

• Distance 20km/12 miles • Time 5–6hrs • Type Mountain and moor

3 NAVIGATION
LEVEL 3

4 FITNESS
LEVEL 4



Plan your walk



WHERE: Linear walk from Clova to Dykehead via Glen Clova valley.

START: Clova (NO328732).

END: Dykehead (NO386603).

TERRAIN: Mixture of valley floor, roads, steep ascents to initial mountain ridge and to Hill of Couternach. Many stiles and gates.

MAPS: OS Explorer 381 & 388; Landranger 44.

GETTING THERE: There is no public transport between Dykehead and Clova.

Parking available in car park by Glen Clova Hotel. Taxis from County Cabs, Kirriemuir (© 01575 575050). You can also take the train to Dundee (www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk) and hire a car there.

EATING & DRINKING: Glen Clova Hotel, Clova (© 01575 550350, www.clova.com).

SLEEPING: Glen Clova Hotel (see above) offers double ensuite rooms as well as bunkhouses.

VISITOR INFORMATION: Glen Doll ranger base, open ▶



PHOTOGRAPHY: ALAMY

Glen Clova is one of five valleys that make up the Angus Glens – classical glacial valleys that stretch into the borders of the Cairngorms National Park. The scenery and wildlife is superb, with a chance to see golden eagles on the high ridges that flank the glen, black grouse and red and roe deer, and red squirrels in the pine forests. The River South Esk pierces its way through the valley floor, and a breathtaking ridge walk makes up the central part of the trail. An added point of interest is that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of JM Barrie, the author of *Peter Pan*, whose house (owned by the National Trust for Scotland) can be visited in the nearby town of Kirriemuir.

1. START From Glen Clova Hotel (NO328732), follow the eastern section of the B955 south for a mile to Marchburn Cottage (NO342721). Turn R through the gate and cross the field (no path) and stile over an electric fence to cross the River

South Esk by a wooden bridge. Turn L and follow purple waymarks along the field edge and uphill to reach the B955 road. Cross a stile, turn L and walk for a couple of miles to Wester Eggie Cottage.

2. Just after the cottage, turn R over a stile following a sign for the Minister's Path to Glen Prosen (NO357696). Turn R up the Land Rover track, keeping ahead until you reach a gate to leave the forest. Take either of the two tracks ahead (they merge 400m on) and weave your way up the hill on to the heather moorland, making for the fence-line. The ridgewalk awaits, lined up tantalisingly to the south. When you come to a fingerpost sign (NO344692), keep ahead, signed for Glen Prosen, and then pass a hut on your L.

3. Shortly after the hut, the path splits (at NO341689) and you turn L, making for the ridge. (This path is marked on the Explorer OS map, but not the Landranger.) The Landrover track sweeps up Cairn Leith, ▶

Continued...

9am–6pm daily (© 01575 550233, www.angusglens.co.uk).

GUIDEBOOKS: *The Scottish Glens Book 7: The Angus Glens* by Peter Koch-Osborne (£6.99, Cicerone, ISBN 9781852842482).
LOCAL RAMBLERS AREA/ GROUP: Blairgowrie and District Ramblers (© 01575 572415).

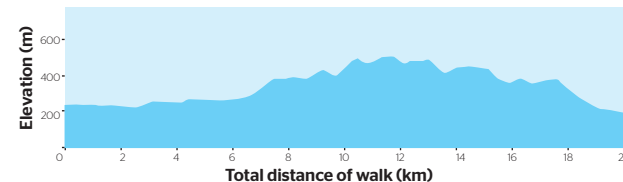
opening up superb 360-degree views, then dips to cross a fence before climbing the Hill of Balbae (494m/1,621ft) and the Hill of Couternach (512m/1,680ft) – the highest point of the walk. At the top of this summit the views are dramatic in all directions, stretching beyond even the plains and down to the sea in the south and east. You'll also see the Airlie Monument, a sandstone tower, conspicuously perched on a hilltop in the middle distance. Follow the path, keeping the fence to your L, dipping up and down across the Sneck of Corinch to the unnamed 459m/1,506ft-high summit (NO362639).

4. Turn L, keeping the fence to your L, heading to the Goal. Just before reaching it, you cross a fence by a stile, then bear L briefly along a thin path flanked by heather before turning R to rejoin the fence path. After 300m, turn R with the fence still to your L and head for the Airlie Monument, dropping downhill into woods. Keep ahead, either via the gate or ladder stile, and exit the woods through a large gate, following the grassy path up to the Airlie Monument (NO374614) – a memorial built by the present Earl of Airlie to his grandfather, who died in the Boer War.

5. From the monument, take the path downhill into the pine forest. When you reach the second yellow waymarker (NO376609), go straight on rather than turning R. Follow these waymarks as they wind through the forest for a kilometre before emerging by magical, lonely



Steepness of walk



Cortachy cemetery, with no church. Follow the lane downhill for 100m, then take the yellow waymarks R to

the roadside path and head south along the B955 to Dykehead.
Route devised by Mark Rowe