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Deep in the heart of Aberdeenshire's countryside be stirred by mystical mountains, immense Munros and great estates in the UK's largest national park, Cairngorms National Park. And less than an hour away meet 165 miles of rugged coastline and feel free as you stroll along vast coastlines and by quaint fishing villages. Check out our three day walking suggestions in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire:



Suggestion 1: Bennachie (5.75 miles / 9.25km)

Morning walk - On the eastern edge of the Grampian mountain range, [Bennachie](#) is one of North-east Scotland's most recognisable landmarks. Start your day with a hike up Bennachie and marvel at the panoramic view over Aberdeenshire from The Mither Tap.

Where to eat - After a morning climbing Bennachie, refuel with lunch at [Cafe 83](#) in Kemnay or [Porterhouse Steakhouse & Coffee Bar](#) in [Inverurie](#).

Afternoon activity - Unwind after lunch with a stroll around one of Aberdeenshire's many castles. Close by Bennachie lies [Castle Fraser](#) - one of Scotland's largest tower houses - or slightly further afield you will find [Tolquhon Castle](#) - one of the Grampian's most picturesque ruins.

Where to stay - Finish off your day with dinner and an overnight stay at one of our luxurious hotels. [Macdonald Pittodrie House](#) and [The Strathburn Hotel](#) both offer coveted views of the surrounding countryside.



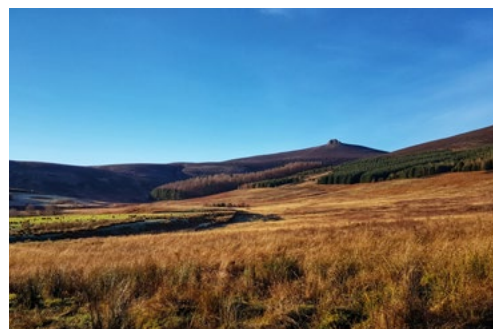
Suggestion 2: Clachnaben (5.75 miles / 9km)

Morning walk - [Clachnaben](#) is the other half of a couplet with Bennachie celebrating Aberdeenshire's lower hills. On the summit of the hill stands a magnificent granite tor that is visible from The Mither Tap and vice-versa.

Where to eat - Stop by [Buchanan Bistro](#) in [Banchory](#) or alternatively if you are driving south from Clachnaben check out [The Arch Cafe](#), a friendly coffee shop and restaurant serving fresh food daily.

Afternoon activity - Similar to Bennachie, Clachnaben is located near some picturesque castles. Both [Crathes Castle](#) and [Drum Castle](#) offer cultural history and splendid walking routes around the estate. Crathes Castle is also a great place to unleash your inner Tarzan at [Go Ape](#).

Where to stay - Nearby accommodation includes [Tor Na Coille](#) and [Banchory Lodge](#). Both hotels serve evening meals with stellar views and you'll be lulled to sleep by the idyllic sounds of nature after a freeing day in Aberdeenshire.



Suggestion 3: The Deeside Way (41 miles / 67km)

Long distance walk - [The Deeside Way](#) is a rewarding journey frequently broken down into 4 sections: Aberdeen to Drumoak (17km), Drumoak to Banchory (11km), Banchory to Aboyne (21km) and Aboyne to Ballater (18km)

Where to eat and stay - Depending on which segment of the way you are walking you can find more information on places to eat and stay by clicking on the place you are stopping in: [Aberdeen](#), [Banchory](#), [Aboyne](#) or [Ballater](#).



Try your hand at 'munro bagging'. A munro is a hill over 3,000ft high and munro bagging is the quest to climb as many of the 282 munros found in Scotland. Here in Aberdeenshire there are over 20 munros. Here are our suggestions for just three of them:

Suggestion 1: Lochnagar (12 miles / 19km)

Full day walk - [Lochnagar](#), found on the Balmoral Estate, is one of the most popular Munros in Scotland with walkers. There are multiple routes to reach Lochnagar's summit depending on experience level. Afterwards venture back into Ballater following your adventure.

Where to eat - [The Rothesay Rooms](#) is an excellent suggestion for those wanting to experience the Royal treatment on their trip (the restaurant was established by HRH Prince Charles).

Where to stay - Or for those seeking a dinner and overnight stay combo [Hilton Grand Vacations](#) offers a Scottish retreat and boasts The Keiller Brasserie and Lounge serving both traditional and modern cuisine complete with on-site spa. Also at the foot of the Craigendarroch hill you will find [No 45](#), a cosy guest house with a log fire in the lounge perfect for a relaxing night in.

