

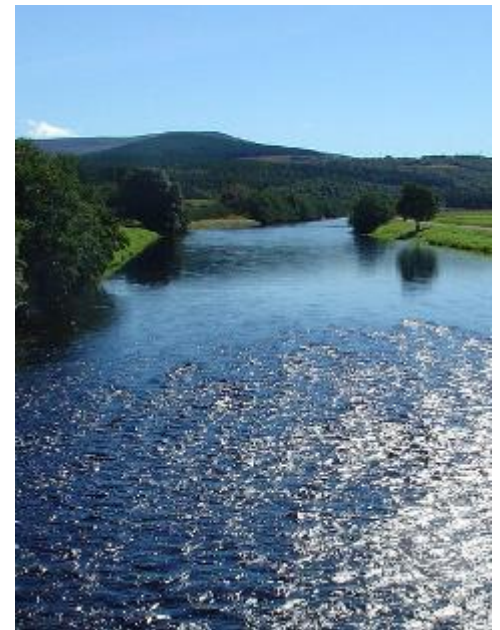
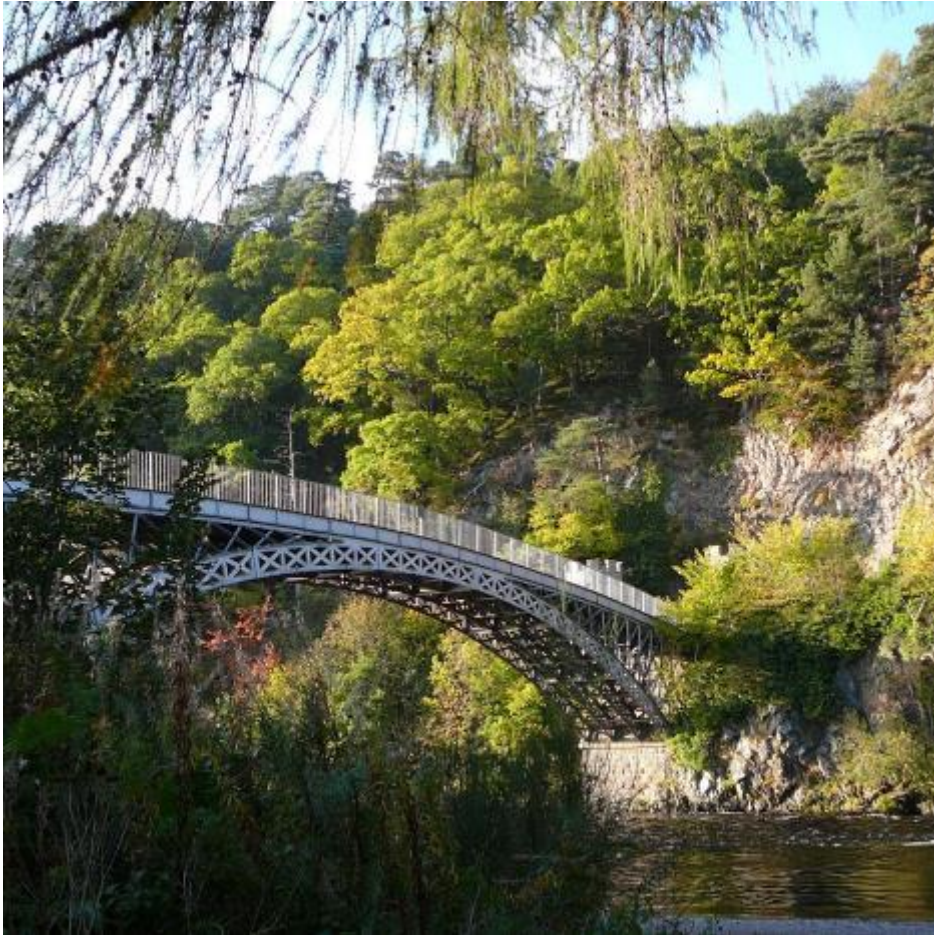


Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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## Speyside Way

The Speyside Way opened in 1981 and offers spectacular scenery in a region of Northeast Scotland famed for its Whisky Distilleries. It is a scenic walk along riverside tracks and through pinewoods, with plenty of opportunity to sample the local malt whiskies along the way.

Starting in Buckie on the Moray coast you will walk through the heart of malt whisky country and towards the foothills of the Cairngorms. Generally the way is straightforward, along paths and disused railway lines, through farmland, across hills and through splendid scenery of mixed woods, beside the river Spey.



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## Summary

### Why do this walk?

- A great riverside walk along one of Scotland's longest rivers.
- Relaxed easy walking (for Scotland!), and straightforward navigation.
- Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of one of Scotland's quieter corners.
- Pay a visit to one (or more) of the many distilleries in the malt whisky capital of the world.
- Finish in Aviemore, at the heart of the Cairngorms National Park.

