

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Aberlour-Braes of Allachie-Linn Falls Circular

Route Summary

An enjoyable walk from the River Spey onto the Braes of Allachie, where there are fine open views towards Ben Rinnes and over the attractive mid-Speyside countryside. During the descent, the focal point on the walk is the double-cascade Linn Falls in a wooded rocky gorge.

Duration: 2.5 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Stagecoach bus services. Check timetables. Free public parking options near to walk start/end point.

Length: 7.300 km / 4.56 mi

Height Gain: 191 meter.

Height Loss: 191 meter.

Max Height: 237 meter.

Min Height: 86 meter.

Surface: Moderate. A mix of hard-surfaced and grassy paths, tarred minor roads.

Difficulty: Easy.

Child Friendly: Yes, if children are used to walks of this distance and overall ascent.

Dog Friendly: Yes, but keep dogs on lead on public roads and near farm animals.

Refreshments: The Gather'n cafe, the Fresh! cafe, and the Mash Tun bar/restaurant.



Description

This is a varied rural walk that begins and ends at the former Aberlour railway station, now renovated, on the eastern bank of the River Spey, one of the longest, and certainly the fastest flowing, river in Scotland. (Charlestown of) Aberlour is based on an 18thC planned village, built around a far earlier settlement called Skirdustan. This handsome large village is now firmly established on Speyside's Malt Whisky Trail and tourists are also attracted to the world-famous Walkers shortbread factory here, the company being Scotland's biggest exporter of food products. Leaving the river, the route passes the old clock tower and memorial garden on the site of the Aberlour Orphanage, founded in a small cottage there in 1875, and eventually growing into an establishment of national significance, housing 500 children. The orphanage is gone, but from it developed the Aberlour Child Care Trust, one of the largest charities in Scotland. The walk then climbs onto farmland on the shoulder of the Knock of Allachie, providing splendid open views towards Ben Rinnes and of the surrounding Speyside countryside. The return route then starts to make a gentle descent through the Wood of Birkenbush before following the Lour Burn to the Linn of Ruthrie Falls, a renowned local beauty spot featuring an enchanting double cascade waterfall in a woodland gorge setting surrounded by native broadleaf, Scots Pine, and towering North American conifers. In the concluding section of the route we pass the Aberlour Distillery, an old pack horse bridge, and the ruinous gable wall of St Drostan's Kirk. Finally, returning to the Spey, there is a fine view of the impressive Victoria Bridge, an A-Listed iron suspension footbridge. Built in 1902 following a drowning accident on the predecessor ferry, it is sometimes referred to as The Penny Bridge, as there was originally a toll of one penny to cross.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the old station in Aberlour

(57.47127; -3.22666) <https://w3w.co/teacher.otter.image>

Start the walk at the old railway station at the end of Victoria Terrace which now houses the Speyside Way visitor centre. Take the path towards the River Spey and then walk in a NE direction along the riverbank path, with the river on your left side.



(2) Turn right - away from river

(57.47349; -3.22122) <https://w3w.co/charm.hello.insurance>

In just over 500 m, take a path on your right side that heads away from the river. When the path meets Aberlour High Street, turn right for a short distance, looking for a sign for the Speyside High School. (533 m)



(3) Left across High Street then up Conval Drive

(57.47277; -3.22087) <https://w3w.co/backlog.overlooks.daisy>

In 200 m from the river, on the High Street, turn left to cross the road at the Speyside High School sign and go up Conval Drive. (641 m)



(4) Right onto the tower path

(57.47201; -3.21845) <https://w3w.co/voters.crypt.income>

In another 200 m, or so, turn right off the pavement on Conval Drive to follow a path that takes you under the Clock Tower* and then on to a Memorial Garden. After visiting the Garden, turn left to join Tower Place and walk up the street, continuing to head away from the river and the High Street. (818 m)

**Note: '...The clock tower, on the site of the old orphanage in the village of Aberlour, is all that remains of the original building. Canon Charles Jupp founded the Aberlour Orphanage in 1875 when he began his work caring for children who were destitute in Scotland. What started out as a small cottage grew into a large orphanage that housed 500 children ...' See:*

<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/aberlour-memorial-garden-and-clock-tower-p914271> and

<https://www.aberlour.org.uk/our-history/>



(5) Veer right up steps into woods off Tower Place

(57.47081; -3.21771) <https://w3w.co/chops.cabbies.beginning>

In 170 m, or so, veer right into a parking area off Tower Place with garden hedges on your right side and climb the steps taking you onto a path into some woods. Soon the path meets a rough access drive. Go left onto the drive and continue uphill, passing a large gateway and house on your left side as you swing around to your right to find an uphill path back into the woods. (991 m)



