

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Fettercairn-Fasque Estate Circular (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

A short walk with minimal overall ascent in a very pleasing rural environment. Key features include: the pretty village of Fettercairn, its well-known distillery, a beautiful loch, and the baronial mansion of Fasque House. Fettercairn House, too, is glimpsed through the trees.

Duration: 2.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Only an occasional local bus service from Brechin and Laurencekirk. Off-road parking spaces at the start-point, on Burnside Road.

Length: 7.500 km / 4.69 mi

Height Gain: 95 meter

Height Loss: 95 meter

Max Height: 125 meter

Min Height: 67 meter

Surface: Moderate. Mostly on estate and minor public roads.

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

Difficulty: Easy.

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead at all times.

Refreshments: The Arch Cafe and Ramsay Arms Hotel in Fettercairn.



Description

This is an easy and enjoyable walk through very pleasant rural surroundings and woodland. The walk starts and finishes in the attractive village of Fettercairn with its distinctive Victorian arch and pretty village square. It lies in the area known as the Howe of the Mearns, at the southern end of the B974 Cairn o' Mount road, a road that climbs over the eastern flank of the Cairngorm Mountains to Banchory. The Mercat Cross in the square is from the 17th Century, or earlier. The route at first takes the walker past the eye-catching white-painted buildings of the Fettercairn Distillery before heading, past fields, for the grounds of the Fasque Estate, associated with Prime Minister Gladstone and family (Victorian era). We follow a path around a fishing loch in a beautiful setting, partly with open outlooks, partly within mature trees. The route then ascends, past an old walled garden, to skirt the imposing and visually pleasing Fasque House building. In front there is an open lawn with sundial where the eye is drawn to a large area of deer park, surrounded by high trees. After visiting the estate chapel, now an Episcopal Church, the route gently descends to the Cairn o' Mount road before entering the heavily wooded Fettercairn Estate grounds on the way back to Fettercairn.



*****We have received a report that you may encounter a locked gate upon leaving the Fasque Estate at Waypoint 13. If so, we suggest that you will have to re-trace your steps back to the start, missing out the final section through woodland in the Fettercairn Estate. Some walkers may be prepared to complete the route by negotiating their way around the estate gate on the right side by stepping onto a low wall and passing through a gap between the gate and a hedge..*****

Waypoints

(1) Start at car-park by playpark

(56.84976; -2.57322) <https://w3w.co/ballpoint.humidity.array>

The walk starts at the parking area on Burnside Road, Fetternear, near to the children's playground. From here, walk towards the centre of the village, towards the Ramsay Arms and Arch.



(2) Right by the arch

(56.85108; -2.57585) <https://w3w.co/waffle.existence.easily>

In about 200 m, you will arrive at a road junction, with the very prominent Victorian Arch to your right. Go right, walking past the Arch, into the centre of the village. When you arrive at the roundabout, keep left. (218 m)



(3) Left up School Road

(56.85178; -2.57514) <https://w3w.co/supreme.workroom.memo>

In 100 m, or so, passing the roundabout on your right, go left up School Road. You will return to the village square, on your right, in the final section of the walk. (318 km)



(4) Right after distillery buildings

(56.85293; -2.58328) <https://w3w.co/endearing.entrusted.modern>

In about 565 m, after passing the Fettercairn Distillery buildings, turn right up a very quiet minor road. (883 m)



(5) Right at Stankey-West Lodge sign

(56.85828; -2.59096) <https://w3w.co/require.developer.affirming>
In just over 900 m, at the sign for Stankey-West Lodge, turn right onto a Fasque Estate access road. (1.7 km)



(6) Up and right to follow lochside path

(56.86148; -2.58573) <https://w3w.co/slime.elaborate.tweed>
In 500 m, after passing a gamekeeper's cottage on your left, turn right and up, then right, to follow the lochside path (Loch Stankey), around the loch in an anti-clockwise direction. (2.2 km)



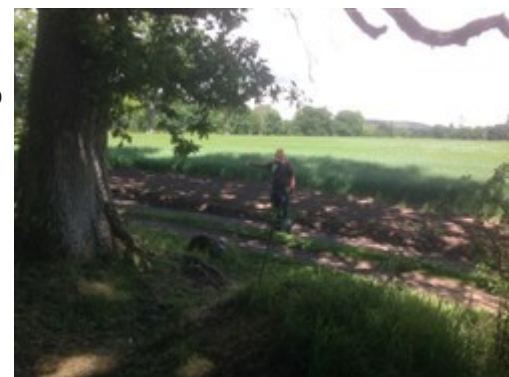
(7) Veer right slightly away from loch-side

(56.86131; -2.58181) <https://w3w.co/geek.product.haggis>
In about 300 m, as the lochside path goes through woodland, at an indistinct y-junction, veer right slightly away from the loch through the trees. (2.5 km)



(8) Left along estate road

(56.86214; -2.57719) <https://w3w.co/delay.puncture.birdcage>
In another 400 m, having emerged from the trees and returned close to the lochside, turn left to follow an estate road. Keep following this road as it eventually veers away from the loch into woodland. (2.9 km)



(9) Left at t-junction near garden cottages

(56.86489; -2.57811) <https://w3w.co/ecologist.secure.pounding>
In 500 m, as the forest road meets a t-junction near garden cottages, go left on an estate road that will take you towards Fasque House. (3.4 km)



(10) Pass Fasque House

(56.86949; -2.57858) <https://w3w.co/equality.emblem.shatters>
In 600 m, you will be approaching the impressive Fasque House building, now used for holiday accommodation, weddings and other events. You may wish to visit the sun-dial on the front lawn as you pass the house. There are deer in the parkland in front of you, below the house. Carry on past the front of the house, heading towards the church in the trees. (4.0 km)



