

## Turriff and Cleanhill Woods Bird Life Itinerary

Use this trip to take a break from the coast and enjoy what the countryside has to offer. Start your day off in the historic farming town of [Turriff](#), where you will find a nice collection of independent shops in the town centre selling everything from hand-crafted goods to local food delicacies.

After strolling round the town – don't forget to stop for a photo opportunity with the famous statue of the Turra Coo in the town square – you may be ready for an early lunch.

There are a number of eateries in Turriff, or head out to [Delgatie Castle](#) on the northern outskirts of the town which has a popular award-winning tea room. If time allows, you may want to take a tour of the historic property, which has some splendid painted ceilings and the widest turnpike staircase in Britain.

There is a way-marked walk leading out from the grounds of the castle, which takes in a trout fishing loch. If you want to try and catch a fish, it's possible to get a permit from the fishery office.

Head across country in a westerly direction to the charming village of Aberchirder, which is better known locally as Foggie Loan. No one quite knows where the name came from, but one theory is that it combines two Gaelic words of foidh and lon which together translate as peat moss meadow.

The village itself is a delight to walk around. There are a few independent shops and a number of hotels and bars and everything is built in a grid pattern with the town square at its heart. The oldest part of the town is a conservation area.

From High Street, head south and follow the signs for the Cleanhill Woods. This area is something of a treasure trove of wildlife, and in particular birdlife. If you are a twitcher – amateur or much more experienced – you simply must visit the hill and take your binoculars with you. You may well spot wood pigeons, cuckoos, woodpeckers and blue tits and nearing dusk you could see an owl or two.

After spending the afternoon on the hill, it's time to reward yourself with a little treat. Head across country once again and towards the coast, stopping off at either [Portsoy](#) or [Cullen](#) to taste delicious locally produced ice cream. If time – and appetite – allows, why not visit both and give them the taste test?