

Golf & Game

Inchmarlo Golf Resort is a great place to take the family, introduce your partner to golf or simply play as a group. This is chill-out golf at its best with lush green woodland cloaking this tranquil and scenic location. There are options to lunch at Inchmarlo or perhaps the local town of Banchory and then work it off by walking up **Scolty Hill**, whose tower stands proud on the skyline behind the town. Enjoy the view towards Clachnaben's distinctive peak to the south and then get closer with a visit to **Finzean Estate Farm & Tea Shop**, 'A real foodie destination' according to Pete Irvine of *Scotland the Best*.

Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Banchory 27 miles; Banchory/Finzean 4 miles; Finzean/Ballater 24 miles
:Total 55 miles
Drive time :1 hr 45 mins
Accessibility :Be prepared for walking and being outside
Year round :Yes - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.
Child friendly :Yes

Route

Depart Ballater on the A93 heading east. As you arrive in Banchory you see **Inchmarlo Golf Resort** indicated on the left with a brown tourist information sign opposite the large granite war memorial. Return to the A93 and continue east into Banchory town, turning right at the traffic lights onto the B974. *[If you opt to lunch in Banchory there is parking on the left just after the lights turning.]* After crossing the River Dee, a brown signpost provides directions to **Scolty Hill**. Return to the B974 and turn right, driving through Strachan. Take the B976 towards Finzean. Take the drive on the right a few yards after the sign to Finzean School and follow the signs to the Estate Office – **Finzean Estate**. Return to the B976, turn left and head west to Ballater.

Inchmarlo Golf Club

Inchmarlo take care of their visitors with a team of professionals that will improve your game or get you started. They have a 25-bay driving range and can coach up to 8 people in a group for around an hour. The Queen's 9-hole course, is challenging but fun, with cunningly applied impediments such as water and walls. The Laird's 18-hole course maximises views across the Royal Deeside setting. Graeme Webster, the course designer said, "I could quickly see it was going to be one of these therapeutic courses where it's a great feeling just walking round." This package is further enhanced with modern clubhouse changing facilities, bunker & putting practice facilities, Pro Shop and a versatile restaurant serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Inchmarlo provides memorable experiences to its visitors. *[Open all year – pre book lessons and club hire if required]*

Scolty Hill

On a clear day this is a simple but most rewarding walk as it affords panoramic views of the surrounding area and provides many opportunities to wildlife-spot, especially if you take it slow and stop and be still for a while. Park in the car park and head off on the way-marked route. Leave the cover of Blackhall forest and emerge onto open heather & bracken clad territory. The ascent is moderate, a total of 250m. The circular way-marked route opts for a more gentle ascent and therefore a more steep descent. The walk will take around 1.5-2 hours at a leisurely pace. At the top stands the tower memorial to the memory of local man General William Burnett who fought alongside Wellington in the Napoleonic Wars. Originally a hollow cylinder, a staircase was installed in the 1990s to allow ascent of the tower. Prince Charles reopened the tower in September 1992 after the staircase was completed. *[Open all year]*

Finzean Estate Farm Shop & Tearoom

'Try before you buy' in their delightful café with majestic views over the Feugh valley and Clachnaben. If you are self-catering, indulge in some takeaway estate-produced delights or perhaps a hamper of foodie goodies for a planned picnic or maybe a take-home for after the holidays. The Estate has been owned by generations of the Farquharson family, including the celebrated landscape painter, Joseph Farquharson. *[Open all year]*

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

Visits

Inchmarlo Golf, Glassel Road, Banchory, AB31 4BQ; 01330 826427

Scolty Hill, Blackhall Forest Banchory

Finzean Farm Shop, Balnaboth Steading, Finzean, AB31 6PA; 01330 850710

www.inchmarlogolf.com

www.forestry.gov.uk

www.finzean.com

Refreshment Options

Inchmarlo Golf, Glassel Road, Banchory, AB31 4BQ; 01330 826427

Finzean Farm Shop

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