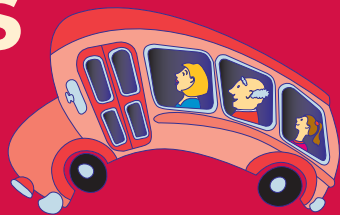
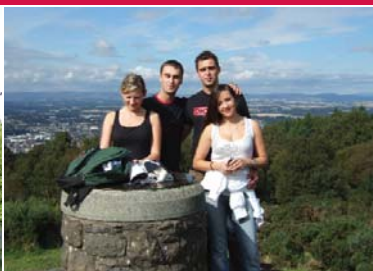


# Take The Bus for a Walk



8 beautiful combinations  
of walks + bus journeys in Perthshire



# CHECK BEFORE YOU GO!

## Check with Traveline Scotland

This booklet is designed to give you the information you need to enjoy 8 different walks across Perthshire, using public transport.

From time to time, bus timetables may change. New services may be added and others dropped.

Inevitably, some of this may happen during the lifetime of this booklet. For up-to-date information, Traveline Scotland is an excellent service. Featuring the latest timetables and travel news, it's worth checking out and as easy to do as looking up a weather forecast.

Online is easiest.  
But 'phone lines are open 24/7.

VisitScotland Information Centres (see page 20) are also very helpful.

## Traveline Scotland Public transport made personal



**traveline**  
public transport info  
**0871 200 22 33**  
[www.travelinescotland.com](http://www.travelinescotland.com)

Scottish public transport timetable and journey planning information.

Call Traveline Scotland or visit our website to plan your journey.  
Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
(Calls cost 10p per minute from BT Landlines.  
Costs from mobiles or other providers may vary)

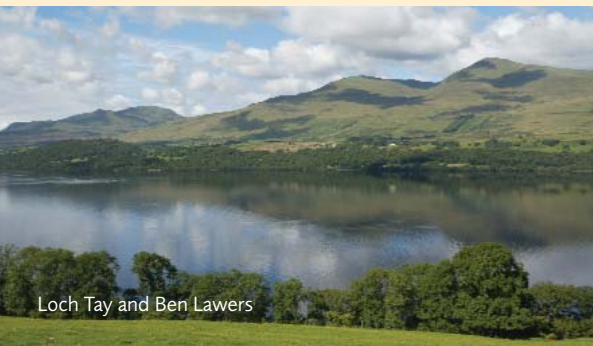
Blair Castle, Perthshire



## WALK SAFELY

Whichever walk you choose always remember to:

- Take warm and waterproof clothing. Even in summer the weather can change quickly, particularly on the higher level 'Strenuous' routes.
- Wear suitable footwear - strong boots or shoes.
- Take enough food and drink.
- If you are inexperienced, do not walk alone.
- Check the bus times and make sure you have enough time to complete the route.



Loch Tay and Ben Lawers

Weather Check  
[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)  
[www.metcheck.com](http://www.metcheck.com)

## KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

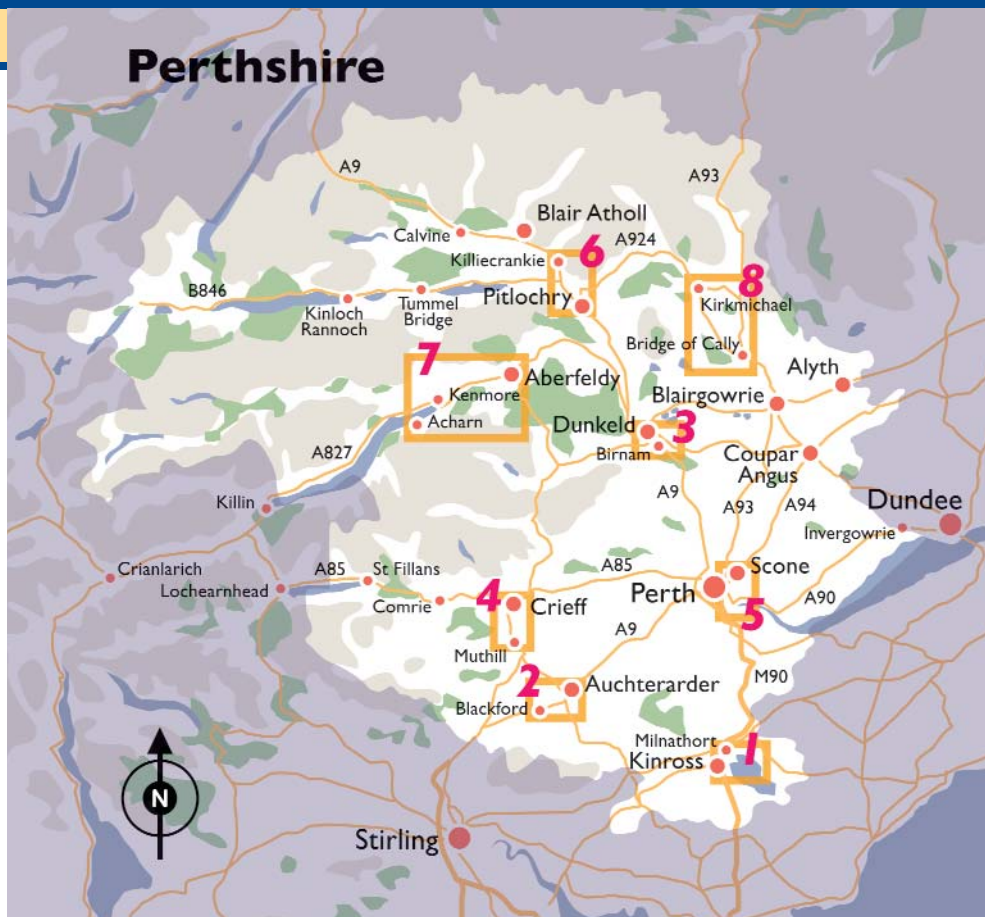


When you are in the outdoors:

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

Find out more by visiting  
[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)  
or or visit any VisitScotland Information Centre to pick up a leaflet.

# THE WALKS – AT A GLANCE



## Take The Bus for a Walk...

With 2000 square miles of dramatic landscape and hundreds of outstanding walks, Perthshire offers wonderful opportunities to escape the crowds and connect to the energy of the natural world. In the following pages you'll find information on eight superb combinations of walks and bus journeys. For your guidance, each walk is graded and has a simple outline map. There are also way-markers to assist navigation along each route. Perthshire is a paradise for all who love the outdoors .... once you've experienced a few of these walks, we think that you'll agree.

**1 EASY - The Loch Leven Heritage Trail, Kinross**

**2 EASY - Blackford to Auchterarder**

**3 EASY - The Birnam Walk, Birnam\***

**4 MODERATE - The River Earn Walk, Crieff**

**5 MODERATE - Scone to Perth via Kinnoull Hill**

**6 MODERATE - Killiecrankie to Pitlochry**

**7 STRENUOUS - Achnacraig to Aberfeldy**

**8 STRENUOUS - Kirkmichael to Bridge of Cally**

\*Access for All

# LOCH LEVEN HERITAGE TRAIL, KINROSS

## EASY

<b>Distance:</b>	3.5 miles/5.7km
<b>Walking Time:</b>	1.5 to 2 hours
<b>Type of Walk:</b>	Easy. Level, wide and well surfaced path along the shores of Loch Leven from Kinross to Pow Burn. The main path is suitable for wheelchair users of all abilities. Access to Loch Leven's Larder is via a well-defined grassy track on a gentle incline.
<b>Refreshments &amp; Toilets:</b>	Kinross Town Centre and Loch Leven's Larder at Wester Balgedie. Café and toilets also at The Pier, Kirkgate Park, Kinross (summer season only).
<b>Further Information:</b>	Loch Leven Heritage Trail Leaflet.

