

### Architectural gems

**Aboyne** is an attractive and yet surprising village. Its own architectural style was heavily influenced by a local landowner at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His influence was so enduring and inspiring that later development of the village has tried to stay true to making the best of the local building materials. Nature's architect had long been at work at the **Glentanar Estate**, which he owned and today it welcomes visitors to take a walk, land rover safari or cycle. Lunch in **Aboyne** and to round off, a visit to the **Lodge on the Loch** offers a number of outlets for further relaxation of your own architecture!

### Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Glentanar 10 miles; Glentanar/Aboyne 4.5 miles; Aboyne/Ballater 11 miles  
:Total 64 miles  
Drive time :1 hr 10 mins  
Accessibility :Be prepared for walking over short distances and for being outside  
Year round :Yes - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.  
Child friendly :In part

### Route

Depart Ballater on the A93 crossing the Bridge of Dee onto the B976, **Glentanar Estate** is a right hand turn-off clearly signposted. Continue along this road until you come to the car park. Retrace back turning right to rejoin the B976 and head east to **Aboyne**. From Aboyne turn right onto the A93 and head out of town towards Banchory. **The Lodge on the Loch** is just outside Aboyne on the left hand side. Return to Ballater by heading west on the A93.

**Glentanar Estate** As you are driving along the B976 you will see a number of distinctive buildings, all part of the legacy of Sir William Cunliffe Brooks [WCB] who purchased the Glentanar Estate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. He was later to buy Aboyne Castle and so this particular style extends into Aboyne. WCB employed his own architects who used Arts & Crafts and Art Nouveau stylings to showcase the local granite in its varying colours but particularly the pink. You will quite quickly pick out the influence of WCB, which extended to schools, churches on his estate and even farm steadings! Glen Tanar today is home of the Bruce family and contains one of the most important remnants of ancient Caledonian Pine forest in Scotland.

On arrival at the estate car park [*charge made*] there are a number of options for exploring the estate, with various way-marked walks. If you wish to cycle, this is also possible if you bring your bikes. If booking in advance, there are options to take a guided Land Rover safari or explore the estate on horseback! There is a small visitor centre with toilet facilities close to the car park manned by an estate ranger who can advise on estate plant and wildlife with seasonal relevance. The centre has an exhibition explaining the Estate's history and current management needs There is also a guide to the way-marked walks so the best route for your company can be determined. [*Open 10-5pm; Apr-Sep not Tuesdays; Oct-Mar not Tuesdays or Wednesdays*]

**Aboyne** is a pleasant place to have a stroll. The Green is where the town's annual Highland Games, held on the first Saturday in August, are staged and it is flanked with a couple of WCB influenced buildings. The war memorial on the main Ballater road is worth a close up look. It is contained within the porch of the Victory Hall.

Aboyne is also home to a community theatre, which screens a film show every two weeks and periodically has theatre performances. This is the main venue for a summer arts and music festival running from the end of June into August. Events are usually advertised in the local paper, *The Deeside Piper*, but it is worth popping in to see if anything is on. The theatre is next to the school and swimming pool.

**The Lodge on the Loch** All facilities are open to visitors and if you would rather do your work-out indoors, visitors are welcome to the gym, sauna and hot tub facilities, use of the golf facilities or indulge in a spa treatment. The location on the banks of Aboyne Loch is prime *gafia* country according to the owners: **gafia** v. *get away from it all!* Lunch or afternoon tea on the deck may have a bonus, as it is not uncommon for Osprey to fish in the loch! [*Daily; call ahead for spa appointment*]

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

### Visits

Glentanar Estate, Aboyne, AB34 5EU; 013398 86451  
The Lodge on the Loch, Aboyne, AB34 5BR; 013398 86444  
Deeside Community Theatre, Bridgeview Road, Aboyne, AB34 5JN; 01339 886222

[www.glentanar.co.uk](http://www.glentanar.co.uk)  
[www.thelodgeontheloch.com](http://www.thelodgeontheloch.com)

### Refreshment Options

The Boat Inn, Charlestown Road, Aboyne, AB34 5EL; 013398 86137  
The Black Faced Sheep, Ballater Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HN; 01339 887311  
The Lodge on the Loch, Aboyne, AB34 5BR; 013398 86444

[www.theboatinnaboyne.co.uk](http://www.theboatinnaboyne.co.uk)  
[www.blackfacedsheep.co.uk](http://www.blackfacedsheep.co.uk)  
[www.thelodgeontheloch.com](http://www.thelodgeontheloch.com)