

### Lost

Time to get **lost**, taking in fine scenery on the way. This day includes a trip to the **Lost Gallery**, a testament to the area's ability to inspire artists and photographers. This land inspired their work, where the sky, with its ever-changing light, is a key part of that landscape. Take in close-by castle locations, Glenbuchat and Doune of Invernochty, and perhaps try your hand at sketching what you see. The first stop at **Migvie church** will reveal 8<sup>th</sup> century art in the form of the Migvie Stone with its faded incised cross, that same pattern recreated on the inside of the door of the church. The church demonstrates how artists can transform the disused. Lost Gallery's Peter Goodfellow led the recycling of the church to a stirring memorial to Lord Astor's parents.

### Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Migvie 13 miles; Migvie/Lost 11 miles; Lost/Strathdon 3 miles; Strathdon/Ballater 18 miles  
:Total 45 miles  
Drive time :2 hours  
Accessibility :Track to Migvie church is dirt track and can be muddy  
:Last 1.5 miles to Lost Gallery on Forestry Commission road and is not tarred – drive at own risk  
Year round :YES but prevailing weather MUST be taken into account  
Child friendly :In part

### Route

Depart Ballater by the A93 and turning left onto the A97 at Dinnet crossroads. Continue to the village of Logie Coldstone turning right before the school. Continue through the crossroads and then bear left at the fork in road. Turn left at the T junction and **Migvie Church** is on the right. There is a lay-by space for parking. Walk up farm track to access the church and church yard. Continue by going west and then rejoining the A97 turning right on to the A97 heading north. Turn left to join the A944 and then turn right at the SPAR shop at Bellabeg and continue ahead. Follow the brown tourist signposts for **Lost Gallery**. Depart on the tarred loop back to the main road emerging onto the A97 close to the sign posted ruins of **Glenbuchat Castle**. A narrow track will take you up to the castle. Depart turning right onto main A97 road for **Colquhounie House Hotel** or turning left will take you to the **Glenkindie Arms**. Alternatively, park close to the Motte, **Doune of Invernochty** and walk down to the riverside to picnic. The motte is worth exploring after lunch and then you should head west on the A944 turning south to Ballater at the A939.

**Migvie Church** is the location of a beautifully carved Pictish cross slab dating from the 9<sup>th</sup> century. The unassuming boxy church is literally a work of art and it's inspirational rebirth after being deconsecrated is a truly unexpected delight. It is a fitting complement to the Lost Gallery quest. Unmanned - Open all year.

The **Lost Gallery** shows work by Scottish modern artists who most excite the owners, artist Peter Goodfellow and his wife Jean. It's location, in the secluded Glen Nocht and the eclectic body of work on display make a visit to the Lost Gallery as uplifting as the drive towards it. The final 1.5 mile track is not surfaced and can be avoided by continuing on the surfaced road where a loop will take you past Glenbuchat Lodge and back to the main road. To walk the final 1.5 miles is an option.

**Glenbuchat Castle** was built for a branch of the Gordon family at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Gordons were a prominent northeast family though the name originally comes from the Scottish Borders. The family acquired northeast land for services to King Robert the Bruce of Scotland and they were to name a large district here after them. Although ruined, with limited access, the castle is well worth the detour – let your imagination conjure images of days past. The site is generally unmanned.

**Doune of Invernochty** is an earthwork castle dating from 800AD, known as a motte. It is possible with care to climb on to the mound from where the moat surrounding is clearly visible. The site is associated with the Earls of Mar whose family seat was to become Kildrummy Castle also close by. Unmanned - Open all year.

### **Contact Information** [we recommend checking opening for your planned visit]

#### Visits

The Lost Gallery	01975 651287	<a href="http://www.lostgallery.co.uk">www.lostgallery.co.uk</a>
Glenbuchat Castle	01667 460232	<a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk">www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</a>

#### Refreshment Options

Colquhounie House Hotel, Strathdon, AB36 8UN; 01975 651210	<a href="http://www.thecolquhouniehotel.co.uk">www.thecolquhouniehotel.co.uk</a>
Glenkindie Arms Hotel, Glenkindie, AB33 8SX; 01975 641288	<a href="http://www.theglenkindiearmshotel.com">www.theglenkindiearmshotel.com</a>
Goodbrand & Ross, Corgarff, AB36 8YL; 01975 651433	
Spar Shop, Bellabeg – picnic provisions – bring your own cutlery!	