

The Speyside Way: contents

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*Osprey with salmon,
statue at Tugnet*

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-reivers and, in places, you walk 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 more guidebooks.

The Speyside Way is one of Scotland's Great Trails, waymarked throughout with the thistle in a hexagon logo. The stretch from Spey Bay to Ballindalloch opened in 1981, the Tomintoul spur was added in 1990, and the main route extended from Spey Bay to Buckie in 1999. The Way was extended southward from Ballindalloch to Aviemore in 2000, and a further extension to Newtonmore was approved by Scottish Ministers in 2009. By September 2015 this had reached only as far as Kincaig. However, the Badenoch Way (see page 53) already covers most of the remaining distance, and from its end you can reach Newtonmore by the B970 and A86 roadside cycleway.

The main spine of the Speyside Way currently covers 65 miles (105 km), linking Buckie on the Moray coast to Aviemore on the edge of the Cairngorms, generally following the valley of the River Spey. To this distance you can 15 miles (24 km) and/or 6.5 miles (10.5 km) if you opt for either or both extensions to Tomintoul and/or Kincaig. The route management is explained on page 60.

Terminus markers for the Way in Buckie

