



The Speyside Way

The Speyside Way covers just over 100 kilometres (65 miles) from the fishing village of Buckie on the Moray coast to the village of Aviemore, in the foothills of the great Cairngorm Mountains.

The Speyside Way trail follows the banks of the River Spey, often along disused railway lines as it makes its way from the sea to the Cairngorms National Park.

Following the banks of the River Spey, this is the easiest of our long-distance hiking routes. However, it still presents a good challenge and offers enjoyable walking and hiking through a changing landscape. Hiking through villages, woods and rural riverlands, the path is fairly quiet so you won't be sharing it with many other hikers and will often find that you have it to yourself.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS LEAFLET WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING BUT MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Buckie

Buckie (Bucaidh in Gaelic) is a fishing town on the Moray Firth and was formed by the amalgamation of small closely knit fishing villages along the coast line. At the heart of Buckie lies Cluny harbour, built by the Cluny family in the 1800's. Today, Buckie harbour is one of the busiest in Scotland. The harbour is also home to an active shipyard which repairs and builds fishing vessels. The fishermen's houses in Buckie are fairly typical of the area and fall into two groups. Earlier houses in the simple traditional style can be seen in areas like Seatown and Yardie and those built towards the end of the 19th Century reflecting the increased wealth of fishermen. Few towns of its size can have so many religious groups represented as Buckie and this is reflected in the many churches in the town. Some are architecturally quite noteworthy. The most striking is undoubtedly the twin-spired Roman Catholic Church at the west end of the town, opened in 1857. Also impressive are the Episcopal Church in Cluny Square, built in 1876, the old West Church, and the North Church with its striking crown steeple which in 1878 replaced an earlier building.

Cash Points/ATM: TSB & Bank of Scotland. Various shops with ATMs.

Places to Eat: Bijou By The Sea 01542 833915 (under refurbishment, due to open late summer). Akash Tandoori 01542 833571 (closed on Mondays). China Town Restaurant 01542 834440. Bengal Brasserie 01542 835856 & more.

Shops: full range of shops available including Post Office.

Taxis: G Cabs 01542 839842, Ace Taxis 01343 820820.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Fochabers

Fochabers is a charming village close to the River Spey in the county of Moray. It is a pleasant and friendly place with a population of around 1800. The current town of Fochabers dates from 1776. Prior to the founding of the present village the old town of Fochabers stood a short distance to the north and nearer Gordon Castle. The fourth Duke of Gordon had been for some time "desirous to remove the present Town or Village of Fochabers upon account of its inconvenient nearness to Gordon Castle" and at the beginning of 1776 he took steps to shift its inhabitants to a new site. The architect John Baxter of Edinburgh, already commissioned by the Duke in the renovation of Gordon Castle, drew up the plans for the layout of the new town. The first feu was taken up in mid 1776 and over the next twenty years or so the planned town took shape with some of the early tenementers being paid to 'flit' from the old town. Later residents had to pay entry money. The village is also home to family run company, Baxters, the well known maker of Scottish produce.

Cash Points/ATM: Scotmid, Clydesdale/Virgin Money

Places to Eat: The Quaich Café 01343 820981 (closed Mondays). The Gordon Arms 01343 820508. The Grant Arms 01343 820202 (pub only). Various takeaways.

Shops: Scotmid Store, Gift shops, Pharmacy and Post Office.

Nearest Taxi: Ace Taxis 01343 820820.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Craigellachie

Craigellachie lies at the very heart of Speyside, situated on the Eastern bank of the River Spey near where the river merges with the Fiddich. The name means 'rocky hill' and the village dates back to circa 1750. Craigellachie is dependent on the whisky industry and is home to the Speyside Cooperage where local professional coopers make whisky casks. The Cooperage has an excellent visitor centre. Craigellachie Bridge was built by Thomas Telford in 1814. A plaque on one of the towers guarding the entrance to the bridge records that the metalwork was cast in Wales, another plaque shows that the bridge was restored in 1964.

Places to Eat: Highlander Inn 01340 881446, Craigellachie Hotel 01340 881204.

Shops: There is a local Store/Post Office.