Suggestion 2: Mount Keen (17 miles / 27km)

Full day walk - [Mount Keen](#) is the most easterly of the Scotland's munros. The shortest route is from Glen Esk however the arguably the most rewarding route is through the magnificent pinewoods of [Glen Tanar National Nature Reserve](#). The route takes roughly 7 - 9 hours (during summer conditions) to complete.

Where to eat - A mighty walk like Mount Keen is absolutely deserving of a hearty meal. [The Clachan Grill](#) in the centre of [Ballater](#) is only a short drive away and offers modernised Scottish classics with a side of Highland hospitality. If you'd prefer to stay in [Aboyne](#) after your hike, seek out [Douneside House](#) for a truly memorable culinary experience.

Where to stay - An overnight stay at one of [Glen Tanar's cottages](#) is a fantastic place to base yourself when hiking Mount Keen and there are nine to choose from. If you would like to indulge in some pampering after your arduous day look no further than [The Lodge on the Loch Spa Retreat](#). Foot massage anyone?

Suggestion 3: Ben Macdui (18.25 miles / 29km)

Full day walk - [Ben Macdui](#) is the tallest mountain in the [Cairngorms National Park](#) and the second tallest mountain in Britain, only 36m smaller than Ben Nevis (the highest mountain in Scotland) at 1,309m. The approach to Ben Macdui is recommended although it is one of the longer routes.

Where to eat & stay - After conquering the mighty Ben Macdui enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the recently reopened [The Fife Arms](#) in the heart of [Braemar](#). The stylish hotel features charming yet grand decor and is perfect for those not wanting to travel too far from their accommodation for supper. For larger groups indulge in [Drumrunie House](#), a self catering haven with incredible views from the summerhouse that sleeps up to 12 people.



All is sea and sky at first, then sandy bays and rugged cliffs come into view followed by a string of quaint seaside towns and villages. With over 165 miles of coastline it is no surprise that there are lots of coastal walks that you can explore on your trip.



Suggestion 1: Crovie to Gardenstown (3.25 miles / 5km)

Walk - Tucked away between [Gardenstown](#) and [Crovie](#) (pronounced Crivie) is a short walk connecting the villages. It is a great spot for dolphin spotting and to breathe in the fresh sea air.

Where to eat - The fresh sea air is sure to leave you with a hankering for some food. [Teapot 1](#) in Gardenstown is the perfect spot to enjoy fresh home-cooked produce while enjoying fantastic views over the harbour.

Afternoon activity - From Gardenstown travel up to [Troup Head](#) for a pleasant stroll and some birdwatching. The high cliffs offer a spectacular setting for Scotland's largest mainland gannet colony as well as kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills and even puffins.

Where to stay - For your home for the night check in to one of our recently refurbished hotels. To the east is [The Davron Hotel](#) or if you're travelling west of Troup Head try [The Knowes Hotel](#),



Suggestion 2: Balmedie Beach (14 miles / 23km)

Walk - Meander along the gorgeous sandy beaches in North-east Scotland, one of which is [Balmedie Beach](#), an extensive dune system stretching from Aberdeen to the [River Ythan at Newburgh](#) which is home to a 400 strong colony of seals.

Where to eat & stay - For lunch head for [The Cock and Bull](#), an intimate inn which featured in the Michelin Guide and has the option of on-site accommodation in the newly revamped Blairton Cottage. Or experience luxury at [Aikenshill](#) for five-star accommodation that even has it's own Highland Cows - a iconic symbol of Scotland.



Suggestion 3: Dunnottar Castle (3.25 miles / 5km)

Walk - [Stonehaven](#) is a popular attraction in it's own right with a pleasant walk from the town to [Dunnottar Castle](#) - another breathtaking attraction. Offering stunning viewpoints of the coastline, the walk can also be extended further south to [Fowlsheugh](#).

Where to eat - [The Quayside](#) in nearby [Gourdon](#) has recently won the National Fish & Chips Awards 2019 and the [The Ship Inn](#) serves a delectable mixed grill.

Where to stay - Rest your head at [The Belvedere Hotel](#), an imposing Victorian house near Stonehaven's town centre or opt for accommodation that overlooks it and Dunnottar Castle in the distance at [Dalriada Luxury Lodges](#) only a 15 minute walk from the centre.

For more inspiration on beautiful walks to do on your visit to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire click [here](#).

