



Findhorn Valley & Loch Ruthven

BWWC Map Sites 12 & 13

Days Out Guides

Findhorn Valley (BWWC Map Site 13), also known as Strathdearn, is a beautifully scenic valley, which provides a course for the upper section of the River Findhorn. It's known locally as 'the Valley of the Raptors' and rightly so! It's also a haven for other birdlife and mammals.

Species List:

All year: Golden Eagle, Peregrine, Merlin, Hen Harrier, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Red Kite, Crossbill, Mistle Thrush, Tawny Owl, Stonechat, Red Grouse, Meadow Pipit, Raven, Red Squirrel, Red Deer, Roe Deer, Mountain Hare, Brown Hare, Otter, Dipper, Mallard, Goosander, Stoat, Rabbit and Wild Goat (Magpie, Jay and White-tailed Eagle are also possibilities).

Spring: Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Curlew, Oystercatcher and Lapwing.

Summer: As above plus Osprey and Cuckoo.

Autumn: As shown for 'Spring' plus Fieldfare and Redwing.

Winter: As shown for 'All year', with Mountain Hare in their white winter coats.



The Road to Farr is a scenic single track road which conveniently links the road through Findhorn Valley and RSPB Loch Ruthven – we suggest this route as a great way to make a round trip from the Hotel to Findhorn Valley to Loch Ruthven and back to the Hotel (don't forget to look out for wildlife on the way – this is a hotspot for Red Grouse). The road is signposted for 'Farr' and runs north-west of Dalmigavie Lodge, taking you through Glen Kyllachy to meet the B851 just south of Farr. From here turn left and drive approx. 3 miles, where you'll see the sign to turn right to RSPB Loch Ruthven.

RSPB Loch Ruthven (BWWC Map Site 12) is best known for its breeding population of Slavonian Grebes and is the most important site for this species in the UK. An uneven path leads from the car park to a hide which overlooks the loch.

Species List:

All year: Peregrine, Hen Harrier, Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Red Kite, Grey Heron, Meadow Pipit, Mallard, Short-eared Owl, Tawny Owl and Roe Deer.

Spring/Autumn: Slavonian Grebe, Red-throated Diver, Osprey, Little Grebe, Teal, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Wigeon, Goosander, Red-breasted Merganser, Wheatear, Cormorant, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Curlew, Common Sandpiper, Common Gull, Black-headed Gull, Hooded Crow, Reed Bunting, Swallow, Sand Martin, House Martin, Pied Wagtail and Chiffchaff (Black-throated Diver and Jay are also possibilities).

Summer: As above plus Willow Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Cuckoo, Swift and Lesser Redpoll.

Winter: Fieldfare, Redwing and Brambling (Slavonian Grebe sometimes stay on the loch into winter but the water often freezes over for long periods, resulting in little wildlife to be seen).



Suggested Walk: We highly recommend a walk from the car park at Coignafearn in the Findhorn Valley – carry on south-west along the track to explore more of the beautiful scenery and wildlife that this area has to offer. With good weather conditions this track is generally suitable for wheelchair users.

Suggested Tearooms:

'The School Room' at Brin Herb Nursery (open Thursday-Monday 11am-5:30pm, from 31st March to 3rd September) sells home baking and light lunches, with outdoor seating available (near BWWC Map Site 12 on the B851 between Farr and Croachy) - look out for Red Kite here.

'The Dairy at Daviot' (open daily 10am-5pm). Offers a selection of home cooked cakes, light snacks and larger meals. Located just off the A9 at Daviot, approx. 6 miles south of Inverness.

Directions to Findhorn Valley:

Head onto the A9 (north) via Carrbridge.

Just as the A9 dual carriageway begins, turn left for 'Raigbeg/Balvraid' and follow this road until you cross the Findhorn Bridge (photo to right).



Now turn left for 'Coignafearn' (photo to left) and follow this single track road down the valley (with the River Findhorn on your left-hand side).

After approx. 9 miles you'll reach a car park on your left (photo below) – this is as far as you can travel by car.

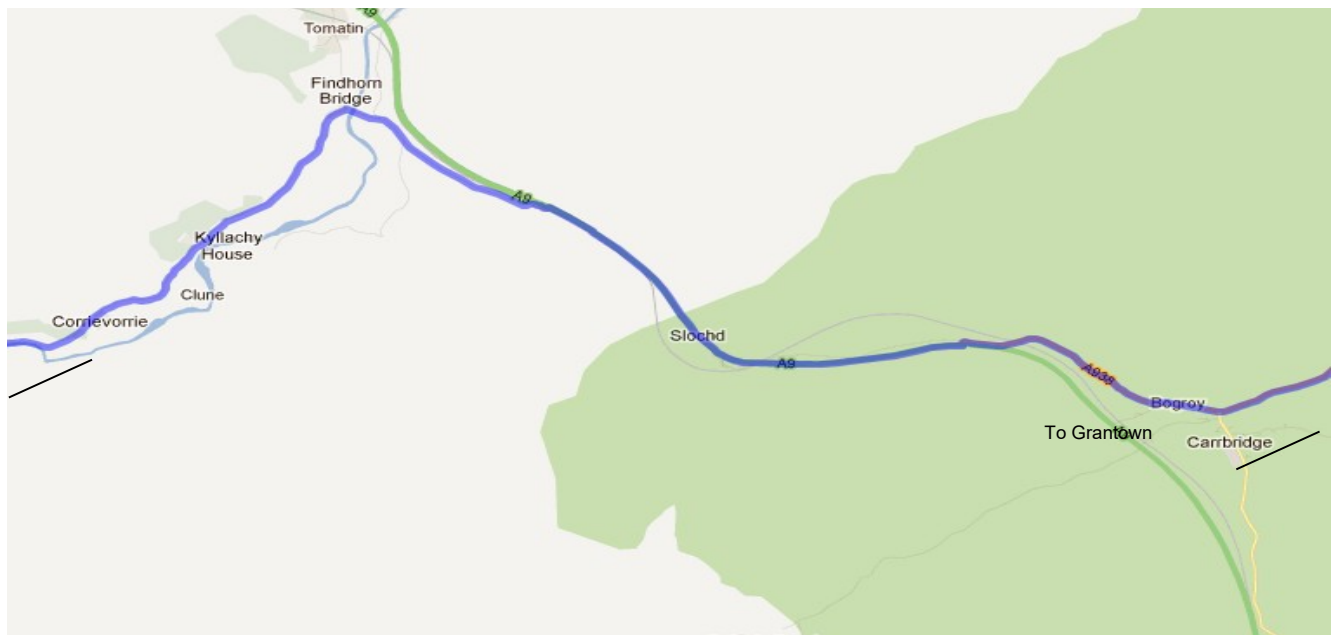
Distance from Grant Arms: Approximately

25 miles – 1hour drive to the car park at Findhorn Valley.
Approximately 35 miles – 1hour drive to RSPB Loch Ruthven (via A9/B851).

Wheelchair accessible: No wheelchair access is available at RSPB Loch Ruthven.

Nearest toilets: Public toilets in Carrbridge, signposted off the B9153 at the public car park.

Nearest petrol station: Carrbridge or Inverness.



'Days out Guides' and text ©BWWC

Map ©Google Maps