

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Crieff-The Hosh Circuit (Perthshire)

Route Summary

This walk overlooks Crieff, with a moderately taxing overall ascent of 161m over a short distance, offering some wonderful views of the surrounding hills. The environment is mixed, with woodlands, fields, and tumbling burns. The route passes the famous Glenturret Distillery.

Duration: 1.75 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Regular Stagecoach bus services from Perth to Crieff. Check timetables. There is a small parking area at the start/end of the walk.

Length: 4.870 km / 3.04 mi

Height Gain: 161 meter **Height Loss:** 161 meter

Max Height: 185 meter **Min Height:** 74 meter

Surface: Moderate. A mix of tarred roads, rough roads and good paths.

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

Difficulty: Easy/Medium.

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

Refreshments: Options in Crieff. We can recommend the Rhubarb Cafe.



Description

This is a fairly easy route on the outskirts of Crieff, in the wonderfully scenic countryside at the crossroads between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland. Along the way, there are many open aspects and marvellous views, taking in the rural charm of the River Earn Valley, high surrounding hills, and distant mountains. The walk starts and ends near the Crieff Hydro Hotel which opened in 1868 as the Crieff Hydropathic, using the Caledonian Railway to bring a prosperous, abstemious clientele from the lowlands of Scotland to take "the water cure" in an upmarket environment with mountain views. With over 900 acres, more than 200 rooms, and over 50 self catering units, the hotel now supports over 60 leisure and sporting activities, including two golf courses and two swimming pools. The village of Crieff expanded into a town after the River Earn was bridged here in about 1690. The town's growth and wealth stemmed directly from its excellent position as a link between the Highlands and the Lowlands. By 1700, very large numbers of "black cattle" from the north and west of Scotland were driven along the traditional drove roads to the trysts, or cattle markets, at Crieff. Each year up to 30,000 cattle arrived on foot for sale in the town, and Crieff gained a reputation as a wild border town, where horse thieves, bandits and drunken drovers caroused and fought with each other. The many killings were punished on the infamous Kind Gallows, allowing at least six persons to be despatched, and left to hang as a warning to others. Glenturret Distillery, passed on the walk, is the oldest working distillery in Scotland, dating back to 1775 when the Drummond family started distilling malt whisky using the clean and soft waters of the Turret Burn. In the 1950s, following hard times, the distillery was revitalised by whisky enthusiast James Fairlie. Building on this renaissance, three decades later it opened as a visitor attraction in 1980. In 2002, Glenturret became the home to The Famous Grouse Experience – an "interactive whisky experience", attracting over 80,000 visitors each year. For more info about Crieff, see:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crieff>



Waypoints

(1) Start at walks info board above Crieff Hydro

(56.38184; -3.84086)

The walk starts and ends at a small car-park in the trees above Crieff Hydro. At the end of Ferntower Road, before it goes through pillars and becomes a rough road, turn left for the entrance to Crieff Hydro. Arriving at the entrance to the hotel car-park, veer right to follow a narrow road, with speed bumps, uphill to the car-parking area under the trees, and overlooking houses/lodges. This car-park is about 500 m from the entrance to Crieff Hydro, where you veered right and uphill. There are two large information boards for The Hosh walk and the Knock walk very close to the car-park. After checking out the information boards, return to the road, turning right to walk in a broadly northerly direction as the road bends slightly right.



(2) Veer right for The Knock Circular Path

(56.38376; -3.84160)

In 265 m, just before the tarred road drops downhill, take the rough road veering to the right off the tarred road. It is signposted for The Knock Circular Path. (265 m)



(3) Highland Line viewpoint

(56.38517; -3.84003)

In 200 m, you arrive at a small car-park on your left where there is an information board about the geological history of the area. (472 m)



(4) Take path down to Celebration Woodland

(56.38539; -3.83956)

After checking out the information board and the wonderful view, walk less than 40 m to your right to the other end of the car-park where there is a large sign for Celebration Woodland. Turn left here to go through the gate and down the steps, then turn right, then left, to follow the path down to an area of recently planted trees. Continue down to a hard-surfaced path at the bottom of the new woodland. Turn left here to follow the path back to the tarred road that you were on initially. Turn right to follow the tarred road gently downhill. (511 m)



(5) Veer right and down at The Clubhouse Cafe

(56.38843; -3.84382)

In 500 m, passing the Culcrieff Golf Clubhouse, Cafe and Outdoor Activity buildings on your right, veer very slightly right to carry on going downhill on a rough road. (1.0 km)



(6) Keep following road right and down

(56.39031; -3.85040)

In 600 m, after the rough road has gone left into a wood, ignore the marked path for the Glenturret Distillery on your left and continue following the rough road as it bends right and winds its way downhill. (1.6 km)



(7) Cross bridge then left

(56.39122; -3.85139)

In just over 100 m, arriving at the Keltie Burn, cross the burn on the wooden pedestrian bridge, then turn left to follow the track to a tarred minor road. (1.7 km)



(8) Onto road and left for distillery

(56.39128; -3.85475)

In 300 m, go left when you meet the tarred road to head for the Glenturret Distillery. You are now in the area known as 'Hosh'. (2.0 km)



(9) Veer left into Glenturret Distillery car-park

(56.38945; -3.85425)

In 300 m, arriving at the main Glenturret Distillery* buildings, veer left at an information board to walk across the car-park, with the main distillery buildings on your right side. Continue past buildings on your left and right until you come to a bridge over the Turret Burn on your left. (2.3 km)

