



# Keith

# Drummuir

# Dufftown

Keith was established as a settlement around 700AD with the arrival of the monks of St Maelrubha. It became a busy agricultural and market town, recognised for its annual Simmereve Fair. The freebooter, James McPherson, immortalised by Robert Burns' poem 'McPherson's Farewell' was captured here in 1700. The last successful Jacobite skirmish took place in 1746 prior to the Battle of Culloden. Woollen mills and distilleries flourished around a busy railway centre, being on the main Inverness/Aberdeen railway line.



This hidden hamlet is served by the Keith-Dufftown Railway (KDR). Its biggest building is Drummuir Castle, a Gothic Victorian building with extensive gardens. Nearby Loch Park has its own adventure centre where you can try kayaking, fishing and gorge walking. Wander into the Victorian Walled Garden off the All-Abilities Trail and look into the salmon hatchery. The local community has created woodland walks which link the station with the village and lead to a playground. The name Botriphnie refers to the Parish and to the School.



Dufftown is the malt whisky capital of the world, holding its own whisky festival in the autumn and participating in the Speyside Whisky Festival in the spring. Named after James Duff, Earl of Fife, Dufftown superseded the much older settlement of Mortlach (Laichy) centred around the kirk of that name. James Duff developed the new town in 1817 to provide homes and work for men returning from the Napoleonic wars. Local loon (boy) George Stephen with his cousin Donald Smith from Forres were behind the Canadian Pacific Railway. The ruined 13th century Balvenie Castle overlooks the town and is open to the public.



## The River Isla

A tributary of the River Deveron, the River Isla rises to the north of Loch Park. It flows north eastwards for 18 miles through Strathisla, separating Keith from Fife-Keith, and then forms the boundary between Moray and Aberdeenshire before joining the Deveron near Rothiemay.



## Whisky country

### KEITH

Built in 1786, Strathisla is the oldest operating distillery in the Highlands and home of the revered Chivas Regal. The rare twin pagoda kilns make it one of the most photographed distilleries in Speyside. Strathisla distillery maintains many techniques laid down during the earliest days of whisky production.



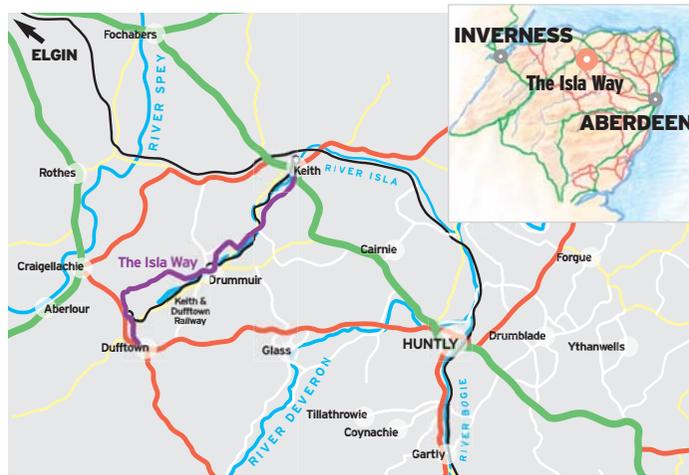
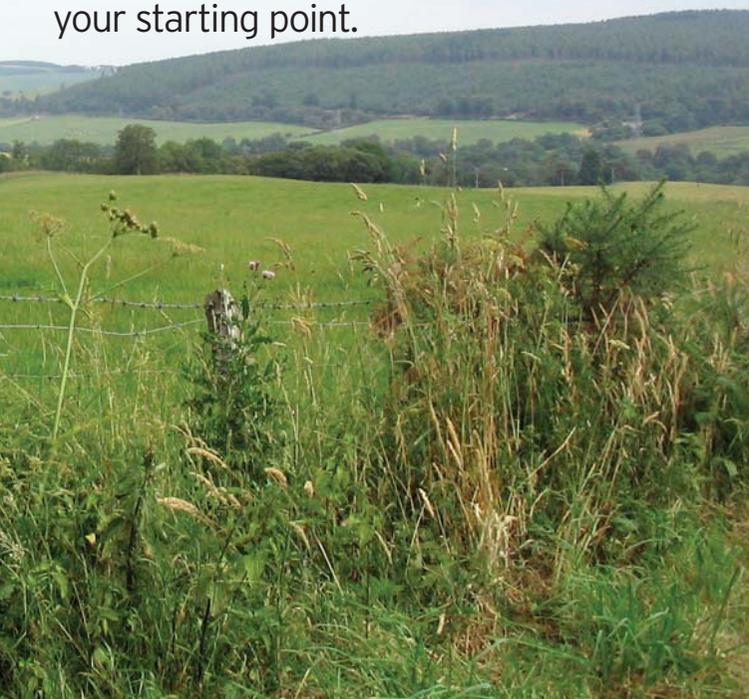
### DUFFTOWN

If Rome was built on seven hills, then Dufftown was built on seven stills... Perhaps the most famous of these, with a visitor centre, is the Glenfiddich Distillery - home to the largest selling malt whisky in the world.



# Way

in Dufftown. Alternatively, it can be enjoyed in sections with a mid entry point at Drummuir station. Use the Keith & Dufftown Railway (KDR) from any of its three stations and walk or cycle the trail back to your starting point.



## Access

You now have 'right of access' to most of Scotland's outdoors. You are required to act responsibly in accordance with the new Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC). Know the code before you go! Find out more by visiting [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com).

To acknowledge landowners' and farmers' co-operation in making this walk possible, please leave the area as you find it, respect property and take care to stay away from farming and timber operations. Please keep dogs under control at all times and on a lead near livestock. Do not pick wild flowers - this is a criminal offence. OS map covering the area is Landranger No 28, 1:50,000

## Other paths in Moray

Visit [www.morayways.org.uk](http://www.morayways.org.uk) for your guide to outdoor access and walking, cycling and riding routes in the beautiful region of Moray. You will find all you need to know to enjoy the highly diverse range of landscapes which exist in this enchanting region of Scotland.

## Useful numbers and contacts

Keith & Dufftown Railway (KDR)	01340 821181 <a href="http://www.keith-dufftown.org.uk">www.keith-dufftown.org.uk</a>
Keith Library	01542 882223
Speyside Footpaths Network Group	01340 821245
Keith & District Heritage Group	01542 887275
Drummuir 21	01542 810225

## Community websites

KEITH	<a href="http://www.keithcommunity.co.uk">www.keithcommunity.co.uk</a>
DRUMMUIR	<a href="http://www.botriphnie.org.uk">www.botriphnie.org.uk</a>
DUFFTOWN	<a href="http://www.speyside.moray.org">www.speyside.moray.org</a>

## Car parking

Dufftown town centre, Dufftown station, Keith station (limited space), Reidhoven Square, Drummuir and Drummuir station



This leaflet was produced with the help of:  
Speyside Paths Network Group  
Drummuir 21  
Keith and District Heritage Group



# The Isla

Refresh your spirits with a walk or cycle along The Isla Way which links the two famous distillery towns of Dufftown and Keith. Follow signs featuring The Isla Way logo to unlock the hidden beauty of Banffshire. The route's start points are at Keith's Reidhaven Square and the old Clock Tower



# The Isla Way

Unlocking the hidden beauty of the heart of Banffshire



DUFFTOWN ★ DRUMMUIR ★ KEITH

