

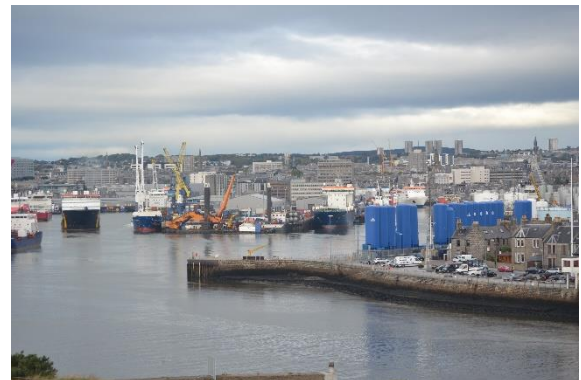
Don't go chasing waterfalls

There are nearly 300 named waterfalls in Scotland but hardly any in Aberdeenshire. Apart from the *Falls of Feugh* at Banchory and *Linn of Dee* at Braemar, you would need to go west to the more mountainous and wetter limits of Aberdeenshire and beyond to find significant waterfalls. So, in the words of the 1994 hit single "Waterfalls" by American group TLC,

"Don't go chasing waterfalls, please stick to the rivers and lakes that you're used to".

We are all very familiar with the rivers Dee and Don, so in this jaunt, we are going to take a counter-clockwise route which essentially follows the River Don towards its source and then joins the River Dee as it flows downstream to the sea. Of course, you could do the route clock wise or backwards.

We start our drive / ride at the mouth of the Don on the Beach Esplanade at the Bridge of Don and on the way out, we generally remain north of the river. We reach as far west as Corgarff, where we cross the Grampian Mountains on the Old Military Road, reaching an altitude of about 300m, then go through Glen Gairn where we follow the River Gairn till it meets the River Dee at Bridge of Gairn.



On the return journey, we travel mostly on the south side of the River Dee and finish at Pocra Quay by the mouth of the river. If you reset your trip meter at the start point, you will find that the route is about 115 miles in total and you will have made 16 bridge crossings. (Full details of the route are provided overleaf.) At Pocra, you may be lucky enough to spot the common dolphins which may often be seen playing at the harbour mouth.

If you need a break during the drive / ride, Ballater is about 2/3rds of the route and offers a variety of cafes or coffee shops. You could even visit the Old Royal Station which has now been rebuilt following the disastrous fire which destroyed most of it in 2015. The royal waiting room has been carefully recreated and the royal coach, used by Queen Victoria, has been restored to the platform.



Oh, and if you really want to visit a waterfall, you can always stop at the small car park after crossing the Bridge of Feugh to view the falls close to the bridge. There is also a public toilet here.

The only lake that came close was Loch Kinord near Dinnet but that would have been seen from the North Deeside Road (A93) instead of the South Deeside Road (B9077), which we used.

We hope you enjoy our **Don't go chasing waterfalls** route. We plan to produce more outings in our *Oot an' aboot* series and would be pleased to receive your suggestions of favourite routes to include on the website for the benefit of everyone in our Aberdeen Advanced Motorists community or even for other IAM motorists or motorcyclists, who are visiting our beautiful region.

The necessary instructions for you to follow our suggested route are given in the table below. From the “zero mile” point at the Bridge of Don light-controlled T-junction, each of the junctions where you need to turn are listed with the miles travelled, direction to take and the identification of the next road. OS Landranger map 38 (Aberdeen, Inverurie & Pitmedden) and map 37 (Strathdon & surrounding area) cover the route.

Mile	Junc ⁿ	Dir ⁿ	Next Road	Mile	Junc ⁿ	Dir ⁿ	Next Road
0.0	T	R	Bridge of Don, Ellon Rd	After reaching Bridge of Alford:			
0.2	+	L	Balgownie Road	41.3	T	R	A944 Br of Alford to Mossat
0.5	-	L	Balgownie Road	47.0	-	L	A97 Mossat to B973
1.6	T	L	The Parkway	56.5	-	Str Ah	B973 Strathdon to A939
3.0	O	2 nd exit	Persley Bridge	62.6	-	L	A939 to Gairnshiel Lodge
3.2	O	2 nd exit	Muggiemoss Road	67.7	T	L	A939 Gairnshiel to Br o Gairn
4.1	T	R	Old Meldrum Road	71.7	T	L	A93 to Ballater to Bridge Str
4.2	T	L	A947 to Bucksburn Round ^t	73.5	+	Str Ah	B976 Cross the bridge
4.5	O	3 rd exit	A947 Stoneywood Road	73.6	T	L	B976 to Ballogie
5.9	O	1 st exit	A947 Stoneywood Road	87.6	T	L	B976 Ballogie to Potarch
6.0	O	2 nd exit	Riverview Drive	90.2	T	R	A93 Potarch to Banchory
7.6	O	2 nd exit	A947 to Goval junction	96.2	-	R	B974 to Bridge of Feugh
8.2	+	L	B977 Goval - Hatton of Fintry	96.9	-	L	Minor R. Br Fuegh to Crathes
12.4	+	R	B977 Fintry - Kintore	100.0	+	Str Ah	B9077 South Deeside Rd.
15.6	T	R	B977 Kingsfield Road	112.4	O	2 nd exit	Great Southern Road
15.8	+	R	Northern Road	112.9	O	1 st exit	King George iv Bridge
16.3	O O	Str-R	A96 to Inverurie	113.0	O	3 rd exit	Riverside Drive
18.3	O	3 rd exit	Elphinstone Rd	113.9	O	2 nd exit	North Esplanade West
19.0	O	1 st exit	St James Place	114.3	+	L	Market Street
23.8	+	L	Minor Rd to Kemnay	114.7	+	R	Trinity / Virginia St
24.8	T	L	Minor Rd to Kemnay	115.0	+	Str Ah	Castle Ter / Miller Street
25.7	T	R	B993 Kemnay to Tillifourie	115.3	+	L	Wellington Street
32.1	T	R	A944 Tillifourie to Whitehouse	115.4	-	R	York Street
34.5	-	R	B992 Whitehse to Csl Forbes	115.8	T	R	Pocra Quay
37.3	+	L	Minor Rd to Montgarrie	116.0	End of Run		Pocra Quay car park spaces
39.9	+	Str Ah	Minor Rd to Bridge of Alford				

Map references of bridge crossings:

Bridge of Don	NJ 946 094 start	Gairnshiel Lodge	NJ 009 295
Persley Bridge	NJ 908 094	Bridge of Gairn	NO 352 971
Dyce Bridge	NJ 889 145	Ballater	NO 373 955
Boat of Kintore	NJ 796 163	Bridge o' Ess	NO 505 973
Port Elphinstone	NJ 776 206	Potarch	NO 608 973
Kemnay	NJ 728 160	Banchory	NO 697 954
Castle Forbes	NJ 618 187	Bridge of Feugh	NO 702 951
Corgaff	NJ 294 086	King George VI Bridge	NJ 935 042