

Linn O Dee

This route provides options for exploring the beauty of the area close to **Linn o Dee**, offering different walks of differing duration and challenge. Regardless of your choice of walk, do drive to Linn O Dee as it is a most picturesque spot. Immerse yourself in the lush feel of Royal Deeside's fresh and tranquil setting and you will experience peace: a phenomenon known as *Feeling the Green*.

Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Braemar 17.5 miles; Braemar/Linn O Dee 6.5 miles; *Extension to Linn o Quoich 7 miles*;
:Linn O Dee/Ballater 22.5 miles
:Total 46.5 miles [53.5 with extension]
Drive time :2 hrs 15 mins [2 hrs 45 mins]
Accessibility :Be prepared for walking and for being outside
Year round :Yes - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.
Child friendly :Yes

Route

Depart Ballater by crossing the Dee Bridge over the River Dee and drive west to Braemar on the B976. At its end, next to Balmoral Castle, you will turn left onto the A93 to complete the journey to Braemar and then driving on through the village towards Linn of Dee. If you choose the extension you can continue to Linn of Quoich car park. Return to Ballater by backtracking on the unclassified road to Braemar from Linn of Dee and then take the A93 and head east all the way to Ballater.

Linn O Dee These are at times dramatic waterfalls and a fine place to stop and have a watery contemplation and photographs. In the winter, banks of icicles can add Narnia-esque wonder. There is a way-marked walk from here to Derry Lodge, a disused hunting lodge. At almost 7 miles in length it will take 2.5 to 3.5 hours to complete but is on an open forestry track most of the way so whilst undulating, the going is easy. Good for wide-open space. See detailed description at www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/derry-lodge.shtml

Linn of Quoich Going that little bit further has the rewards of leaving more of the world behind. Your chance to enjoy a picturesque spot fit for a Queen, literally! This walk is less than 3 miles and has good paths but there is one tricky river crossing that you should be aware of as whilst the Dee is in spate, it is a challenge. Walk time 1.5 to 2 hours. See detailed description at www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/linn-of-quoich.shtml

Mar Lodge In addition to access to the estate, Mar Lodge, offer a full program of walks and events that may be of interest and so as you are going in this direction it is worth checking "What's On". [*Open daily*]

Braemar This charming village is best known for the Braemar Gathering that the royal family attend each year. The central mews building and courtyard, which houses Braemar Tourist Information, is also home to a Highland Heritage Centre. A good choice of eateries will stoke you up for the day's walks but there is much more with gift and clothing shops and a very respectable gallery with a good choice of local landscape interpretations.

Braemar Riverside Walk This pleasant circular walk from Braemar takes in the confluence of the two main rivers, the Dee and the Clunie and then climbs gently through birch woods to return to the centre of the village. There are good open views towards the Linn of Dee. 3 miles/1.5 to 2 hours. See detailed description at www.walkhighlands.co.uk/cairngorms/braemar-riverside.shtml

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

Visits

Mar Lodge, near Braemar

www.marlodgestate.org.uk

Braemar Gallery, 35 Mar Road, Braemar, AB35 5YL

www.braemargallery.co.uk

Refreshment Options

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

www.gordonsbraemar.com

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

www.taste-braemar.co.uk

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

www.the-gathering-place.co.uk

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