

The Mack Walks: Short Walks in Scotland Under 10 km

Inverbervie-Gourdon-Bikmane Hill Circuit (Aberdeenshire)

Route Summary

This is a varied coastal walk with interesting historical associations. The outward leg is an easy stroll along the flat rocky foreshore between the neighbouring settlements of Inverbervie and Gourdon, while the return section ascends onto a steep hillside with fine, open views.

Duration: 3 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Frequent Stagecoach bus services. See timetables. Free parking at walk start/end point.

Length: 9.590 km / 5.99 mi

Height Gain: 200 meter. **Height Loss:** 200 meter.

Max Height: 132 meter. **Min Height:** 4 meter.

Surface: Moderate. Good paths and tracks. May be muddy in places. Some walking on paved surfaces. We believe that a modified version of the route is suitable for off-road mobility scooters. Due to steps, start and finish at the beach car-park at the foot of the Kirkburn road (between Waypoints 3 and 4). To avoid further steps, near the end, at Waypoint 13, carry straight on into Inverbervie, and down Castle Terrace and Kirkburn road to return to the beach car-park. Please also note that the rough road between Waypoints 8 and 9 is very uneven in places and narrows between gorse bushes at one point. The burial cairn enclosure at Waypoint 12 is not accessible to a vehicle. **Difficulty:** Medium.

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

Dog Friendly: Yes, but keep dogs on lead on public roads and near farm animals.

Refreshments: Options in Gourdon and Inverbervie.



Description

This is a very pleasant and invigorating walk along the old Kincardineshire coast between the small coastal town of Inverbervie and the old fishing village of Gourdon. The return leg ascends onto Bikmane (or Gourdon) Hill to take a section of the "Lang Rig", the old coach road, now a grassy track, that preceded the modern A92 coastal road. In this elevated section, we take a short diversion to visit the Gourdon Long Cairn (known locally as the "War Woof"), a large and elongated Neolithic burial mound, now entirely covered in turf, set in a commanding position overlooking the sea. The walk starts in the old Market Square in Inverbervie where the stone Mercat Cross bears the date 1737. Look out for the inscribed plate above the door of one of the houses on the NE side of the Square which commemorates the birth of Hercules Linton (1837-1900) in Inverbervie. Hercules designed and built the record-breaking Cutty Sark "tea-clipper" sailing ship. In the initial descent to the coastal path there are good views of the Bervie Water and Bervie Brow headland, beyond. A short diversion takes us to a small waterfall, above which sits the L-shaped Hallgreen Castle, the nucleus of which dates from 1374, with a reputation as one of Scotland's most haunted sites. With more modern additions, it is now maintained as a private residence. The next point of interest is Gourdon Harbour, which is popular with visitors, and is still actively used by fishermen. In 1881 over 8,000 barrels of herrings were exported from Gourdon. After the decline of the herring fishery, the fishermen here switched to long line fishing, a labour-intensive method that persisted until recent years. Inverbervie, or "Bervie", was designated a Royal Burgh in 1342, and sits on a raised beach behind Bervie Bay. In 1787, Scotland's first water powered flax mill was established here and the town soon became famous for its sailcloth.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the Mercat Cross in Market Square

(56.84545; -2.27795) <https://w3w.co/mops.houseboat.multiples>

Start walk at the Mercat Cross* in Market Square** in Inverbervie. With your back to the Mercat Cross and car-park, walk gently downhill on the High Street, away from the A92 road that runs through the town, and in the direction of the sea. At the end of the High Street, turn left onto the street called Craigview.

**Note: The date 1723 is inscribed on the stone ball above the Mercat Cross pillar.*

***Note: Look out for the inscribed plate above the door of one of the houses on the NE side of the Square which commemorates the birth of Hercules Linton (1837 - 1900) in Inverbervie.*

Hercules became a marine architect who designed and built the record-breaking Cutty Sark "tea-clipper" sailing ship.



(2) Veer right off Craigview for path between houses

(56.84475; -2.27620) <https://w3w.co/polishing.tides.egging>

In about 155 m from your start-point in the Square, and about 30 m after turning left onto the street called Craigview, turn right off Craigview onto a path between two houses (at first glance, the path looks like a private entrance, but is a public path). With views down to the Bervie Water, where it enters the sea, follow the path downhill on steps, passing a corner of the caravan park. Turn right and walk a short distance along an access track to the corner of the garden of the first house on your left side, where there is a grassy path on your left side (155 m)



(3) Veer left to follow grassy coastal path

(56.84364; -2.27456) <https://w3w.co/stealthier.fuses.design>

In 200 m, after descending the steps and veering right to join a narrow access road, turn left onto a grassy path at the corner of the garden of the first house on your left side. Soon the path turns right at the seafront. Follow this coastal path, with the sea on your left side, as it continues past some houses and a car-park. Keep going past a brightly painted small boat now used as a seafront park feature. (349 m)



