



## WALKS FROM DALMUNZIE CASTLE HOTEL

Dalmunzie, turreted and crow stepped in traditional baronial style, was originally built as a shooting lodge with the original Dalmunzie Castle lying south of the Glenlochsie burn. Situated on is a 6,500 acre estate with its first written records dating back to 1510, Dalmunzie can claim to be Scotland's highest hotel and has a delightful setting on a little plateau between two hill burns. To get the most out of your visit we strongly suggest guests get out and about even on the shortest walks to truly appreciate this special place hidden in the heart of Scotland. The scenery in our immediate area is undoubtedly stunning so we have provided details of some of the most popular walks in and around Dalmunzie.

Please note all times are suggested only and are based on casual walking times. Several walks may be affected by hunting in season. Please check with the office if you are heading off on long walks to find out if your route is affected and to advise us of your journey. A reminder for the serious walks is to have plenty of layers handy. The weather can change quickly for the better or worse regardless of the season so you need to be prepared.

Another good step is to **read the signs** provided by the estate reminding guests of the walker's code in Scotland.

### EASY

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#### 1. Dalmunzie Golf Course

Distance: 1½ miles      Time: 30 minutes

Dalmunzie Golf Course was designed in the 1920's for Sir Archie Birkmyre and is a candidate for Scotland's highest course. For a short circular walk: Depart from the car park, through the white gate onto the first tee. Make your way down to the river and cross the bridge and fairway. Keeping the small forest on your left, make for the extreme left corner of the hill dyke marked by the raised 6<sup>th</sup> tee. Here you can enjoy wonderful views of Dalmunzie House. Behind and below the tee are the ruins of Dalmunzie Castle & fermtoun which you pass round to reach the gate taking you into the big field. Walk through to the main driveway and return up the hill to Dalmunzie.

**Note: Please watch out and respect golfers' right of way on the course.**

#### 2. Dalmunzie Driveway

Distance: 3 miles      Time: 1 hour

The walk to the entrance is very pleasant, flat, and easy to follow and too often ignored! Simply take your time walking to the gatehouse and back enjoying the peace of the glen.



## MODERATE

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### 3. Glenlochsie Lodge (including old railway line)

Distance: 4 miles      Time: 1½-2 hours

Walk up the driveway, towards the holiday cottages (**note that the cottages are private**). Shortly after emerging from the forest, you will see a sign reading 'Glas Tulaichean) next to a gate, on your left hand side. Go through this gate and follow some posts, through the field, leading you to another gate. Go through this gate and follow the path to a four-wheel drive road. Simply follow this for its entire length crossing the river several times until you reach the ruins of the lodge. It was used for hunting parties as a base and marks a spectacular point where two burns tumble into one. From the lodge walk up the northern burn for 30 yards finding your way across to the old railway line. It was built into the hillside in the 1920's and offers amazing views as you return along its length including an old bridge across a waterfall. The line ends in a zig-zag which returns the line down to the level of the four-wheel drive road. Retrace your steps along the road, to return to the hotel.

Note: If there has been heavy rain the river may be difficult to cross. If so, use the railway line to get to the lodge and back. It should be clearly visible on your right just before the first river ford.

### 4. Glenn Taitneach

Distance: 7 miles      Time: 3½-4 hours

A truly spectacular walk up a glaciated glen. Walk down the driveway for 1.3 miles and at the gatehouse turn left onto the road and cross the bridge. Turn left off the road into a car park and follow the track that turns into a four-wheel drive road. Follow the road until it peters out into a rough path. (See walk 9 to go beyond here). To get home just retrace your tracks. There is plenty of evidence of cottage footings along this route and keep your eyes open for mountain hares, deer and eagles.

### 5. Settlements

Distance: 4 miles      Time: 1½ -2 hours

The pre-improvement period in the Highlands (before 1800) saw the glens much more heavily populated, and there were once numerous hamlets and farms in the glen around Dalmunzie. From the hotel, cross over the golf course to the former site of Dalmunzie Castle and fermtoun. This once dominated the glen under the MacRitchie family in the 1500's. From here you need to follow the hill-dykes east until you reach the gate house. Go over the old bridge and turn left before the church onto the dirt road. This road will take you back up the glen beneath the towering Ben Gulabin.



## 6. Forest Walk

Distance: 3½ miles      Time: 2-2½ hours

Walk down the driveway to the hillwalkers' parking area and take the road to the right. Follow this up and go through the left-hand gate; continue on until you reach the forest. Go through the gate and continue through the forest until you reach its end. Here you will come out high above Dalmunzie with magnificent views of Glenshee and the glens beyond. Continue along the road until it forks right. Go downhill passing sheep yards until you reach the golf course. From here it is a short stroll back to the hotel.

Note: You do have the option of continuing along the high road through the second forest until you reach the river, where you turn back along the dirt road to the hotel.



## SERIOUS

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### **7. Ben Gulabin (806 metres)**

Distance: 2-3 miles    Time: Minimum 4 hours

Easily the most recognizable mountain near Dalmunzie, Ben Gulabin towers above the glen and offers as a reward magnificent views of the Cairngorms to the West & North. Ben Gulabin is reached by following walk 4 until you are over the bridge. From here you can choose your ascent, but it is going to be steep and hard work whichever way you climb. A possible alternative is to simply make for the first clearly defined ledge. From here you can still enjoy wonderful views of the glen. For those keen to reach the summit, you simply continue upwards until you reach the highest point marked by a cairn.

### **8. Ben Earb (801 metres)**

Distance: 3-4 miles    Time: Minimum 4 hours

Often ignored and underestimated, Ben Earb is a delightful peak almost due south of Dalmunzie as you look over the golf course. Cross over the left side of the golf course heading for the sheep yards. From here follow the dirt road up to a T junction. From here you can choose to climb Ben Earb by either the left or right flank returning the other way. The summit is marked by a cairn and provides extensive views back to Glenshee and south to Strathardle.

### **9. Glas Tulaichean (1051 metres)**

Distance: 12 miles    Time: 6-8 hours

Our closest Munro, Glas Tulaichean, is a serious day hike that links walks 3 & 4 and is very popular with experienced hikers. It can be walked in either direction, but generally most people complete it in a clockwise manner travelling up Glen Lochsie and returning via Gleann Taitneach. Follow walk 3 to Glen Lochsie lodge which makes a good spot for a rest before a steep ascent. The four-wheel drive road behind the lodge can be followed all the way to the top of the mountain marked by a cairn. This is a long section and steep to start with. It eventually flattens out with glorious views to the west. From the summit you follow the ridgeline north to north-west until you reach Loch nan Eun (visible for parts of the walk). This is another nice spot to have a rest and enjoy the peace and quiet. The loch marks the start of the Taitneach burn so cross over to the northern side and descend along a path enjoying the waterfalls until you reach the glen below. From here simply follow the path/road as for walk 4 home.

Note: Please feel free to ask the staff for further advice, directions or their personal favorites.