## The largest loch in lowland Scotland

Loch Leven is famous for its wildlife, scenery and history and all these elements can be enjoyed on this attractive lochside stroll.

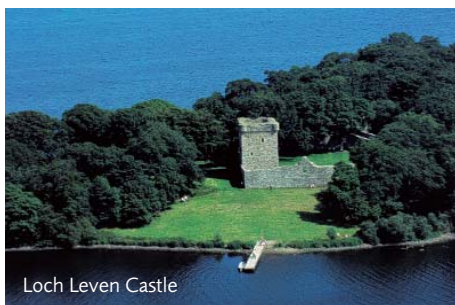
Arriving from Perth by bus, begin at the bus stop outside the florist's shop, walk up the hill, turn right and follow the brown signs for Kirkgate Park.

The trail begins at the end of the park, near the old graveyard with its watchtower which may have been used as a lookout for body snatchers. From here the path is easy to follow as it winds through open woodland and along the loch shore before ending at Pow Burn, where you'll find a grassy track to the café and shop at Loch Leven's Larder.



Loch Leven Heritage Trail

In the early stages there are panoramic views to Castle Island, where Mary Queen of Scots was held captive in 1567-68. Twenty-first century visitors can explore the ruined castle and island by taking the small ferry from The Pier near Kirkgate Park.



Loch Leven Castle

The service is operated by Historic Scotland and runs in the summer season only. Walkers should also look out for the impressive 'Fish Gate', on the boundary wall of Kinross House, through which there's a tantalising glimpse to the magnificent gardens beyond. This is one of the finest formal gardens in Scotland and can be visited from April to October. Access to the gardens, on foot or by car, is from the High Street, Kinross (not through the 'Fish Gate').

Back on the Heritage Trail, a spur path in the woodland section leads to a hide nestling among the reeds, an ideal vantage point for bird watching on the loch. The sandy beach at Burleigh Sands lies near the mid-point of the route, a spot also noted for views to Benarty Hill and Bishop Hill.

Return the same way or catch the bus back to Kinross by flagging down the bus at the Loch Leven's Larder road end.

## Respect Nature

The whole of Loch Leven is a National Nature Reserve providing a haven for wildlife. The birds that congregate along the loch shore are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. Even on the trail you will pass through wildlife sensitive areas, so please go quietly. Please keep dogs under close control and clean up after them.

‘Lough Leven ... there be great store of all kinds of wildfowl, of wild geese there being continually seen 3,000 or 4,000, and swans many.’

SIR CHRISTOPHER LOWTHER, 1629



## BUS TIMETABLE

### Balgedie to Kinross

#### Stagecoach Fife Service 201

Monday to Saturday

Service	201	201	201
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Code

Depart Loch Leven's Larder Road End	1150	1405	1655
-------------------------------------	------	------	------

Arrive Kinross, opp Green Hotel	1207	1422	1712
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SD School days only Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.

### Selected buses between Perth and Kinross

#### Megabus Service M91

Monday to Saturday

Service	Monday to Saturday			Sunday			
	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91

Depart Perth Bus Station	0910	and at the same minutes past each hour until	1610	0910	1110	1310	1510
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Arrive Kinross, opp Green Hotel	0938		1638	0938	1138	1338	1538
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#### Megabus Service M91 and Stagecoach Fife Service 56

Monday to Saturday

Service	Monday to Saturday					Sunday			
	56	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91	M91

Depart Kinross, Bank of Scotland	1417	1704	1714	1804	2104	1404	1604	1804	2004
----------------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

Arrive Perth Bus Station	1500	1731	1741	1831	2131	1431	1631	1831	2031
--------------------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

SO Saturday only MF Monday to Friday Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.

# BLACKFORD TO AUCHTERARDER

## EASY

<b>Distance:</b>	4.5 miles/7.5km
<b>Walking Time:</b>	1.5 to 2 hours
<b>Type of Walk:</b>	Easy walking in the shadow of the Ochil Hills. A mixture of woodland paths, golf course tracks and quiet pavements.
<b>Refreshments &amp; Toilets:</b>	Blackford and Auchterarder Town Centre
<b>Further Information:</b>	OS Landranger map 58

### Changed Days

Take the bus from either Perth or Auchterarder to the Moray Institute (Blackford Village Hall) to reach a convenient start point for this fine stroll along the line of the old road that once linked Blackford and Auchterarder.

Though hard to imagine now, there was once a loch on the land now occupied by the village. Tradition has it that Queen Helen, wife of the 9th century King Constantine, drowned whilst fording this loch and the village name commemorates this tragedy. Times are happier today and Blackford boasts two excellent visitor centres. Baxter's has great shopping with a Scottish showcase of fine food, clothing and gifts plus a restaurant and café. Next door is the Tullibardine Distillery, a working malt whisky distillery offering tours, a café and Whisky Shop. Both attractions are open all year and are just two minutes, on foot, from the bus stop.

To begin the walk, stay on the same side as the Moray Institute and walk along the main street to the railway line. Cross at the level crossing and keep walking out, on the pavement, into open farming country, until you reach a small farmhouse on the left. Immediately after the farmhouse turn sharp left and take the track signed 'Path to Gleneagles' (2 miles/3km)

(Note that an earlier track, near the level crossing and signed 'Path to Gleneagles Road', is part of another walk. However a short detour up this route leads to a burial ground on a small hill top, with lovely views.)

### Many Shades of Green

Follow the grassy track (yellow waymarkers) as it climbs gently through the tall pines and then levels out along the edge of open woodland. To the south are the rolling green contours of the Ochils, a range of hills where Albert Einstein is known to have walked whilst staying with the Haldanes of Cloan. Keep straight ahead on the path until you reach a small metal gate. The next section goes through



The Gleneagles Hotel Resort

the PGA Centenary and King's Courses, part of The Gleneagles Hotel Resort. **Please take care on this section not to interfere with any games of golf, be still if a player is about to play a shot and keep any dogs you have with you on a short lead.**

Go through the gate and turn left up the hill on a red gravel track (signposted 'Path to Gleneagles' 1 mile/1.5km). Keep following the yellow waymarkers - at the next junction take the right hand spur and then right again.

Reaching a T junction, turn right and descend to an old ship's bell, which serves to let golfers know that the course is clear. Follow the red gravel track round through a grove of conifers and then out onto a tarmac track across the final stretch of the golf course. The famous five star Gleneagles Hotel can be seen to the left, to the right the handsome crag of Craig Rossie dominates the skyline.

### The Lang Toun (Long Town)

Leave the course and turn left onto the pavement that runs alongside the A823. Pass the main entrance to the hotel and keep straight on until the crossroads. Turn right here and follow the A824/Orchil Road (for 1.5 miles/2.5km) through a pleasant residential area. At Western Road turn left into Auchterarder High Street, known for its range of quality shops and for being the longest main street in Scotland.