Nearest Taxis: Ace Taxis 01343 820820. Dufftown Taxis 07383 820820, Speyside Executive Hire, Rothes, Aberlour 01340 831302/07748 636651.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Aberlour

Officially named 'Charlestown of Aberlour', the village is situated on the River Spey and nestles midway between Grantown on Spey and Elgin on the A95 main road. It originally became famous for its orphanage but now is better known for tourism, Aberlour Single Malt Whisky and the home of Walkers Shortbread. It has won many awards for floral displays and its Highland games. The Speyside Way passes directly through the village. In the days when trains still ran through Strathspey, providing a lifeline service to the area's many distilleries, the local inn, now called the Mash Tun, was the Station Bar, being adjacent to Aberlour station. When the line closed during the 1960's the name was no longer relevant but the owner of the property at the time wrote into the deeds that in the event of the railway line reopening, the name must change back to the Station Bar. Aberlour is about two miles short of Craigellachie and an ideal stop for lunch.

Cash Point/ATM: Co-op

Places to Eat: The Mash Tun 01340 881771. The Dowans Hotel & Restaurant 01340 871488. The Aberlour Hotel 01340 871287. The Spey Larder 01340 871243.

Shops: Gift Shops, Pharmacy and Post Office.

Nearest Taxis: Ace Taxis 01343 820820. Dufftown Taxis 07383 820820, Speyside Executive Hire, Rothes, Aberlour 01340 831302/07748 636651.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Ballindalloch

Ballindalloch is a small village on the River Spey. The Spey and the Fiddich are rivers famous for the Malt Whisky Distilleries using their waters to distil uisge beatha (the water of life) Whisky as we call it today. Speyside boasts over 50 Distilleries more than half the total in Scotland. Ballindalloch Castle is one of the most beautiful and renowned castles in Scotland. Known as the Pearl of the North, it is located in the heart of Speyside near to the famed local whisky distilleries of Cragganmore, Glenlivet, Glenfarclas and Glenfiddich. Surrounded by majestic hills, and with the tumbling waters of the Rivers Spey and Avon flowing through the grounds, Ballindalloch is one of the few privately owned castles to have been lived in continuously by its original family. The Macpherson-Grants have resided here since 1546.

Ballindalloch is a collection of houses, farms and a castle in a rural area and the only place to dine is the Delnashaugh Hotel 01807 500379.

Approximately 0.3 miles/0.5 km from the Delnashaugh Hotel there is a fuel station with a shop and Post Office (no cash point/ATM).

Nearest Taxis: Ace Taxis 01343 820820. Dufftown Taxis 07383 820820. Speyside Executive Hire, Rothes, Aberlour 01340 831302/07748 636651.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Grantown-on-Spey

Grantown-on-Spey, the Capital of Strathspey is in the centre of the Scottish Highlands. A traditional Highland town on the River Spey on the northern edge of the Cairngorms National Park, it is a fine example of a Georgian planned town – one of the first to be set out in this fashion in the 1760's. It has many historic buildings, a tree lined square and striking Georgian and Victorian architecture. The town is surrounded by ancient woodlands, much of which is community owned and which offer a unique habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. These Anagach Woods have way marked trails and there is walking for all abilities. There are also numerous other walks and trails around the town which offer wonderful views over the surrounding hills and mountains. The town has an award-winning Museum which tells the story of Grantown's beginnings, brought to life by an extensive photographic collection and audio visual display. Here you can find out about Queen Victoria's Royal visit of 1860 and the coming of the railways.

Cash point/ATM: Co-op & Scotmid.

Places to Eat: Garth Hotel 01479 787900/01479 872836. Sylhet Brasserie 01479 873536. Grant Arms Hotel 01479 872526. Craig Bar 01479 872669.

Shops: There are numerous shops including a Co-op store & Post Office.