### Essential Info

Length	6 - 8 nights
Full Route Length	93 miles / 147 km
Shortest Break	65 miles / 104 km

### Grade



### Moderate to Challenging

This is a mostly easy and well signposted walk. A relaxing week in beautiful surroundings.

**Terrain:** Woodlands, forest and meadows along the Spey valley, with the odd section of more exposed hillside moorland. Much more rugged terrain

through the hills on the Tomintouls Spur.

**What's it like underfoot?** Good tracks and paths. Smaller sections can be boggy or rocky. The Tomintouls Spur is rockier, rougher, and steeper!

**How Much Up & Down?** Not too much, except for the Tomintoul Spur, where the route climbs to over 500m in 2 occasions. Gentle rolling countryside for much of the route. A couple of bigger climbs of up to 200m, but nothing too strenuous.

**Signposting:** Good.

**Navigation:** The Tomintoul Spur covers higher, more remote ground, where you might encounter hill fog, so you must be able to navigate. Otherwise pretty straightforward. Keep your map and guidebook handy though!

## Route

### Buckie – Fochabers

Starting at the fishing port of Buckie on the Moray Firth, you will walk along an old coastal railway before emerging near Spey Bay. From here the way follows riverside tracks and paths into Fochabers.

### Fochabers – Craigellachie

Today is easy walking on woodland paths, minor roads and forest tracks with gentle climbing in Ben Aigen forest. You will be rewarded by good views over the Spey

valley. Craigellachie lies in the heart of the malt whisky country and is today's destination.

### Craigellachie – Ballindalloch

Again easy walking on a disused railway line through mixed scenery of wooded valley, riverside and farmland. At Aberlour there is a distillery that can be visited.

### Ballindalloch – Grantown-on-Spey

A rougher and more challenging walk today with good views. There are lovely pinewoods between Cromdale and Grantown-on-Spey, a small town with fine stone buildings.

### Grantown-on-Spey – Aviemore

Today is easy walking using a mixture of disused railway lines, forest roads and unsurfaced tracks, amongst farmland, woodland and moorland of Strathspey. If the distance proves too much you can take the train from Boat of Garten for the last 6 miles. There are good views to be enjoyed today.

### Additional Days

#### Ballindalloch

Lying between the banks of the River Spey and Ben Rinnes, Ballindalloch is a rural community, in the heart of Speyside. At its centre lies the magnificent Ballindalloch Castle, one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland and known as the 'pearl of the



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north'. A visit to the Castle and its gardens will be a real highlight of your walking holiday. Both the Cragganmore and Glenfarclas distilleries can be found in the small community of Ballindalloch and they do offer tours. There may also be the chance to play a round of golf at Ballindalloch Castle Golf Course.

#### Grantown-On-Spey

Grantown-on-Spey is an elegant Georgian town situated in the heart of the Spey Valley, surrounded by majestic scenery and supporting a wide variety of wildlife. Visitors can visit the Grantown Heritage Museum or the delightful Revack Estate with attractive gardens, an orchid house and nature trails. Grantown is famous for its superb 18-hole golf course.

#### Getting There and Away

Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

#### Getting There:

**By Air:** The nearest airports are Inverness (INV) or Aberdeen (ABZ). From the airport you travel by train to Keith railway station, then by bus (limited service) or taxi to Buckie – Keith to Buckie is 15 miles.

**By Public Transport:** Travel to Edinburgh, Aberdeen or Inverness by train for

connections to Keith railway station. You can then travel by bus (limited service) or taxi to Buckie – Keith to Buckie is 15 miles.

**By Road:** Buckie is situated on the Moray Firth coast in Scotland. Follow the A98 towards Buckie, and then take the A942 into the town centre.

#### Returning:

**By Air:** Aviemore is on the main Inverness, Glasgow, and Edinburgh railway line.

**By Public Transport:** Aviemore is 140 miles north of Glasgow, and 126 miles north of Edinburgh. Depending on your preferred direction for onward travel, either of these two locations will connect you with motorways.

#### How our holidays work

We specialise in self guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures & history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all your accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks, and all the details you need for a successful holiday. You just turn up and walk!

#### Inbuilt flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the



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holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please!

You can start on any day you like. We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days or giving you more time to explore the locality. Or you can book part of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

## How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure and either post or email it to us. We will get in touch with you shortly afterwards to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively you can book on our website [mickledore.co.uk](http://mickledore.co.uk), or telephone us .

## Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday . We make a special effort to find the hidden gems, as well as keeping a close eye on the quality of the more mainstream accommodation.

As well as visiting the accommodation ourselves, we ask all our customers to complete a short evaluation on each night's accommodation, which then gives us an insight in to the day-to-day

operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem.