'Imagination is more important than knowledge.'

ALBERT EINSTEIN, WHO ONCE WALKED IN THE OCHIL HILLS



## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Perth, Auchterarder and Blackford

### Docherty's Midland Coaches Services 19/20

Service	Monday to Saturday					Sunday		
	19	19	20	19A	19A	19	19	19
Code			D1					
Depart Perth Bus Station	0925	1025	...	1120	1320	...	1132	1455
Depart Auchterarder Co-op	0953	1053	1108	1153	1353	1032	1159	1522
Arrive Blackford Moray Institute	1007	1107	1121	1207	1407	1044	1213	1534
Service		19	19A	19		19	19	
Depart Auchterarder Aytoun Hall		1349	1429	1724		1420	1720	
Arrive Perth Bus Station		1419	1501	1756		1445	1744	

D1 Through service commencing at Dunning at 1053

Baxters and Tullibardine Distillery are approximately a 200m walk from the Blackford Moray Institute.

**Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.**

# THE BIRNAM WALK, BIRNAM

## EASY

<b>Distance:</b>	3.5 miles/5.5km
<b>Walking Time:</b>	1.5 to 2 hours
<b>Type of Walk:</b>	Easy. Gentle gradients on quiet village pavements and tree-lined riverside paths. Part of the route is accessible for wheelchairs.
<b>Refreshments &amp; Toilets:</b>	Birnam
<b>Further Information:</b>	Dunkeld & Birnam Walks Leaflet from Perth or Dunkeld VisitScotland Information Centres.

## Victorian Inspiration

This lovely riverside walk begins outside the imposing Birnam Hotel in the centre of Birnam. If arriving from Perth, the bus stop is on the opposite side of the road, near the Beatrix Potter Garden. The garden is open all year and pays tribute to the author's famous animal characters. Close by, The Birnam Institute houses a Beatrix Potter Exhibition and shop. Birnam developed as a Highland resort with the coming of the railway in 1856 and many well-to-do Victorians took holidays here, including the Potter family. From the hotel, turn right and follow the main road down towards Dunkeld. At the junction cross the Dunkeld Road and pick up the minor road opposite, indicated by the 'Birnam Walk' signpost on the nearby wall (look for waymarker).



The River Tay at Dunkeld

Across on the north bank there are good open views of Dunkeld and its beautiful partly ruined medieval cathedral (open all year). Pass under the historic Dunkeld Bridge, designed by the renowned Scottish engineer Thomas Telford and funded, mainly, by the fourth Duke of Atholl. The path crosses a little wooden bridge and leads on to two trees of immense character and size, the Birnam Oak and the Birnam Sycamore. Both trees are thought to be the last survivors of Birnam Wood, the great oak forest, made famous in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, which cloaked this area a thousand years ago. Just after this point it is possible to shorten the walk by turning right and going up a small flight of steps. Take the path past the play area and join Oak Road which will take you back to the starting point in Birnam.



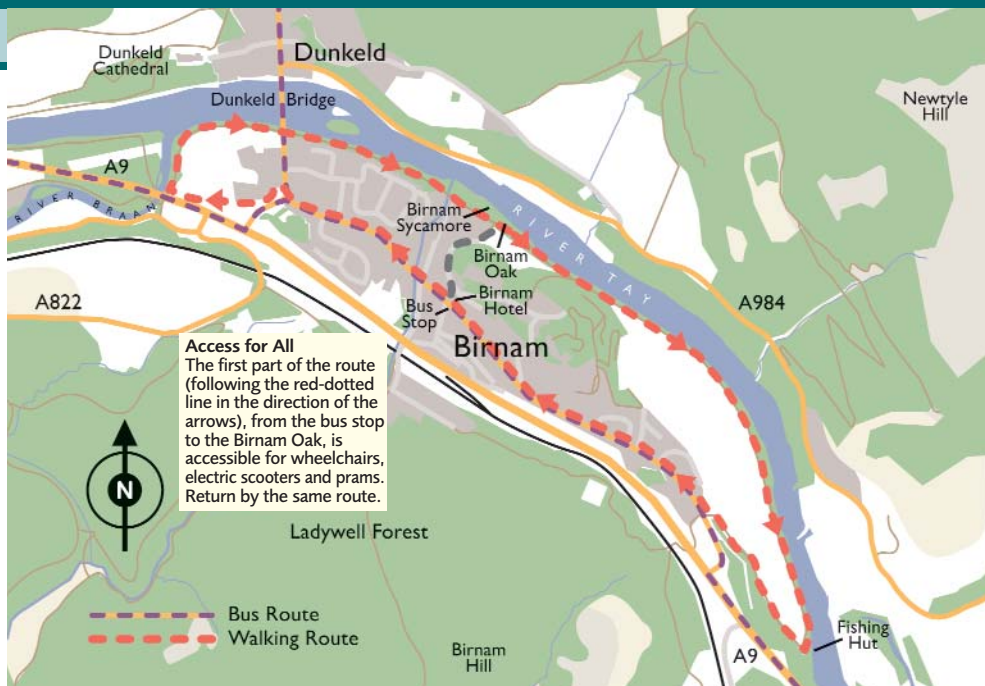
## Historical Highlights

Take the path on the left which runs parallel to the playing fields. At the River Braan turn right and stay on the riverside path. After a short distance the Braan flows into the River Tay and the walk stays close to the banks of this mighty watercourse as it flows downstream. Douglas firs tower by the path, a tree species introduced to Britain by David Douglas from Scone, one of Scotland's greatest plant hunters.

## The Full Circuit

For a longer walk, follow the path running parallel with the river along an avenue of mature beech trees - at their most attractive clothed in the bright green leaf burst of early spring or the russet tones of autumn. Reach the fishing hut at the end of the waterside section, turn sharp right and walk up the track to rejoin the road running in to Birnam. Stay on the grass verge and follow the road back to the start point.

'I will not be afraid of death and bane  
till Birnam Forest come to Dunsinane.' MACBETH, ACT V, SCENE III



**Access for All**  
The first part of the route (following the red-dotted line in the direction of the arrows), from the bus stop to the Birnam Oak, is accessible for wheelchairs, electric scooters and prams. Return by the same route.

## More walks to enjoy

Around Dunkeld & Birnam there are eight waymarked paths that extend on both sides of the River Tay and cover a total distance of 36 miles/58km. Leaflet with maps from local shops and VisitScotland Information Centres in Dunkeld and Perth.

## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Perth and Birnam

### Stagecoach Perth Service 23

Code	Monday to Saturday					Sunday		
	0900	1000	1115	1215	1330	A		
Depart Perth Mill Street	0900	1000	1115	1215	1330	0945	1153	
Arrive Birnam, opp Birnam Hotel	0933	1033	1148	1248	1403	1018	1234	
Depart Birnam Hotel	1325	1440	1630	1725	1830	1244	1554	1904
Arrive Perth Mill Street	1400	1515	1705	1800	1905	...	...	...
Arrive Perth Bus Station	...	...	...	...	...	1327	1637	1947

### A - Morning service operates as Service 83

Service 23 is operated using **low floor wheelchair accessible buses**, however there may be some occasions when non-wheelchair accessible buses have to be used. Check with operator on 01738 629339.

**Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.**

# THE RIVER EARN WALK, CRIEFF

## MODERATE

### Distance:

5.5 miles/9km

### Walking Time:

2.5 to 3.5 hours

### Type of Walk:

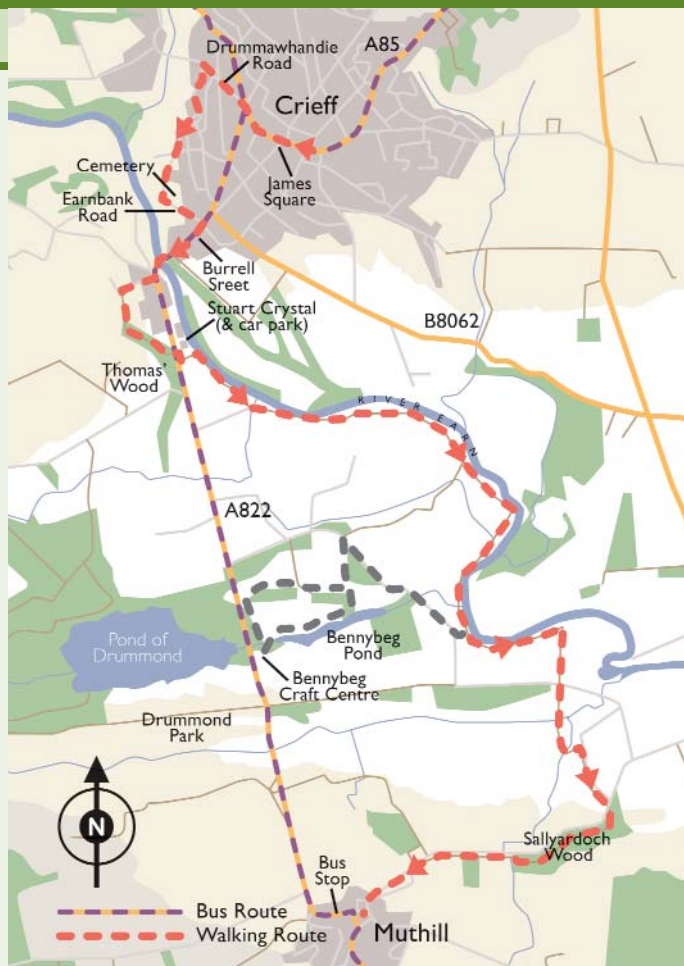
Moderate. Variable quality paths on an idyllic cross-country route between Crieff and the village of Muthill.

### Refreshments & Toilets:

Toilets and selection of eating places in Crieff town centre. Also at Crieff Visitor Centre and Stuart Crystal. Hotel and café (summer season only) in Muthill.

### Further Information:

Crieff Waymarked Walks Leaflet. Available from VisitScotland Information Centre, Crieff.



## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Muthill and Crieff

### Crieff Travel Service 47

Code	Monday to Saturday				Sunday		
	1241	1441	1616	1741	1317	1517	1752
Depart Muthill, Drummond Street	1241	1441	1616	1741	1317	1517	1752
Arrive opp Stuart & Waterford Crystal shop	1245	1445	1619	1745	1321	1521	1756
Arrive Crieff High Street, Royal Bank	1248	1448	1623	1748	1324	1524	1759

SO Saturday only

Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.

By sinking a device made of a half mill stone, a pole and a cloth sail onto the river bed, an ingenious miller could gauge the speed of the water flow.

## Six Hands Waving at the River

As you meander through Crieff's peaceful backstreets it's difficult to believe that just a few hundred years ago this was a turbulent frontier town, milling with cattle, horse thieves, bandits and drunken drovers. The annual October Tryst brought as many as 30,000 beasts to the town and was the most notorious cattle market in Britain.

From the bus stop outside RS McColl in Crieff High Street, walk downhill towards Comrie, passing James Square, and continue straight ahead across



Kingfisher

two crossroads to reach Drummawhandie Road. Walk to the top of the hill, cross the road and take the small path opposite. At the bottom of the steps turn left and walk up to the road junction. Look for the yellow waymarker on a wooden post opposite and turn right to follow the path that runs behind the park, alongside playing fields and finally emerges at a cemetery. Turn right here following the waymarker direction to Earnbank Road and out on to Burrell Street. Turn right again and cross the River Earn. At the end of the bridge, turn left, walk past the small Bridgend Garden, then cross the road to pick up Alichmore Lane. At the top of the lane there is a carved wooden gatepost - 'Six Hands Waving at the River', the first of six such wooden carvings you'll see on the walk. Each one reflects elements of the river's influence on the local people and landscape. Turn left and follow the path along the field edge and through two wooden gates, arriving in Thomas' Wood. At the next waymarker turn left and walk downhill towards the road and Stuart Crystal. Cross the road with great care and walk across the car park to a wooden gate on the right.

## Butterflies feed on the summer wildflowers

The walk continues along the banks of the Earn, an important river for wildlife and fishing, so dogs must be kept under control. As you wander along, the waymarkers and the river are your guides through the quiet countryside...the stillness ruffled occasionally by herons and ducks. Sometimes the bright flash of a kingfisher is seen, speeding across the water. Keep the river on your left and continue straight on over two small bridges to a wooden signpost giving a choice of routes. Turning right here leads to a circular route of around 2 miles/3km to a small craft centre where refreshments are available. To continue on the River Earn route pass through another wooden gate, just at the 'Miller's Flow Stone Kit' carving, and follow the river until you reach the now derelict supports of the old railway bridge. Turn right through the gate and away from the river to walk just below the level of the old railway line. Then pass under the road bridge and on to the actual track of the old railway. At the end of the line go through another wooden gate, then turn right when approaching the farmhouse. The farm track leads to a road and a diagonal crossing into Sallyardoch Wood.



On the banks of the Earn

Follow the waymarkers through the wood for around 20 minutes before turning left on the road towards Muthill, a picturesque conservation village with an old parish church and small museum (summer only). Catch the bus back to Crieff from the bus stop in Drummond Street.

# SCONE TO PERTH VIA KINNOULL HILL

## MODERATE

<b>Distance:</b>	5.5 miles/9km
<b>Walking Time:</b>	2 to 3 hours
<b>Type of Walk:</b>	Moderate. Some steep ascents and descents on well marked paths. A beautiful varied walk on the outskirts of Perth, with many points of interest along the way.
<b>Refreshments &amp; Toilets:</b>	South Inch Car Park, Perth and Perth City Centre
<b>Further Information:</b>	Kinnoull Hill Woodland Walks Leaflet. Available from VisitScotland Information Centre, Perth.

### In the Footsteps of Kings

Begin at the first bus stop in Scone village, just before the Scone Arms. Cross the road to the War Memorial and walk up the hill for a short distance, then take the track on the right and walk through Pickstonhill Farm steading until you reach the road to Murrayshall. Turn left and walk up the road to the signpost for 'The Coronation Road', the route formerly taken by the Kings of Scots travelling between Falkland Palace in Fife and Scone Palace, Perth. From the 9th century, Scone was the crowning place of the Scottish Kings, including Robert the Bruce. Follow this ancient tree-lined path uphill to a seat near the wood. Remember to take a breather as you climb and enjoy the open views of the city of Perth, Scone, and hills stretching in every direction. Go through the gate next to the seat, into Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park, and follow the track through the coniferous woodlands, turning right at both the first, and second, forestry track junctions. Just after a small Scottish Water sign the path bears downhill to the Jubilee Car Park.

