

# The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

## Hill of Fare Return (Aberdeenshire)

### Route Summary

An accessible and uncomplicated walk in pine forest and heather moorland, with wonderful views unfolding of the surrounding Deeside and Donside countryside. The pretty little lochans near the summit are a delightful added extra.

Duration: 2.25 hours.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2.25 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** No public transport close to walk start/end point. Rough roadside and off-road parking at walk start/end point on B 993 4km from Torphins.

**Length:** 7.060 km / 4.41 mi

**Height Gain:** 223 meter. **Height Loss:** 223 meter.

**Max Height:** 470 meter. **Min Height:** 308 meter.

**Surface:** Rough. Good forest road at first, then rough moorland tracks/paths. May be very muddy in some sections.

**Difficulty:** Medium.

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

**Dog Friendly:** Yes. On lead at the start/end on or near the A 993 public road.

**Refreshments:** We can recommend the Platform 22 cafe in Torphins. Options in Banchory.



### Description

This is a straightforward but enjoyable short hill-walk on a “there and back” route, with an initial section in open commercial forest, leading to a section of naturally-seeded pines before the heather moorland predominates on the main ascent. The Hill of Fare is an extensive area of forestry and rough moorland north of Banchory with a number of distinct peaks. Although never very far from human habitation, these hills have a wild and desolate character that belies their geographical position. There are 7 tops on the massif higher than 350 m: Tornamean (457 m); Craigour (406 m); Blackyduds (433 m); Greymore (393 m); Meikle Tap (359 m); Craigrath (435 m); and, the Hill of Fare summit itself, at 471 m. There are a number of access points to the Hill of Fare range, notably near Echt and at Raemoir, Banchory. This linear route



starts and ends on the B 993 road about 4km NE of Torphins. After the initial woodland section on forestry roads, the climb onto the heather moors is rewarded, on a clear day, with some fantastic views of the surrounding Deeside and Donside countryside. Scanning south to north, you will readily pick out Kerloch, Clachnaben, Mt Battock, Mt Keen, Lochnagar, the Cairngorms, Morven, The Buck of Cabrach, and the Bennachie tops. The summit is a little elusive, with only a very indistinct path through the heather leading to a small cairn perched precariously on a boulder. Near the summit, and included in our route, are a trio of delightful little lochans.

## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk from parking area off B993

(57.13246; -2.57938) <https://w3w.co/spades.debater.scrapping>  
The walk starts from a roadside parking area after ascending 4 km from the centre of Torphins on the B993 road (after this point the road descends and ultimately reaches Millbank after crossing the B 9119 to Tarland). There is also a small rough-surfaced parking area off-road (to the south, in the direction of the walk). Walk in a southerly direction through this off-road car-parking area to follow the forest road as it goes up then down, then up again, before levelling off to reach a clearing in the trees after approximately 1.5 km.



### (2) After clearing take uphill path off road

(57.12230; -2.56766) <https://w3w.co/reflect.suspends.metro>  
In 1.5 km, at a clearing in the trees, leave the rough road that bends NE to carry straight on in a SE direction, taking a rough track that start to climb through the open pine trees. Keep taking this path for 1.8 km as it eventually clears the trees and climbs through open moorland to the Hill of Fare summit plateau. (1.5 km)



### (3) Left onto indistinct path for summit cairn

(57.11550; -2.54437) <https://w3w.co/coconuts.shut.replace>  
In 1.8 km, look out for a VERY indistinct path on your left that heads north towards the summit cairn of Hill of Fare (which should be visible to you about 100 m away on your left side). Go left to follow the rough and indistinct path through the heather to the cairn. (3.3 km)



### (4) Summit cairn

(57.11612; -2.54351) <https://w3w.co/subplot.much.cheerily>  
In less than 100 m, you will arrive at the summit point of the Hill of Fare where a small cairn has been built on a boulder. After admiring the views, re-trace your steps through the heather to the main path where you will turn left and proceed for about 60 m, looking out for a track on your left. (3.4 km)



### (5) Left onto rough track

(57.11500; -2.54380) <https://w3w.co/overdrive.toenail.helped>

In about 150 m from the summit cairn, where the main path bends right, there is an indistinct track on your left that leads to a trio of little lochans. Take the track on your left. (3.5 km)



### (6) Hill of Fare summit lochans

(57.11543; -2.54258) <https://w3w.co/riding.alpha.sweeter>

In less than 100 m, you will have passed by a group of pretty little lochans (may substantially dry up in a good summer!). After enjoying the scene, re-trace your steps back along the main path, descending back to the pine forest level, and then returning along the forest road to your start-point at the B993 roadside. (3.6 km)



### (7) Finish walk back at parking area off B993

(57.13246; -2.57930) <https://w3w.co/spades.debater.scrapping>

After descending for 3.5 km, you will have returned to your start-point by the side of the B 993 road. (7.1 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](#)