

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Duff House and the Bridge of Alvah Circular (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A good walk through broadleaf woods and farmland, with historical points of interest along the way including the pretty Bridge of Alvah, set high above the River Deveron. Unusually, the return route passes through a working distillery before arriving at the Moray Firth coastline.

Duration: 3 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Stagecoach service 35 from Aberdeen. Check timetable. There is a large car-park at Duff House.

Length: 8.910 km / 5.57 mi

Height Gain: 162 meter **Height Loss:** 162 meter

Max Height: 85 meter **Min Height:** 3 meter

Surface: Moderate. Mostly good estate roads or tarred surfaces.

Child Friendly: Yes, if children are used to walks of this distance and overall ascent.

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead on public roads.

Refreshments: The Tea Room in Duff House comes well recommended - especially the Cullen Skink!



Description

This is a varied walk from the grounds of Duff House, an impressive early Georgian stately home, now open to visitors as a country house gallery displaying collections from the National Galleries of Scotland. The route never strays far from the River Deveron although the river only figures prominently in the landscape at the Bridge of Alvah mid-point, and near the end, where it meets the sea. The first section is in broadleaf woodland cover where you will encounter the ice house for Duff House and the grand mausoleum building for the Earls' of Fife family. As the walk progresses, views open out to the rolling Banffshire farmland to the south-west of the town. These fine views continue to develop after the crossing the Bridge of Alvah. This handsome bridge, set high above deep salmon pools on the River Deveron, in a beautiful wooded gorge, was completed in 1773 to link the farming communities on both sides of the river. On the gentle downhill return, there is a captivating view of Banff and Banff Bridge. This section of the route also passes through the Macduff Distillery, home of the Glen Deveron Malt. The functions of the key buildings are clearly marked, making for an interesting passage. Before returning to Duff House, we pass over the attractive seven-arch 18th Century Banff Bridge where there are fine views of the river, the golf course, the beach, and the town of Banff beyond.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at Duff House car-park

(57.65855; -2.52271) <https://w3w.co/slogans.processor.pull>

From the car-park at Duff House, walk towards the entrance where there is a walks signpost. Turn left here to follow the sign for the Ice House, the Mausoleum, and Alvah Bridge. Continue along the estate road into the trees and carry straight on.



(2) Left fork at y-junction

(57.65514; -2.52828) <https://w3w.co/forkful.conjured.magpie>

After 525 m, or so, take the left fork at a y-junction. (525 m)



(3) The Ice House

(57.65460; -2.52913) <https://w3w.co/warned.thirsty.swipes>

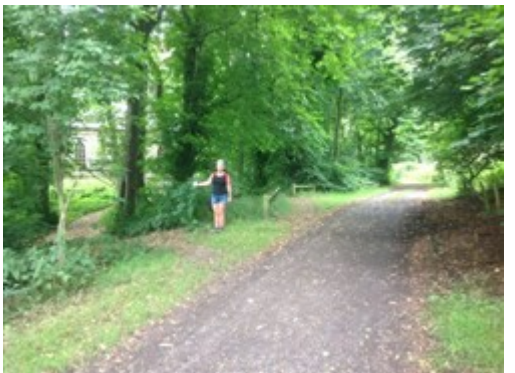
In another 80 m, or so, you will come to the old Ice House for Duff House, just off the estate road. There is an information board there. When you are ready, carry on along the estate road. (605 m)



(4) Diversion veering left for Mausoleum

(57.65447; -2.53704) <https://w3w.co/mascot.outboard.developer>

In another 500 m, you will arrive at the old Duff House Mausoleum building on your left just off the track. Again, there is an information board to check out as well as the building. When you are ready, return to the estate road and carry on through the trees. (1.1 km)



(5) Veer right at angled t-junction

(57.65065; -2.54053) <https://w3w.co/rally.trappings.expansion>

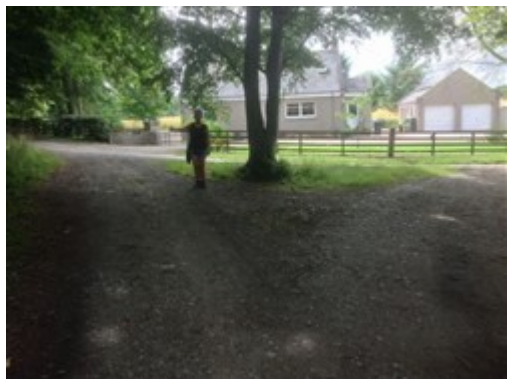
In 600 m, at an angled t-junction, veer slightly right to carry on taking the main estate road. Ignore an access road to houses on your left in about 70 m. (1.7 km)



(6) Go left at fork in front of house

(57.64807; -2.54132) <https://w3w.co/letter.boards.reprints>

In 300 m, go left at a fork in the road in front of a modern house. (2.0 km)



(7) Bridge of Alvah

(57.63852; -2.53752) <https://w3w.co/blanks.dreading.unwind>

In another 1.3 km you will arrive at the Bridge of Alvah, sitting high above large pools on the River Deveron. Once you are ready to move on from this pretty spot, carry on across the bridge on the rough road. (3.3 km)



(8) Left at t-junction on minor roads

(57.64410; -2.50785) <https://w3w.co/nightlife.remix.concluded>

After a further 2 km, go left at an angled t-junction on the (by now) asphalt surfaced minor road. (5.3 km)