### A Haven for Wildlife

Turn left at the entrance to the car park and walk through it to the other end. Cross the road and keep left to pick up the path which skirts the edge of the woodland and leads on to the summit of Kinnoull Hill. Red squirrels and roe deer live in these woods - move quietly for the chance of a sighting. The track meanders up through the beech woods and along the edge of the cliffs to Kinnoull Tower, a 19th century romantic folly said to be an imitation of the watchtowers found in the Rhine Valley. From this spot there are marvellous views of the River Tay, east to the fertile farmland of the Carse of Gowrie and south to Moncreiffe Hill.



Kinnoull Hill Woodland Park

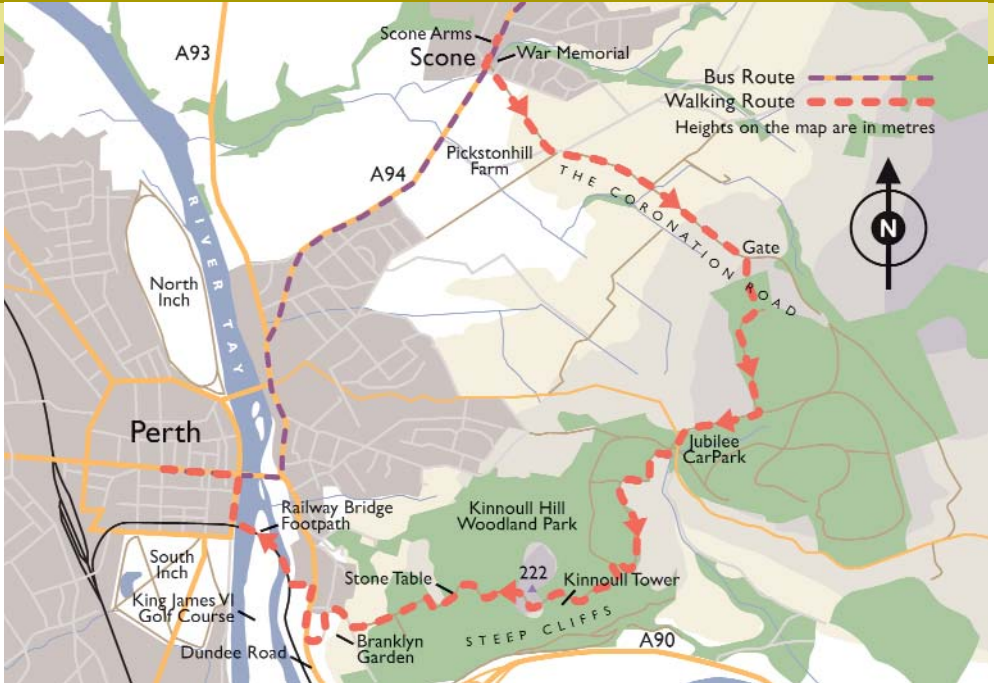
Leave the Tower and stay on the uphill path to another excellent viewpoint, The Stone Table. From here go straight ahead and downhill, following the well made path through the woods. Turn left at the first junction, where you'll see a picnic bench, and stay on this main path as it winds down the hill. Keep going downwards on the main path and you'll emerge in a leafy residential area. Go straight across the small crossroads towards Branklyn Garden. (National Trust for Scotland, open daily March to October)

### Elegant Riverside

Leaving the garden, walk down towards the main Dundee - Perth Road, cross over and look right to pick up a blue pedestrian sign marked 'Tay Street'. Follow this path down and over the river via the railway bridge path. As you cross look below at King James VI Golf Course, situated on a river island and unique in the UK. Turn right and walk along Tay Street to the town centre, taking time to enjoy the beautiful sculptures on the river wall.

# 'Think Global, Act Local.'

SIR PATRICK GEDDES (1854 -1932) BIOLOGIST, TOWN PLANNER AND EDUCATOR.  
GEDDES GREW UP IN THE KINNOULL AREA OF PERTH



## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Perth and Scone

### Stagecoach Perth Service 7

#### Monday to Saturday

Code	SO	MF					
Depart RBS, South Street	0854	0855 and every	0954	0959	1005	and every	1815
Arrive Scone, Scone Arms	0901	0902	10 mins until	1001	1006	1012	10 mins until

### Stagecoach Perth Service 7

#### Sunday

Depart RBS, South Street	0944	1044	then at these mins	14	44	until	1744
Arrive Scone, Scone Arms	0949	1051	past each hour	21	51		1751

MF Monday to Friday SO Saturday only

RBS = Royal Bank of Scotland **Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.**



River Tay at Perth



Soutar's Menagerie

# KILLIECRANKIE TO PITLOCHRY

## MODERATE

### Distance:

4 miles/6.5km

### Walking Time:

2 to 2.5 hours

### Type of Walk:

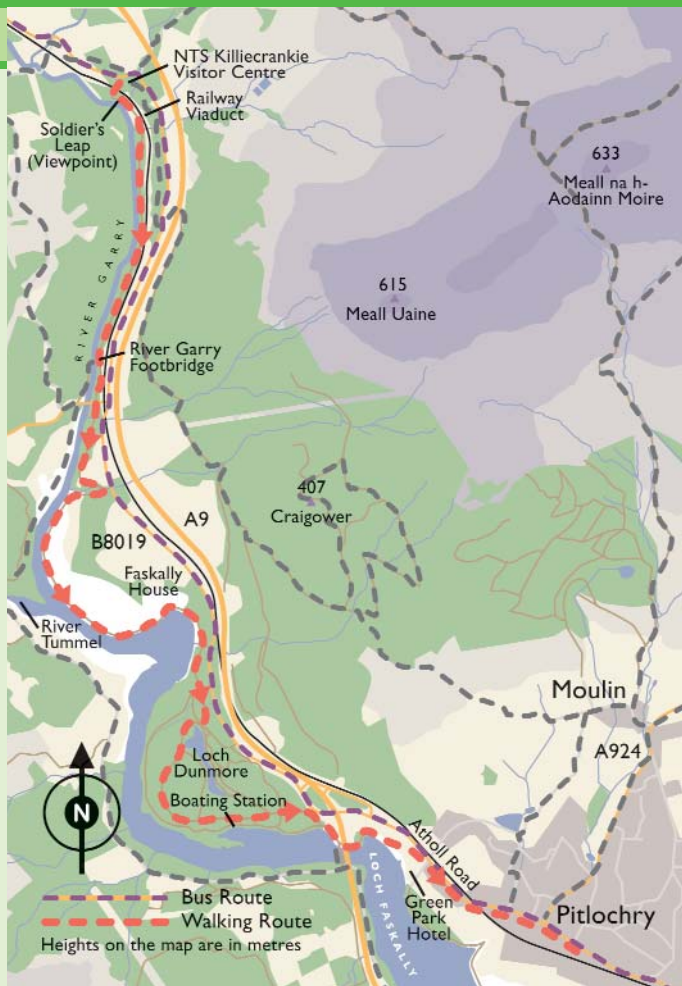
Moderate. All on good paths. A steep initial descent into the woodland gorge is followed by a mostly level path on the banks of the River Garry and Loch Faskally.

### Refreshments & Toilets:

Killiecrankie Visitor Centre (Easter to end of October only), Pitlochry Boating Station, by Loch Faskally (March to October only), Pitlochry Town Centre.