Taxis: Ace Taxis 01343 820820. Aviemore Taxis, 01479 811111

Police Station: Police Station National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Boat of Garten

Boat of Garten is a small village in the Highland area of Badenoch and Strathspey. The settlement took its name from the nearby ferry over the River Spey and the village grew with the arrival of the Highland Railway when the first bridge was built. The railway through the village was built by the Inverness & Perth Junction and Strathspey Railway Companies in the 19th Century and is now preserved as part of Strathspey Steam Railway. Known as "The Boat" to locals the village is famous for the nearby Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Reserve at Loch Garten. When the first ospreys returned to breed in Scotland, this was the location they chose to nest.

Places to Eat: Anderson's Restaurant 01479 831466 (closed Mondays & Tuesdays). The Boat Country Inn & Restaurant 01479 831258.

Shops: Post Office & Village Shop. 1896 Gallery.

Nearest Taxi Companies: Gerry's Taxis 01479 812000. Aviemore Taxis 01479 811111/01479 810118.

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Aviemore

Aviemore (gaelic: An Aghaidh Mhòr) is situated in the Cairngorms National Park within the Civil Parish of Duthil and Rothiemurchus on the B9152 (the 'old' A9 road). The new A9, from Inverness to Perth, was built further west in the 1980's. Aviemore railway station is on the Highland Main Line and is also the southern terminus of the Strathspey Railway, a heritage railway. The village grew as a result of the railway junction built in 1898, following which the Highland Railway became a major employer, constructing housing for its staff and the Aviemore Hotel. The Speyside Line was a vital link for the rapidly growing Scotch Whisky Industry in the 19th Century. As well as transporting passengers, the railway was the lifeline of the distilleries in the Spey Valley. Steam engines brought in the supplies vital to the distillery - fuel, barley, etc before taking away the full casks. Aviemore was one of the first skiing resorts to be established in Scotland with the opening of the chairlift in 1960 and is also notable for being near the freely grazing reindeer herd at Glen More, the only one in the United Kingdom.

Banks/Cash point/ATM: Bank of Scotland, Co-op, Petrol Station

Aviemore is a bustling tourist town filled with all varieties of shops, including a Post Office, Tesco, gift shops, outdoor shops, etc.

Places to Eat: MacDuis 01479 811214. Old Bridge Inn 01479 811137. The Winking Owl 01479 812368. Royal Tandoori 01479 811199. La Taverna 01479 810683. The Balavoulin 01479 812255.

Other Services: Strathspey Steam Railway www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk (re-opens late May). VisitScotland Aviemore iCentre: 01479 810930.

Taxi Companies: Gerry's Taxis 01479 812000. Aviemore Taxis 01479 811111

Police Station: National Non-Emergency Number 101 (Overseas Clients call 0044 1786 289070).

Travel Information

Aviemore is well serviced by both bus and rail. The nearest rail stations to Buckie are Keith and Elgin and a bus or taxi will be necessary to connect services, alternatively there are regular bus services to Inverness and Aberdeen. Traveline Scotland can help you plan journeys—see link below.

USEFUL CONTACTS & LINKS

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| National Rail Enquiries | 03457 484950 | www.nationalrail.co.uk |
| ScotRail | 0344 811 0141 | www.scotrail.co.uk |
| Virgin – West Coast UK Rail Line | 0871 977 4222 | www.virgintrains.co.uk |
| Citylink Bus/Coach Service | 0871 266 3333 | www.citylink.co.uk |
| Citylink General Enquiries | 0141-352-4444 | |
| Traveline – Scotland | 0871 200 2233 | www.travelinescotland.com |
| Strathclyde Passenger Transport | 0141 332 6811 | www.spt.co.uk |
| Glasgow Airport | 0344 481 5555 | www.glasgowairport.com |
| Glasgow/Glasgow Airport Bus | | www.glasgowairport.com//to-and-from/bus |
| Edinburgh Airport | 0131 357 6337 | www.edinburghairport.com |
| Edinburgh Trams | | www.edinburghtrams.com |
| Inverness Airport | 01667 464000 | www.invernessairport.co.uk |
| Tourist Information – Visit Scotland | | www.visitscotland.com |
| Post Office | 0345 722 3344 | www.postoffice.co.uk |
| BBC Weather | | www.bbc.co.uk/weather |
| Met Office Weather Forecast | | www.metoffice.gov.uk |