



Culbin Forest & Findhorn Bay

BWWC Map Sites 31 & 32

Days Out Guides

Culbin Forest (BWWC Map Site 25) sits across the bay from Findhorn village and is always an enjoyable trip out. There are three parking areas;

Cloddymoss, Kingsteps and Wellhill (charges apply).

A trail map for Culbin Forest is available in the corridor from Reception to the BWWC Club Room (see image to left).

RSPB Culbin Sands reserve (species marked with *) is accessed via Culbin Forest - the shortest route is from the car park at Kingsteps.

Species List:

All year: Scottish and Common Crossbills, Crested Tit, Treecreeper, Siskin, Goshawk, Sparrowhawk, Roe Deer, Red Squirrel, Badger, Otter, Redshank*, Oystercatcher*, Curlew* and Eider*.

Spring/Summer: Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Warbler, Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, Ringed Plover*, Osprey*, Arctic, Common and Sandwich Terns*.

Autumn/Winter: Knot*, Dunlin*, Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits*, Sanderling*, Red-breasted Merganser*, Shelduck*, Long-tailed Duck*, Pale-bellied Brent Goose* and Common and Velvet Scoters*.



Findhorn Bay LNR (BWWC Map Site 26) is a lovely place to enjoy some sea air and wildlife watching.

There is a bird hide with parking area on your left as you drive towards the village on the B9011. The hide requires an access code, which is currently 8019.

Further along the road you'll find the beach. There's adequate parking available here, which allows you to explore the sand dunes and scan the sea for wildlife.

Species List:

All year: Common and Grey Seals, Bottlenose Dolphin, Curlew, Oystercatcher, Redshank, Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone, Dunlin and Ringed Plover.

Spring/Summer: Osprey, Gannet, Arctic, Sandwich, Common and Little Terns, House and Sand Martins and Swallow.

Autumn/Winter: Red-breasted Merganser, Pintail, Slavonian Grebe, Great Northern, Red-throated and Black-throated Divers, Common and Velvet Scoters and Snow Bunting.



Between late April and September Findhorn Marina run a **Water Taxi** across the bay, over to Culbin Forest - a great way to explore the two sites. Please call in at *The Nautical Shop* at the marina, or call (01309)690099 for current operation times and prices.



Suggested Walk: Culbin Forest has a number of good walking trails, but for a first visit you can't beat the **Hill 99 Viewpoint Walk**. It's a circular route from the Wellhill car park up to the viewpoint tower and back, providing a taste of the area and a great view across the Moray Firth on a clear day. This route is suitable for wheelchair users, with the viewpoint tower wheelchair accessible up to its mid-point. Allow at least 2 hours for this walk and keep a look out for wildlife along your way – a great one to pack a picnic for.



Suggested Tearoom:

Details of other walks can be found in the Culbin Map.



The Captain's Table in Findhorn whilst admiring the wonderful view, either from inside or out on one of the picnic tables if the weather is fine. You'll find it at the Marina, close to parking as you enter Findhorn and just south of the car park at the beach. **The Kimberley Inn** is also good, especially if you fancy a more substantial lunch.

Enjoy some refreshment at

Directions: Turn right out of the Hotel and head along the A939. Culbin Forest can be accessed from Nairn (stay on A939) or Forres (bear right onto A940) by following the brown tourist signs. The quickest route to Findhorn is via the A940 through Forres, turning right onto the A96, then left onto the B9011 (the village uses a one-way system).

Distance from Grant Arms: Approximately 26 miles – 40min drive to Findhorn.

Wheelchair accessible: The hide at Findhorn Bay is wheelchair accessible.

Nearest toilets: Public toilets are available at the parking area by the beach in Findhorn and at Wellhill car park in Culbin Forest (normally open April-October).

Nearest petrol station: Petrol stations in Forres, Nairn and Kinloss.

Tourist Attractions:

Findhorn Foundation: A spiritual community and eco-village, the Findhorn Foundation has a visitor centre, café and pottery. Located between Kinloss and Findhorn on the B9011. www.findhorn.org. Open all year 10am-5pm Mon-Fri and also from 1pm-4pm Sat-Sun from May-September. Sat Nav: IV36 3TZ.

Brodie Castle: A beautiful 16th century castle with a variety of woodland walks to enjoy, or if the weather isn't great why not head inside to admire the extensive art collection. Brodie Castle is set off the A96, 4 1/2 miles west of Forres. www.nts.org.uk/property. Grounds are open daily all year. Castle opening daily in April 10:30am-4:30pm/May-June Sun-Wed 10:30am-4:30pm/July-Aug 10:30am-5pm/Sept-Oct Sun-Thurs 10:30am-4:30pm. The shop opens at 11am, and last orders for the tearooms are at 4pm. Sat Nav: IV36 2TE.



Brodie Castle