monument to the Bridge of Muick. We continue on past Balintober Farm and pass the chapel ruin and graveyard. We then pass Chapel Loch and continue on to the 'Gas' pond via a quaint forest bridge. We re-join the path to the Glen Muick Road and turn left past Birkhall. We then turn right over the 'Cock's Neck' to the Bridge of Sterin. We continue on to Birkhall and return by Dorsincilly farm to Ballater. Good paths, mainly flat with short incline and some tarmac.

Monday 17 May.

Strenuous

WALK 5. Culardoch and Carn Liath Corbetts.

Distance 23.75 km (14.75 ml). **Ascent** 853 m (0000 ft) **Approximate time** 8 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: NO 188 912

Departure. 08.00.

Own transport.

Keiloch car park

We leave the Keiloch car park and take the path to Invercauld House. We then take a sharp turn up into the forest climbing slowly to Culardoch Corbett (900 m) which offers extensive views into Aberdeenshire. We continue on to Carn Liath (862 m), from which the granite tors of nearby giants Ben Avon and Beinn a'Bhuird can be seen.

The approach track is good, whereas the two rounded hills are heather covered and have some pathless sections with boggy ground in places.

Monday 17 May.

Moderate

WALK 6. Carn na Drochaide

Distance 15.5 km (9.65 ml). **Ascent** 590 m (1,965 ft) **Approximate time** 6 hrs.

Map. Landranger 43.

GR Start and End: NO 118 909

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport.

NTS car park at the Quoich .

We set off from the Quoich car park to the Punch Bowl and up the Glen Quoich track. We continue NW up on the track alongside the Allt na h-Earba burn and head NE up the ridge path to Carn na Criche with views of Beinn a' Bhuird. We continue along the ridge past several cairns to the summit of Carn na Drochaide (*Cairn of the Bridge*, a Corbett 818m). We walk over to Carn Dearg, then steeply down towards the gap in the trees at Allanquoich with great views over Braemar, Glen Clunie and the Dee valley. Reaching the small cairn on the track just SW of Allanaquoich, we return to the Punch Bowl and back to the Quoich car park.

Monday 17 May.

Easy

WALK 7. Queen's Drive Circular from Braemar

Distance 10 km (6 ml). **Ascent** 100 m (430 ft) **Approximate time** 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 43.

GR Start and End: NO 152 913

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport. Braemar car park - turn left at Butcher's.

Starting in the centre of Braemar, we will visit the ruins of Kildrochit Castle before heading past the refurbished Fife Arms to the Duke of Rothesay Pavilion and the Games Park. From there we will go up to the duck pond before walking down to the River Clunie and over the Society Bridge to join the Queen's Drive. Continuing past the Lion's Face, we will return to Braemar via the castle.

Wednesday 19 May.

Strenuous

WALK 8. Shielin of Mark via Capel Mounth

Distance 17.70 km (11 ml). **Ascent** 852 m (2840 ft) **Approximate time** 8 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: NO 309 851

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport.

Spittal of Glenmuick car park

Starting at the Spittal of Glenmuick car park and we head towards Loch Muick and head left up the Capel Mounth. We continue on to the heather covered moorland. The path peters out up into the surrounding hills where there are stunning views of Lochnagar and Broad Cairn. We descend towards the Shielin of Mark Bothy which it is tucked away by the bank of a small tributary of the Water of Mark. We then take a circular route back to the Spittal of Glenmuick.

The track on the approach is good, then the route follows heather covered boggy ground in parts. There are two burns to cross which may be tricky in challenging weather.

Wednesday 19 May.

Moderate

WALK 9. Sgör Buidhe Mast / Cambus Quarries Circular

Distance 17 km (10.6 ml). **Ascent** 809.75 m. (2,696 ft) **Approximate time** 6 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: NO 370 958

Departure. 09.00.

Walk from Ballater. Assemble at the Hut on the Green

We take the Cinder Path out of Ballater to the Sgör Buidhe track. We turn sharp left and take a steep ascent up through the Tullich forest to the mast via a woodland track on the left. On reaching the Mast we pass the lochan and then descend down the main track with views of the Crannach Valley. On the way down we take a path on the left through the trees taking us over the quaint Tullich Bridge. From Milton of Tullich Farm we continue left to the Culsten Loch, the home of herons, geese, and ducks of various breeds. After crossing the Culsten burn we ascend to the Cambus O' May Quarries and Viewpoint. From here we come out of the forest and cross the A93 on to the Deeside Way. We continue left, past the old Cut Away Cottage and cross the Cambus O' May Bridge. From here we turn right and follow the lesser known river track back into Ballater.

