

The Speyside Way: contents

Long-distance walks in the Highlands	4
1 Planning to walk the Way	5
How long will it take?	6
Planning your travel	8
What is the best time of year?	9
Combining the Way with other long walks	10
The Scottish Outdoor Access Code	10
Dogs	11
Camping	12
What to bring	12
Packing checklist	13
2 Background information	
2-1 The River Spey	14
2-2 Timber and shipbuilding	17
2-3 The railway heritage	19
2-4 Scotch whisky and distilleries	21
2-5 Munros, Corbetts and Grahams	24
2-6 Habitats and wildlife	26
3 The Way from Buckie to Aviemore	
3-1 Buckie to Fochabers	32
3-2 Fochabers to Craigellachie	36
3-3 Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	40
3-4 Ballindalloch to Grantown-on-Spey	43
3-5 Grantown-on-Spey to Aviemore	46
4 Spurs and further walks	
4.1 The Badenoch Way	52
4.2 The Tomintoul spur	54
4.3 A circuit from Dufftown	58
5 Reference	
Contact details, holiday providers and accommodation	60
Weather, travel, maps and books	61
Acknowledgements and photo credits	62
Index	63

Long-distance walks in the Highlands

Long-distance walks run like threads through Scotland's history. Walk along one and you follow in the footsteps of drovers, pilgrims, soldiers, clansmen, cattle-rustlers and, in places, along the trackbeds of disused railways from the 20th century. The map on our inside front cover shows some of Scotland's finest long walks: see page 62 for details of companion guidebooks to the rest.

The Speyside Way is an official Long Distance Route, waymarked throughout with the thistle in a hexagon logo. The stretch from Spey Bay to Ballindalloch opened in 1981, with the Tomintoul spur added in 1990, and the main route extended from Spey Bay to Buckie in 1999. The Way was next extended southward from Ballindalloch to Aviemore in 2000, but the proposed further extension to Newtonmore has been stalled since 2002. However, the Badenoch Way already covers much of the distance (see pages 52-3) and the East Highland Way offers one way of completing the link: see page 10.

The Speyside Way links the Moray coast with the edge of the Cairngorms, generally following the valley of the River Spey. The route is managed by the Moray Council Ranger Service from Buckie west and south as far as the Cairngorms National Park boundary between Knockfrink Woods and Dalvey: see page 44. South of the boundary, including the Tomintoul spur south of River Livet, it is managed by the National Park Authority: see page 60 for contact details.

Terminus markers for the Way in Buckie