**Note: you may wish to visit the distillery visitor centre, here. Glenturret Distillery is the oldest working distillery in Scotland, dating back to 1775 when John and Hugh Drummond, from Glenturret, started distilling malt whisky using the clean and soft waters of Turret Burn. In the 1950s, following hard times, the distillery was revitalised by whisky enthusiast James Fairlie. Building on this renaissance, three decades later it opened as a visitor attraction in 1980. In 2002, Glenturret became the home to The Famous Grouse Experience – an interactive whisky experience, attracting over 80,000 visitors each year.*



(10) Left across bridge then follow path right

(56.38902; -3.85234)

In 100 m, or so, at the rear of the distillery buildings, close to the Turret Burn, go left to cross the bridge over the burn. Now go right to follow the path as it rises gently through the woods, parallel with the Turret Burn. (2.4 km)



(11) Go right - ignoring sign to left for The Knock

(56.38710; -3.85197)

In 400 m, ignore the sign for the path going left for The Knock. Instead, veer right and gently uphill. (2.8 km)



(12) Veer left to take path to Culcrieff

(56.38585; -3.85264)

In another 100 m, or so, don't carry straight on the signed path for Crieff. Instead, veer left and uphill to take the path marked for Culcrieff. This path zig-zags uphill through the wood until it reaches a narrow road with broken tarmac sections. Go left here and gently uphill towards holiday lodges. (2.9 km)



(13) Go right at lodges

(56.38727; -3.84776)

In 500 m, just before a set of holiday lodges, go right up a path beside a red dog poo bin. (3.4 km)



(14) Right and up - away from lodges

(56.38687; -3.84658)

In 100 m, having skirted around the holiday lodges, take the rough road, right, going uphill, away from the lodges. (3.5 km)



(15) Right towards Crieff Hydro

(56.38521; -3.84420)

In 300 m, at a junction, ignore the option to go left, signed for The Hosh. Instead, go right, marked for Crieff and the Crieff Hydro Hotel. Now follow this track as it becomes a path with trees behind and fields sloping away on your right. There are tremendous open views of the hills and countryside along this section (3.8 km)



(16) Left and uphill for The Knock

(56.38006; -3.83993)

In 800 m, approaching the Crieff Hydro Hotel buildings, go sharp left and uphill on the path signed for The Knock. Carry on up as the path joins an access road, past houses and holiday lodges on both sides, until you reach the road and car-parking area where you started the walk. (4.6 km)



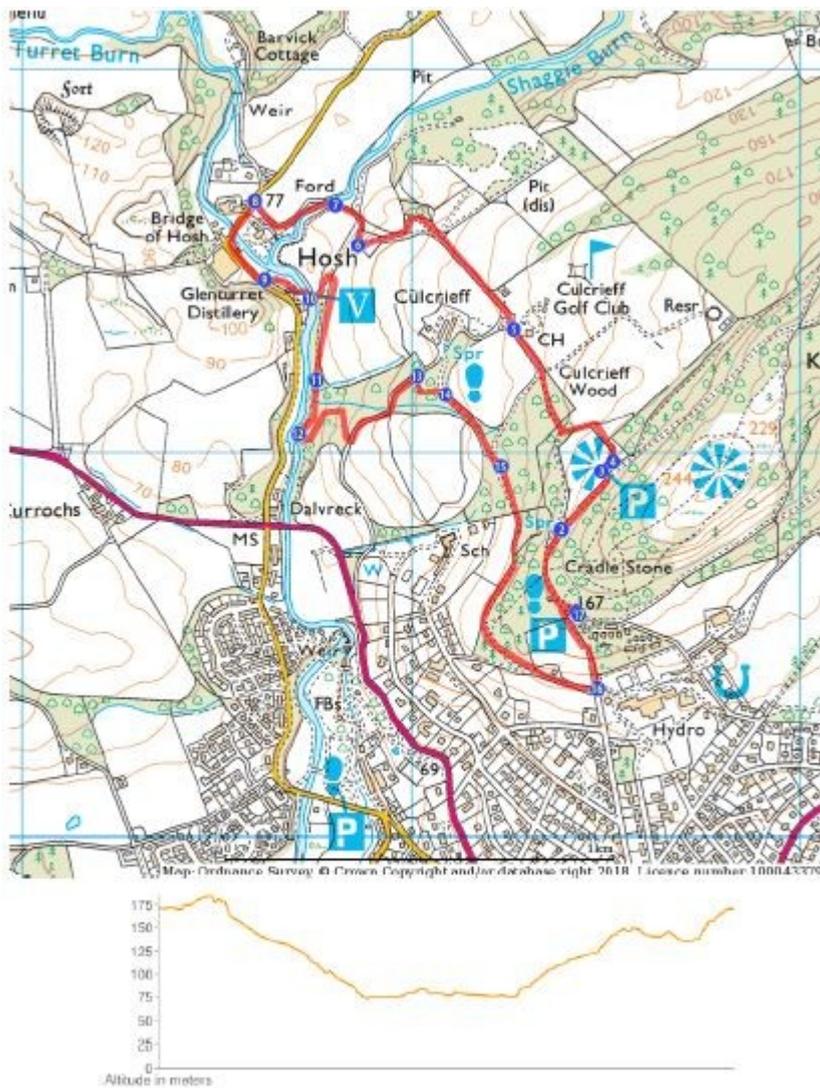
(17) Finish walk back at walks info boards

(56.38179; -3.84079)

In 300 m, you will have arrived back at the car-parking area and information boards where you started the walk. (4.9 km)



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](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)