

Midmarvellous

Recumbent **stone circles**, with their ancient evidence of early settlements and communities, are unique in Scotland to Aberdeenshire. Possibly an early calendar marking the seasons, they helped the farmers of their day. Farming is certainly evident on this route; part of the living, breathing rural community that is Aberdeenshire today. Our lunch suggestion, **The Millers**, is the result of farming diversification creating a retail emporium of real quality and showcasing local produce. The Millers also houses exhibitions on Midmar's heritage and on the production of agricultural foodstuffs from this region.

Summary

Drive Distance :Ballater/Cullerlie 32 miles; Cullerlie/Midmar 6.5 miles; Midmar/Torphins 6 miles;
Torphins/Cambus o May 15.5 miles; Cambus o May/Ballater 4 miles
:Total 64 miles
Drive time :2 hrs 15 mins
Accessibility : Be prepared for walking over short distaces and for being outside
Year round :Yes - see descriptions below for a guide to opening.
Child friendly :Yes

Route

Depart Ballater on the A93 heading east. In the town of Banchory turn left onto A980 signposted Raemoir. At the T-junction, turn right on to the B977, turning left again to continue on the B977 which is signposted for **Cullerlie Stone Circle**. The Stone Circle is on the right and has pull-in parking. Continue to Echt on the B977 and turn left at Echt crossroads on to the B9119. You may see Sunhoney Recumbent Stone circle in the fields on right hand side. Continue until you see a church and turn right into the road, which leads to the church car park. Turn right again onto the B9119 and continue a short distance to **The Millers**, turn left into car park. Turn left to rejoin the B9119 and then turn left onto the B993 towards Torphins. Continue on the B993 and rejoin the A93 by turning right. Stop at Cambus O May parking on left which is brown signposted. Turn left onto the A93 and continue west to Ballater.

Cullerlie Stone Circle This stone circle does not fit the pattern of the great recumbent circles that dominate the area. Cullerlie does not have a recumbent and at approximately 3,500 years old is somewhat younger than its counterparts. They typically had cremation areas added to them, their first purpose was thought to be astronomical. *[Open daily]*

Midmar Stone Circle This example reveals a common practice of juxtaposing one spiritual site on another. Inside the churchyard you will encounter a recumbent stone circle, dating to around 4,000 years ago, it is a surprise. Ponder the effort of moving the huge recumbent at 15 feet long and around 22 tonnes in weight into position. *[Open daily]*

The Millers Rural retail at its finest, offering everything you might need for country living; welly boots to pet food, waxed jackets to smoked venison. A fine restaurant showcases much of the produce for sale in their food store, so if you particularly like something you may well be able to take some home!

Platform22 A delightful ceramics studio run by Emma and David Patullo. This could be the place for that special souvenir of your trip. In addition to their own collection of one-off pottery items, the adjoining gallery showcases a range of work from local artists and craft makers. Paintings, prints and photographs are exhibited with 3D work in wood, glass and ceramics. Jewellery, fashion items and handmade cards complete a fun browse. Cake creations in the café means yet more to tempt you. A great stop of surprises. *[Open 10am-5pm Tuesday to Saturday – check ahead for regular events]*

Cambus O May Suspension Bridge Another signature aspect of Royal Deeside are the numerous white suspension bridges that cross the river. Cambus o May, built from a bequest from Alexander Gordon in 1905, is one of the most accessible, so stop, enjoy the view and the cool of the river. Alexander was born into a local farming family, eventually moving to London amassing a fortune from brewing. In his lifetime he gifted the Pollhollick suspension bridge, further upstream, to replace the ferry where it is said he witnessed the drowning of a newly wed couple as they tried to cross the Dee in spate. He vowed to build a bridge if he ever acquired the means. He did and in addition gifted many civic buildings, which are well used by Ballater's community today. This is a great spot for photographs. *[There is a local creamery called Cambus O May – look out for their artisan cheeses in quality food outlets.]*

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

Visits

Cullerlie Stone Circle, Cullerlie near Echt
Midmar Church & Stone Circle
The Millers, North Lurg, Midmar, Inverurie, AB51 7NB; 01330 833462

www.millersmidmar.co.uk

Refreshment Options

The Millers, North Lurg, Midmar, Inverurie, AB51 7NB; 01330 833462
Platform 22, 22a Station Road, Torphins, AB31 4JF; 013398 82039

www.millersmidmar.co.uk
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