Wednesday 19 May.

Easy

WALK 10. Loch Kinnord Heritage & Nature Walk

Distance 7.5 km (4.5 ml). **Ascent** 20m (65 ft) **Approximate time** 4 hrs.

Map. Landranger 37.

GR Start and End: NO 429 997

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport. Burn O' Vat Visitor Car park

We will explore the rich natural and cultural history of the Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve on a circular walk through the woodland around Loch Kinnord with wonderful views across the loch and opportunities to spot a variety of wildlife. En route we can see archaeological features left by people who lived here in the past, such as remains of a crannog – Iron Age hut – built on the loch and the Pictish cross carved over a thousand years ago. The route will also include a detour around the Parkin's Moss trail with a boardwalk to enable us to go onto the beautiful bog and perhaps see some damselflies and dragonflies without getting our feet wet!

Firm path with some narrow, uneven sections, tree roots and short moderate slopes.

Thursday 20 May.

Moderate

WALK 11. Garbh Ait Falls & Honka Hut

Distance 10 km (6 ml).

Ascent 240 m (790 ft.)

Approximate time 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 43/44.

GR Start and End: NO188 912

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport.

Keiloch car park

From the Keiloch car park we cross the A93, then over the Old Brig O'Dee and enter the Ballochbuie Forest. Going east we pass Arthur's Meadow where stags may be seen. We take a gentle climb by the side of the stream and cross the metal bridge constructed for Queen Victoria for viewing the falls and mountains. From here we continue along the track until we reach a beautiful log cabin. We return through the old Caledonian Pine Forest to our starting point.

Thursday 20 May.

Easy

WALK 12. Genechal, Balnacroft and the Distillery

Distance 9km (5.5 miles)

Ascent 90m.(300 ft)

Approximate time 5 hrs.

Map Landranger 44.

GR Start & End NO 264 949

Departure 9.00.

Own Transport. Crathie car park – Visitors Centre

This is an interesting walk in an area rich in Royal connections. From the car park, we walk down to the river over the White Bridge and up to the Distillery. We continue along a back road to Balnacroft. Following a woodland track, we will make a detour to The Genechal, now a derelict cottage associated with Queen Victoria. Before we emerge onto open hill side, there is a stile to cross. The downhill route offers amazing vistas of Balmoral and the Eastern Cairngorms. We will retrace our steps from the distillery, back over the White Bridge to find John Brown's grave and finish back at Crathie car park.

Friday 21 May.

Moderate

WALK 13. Balmoral Cairns (8 of them)

Distance 10 km (6 ml).

Ascent 300 m. (975 ft.) **Approximate time** 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 44.

GR Start and End: NO 264 949

Departure. 09.00.

Own Transport. Crathie car park – Visitor's Centre

We start our walk from Crathie car park with a visit to John Brown's grave. After crossing the suspension bridge we enter Easter Balmoral and proceed to Beatrice's Cairn followed by Albert's Cairn (The Pyramid). We then descend to visit Alice's Cairn followed by Arthur's, Leopold's, Purchase, Louise's and then Helena's.

Excellent views of Lochnagar mountain and Balmoral Castle can be viewed en route. If time allows, we will also pay a visit to John Brown's statue. There are many other monuments on the estate which will be pointed out on the walk.

This walk is steeped in Royal heritage and is mainly on good tracks although there are some steep sections and may be muddy in places.

Friday 21 May.

Easy

WALK 14. Tarland Archaeology / Heritage Walk

Distance 12 km (7.5 ml).

Ascent 330 m. (1080 ft)

Approximate time 5 hrs.

Map. Landranger 37.

GR Start and End: NO 481 043

Departure. 10.00.

Own Transport. Park in the village square, Tarland

We will travel back in time around Tarland on a circular walk from the village square taking a trip back over 4,000 years ago to Tomnaverie stone circle, built by Bronze Age farmers. We will pass Culsh earth house, an Iron Age underground storage chamber and follow an old drove road up to the slopes of Pittenderich to take in the view over the Howe of Cromar and beyond. The route we take descends through moorland and woodland, passing Douneside House to return to Tarland.

Moderate ascent and short steeper section, mostly on grass / gravel paths.