We have a variety of accommodation on the Speyside Way, including small country house hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts and farm house accommodation. In selecting the accommodation we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel.

### Single Rooms

We are happy to book single rooms on this walk at a supplement, but can't normally book more than two single rooms for any one group.

## What We Provide

### All Holidays

**Accommodation** Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs. Full English or Continental breakfast.

**Guidebook** A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.

**Information of Services Along the Route** A comprehensive Service Info sheet, including services such as cash points,

banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafes and taxis.

**Maps** A waterproof 1:40000 map from Harvey Maps covering the whole route.

**Personal Itinerary** A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find it easily.

**Emergency Telephone Support** If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

### Options

**Luggage Transport** We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg .

**Packed Lunches** Provided for each day's walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or cafe on the route.

**Off Road Parking** If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).



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**Arrangement of return transport** We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option)!

## What's not Included

**Evening Meals** Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/ or restaurant, or where there is good food available at the accommodation, we'll book that for you. Allow about £30.00 per night.

**Transport to the Start & Away from the Finish or Taxi or Bus transport if you need to miss a stage** (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

**Travel Insurance** Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

## Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website [mickledore.co.uk](http://mickledore.co.uk).

## About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area intimately.

- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your requirements.
- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away.
- We're all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

## Book With Confidence

### Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This bonding is fully compliant with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

### AITO Quality Statement

Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at [aito.com](http://aito.com). Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.



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## The Speyside Way

Buckie to Aviemore in 5 Days Walking Code: SP6				Buckie to Aviemore in 6 Days Walking Code: SP7		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Buckie for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Buckie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Buckie to Fochabers	10	16	Buckie to Fochabers	10	16
Day 3	Fochabers to Craigellachie	13	21	Fochabers to Craigellachie	13	21
Day 4	Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	12	19	Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	12	19
Day 5	Ballindalloch to Grantown-On-Spey	13	21	Ballindalloch to Grantown-On-Spey	13	21
Day 6	Grantown-On-Spey to Aviemore	17	27	Grantown-On-Spey to Boat Of Garten	11	18
Day 7	Depart from Aviemore after breakfast			Boat of Garten to Aviemore	6	10
Day 8				Depart from Aviemore after breakfast		

## The Speyside Way & Tomintoul Spur

If you wish to walk the whole Way and enjoy the challenge of the Tomintoul Spur, then this 6 day itinerary is the perfect choice.

Buckie to Aviemore with Tomintoul Spur in 6 Days Walking Code: SPT7			
		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Buckie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Buckie to Fochabers	10	16
Day 3	Fochabers to Craigellachie	13	21
Day 4	Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	12	19
Day 5	Transfer to Tomintoul then walk back to Ballindalloch	15	24
Day 6	Ballindalloch to Grantown-On-Spey	13	21
Day 7	Grantown-On-Spey to Aviemore	17	27
Day 8	Depart from Aviemore after breakfast		



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## The Speyside Way & Dufftown Spur

The Speyside Way with the addition of the Dufftown Spur, a great choice for those wishing to explore some of the 7 Dufftown distilleries.

Buckie to Aviemore with Dufftown Spur in 6 Days Walking Code: SPD7			
		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Buckie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Buckie to Fochabers	10	16
Day 3	Fochabers to Craigellachie	13	21
Day 4	Craigellachie to Dufftown to Craigellachie	12	19
Day 5	Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	12	19
Day 6	Ballindalloch to Grantown-On-Spey	13	21
Day 7	Grantown-On-Spey to Aviemore	17	27
Day 8	Depart from Aviemore after breakfast		

## The Speyside Way & Tomintoul & Dufftown Spurs

This 7 day adventure is the 'true' Speyside Way, covering all options along the route, taking in both the Tomintoul and Dufftown spurs.

Buckie to Aviemore with both Spurs in 7 Days Walking Code: SP8			
		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Buckie for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Buckie to Fochabers	10	16
Day 3	Fochabers to Craigellachie	13	21
Day 4	Craigellachie to Dufftown to Craigellachie	12	19
Day 5	Craigellachie to Ballindalloch	12	19
Day 6	Transfer to Tomintoul then Walk back to Ballindalloch	15	24
Day 7	Ballindalloch to Grantown-On-Spey	13	21
Day 8	Grantown-On-Spey to Aviemore	17	27
Day 9	Depart from Aviemore after breakfast		



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## Booking Form

### Contact Details

Address .....

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email..... Emergency Contact no .....

### Your Holiday

Holiday Code..... Holiday Name.....

Date of First Night..... Date of Last Night.....

### Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport Y/N	No. Double Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Packed Lunches Y/N	No. Twin Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Off Street Parking Y/N	No. Single Occupancy Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Return Transfer required (additional charge) Y/N		

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc): .....

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel? .....



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