### Further Information:

Pitlochry Waymarked Walks Leaflet. Available from VisitScotland Information Centre, Pitlochry.



## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Pitlochry and Killiecrankie

	Elizabeth Yule Service 87 Monday to Saturday			Stagecoach Perth Service 83 Sunday	
Depart Pitlochry West End car park	1000	1225	1540	1145	1447
Arrive Killiecrankie Visitor Centre	1010	1235	1550	1155	1457

Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.

'The Pass of Killiecrankie is extremely narrow between high mountains, with the Garry running beneath in a deep, dark fove, forming a scene of horrible grandeur.' THOMAS PENNANT 1769

## Shaped by Nature

The National Trust for Scotland Killiecrankie Visitor Centre marks the beginning of this walk, however there is no official bus stop here so please notify the driver in advance. Allow time to visit the Centre where you can delve into the gory history of the Battle of Killiecrankie, fought here in 1689, or view excellent displays on the rich wildlife of the area.

Take the wooden walkway in front of the Centre, following signs for 'Soldier's Leap'. The well-defined path drops down through the oak woods to the viewpoint – named after a soldier's spectacular jump to freedom following the battle. Descend deeper into the Pass of Killiecrankie, a landscape feature gouged out by successive Ice Ages and meltwaters. The Victorians made an impression too and the path soon runs alongside a magnificent railway viaduct. Continue straight ahead passing over the Balfour Stone, the burial place of Brigadier General Balfour. At the junction, turn right and walk along to the River Garry footbridge – a wonderful spot from which to appreciate the elemental drama of your surroundings. Leave the footbridge, keeping the river on your right, and take the narrow path that runs under the Garry Road Bridge.



Follow the signs for 'Pitlochry/Riverside Path'. Kingfishers, dippers and otters frequent these waters so keep your eyes peeled as you walk along the high banks. Faskally House stands, across the fields, on the left. It is now privately owned but was once used as a Forestry Commission school. At the Hydro-Electric power station the River Tummel meets the Garry. Shortly after this point the riverside path joins a tarmac road. Turn right here, in front of a modern building, and walk along for a short section to reach Loch Dunmore.

## Fantastic Trees



At the loch turn right, off the tarmac road, and follow the main track beside a large metal gate. A combination of green and white waymarker posts will guide you through the forest and onto the shores of Loch Faskally. Look at the trees as you wander along, some are over 200 years old and there is a huge variety of species. This landscape was created in the 19th century in the grounds of Faskally House which, in turn, was used as a school for training young foresters to repair British woodlands ravaged by felling for the war effort. The woodland was perfect for testing new ideas and structures. Cross a small wooden bridge by the loch shore and stay on the path that hugs the waterline. Go down a small flight of steps, turn right and follow the route under the road bridge. Follow the path down and past Pitlochry Boating Station. Turn right onto the small tarmac road and walk up the hill past the Green Park Hotel. Turn right again and walk down Atholl Road into the centre of Pitlochry where welcome refreshments await.

# ACHARN TO ABERFELDY

## STRENUOUS

<b>Distance:</b>	10 miles/16.5km
<b>Walking Time:</b>	5 to 6 hours
<b>Height Gain:</b>	Over 400 metres
<b>Type of Walk:</b>	Strenuous. Starts with a stiff climb of 290 metres approx. Well defined tracks with some high stiles to cross. Fine views from a high level route with wonderful gorges and waterfalls at either end.
<b>Refreshments &amp; Toilets:</b>	Aberfeldy
<b>Further Information:</b>	OS Landranger map 52

### The Queen's Drive

Take the Caber Coaches or Postbus service from Aberfeldy to Acharn Square. Then walk west on the main road, over the bridge, for 100 metres, turn left and climb up the track for Falls of Acharn. Go through the Hermit's Cave to reach the impressive wooded amphitheatre and viewpoint for the Falls. Walk on to reach the upper gorge, with its viewing platform, and finally the Upper Bridge. Turn right onto the *main* track towards open fields and follow the distinct route as it climbs upward, parallel to the Acharn Burn, and swings east away from the gorge. Cross a wooden bridge, go through several gates and past Balmacnaughton Farm. Continue straight ahead through Kenmore Hill Pinewood and along the high grassy path, known as Queen's Drive, pausing to enjoy magnificent views of Ben Lawers, Schiehallion and Loch Tay. Queen Victoria often visited this spot whilst staying at nearby Taymouth Castle. A gate at a quiet minor road marks the end of this part of the route.

### Strathtay Panorama

Turn right onto the road and follow it upwards for about 0.5 mile/0.8km to reach Tombuie Cottage. Turn left just before the cottage and follow the track downhill past the sheds. Shortly before a metal gate, the track turns right along the field edge to rejoin the track through the woods. This section is easy to follow, with attractive open stretches and panoramas to Strathtay below (valley of the River Tay). Also of note is the vast, early 19th century castle at Taymouth, once the seat of the powerful Campbells of Breadalbane. Reach the T junction at Tullichuil Cottage and turn right here to continue your traverse across the hillside. The route passes

under a set of power lines and then, at a forestry track junction, bears left on a grassy track, before again passing beneath the power cables. Once in Bolfracks Wood bear left at the forest junction and head downhill towards the cottage at Upper Farrochil and on to reach the large steading conversion at Dunskiag. You can continue on this metalled road down into Aberfeldy, but in doing so you'll miss the lovely walk down through the Birks of Aberfeldy, one of Perthshire's best loved beauty spots.