(11) Down path to church

(56.86987; -2.57730) <https://w3w.co/singled.stems.flexed>
As you pass Fasque House, take the paved path towards the church in the trees, ahead of you. (4.3 km)



(12) Through gate and right

(56.87019; -2.57503) <https://w3w.co/otter.greeting.crawler>
In 200 m, after visiting the church and small graveyard, exit the grounds of the church at the metal gate onto an estate road. Go right and gently downhill. Follow this road that will eventually take you out of the estate to the Cairn o'Mount main road (B974). Look out for the deer in the enclosed parkland on your left as you descend from the immediate grounds of Fasque House. (4.5 km)



(13) Cross Cairn o'Mount Road and through gates

(56.86267; -2.56977) <https://w3w.co/musical.branched.talker>
In 900 m, the estate road reaches a t-junction* with the B974 Cairn o'Mount Road. Taking great care, cross the road and enter through the gates onto Fettercairn estate road. Proceed down that road into the woodland. (5.4 km)

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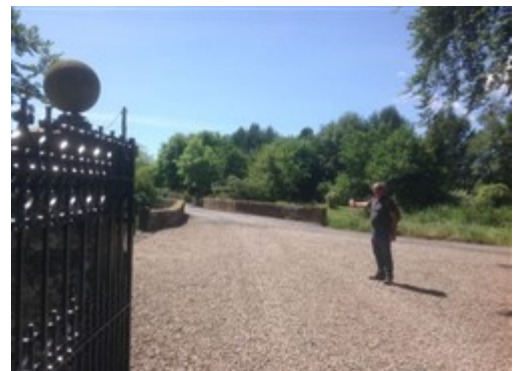
(14) Sharp right before access to Fettercairn House

(56.85679; -2.56622) <https://w3w.co/musical.branched.talker>
In 800 m, as the estate road heads towards Fettercairn House, go sharp right at a y-junction to follow the estate road that will take you out of the estate towards Fettercairn village. (6.2 km)



(15) Veer slightly left and onwards into Fettercairn

(56.85310; -2.57407) <https://w3w.co/unhelpful.rare.funky>
In another 700 m, where the estate road ends, join the public road on the outskirts of Fettercairn. Walk in towards the village square where you will note the old Mercat Cross. From the square, you may wish to deviate to your left a short distance to visit the church and graveyard. Otherwise, re-trace your steps through the Arch, then left onto Burnside Road. (6.9 km)



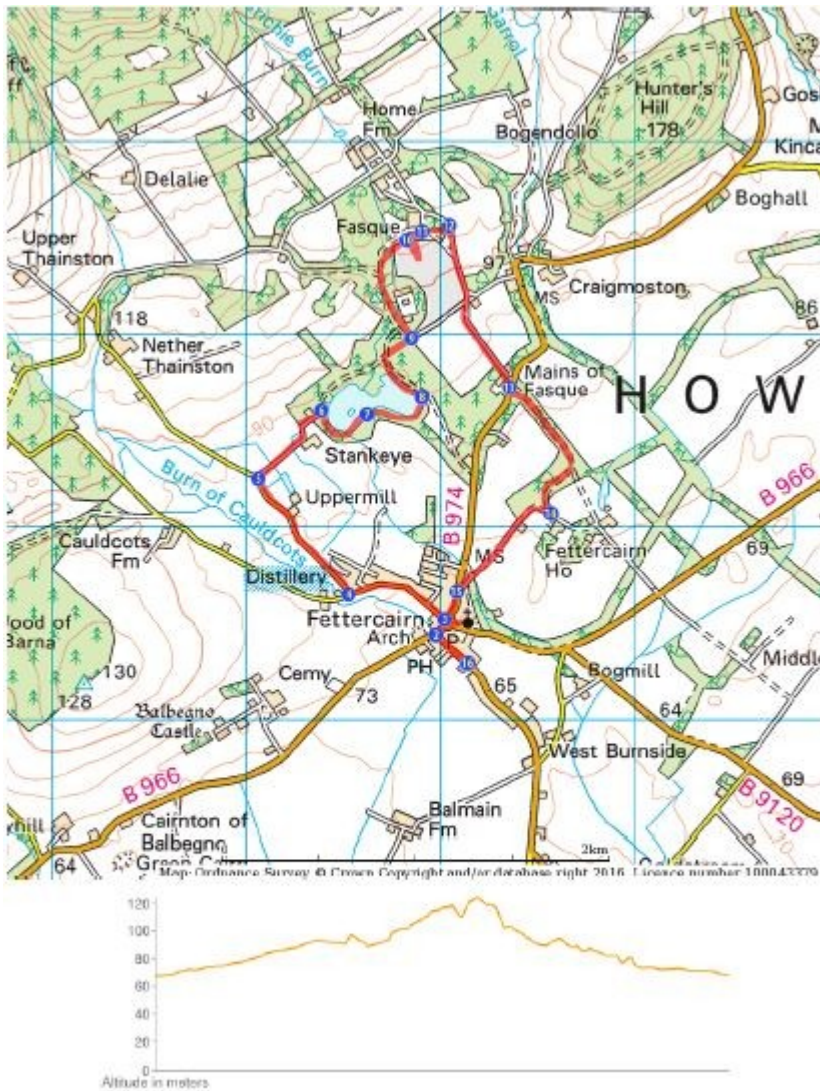
(16) Finish back at start-point carpark

(56.84979; -2.57312) <https://w3w.co/ballpoint.humidity.array>

In 600 m you will be back at your start-point off Burnside Road, at the car-parking area near to the children's play-park. (7.5 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](#)