

Invercauld & Braemar

This area is the stronghold of the Farquharson clan, whose members have contributed greatly to its development for centuries. One of their number created Ballater, one is said to haunt **Braemar Castle** and many others considered rebels to the cause of the deposed Stewart kings who tried to retake the British throne in a 60 year struggle. A choice of walks, visits to Farquharson burial grounds and a visit to the stronghold rebuilt after Colonel John Farquharson had burned it down to save it from government occupation. [*See also Golf&Game and the Farquharson Finzean estate*]

Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Keiloch 14 miles; Keiloch /Braemar 3 miles; Braemar/Inverey/Braemar 9 miles;
Braemar/Ballater 17 miles;
:Total 43 miles

Drive time

:1 hr 40 mins

Accessibility :Be prepared for walking and for being outside

Year round :Not fully. Braemar Castle opening restricted - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.

Child friendly :Yes

Route

Depart Ballater on the A93 heading west. **Keiloch Crag** car park is well signposted and is where the Invercauld estate office is situated. Continue west to **Braemar**. The main car park is beside the Heritage Centre and Tourist Information Centre. Continue through the town where an unclassified road is signposted for Linn of Dee. **Inverey** is four and a half miles along this road. Return by this road and then head east to Ballater on the A93. [*OS map 43 useful*]

Keiloch Crag This is a relatively easy walk of 3 miles. Taken at a leisurely pace you need to allow 1.5 to 2 hours. The path is clear. The walk is contained within the Farquharson Invercauld estate and it is possible to get a view down over Invercauld House through the trees on the walk. Watch out for buzzards and sometimes golden eagles if the conditions are good for soaring. See walk description www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/keiloch-crag.shtml

Braemar The Farquharson family have been associated with the town throughout its history and had several homes in the area. Best known for the Braemar Gathering that the Royal family attend each year, Braemar is a Highland tourist village offering many amenities. There is a Highland Heritage Centre in the mews buildings where you will manage to find clan tartans and emblems for the Farquharsons. A good choice of eateries will stoke you up for the day's walks.

Inverey was home to the infamous Colonel John Farquharson. The remains of its castle can just be seen and there is a burial ground close-by where Colonel John was finally laid to rest. The story goes, his wishes to be buried here alongside his mistress were ignored by his family choosing the family burial ground. His coffin surfaced on 3 separate occasions until loyal servants interred him at Inverey. A walk into Glen Ey takes you to the Colonel's Bed, a rock shelf where he reputedly hid from government troops. It is about 3 miles long, is relatively easy with good paths taking 1.5-2hrs. See walk description www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/colonels-bed.shtml

Braemar Castle was originally stronghold to the Erskine's of Mar and the castle tells the story of their plight when they raised an army against the government in 1715. Needless to say they did not fare too well and eventually the castle passed to the Farquharsons and after a spell was leased to the government. It was to become a family home. The castle has more than one ghost, including our Farquharson colonel! The local community now operates it as a visitor attraction. Braemar Tourist Information Centre can help arrange a visit out of regular opening times.

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

Visits

Braemar Castle, Braemar Road, Braemar

www.braemarscotland.co.uk

Refreshment Options

Gordon's Tea Room, 20 Mar Road, Braemar, AB35 5YL; 01339741247

Taste Coffee Shop & Restaurant, Airlie House, Braemar; 013397 41425

The Gathering Place, Invercauld Road, Braemar, AB35 5YP; 013397 41234

The Old Bakery Coffee House, 18 Mar Road, Braemar, AB35 5YP; 013397 41415

The Hungry Highlander, Invercauld Road, Braemar, AB35 5YQ; 013397 4155

Fife Arms Hotel, Braemar, AB35 5YL; 013397 41644

www.gordonsbraemar.com

www.taste-braemar.co.uk

www.the-gathering-place.co.uk