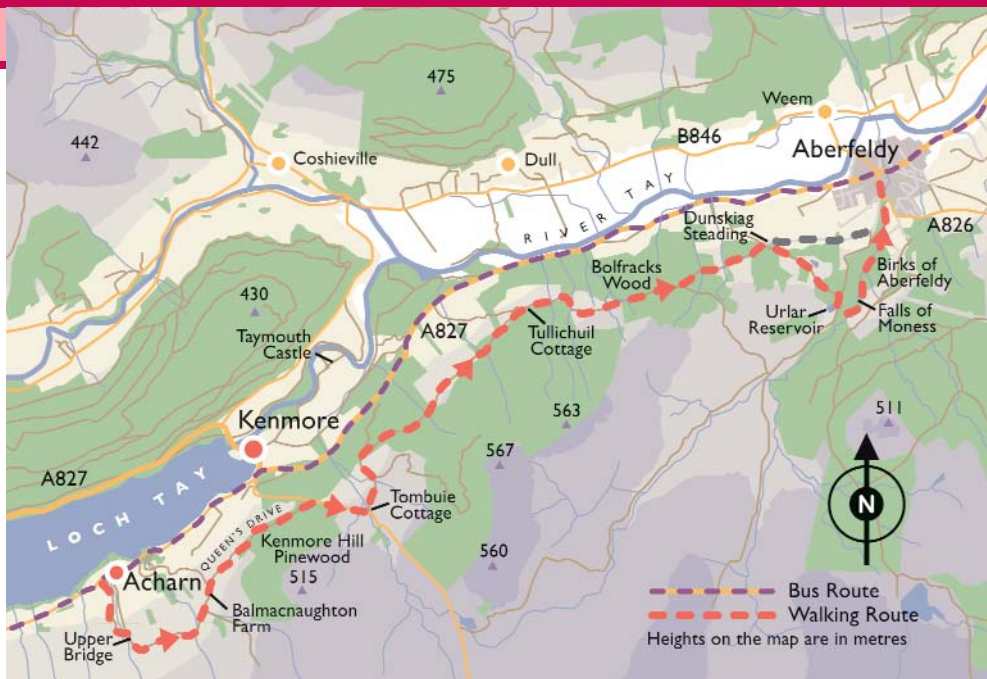
### Water and Rock

For the scenic route to the Birks, take the uphill track on the right, just before Dunskiag Steading, and bear left at the junction to walk through open woodland, passing a small lochan. This part of the route emerges at a metal gate from where you turn right and walk up hill for a short distance to reach the tiny Urlar Reservoir on your right. At this point turn left, across a stone wall, to join a small path through the birch wood. After a few minutes the track emerges at the top of a dramatic gorge, cloaked in birch trees (the Birks), along with oak, ash and elm. The Birks of Aberfeldy were made famous by Robert Burns in his poem of the same name and today there are many breathtaking viewpoints including a bridge over the roaring Falls of Moness. Good paths descend either side of the gorge to the car park, with that on the east side offering slightly easier going and a chance to view Burns' Seat.

Cross the main road at the traffic lights, turn left, then sharply right, on the final stretch through the Lower Birks and into Aberfeldy town centre where you'll find refreshment for body and soul at The Watermill Bookshop (see advert on page 19).

'The braes ascend like lofty wa's, The foaming stream deep-roaring fa's.'

FROM THE BIRKS O'ABERFELDY BY ROBERT BURNS



**BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Aberfeldy and Acharn**

**Caber Coaches Service 91 (Monday, Thursday, Friday only)**  
**Postbus Service 213 (Monday to Saturday)**

Service	213	91	91
Code	MS	MThF	MThF
Depart Aberfeldy Post Office	0900	....	....
Depart Aberfeldy Chapel Street	....	1020	1340
Arrive Acharn Cross	0930	1038	1358

MThF Mon, Thu, Fri only MS Monday to Saturday  
 There is no Sunday service on any of the above routes.

**Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.**



# KIRKMICHAEL TO BRIDGE OF CALLY

## STRENUOUS

### Distance:

8 miles/13.5km

### Walking Time:

4.5 to 5.5 hrs

### Type of Walk:

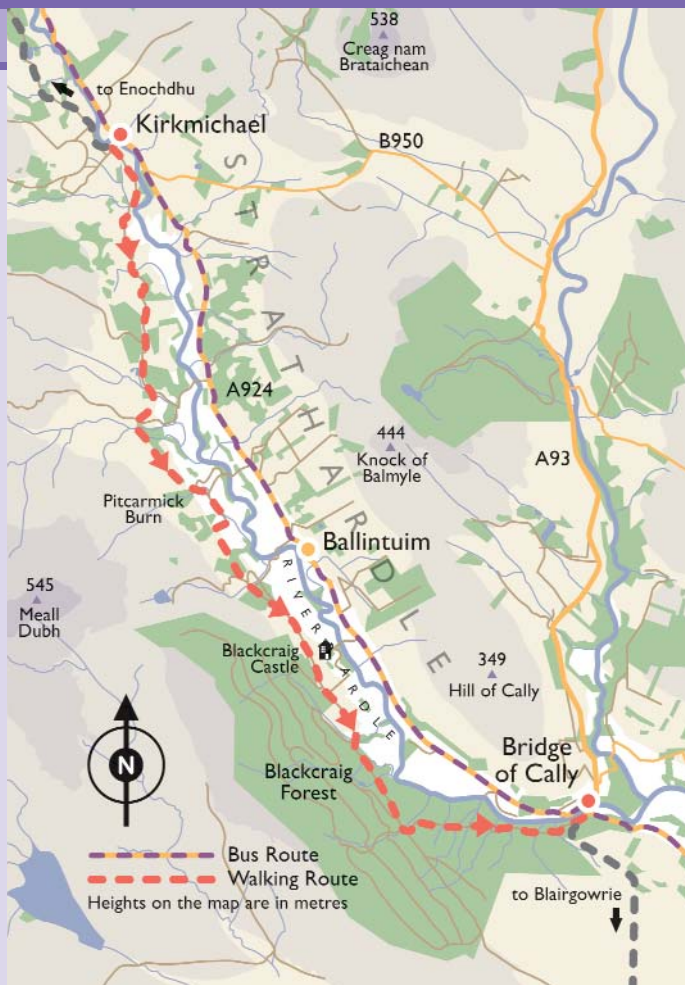
Strenuous. Mainly paths and tracks through farmland, open moorland and forest. Exposed in places, with high ladder stiles, low stiles and streams to cross.

### Refreshments & Toilets:

Kirkmichael Village Shop/Coffee Shop & Bridge of Cally Hotel and Post Office.

### Further Information:

OS Landranger map 53 or OS Explorer map 387



Strathardle, looking north



Low stile near Kirkmichael



## Sound of silence in a soft green land

A picturesque bus journey from Blairgowrie to the small village of Kirkmichael is a fitting start to your day exploring this peaceful corner of Perthshire. The bus drops off at the Kirkmichael Village Shop & Coffee Shop from where it's just a few steps to cross the old stone bridge over the River Ardle. Pass the local Primary School, bear right on the road and look for the green and white sign marked Cateran Trail – direction Bridge of Cally.

Turn left at the disused church and simply follow the tracks and yellow waymarkers on a beautiful cross-country route through Strathardle – the strath (or valley) of the River Ardle. At various points along the way you'll see the ruined remains of small settlements known as 'shielings'. These simple stone huts were once the summer home of women and children who tended the cattle and sheep grazing on the rich high pastures. Near the middle point of the walk, the route becomes rougher as it crosses low level heather moorland. Look out for the Cateran Trail waymarkers and keep quite low on the hill on this stretch, following the broad line of the fence and dry stone wall. The descent to Bridge of Cally is through the conifers of Blackcraig Forest, where there are many open sections with expansive views across the fertile swathe of Strathardle to distant northern mountains.

The walk ends at Bridge of Cally where a cosy hotel serves food and refreshments all day (see advert on page 19).

For buses back to Blairgowrie, the stop is located just opposite the main door of the hotel.

(On long summer evenings, strong walkers may wish to walk back to Blairgowrie across Cochrage Muir (7 miles/11km). This section is also part of The Cateran Trail and is signposted from just above Bridge of Cally.)

### The Cateran Trail

The walk described above follows a section of The Cateran Trail - a 64 mile/103km circular way-marked route through the scenic Perthshire and Angus Glens which starts and finishes in Blairgowrie. This long distance route is named after the Caterans, marauding cattle thieves active in these parts from the late 14th to mid -17th centuries, and follows many of the ancient drove roads used by the cateran raiding parties. You can walk the full Trail at a leisurely pace over five days with comfortable accommodation, hot baths and good food en route.

More information:  
VisitScotland Information  
Centre Blairgowrie  
T: 01250 872960 or  
[www.caterantrail.org](http://www.caterantrail.org)



## BUS TIMETABLE – selected times between Blairgowrie, Kirkmichael and Bridge of Cally

Please phone Stagecoach Strathtay on (01250) 872772 for updated times.

