DATEs FOR YOUR DIARY

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For a better view of Royal Deeside

Open Top Bus Tour

Route 200 - Braemar ➔ Ballater ➔ Loch Muick

**Timetable**

**Route 200 - Braemar**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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*Braemar, Ballater, Loch Muick*

# Dates for your diary

**4th May - 8th September 2013**

For a better view of royal deeside

Open Top Bus Tour

route 200

**Braemar**
Braemar Castle
Balmoral Castle
Ballater
Loch Muick

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Welcome

You can now discover Royal Deeside on our open top bus!

The valley of the River Dee is known as Royal Deeside for its connections with Queen Victoria and her descendants. The Royal Residence of Balmoral Castle sits in the heart of the valley and is still a favoured home to Her Majesty the Queen. Dee Valley, which sits partly within the Cairngorm mountains, with the River Dee running through its centre, offers walkers a variety of hill walking opportunities, in the majestic mountains of the Cairngorms, which includes The Queen’s ‘jewel’ Loch Muick.

From Saturday 4th May you can enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Balmoral Estate from the top deck of the bus, which connects Braemar, Balmoral Castle, Ballater and Loch Muick. Route 200 will operate every Saturday and Sunday from 4th May - 8th September. The route will also run daily in the summer school holidays from 8th July - 19th August and on bank holiday Monday 6th August.

Please see overleaf for fare and timetable information.

For a better view of Royal Deeside

Opening hours:

Old Royal Rail Station, Ballater

For a better view of Ballater is renowned for its royal connections and has many

connections with Queen Victoria and her descendants. The Royal Residence of Balmoral Castle sits in the heart of the

building which used to be the Royal Railway Station.

Opening hours:

Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle is a large estate house situated in Royal

Deeside, near Crathie. Balmoral has been one of the

residences of the British Royal Family since 1852, when it was purchased by Queen Victoria and her

consort, Prince Albert. It remains the private property of the Monarch, and its gardens are now open to the public between April and July with the ballroom the only room open to the public today.

Opening hours:

Braemar Castle

Enjoy a guided tour to hear stories of the colourful

characters associated with the castle, find out how Clan

Farquharson began and discover the part played by Braemar Castle in the story of Scotland. The town of Braemar is the highest and most mountainous parish in the UK and within the heart of the village lies the ruins of the great castle of Kindrochit.

Braemar Castle

Opening hours:

Loch Muick

Loch Muick is a 2-mile long fresh water loch. Steep-sided hills surrounding the loch provide some of the best views of the Balmoral Estate. There is a hiking path round the loch which is accessible from the visitor centre where you can be dropped off by our open top bus. The hiking path will lead you past the Royal body ‘Glas-alth Shiel’ which was built by Queen Victoria and sits on the banks of the loch. See below for more details on the walk.

Walking details:

Distance: 12.5km/7.75 miles

Time: 3 - 3.5 hours (approx)

Terrain: Good track and paths

The Walk

1. Start the walk at the Balmoral Estate visitor centre just down the track from where our bus will drop you off. After passing the visitor centre, turn right and follow the track along the glen. The route crosses River Muick and continues towards houses at Affi-na-guibeitch. When you reach the first building turn left onto the track. A path to the right leads to Lochmager. Continue straight ahead instead.

2. The track passes below the building before heading towards the Loch. You will then reach the stone beachhouse. Keep to the elevated track as it skirts the Loch. A fence on the right side of the path has been burnt and deer fenced out to allow natural regeneration of the forest.

3. Follow the track until you reach Glas-alth Shiel house. Pass the front of the house and continue through the woods on the clear path to the other side. The path emerges from the pine trees and the end of the Loch comes into view.

4. Keep left at the fork and follow the water’s edge. The path becomes clearer and turns left to follow the far side, follow the narrow path through the heather.

5. The path will climb to join a track at a bridge. Turn left here, crossing the bridge and then follow the track back alongside the Loch.

6. You will pass the turning for Chapel Mounth, used today as a long distance walking route to Glen Clova. Keep following the track passing Loch-end wood. You will then see the woods and buildings of the Spittal of Glenmuick in the distance. Retrace your steps to the start of the walk.

Information in this leaflet should be used as a guide only and we recommend visiting www.walkhighlands.co.uk for full information on how to prepare for this walk. Full information and guidance is also available from the Balmoral Estate visitor centre.

Royal Lochnagar Distillery

Neighbouring the Balmoral Estate, Royal Lochnagar Distillery produces one of Scotland’s most exclusive whiskies. A guided tour of the distillery details how the whisky is made from barley to bottle and finishes with a dram of the Royal Lochnagar 12 Year Old. Please note, although not directly on the open top route, the distillery is a short walk from the Castle car park and visitor centre.

Royal Lochnagar Distillery

Opening hours:

Old Royal Rail Station

Ballater is renowned for its royal connections and has many

shops displaying the Royal Warrants of Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Charles.

In the centre of Ballater there is a beautiful wooden building which used to be the Royal Railway Station.

At the Old Royal Station you can step inside a

refurbished carriage of Queen Victoria’s Royal Train.

Opening hours:

Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle offer!

Receive 25% off admission to the Old Royal Rail Station museum when you show a valid bus ticket for that day!

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  - Braemar Castle dep - 0800 0900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1700 1705 1800 2000 2100
  - Braemar Castle - 0803 0903 1003 1103 1203 1303 1403 1503 1703 1708 1803 2003 2103
  - Braemar Castle - 1406 1506 1536 1636 1736 1836 1936 2036 2136
  - Braemar Castle - 0950 1150 1350 1550 1750 1950
  - Loch Muick - 0950 - 1150 - 1350 - 1550 - 1750 - 1950

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  - Braemar Castle dep - 0800 0900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 2000 2100
  - Braemar Castle - 0803 0903 1003 1103 1203 1303 1403 1503 1603 1703 1803 2003 2103
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  - Braemar Castle - 0950 1150 1350 1550 1750 1950
  - Loch Muick - 0950 - 1150 - 1350 - 1550 - 1750 - 1950

- **Sunday**
  - Braemar Castle dep - 0900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 2000 2100
  - Braemar Castle - 0903 1003 1103 1203 1303 1403 1503 1603 1703 1803 2003 2103
  - Braemar Castle - 1406 1506 1536 1636 1736 1836
  - Loch Muick - 0955 - 1155 - 1355 - 1555 - 1755 - 1955

**Route 200 - Loch Muick - Ballater - Braemar Castle**

- **Monday - Friday**
  - Loch Muick dep - 0852 0952 1052 1152 1252 1352 1452 1552 1652 1752 1902 1932 2033
  - Loch Muick - 0855 - 0955 - 1155 - 1355 - 1555 - 1755 - 1955

- **Saturday**
  - Loch Muick dep - 0900 1000 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 2000 2100
  - Loch Muick - 0903 1004 1103 1204 1303 1403 1503 1603 1703 1803 2003 2103
  - Loch Muick - 0955 - 1155 - 1355 - 1555 - 1755 - 1955

- **Sunday**
  - Loch Muick dep - 0852 0948 1052 1148 1252 1348 1452 1548 1652 1748 1948
  - Loch Muick - 0855 - 0955 - 1155 - 1355 - 1555 - 1755 - 1955

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For a better view of ROYAL DEESIDE

4TH MAY - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Open Top Bus Tour

ROUTE 200