(9) Left again almost immediately

(57.64432; -2.50725) <https://w3w.co/dive.gentlemen.tonality>

Almost immediately, after just 40 m or so, go left, gently ascending up a farm road past a cottage on your left and some outhouses on your right. (5.3 km)



(10) Pass Macduff Distillery

(57.65825; -2.51136) <https://w3w.co/etchings.adapt.picked>

In 700 m, or so, you will have descended towards Banff, and pass through the Macduff Distillery buildings. As you leave the distillery, go left along the pavement when you come to the main road, and left again to cross the Banff Bridge towards the town, with the golf course on your left. (7.0 km)



(11) Right then left for Duff House Gardens

(57.66226; -2.51877) <https://w3w.co/guideline.creatures.grapes>

In 900 m from the distillery, just after passing the Princess Royal football stadium on your right, cross the main road with care. Now, cross the access road to the Airlie Gardens sheltered housing complex, walk downhill a little then turn left and head for the obvious, signed access to the tiered Duff House public gardens. Walk up through the gardens then take an obvious surfaced path back to the pavement on the main road into Banff. (7.9 km)



**Note: at a re-visit in August 2021 the access to the garden was closed at this eastern entrance. In which case, proceed up the pavement on the A97 Banff-Macduff road to Waypoint 12. Either access the garden from Low Street behind you, or proceed with the walk as guided at Waypoint 12.*

(12) Cross road to take access road to Duff House

(57.66186; -2.52163) <https://w3w.co/author.passively.drain>

After 400 m, cross the main road into Banff, and head slightly left past the large sign for Duff House in order to walk down the access road to Duff House and the golf course. (8.3 km)



(13) Veer slightly left to take access road for Duff House

(57.66070; -2.52181) <https://w3w.co/submit.proofread.cheek>

In about 100 m, or so, veer slightly left to take the access road that will take you round to the front of Duff House (there are two large 10 MPH signs). (8.4 km)



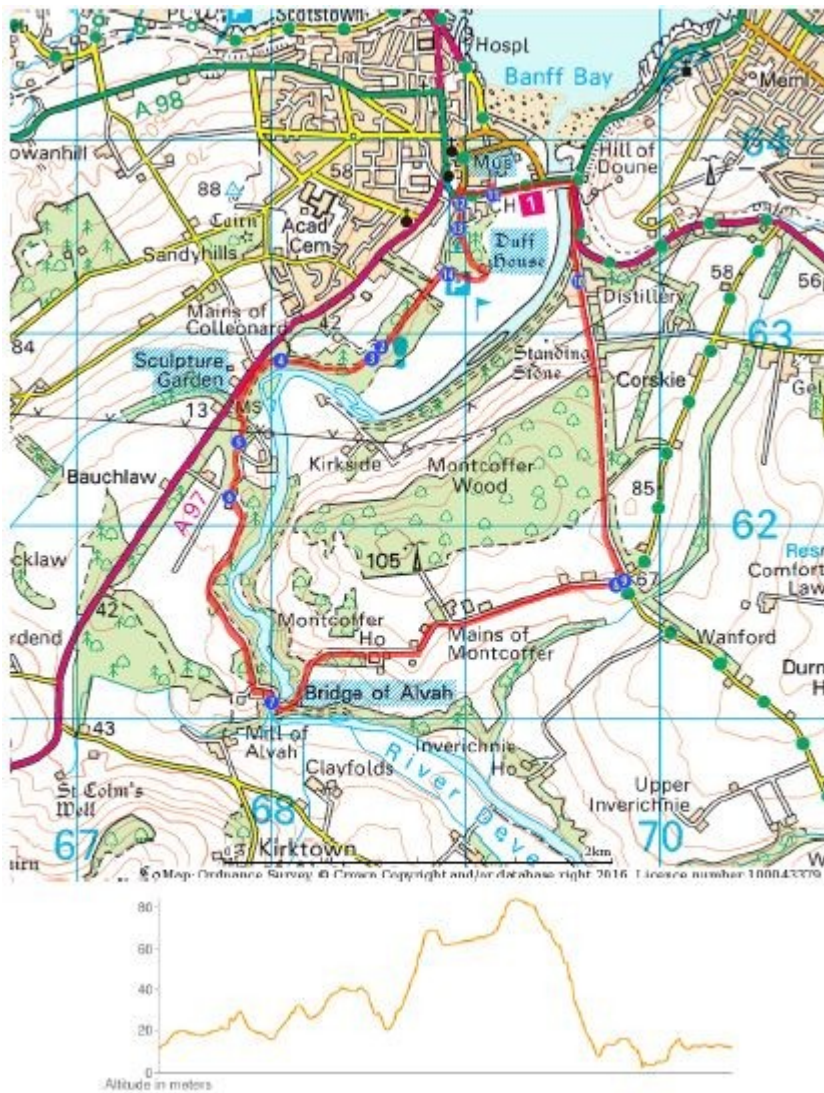
(14) Finish walk back at Duff House car-park

(57.65854; -2.52256) <https://w3w.co/slogans.processor.pull>

In 500 m from Waypoint 13, having passed around, and admired Duff House, carry on walking to the car-park ahead of you where you started, and will now finish, the walk. (8.9 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on OutdoorActive](#)

[Access Walk on OSMaps](#)

[Access Walk on AllTrails](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)