### Stagecoach Strathtay Service 71

#### Monday to Saturday

Code	SO	SO	TTh	SO
Depart Blairgowrie Wellmeadow	0700	1155	1222	1507
Arrive Kirkmichael opp bus stop	0726	1224	1251	1536

Code	TTh	SDO	SO	
Depart Bridge of Cally bus stop	1333	1648	1708	1836
Arrive Blairgowrie Wellmeadow	1348	1703	1723	1846

SDO Schooldays only NW Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri only, TTh Tues & Thurs only SO Saturday only No Sunday Service

Contact Traveline Scotland for full timetable.

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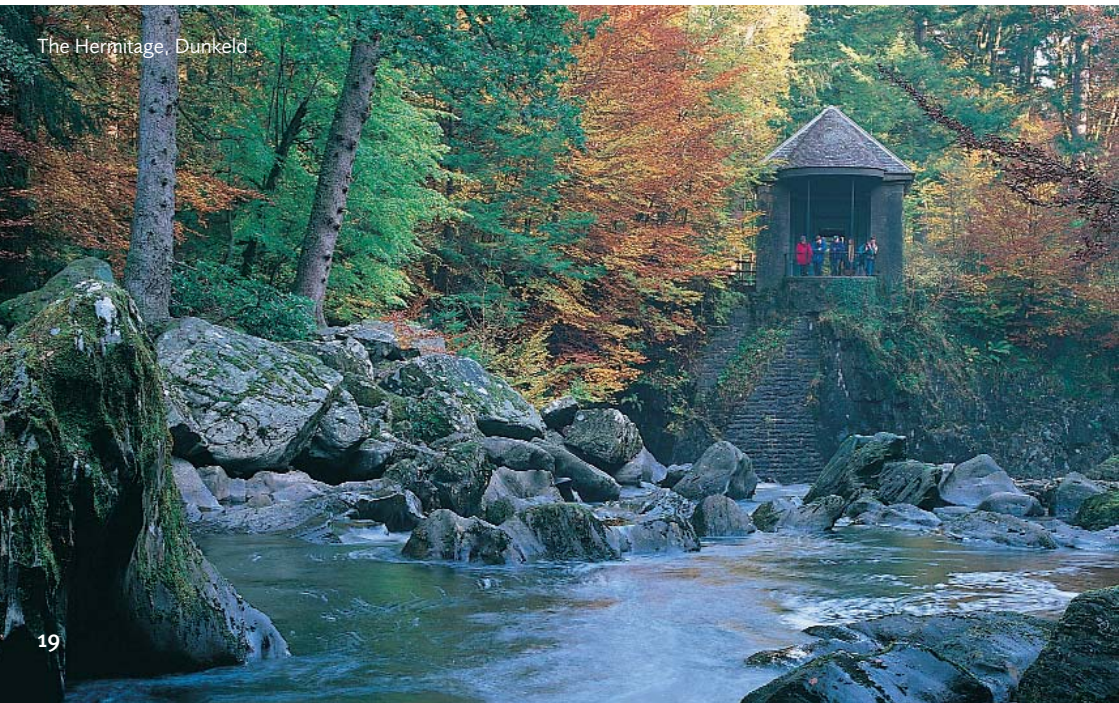
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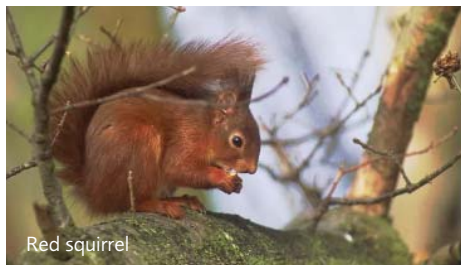
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E: [enquiries@bridgeofcallyhotel.com](mailto:enquiries@bridgeofcallyhotel.com)  
[www.bridgeofcallyhotel.com](http://www.bridgeofcallyhotel.com)

*Bridge of  
Cally Hotel*

The Hermitage, Dunkeld



# LOVE EXPLORING



Red squirrel

## More Walks to Enjoy

One of the best ways to experience Perthshire is to explore the extensive way-marked walks network. Paths take you out into peaceful countryside, rich in wildlife, by rivers and tiny lochans, through the dappled shade of ancient woodlands and on to heather-covered hills.

Leaflets, with simple outline maps, are available from any VisitScotland Information Centre.

Blairgowrie – 5 routes (20 miles/33 km)

Crieff – 8 routes (34 miles/55km)

Dunkeld & Birnam – 8 routes (36 miles/58km)

Pitlochry – 6 routes (41 miles/66km)



Bluebell Wood, Blairgowrie Waymarked Walks

## VisitScotland Information Centres

Friendly, local staff will be delighted to provide information to enhance your visit to Perthshire. We stock an excellent range of maps and can provide details on many other fantastic walks as well as full bus timetables for the area. A wide variety of ticket sales and accommodation booking services are also available. All you need to do is ask.

### ABERFELDY

The Square, Aberfeldy, PH15 2DD

T: 01887 820276

E: aberfeldy@visitscotland.com

### AUCHTERARDER

There are Tourist Information Points at Auchterarder Post Office and at Tullibardine, just off the A9 at Blackford.

### BLAIRGOWRIE

26 Wellmeadow, Blairgowrie, PH10 6AS

T: 01250 872960

E: blairgowrie@visitscotland.com

### CRIEFF

High Street, Crieff, PH7 3HU

T: 01764 652578

E: crieff@visitscotland.com

### DUNKELD

The Cross, Dunkeld, PH8 OAN

T: 01350 727688

E: dunkeld@visitscotland.com

### PERTH

Lower City Mills, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP

T: 01738 450600

E: perth@visitscotland.com

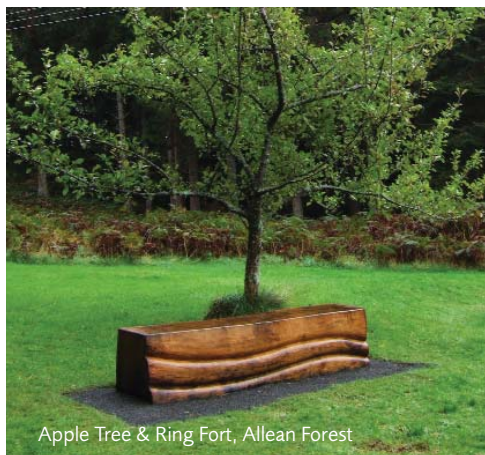
### PITLOCHRY

22 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, PH16 5BX

T: 01796 472215/472751

E: pitlochry@visitscotland.com

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Cone Point, Craigvanean Forest

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CAMERON McNEISH

Walker, author and broadcaster



## NOTES

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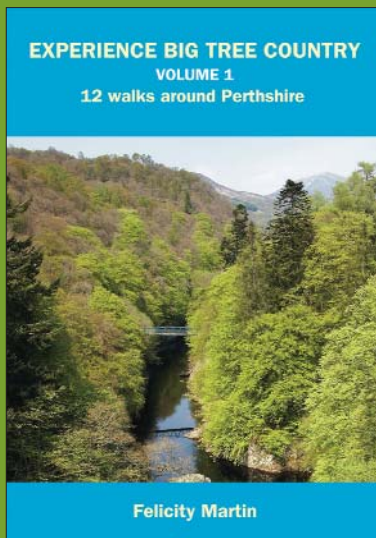
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