



Before you stands the Perfect Glen, so called because it held all that was needed for life. Lairds and smugglers, farmers and fiddlers, poachers and preachers all thrived here.

WELCOME TO GLENBUCHAT

Glenbuchat's heritage was shaped by the landscape and is kept alive by local people who preserve its songs, stories, poems and traditions. You can explore the glen on the edge of the Cairngorms National Park by car or on foot.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GLEN

- Duff Defiance:** This ruined farmhouse was supposedly built in defiance of the factor working for the Duff earls of Fife. Local people sought to outwit excise men, distilling and smuggling whisky along the drove roads through the Ladder Hills.
- Auchernach House walled garden:** A walled garden modelled on an Indian fort was built here in 1809 with a now-demolished home.
- Balloch School:** A one-room school built in 1868 and closed in 1948.
- Muat Stone:** In 1410, two lairds fought a legendary duel here, in which Mowat of Abergeldie – Muat – was slain. A stone, now lost, commemorated the fight.
- Badenyon:** This is the site of a lost medieval stronghold that entered the nation's mythology when John Skinner wrote the song 'John o' Badenyon' in the 1770s. The fictional John o' Badenyon symbolises constancy in the face of unwelcome change.
- Doune of Invernochty:** This castle mound dates to the 12th century, although local tradition suggests it is much older. It was said to be haunted by fairies.
- Upperton:** This ruined 'clachan' or settlement dates from before good roads reached Glenbuchat. Scattered communities were linked by trails and drove roads across the Cairngorms and into Aberdeenshire.



KEY

- Main roads
- Minor roads
- Paths

- Davidson's Stone:** Poacher Sandy Davidson hoped to die 'among the bonnie, blooming heather with the glorious sun pouring down his rays of heat upon my perishing body'. His wish was granted in 1843; this cairn marks the spot.
- Garnet Rock:** Garnets (red gemstones) from this hillside outcrop – also known as the stone of the fox – have long been prized by local people.
- Old Glenbuchat Kirk:** The 18th-century parish church stands where the first one was built in 1473. The minister Robert Scott compiled 68 local songs – the Glenbuchat Ballads – in 1818.
- Holy Well of Ben Newe:** Water from the holy well on the summit of Ben Newe supposedly cured the ill. Such local traditions can be found throughout the Cairngorms.
- Castle Newe:** There was a great mansion here until 1927. John Forbes of Bellabeg, known as Bombay Jack, made his fortune in India and bought the estate.
- Glenbuchat Castle:** The Jacobite stalwart John Gordon, known as 'Old Glenbuchat', lived in this now-ruined castle. Local legend says the old warrior gave the Hanoverian king George II nightmares, the monarch screaming in broken English: 'De great Glenboggied is goming!'
- Drummagarrow:** The famous fiddler James Strachan, known as Drummagarrow, made his home here in the 1800s.

For more stories about the glen, see www.glenbuchatheritage.com