(4) Divert to see Hallgreen Castle

(56.83981; -2.27599) <https://w3w.co/wonderful.copiers.misted>
In 500 m, divert right off the coastal path to follow a grassy path inland for about 70 m, then cross a small bridge, to catch a view of a little waterfall and Hallgreen Castle* above it. When you are ready, return to the coastal path for Gourdon. You have a choice of remaining on the surfaced path** or taking the rough path through the grass, slightly closer to the seafront. We took the grassy path which eventually leads you onto Seaview Terrace in Gourdon. Keep walking into the centre of Gourdon as Seaview Terrace gives way to East End, then William Street at the harbour. (837 m)



**Note: L-shaped Hallgreen Castle, the nucleus of which dates from 1374, has a reputation as one of Scotland's most haunted sites. With more modern additions, it is now maintained as a private residence.*

***Note: if you choose to walk along the hard-surfaced coastal path, turn left when you reach the outskirts of Gourdon at arrive at Seaview Terrace, as noted above.*

(5) Gourdon Harbour

(56.82806; -2.28764) <https://w3w.co/manages.oven.shadowing>
In about 2.1 km you will have arrived at Gourdon Harbour , a pretty working harbour where there are information boards describing the points of interest in the village and the sea-life associated with the harbour. When you are ready to move on, walk towards the Harbour Bar, with its distinctive painted gable end. (2.9 km)



(6) Continue on coastal path behind the Harbour Bar

(56.82803; -2.28820) <https://w3w.co/sway.wider.couch>
In 35 m, or so, from the sea-life info board facing the harbour, continue taking the coastal path route behind the Harbour Bar (and not Brae Road which starts to ascend from the harbour area). Soon, after passing some buildings and houses you will start to leave Gourdon behind you. (2.9 km)



(7) Through gate and carry on along the coastal track

(56.82414; -2.29283) <https://w3w.co/reset.flying.fund>

In 500 m, after a house on your left side, pass through a gate, closing it behind you, to continue along the coastal route to Johnshaven. (3.4 km)



(8) Sharp right off coastal track for rough road up to A92

(56.81835; -2.29729) <https://w3w.co/dispensed.exists.published>

In 700 m, turn sharp right off the coastal track for the rough road which leads up to the A92. When you reach the main road, cross this busy road with extreme care and turn right along the grassy verge, with a house on your left side. (4.1 km)



(9) Left off A92 at Nether Knox up rough road

(56.82106; -2.30134) <https://w3w.co/liquids.flips.deranged>

In 500 m, turn left off the grassy verge by the side of the A92 at Nether Knox, and walk up the rough road. (4.6 km)



(10) Right at x-roads

(56.82364; -2.30757) <https://w3w.co/quibble.darts.plunge>

After ascending the hillside on the rough road for 500 m, at a crossroads, turn right to take the grassy track* heading NE, back in the direction of Inverbervie. (5.1 km)

**Note: a section of the "Lang Rig", the old coach road, now a grassy track, that preceded the modern A92 coastal road.*



(11) Divert right up grassy track near communications mast

(56.82808; -2.29986) <https://w3w.co/happier.interviewer.expires>

In 700 m, as you near a communications mast in a field on your left side, divert right up a grassy track. In 70 m, at the field edge, go right and walk through the grass towards a fenced-off enclosure which surrounds the Gourdon Long Cairn, a Neolithic burial place. (5.8 km)



(12) Cross stile and check out the Gourdon Long Cairn

(56.82730; -2.29945) <https://w3w.co/roosters.equipping.restless>

In 130 m, cross the stile and check out the Gourdon Long Cairn*, a long grassy mound (no stones are now visible). When you are ready, re-trace your steps back to the main track, by the communications mast, and continue walking back along the track in the direction of Inverbervie. Soon, you have good views of the Gourdon and Inverbervie coastline as you descend towards Inverbervie. Near the main A92 road, at a t-junction with another track, go right to cross the A92 with care, then turn left to follow the pavement past Sillyflatt Farm (and cafe/shop), with the main road on your left side. (5.9 km)



**Note: The Gourdon Long Cairn (know locally as the “War Woof”), is a large and elongated Neolithic burial mound, now entirely covered in turf, set in a commanding position overlooking the sea.*

(13) Right off path along A92 onto Brighead road

(56.83826; -2.28413) <https://w3w.co/profiled.cheerily.stumps>

In 1.9 km from the Gourdon Long Cairn, where the pavement along the A92 meets the Brighead access road, turn right down the Brighead road. When it bends into a housing estate, keep straight on towards the seafront. (7.8 km)



(14) Veer right down path at Hallgreen Stables sign

(56.83742; -2.27763) <https://w3w.co/skillet.deciding.plankton>
In 500 m, at the entrance to a private house called Hallgreen Stables, veer right down the path to the coastal path. At the coastal path, turn left and re-trace your steps back to your start-point at the Mercat Cross in Market Square. (8.3 km)



(15) Finish walk back at the Mercat Cross

(56.84542; -2.27801) <https://w3w.co/mops.houseboat.multiples>
In 1.3 km, you will have returned to your start-point in Market Square. (9.6 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](#)