(6) Left up Allachie Drive minor road

(57.46927; -3.21681) <https://w3w.co/media.saga.bulky>

In 300 m, you will emerge onto a minor road called Allachie Drive. Go left and uphill here to follow the quiet minor road as it climbs up the 'Braes of Allachie'. Take care to walk on the right side, facing oncoming traffic. (1.3 km)



(7) Right up rough access road

(57.46734; -3.20712) <https://w3w.co/horns.eagles.carpeted>

After ascending for 700 m, and facing a large modern house on a corner, turn right up a rough access road. Follow this road as it eventually passes a large house and garden on your right side. Here, the rough road swings to the left and uphill, away from the house, as it becomes a field access road. Keep following this road as it goes up and over the side of Allachie Hill and extensive views open up of the Speyside countryside and Ben Rinnes. (2.0 km)



(8) Veer right and downhill past house

(57.46097; -3.20693) <https://w3w.co/apprehend.stormed.triads>
In 700 m from Waypoint 7, as the rough access road descends, go right and downhill at a y-junction, to pass a house on your right side. Keep following this rough access road as it eventually passes a house and buildings on your left side and becomes a narrow tarred road. (2.7 km)



(9) Left onto rough access road - then path

(57.46188; -3.21972) <https://w3w.co/firework.roughest.direct>
In 900 m, turn left onto a rough access drive for a house. Very soon you will veer right off the access drive at a signed walks post to follow a narrow path going in a S direction through mixed woodland. Eventually, the path will start to descend towards Birkenbush Farm. (3.6 km)



(10) Right and downhill at Birkenbush Farm

(57.45580; -3.21932) <https://w3w.co/helpless.accusing.brightens>
In 700 m, the path emerges onto the tarred access road for Birkenbush Farm where there is a walks signpost and a handy little bench! Turn right to go downhill on the minor tarred road, away from the farm-house. (4.3 km)



(11) Right over stile onto Aberlour Burn path

(57.45526; -3.22377) <https://w3w.co/triangle.feathers.exploring>
In 300 m, just before a bridge, turn right to cross over a stile at a walks signpost. Now follow the path through the trees and along the bank of the Burn of Aberlour as it gently descends back towards the village. (4.6 km)



(12) Left and downhill after gate

(57.46096; -3.22491) <https://w3w.co/prospers.masks.doubt>
After 1 km, at a pedestrian gate, go left and down towards the rocky gorge where the burn cascades down to become the Linn Falls. (5.6 km)



(13) Linn Falls

(57.46132; -3.22625) <https://w3w.co/famous.nipping.questions>
In 100 m, or so, you will be at the area know as the Linn Falls*. After taking in the beauty of the scene, carry on taking the path back towards Aberlour, passing the Aberlour Distillery on your left, across the Aberlour Burn. When you meet the A95 main road, cross over it and continue taking the burn-side path towards the River Spey. (5.7 km)

**Note: The Linn of Ruthrie Falls is a renowned local beauty spot featuring an enchanting double cascade waterfall in a woodland gorge setting surrounded by native broadleaf, Scots Pine, and towering North American conifers.*



(14) Go around bridge to follow path to River Spey

(57.46898; -3.23138) <https://w3w.co/splinters.gathering.narrow>
In 1km from the Linn Falls, after crossing the A95 road at the old pack horse bridge and passing an old cemetery on your right side with the ruinous gable end of St Drostan's Kirk, you will arrive at a paths junction, with a pedestrian bridge on your left. Go around the bridge (do NOT cross it) to continue following the Aberlour Burn on your left side as it soon joins the River Spey. At the riverbank, follow the path to your right, going downriver and passing the fine Victoria Bridge* as you head back to your start-point at the old Aberlour railway station. (6.7 km)

**Note: "...The Victoria Bridge is a long, narrow suspension footbridge ... Prior to the bridge's construction, a ferry carried passengers across the Spey ... Following a drowning accident in 1901, funds were raised to commission the construction of a bridge and the Victoria Bridge was built by James Abernethy & Co in 1902. It is sometimes referred to as The Penny Bridge, as there was originally a toll of one penny to cross. The bridge was designated a Category B listed building in 1986, and upgraded to Category A shortly afterwards in 1987 ..." See: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Victoria_Bridge,_Aberlour*



(15) Finish walk back at the old Aberlour railway station

(57.47122; -3.22677) <https://w3w.co/teacher.otter.image>

In 600 m, you will have returned to your start-point at the very attractive old railway station building in Aberlour. (7.3 km)

**Note: '.. This intermediate station on the Boat of Garten - Craigellachie ('Speyside' or 'Spey valley') line of the former Great North of Scotland Rly was opened (by the Strathspey Rly) on 1 July 1863. It closed to regular passenger traffic (with the line as a whole) on 18 October 1965 ...)' See:*

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/16371/aberlour-station>



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on Alltrails](#)

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