

Kings & Castles

Track the final movements of Scotland's most *infamous* king, Macbeth. Near Lumphanan, Macbeth, who gained international renown from Shakespeare's play, was defeated in battle and beheaded. It is thought he may be buried at the Old Kirk of St Finan's outside the village. En-route stop at Deeside Brewery, home of the ale *Macbeth*. 3 very different castles on our route offer an insight to stronghold development. Walks could be repaid at a number of food outlets.

Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Lumphanan 18 miles; Lumphanan/Craigievar 5 miles; Craigievar/Kildrummy 15 miles;
:Kildrummy/Ballater 26 miles
:Total 64 miles
Drive time :2 hrs 15 mins
Accessibility :Be prepared for walking over short distances and for being outside
Year round :Not fully - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.
Child friendly :Yes

Route

Depart Ballater on the A93 heading east. After the town of Aboyne, turn left which is brown signposted for **Deeside Activity Park**. On departing turn right at a set of crossroads towards Lumphanan. Turn left at the village onto the A980 and continue to the crossroads with B9119, the location of Crossroads Hotel. Continue on the A980 and take the left turn for Craigievar Castle. Continue north on the A980 taking the A944 through Bridge of Alford. Turn left onto the A97 at Mossat. Kildrummy Castle is just off this road. Continue on the A97 until you reach the A93, which will take you west to Ballater. *[OS map 37 very useful]*

Deeside Activity Park A great stop with an excellent tearoom, local produce shop and home of Deeside Brewery. Stock up with Cairnton Farm Aberdeen Angus Steaks, the breed started close-by. An entirely different day of the park's activities may be something you look into when you stop to visit. They offer paintball, quad biking, Shooting and more! *[Open daily]*

Peel of Lumphanan After the crossroads towards Lumphanan, a stone is visible in the field on the right, known as Macbeth's stone, where legend has it that Macbeth was beheaded after his defeat in the Battle of Lumphanan. The peel itself, further along on the left is associated with Macbeth but is in fact too young dating only to 1230. You can park for your visit and gain a sense of the times before the great stone castles. *[Open daily]* Stop at the Old Kirk before the village where the monks of St Finan's may have buried Macbeth. Macbeth's cairn is visible on the hill to right leaving village.

Craigievar Castle Managed by the National Trust for Scotland, this gem of a defensive tower house is as-built in 1610. Said to be the inspiration for the Disney Magic Kingdom castle, it certainly has a magical air with inspiration from Henry Raeburn portraits and magnificent 17th century ceilings. The castle sits in grounds you can explore via a way-marked route offering stunning views across the open countryside. *[Grounds open all year; Castle Apr-Sep]*

Mossatburn Garden Centre An informal tearoom with home baking, a great gift shop and garden centre too. Encourage garden wildlife - bird feeders and fish a specialty! Something for all the family! *[Open daily]*

Kildrummy Castle Back in time from Craigievar and to the generation succeeding mounds like the Peel of Lumphanan. Dating from the 13th century, Kildrummy has starred in Scotland's headline history. *[Open Apr-Sep]*

Kildrummy Castle Gardens These gardens occupy the quarry that yielded the stone for the ruined castle above. The garden's tranquil setting completed the house of 1900; now the Kildrummy Castle Hotel. *[Open Apr to Oct]*

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

Visits

Peel of Lumphanan; Unmanned open all year; interpretative panel;
Lumphanan Village; Offers more refreshment options
Craigievar Castle, Alford, AB33 8JF ; 0844 493 2174;
Kildrummy Castle, AB33 8RA; 01975 571 331;
Kildrummy Castle Gardens, Kildrummy, AB33 8RA; (01975) 571203

www.lumphananvillage.com/about-macbeth.html
www.nts.org.uk/Property/17/
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
www.kildrummy-castle-gardens.co.uk

Refreshment Options

Deeside Activity Park, Dess, AB34 5BD; 01339 883536;
Crossroads Hotel, Nr Lumphanan AB31 4RH; 01339 883275;
Mossatburn Garden Centre, AB33 8PL; 01975 71235
Kildrummy Inn, AB33 8QS; 01975 71227;
Kildrummy Castle Hotel, Kildrummy, Alford, AB33 8RA; 01975 571288
Picnic in grounds of Craigievar Castle

www.deesideactivitypark.com
www.deesidecrossroads.com
www.kildrummyinn.co.uk
www.kildrummycastlehotel.co.uk