

Buchan Bourachie

Iv yir reidin this, yi ken fine fit a *Bourachie* iss, an here, wiv pit thigither a richt fine bourachie o' thins. In wir dauner roon Buchan, fit iss kent by th' carse atween th' Ythan an Deveron, wir gein yi wys taakin in monie beezer sights tae veesit or airts tae keek at wild craifers. Th' route jinks aboot a curn o' braw A an B roads an maistly ainly gangs along th' main arterial A90 route tae jine tae th' chaisen wys.

Wir stairtin pint iss sumfar oan th' A90 afore Balmedie, father yi chaise tae win eraboot fae Brig o' Don via th' A92 or via th' spleet-new Norlin pairt o' th' Aiberdeen Waster Peripheral Route, A90.



A couple o' miles efter haudin by Balmedie oan th' new fantoosh dual carriageway, jink aff tae Newburgh oan th' A975. Th' wye gies yi a braw series o' strachts an boos tae Newburgh. Jist fen yi gang intae th' toun, taak a richt, pintit tae th' gowf links.

Yil come tae a car pairkin area forenent th' wye in tae th' clubhoos. Is iss wir fairst pint tae leuk the gate o', an iv yi park yir car, it's ainly a wee saunter thro th' san links tae th' River Ythan far for ordnar yil get tae spoat a hale heap o' common selkies. The colony iss reputed tae comprise aboot fower hunner o' thae craifers.



Efter yiv feenisht leukin at th' selkies, ging noarth oan th' A975 taewards an thro' Cruden Bay. Yil e'e th' blaudit New Slains Castle oan yir richt. Its reef wis taen aff in 1913 by th' laird tae jouk pyin' taxes an th' biggin his syne drapit intae disrepair. Its telt th' mannie Bram Stoker bade here at th' tail-en o' 19th century fa inspirt him tae scribee heez 1897 quair, *Dracula*.

Aboot ay mile firther oan, reest at th' sma pairkin area. Is iss wir nummer twa stappin pint o' interest as its ainly a wee dander tae th' Bullers o' Buchan, a dramatic drappit gloup bit ca canny o' th' dizzy craigs, as its nae fir fearties, fan its blawin a hoolie. Maak shair, yi haud ontae yir bairns an dugs as sum o' th' pathies err gey nerra wi evendoon draps baith sides.



Syne, wir aff tae th' blue toun by jining th' A90 jist ay mile or sae efter Bullers. Fin yi reach th' roonabout, taak the 3rd wye oot and then wheech left, til yi come tae th' auld Peterheid jile, fit iss noo a museum. Is wis biggit by convicks, fa quarried th' stane tae maak, nae ainly th' jile bit Peterheid harbour wa, as weel.

Wir 3rd stap iss an afa interesin veesit far yil leern foo fowk, fa goat th' jile, bade in th' sindry lang seen days thro' th' jile's ill-gien history. Th' oreeginal screws noo ack as guides an yi can speir thaim aboot awe the scary goins-oan fin th' jile wis hame tae sum o' th' maist mental heid-bangers in Scoatland.



Efter yir freed, git back oan th' A90 an gang noarth taewards th' Broch. Yi ging by th' St Fergus gas terminal fa taaks gas fae th' Noarth Sea fields via 3 muckle pipelines (Frigg, FLAGS and SAGE) an processes it afore it gangs intae th' naitional grid. It's leukt efter by Total, Shell n Apache an haunles aboot 25% o' UK's gas supply.

Aboot 5 miles firther oan, yil come tae th' clachan o' Crimmond. Taak a richt by th' kirk an follae th' road signs tae th' RSPB reserve at th' Loch o' Strathbeg. Wir 4th stap iss at Britain's maist muckle dune loch fits hame tae 20% o' th' warls population o' pink fitit geese, although ers heaps o' ither waaterfool tae leuk at. Th' RSPB centre his an afa fine viewin area an yi micht e'e some wild shulties fit bide in th' reserve.



Fleeing oan, wi ging back tae th' A90 an wag awa noarth fir about ay mile an a hauf far yil win at th' junction wi th' B9032 pintin tae Memsie. Ging stracht oan at th' sheddins tae th' A981 at Memsie an syne sum twa miles firther oan, stracht ower th' junction wi th' A98 at Mid Airdlaw, pintit tae New Aiberdour. Is B9032 jines th' B9031 about twa miles beyont Mid Airdlaw an th' road wags awa noo as th' B9031. Haud oan th' B9031 yont New Aiberdour fir about hauf a mile an feeze aff at th' junction, th' wye o' New Aiberdour beach. It's an afa steep nerra road doon tae th' car park, wir 5th stappin pint.

Fit a fine sannie beach, an its nae busy bit at th' aist ine, th'err interesin caves an rock puils tae reenge. Th' airt wis filmt in th' 2016 version o' th' film, "Whisky Galore".

Fan yi ging awa frae th' beach, dinnae ging awe th' wye hint tae New Aiberdour bit jist efter yi haud by th' kirk oan th' stey hill, jink aff richt at th' signpost tae Bankheid. At the hinneren, this'll taak yi hint (3 miles) tae jine th' B9031 far yil taak a richt at th' junction til Macduff. Yil jouk Pennan oan yir richt bit iv yiv naer seen it, yi micht wanae taak a firther detour doon tae Pennan itsel tae keek at th' hottle an reid phone-boax, maakt famous in Bill Forsyth's film, "Local hero". A plaque oan th' wa by th' hottle door-cheek merks this.



Twa miles firther west o' Pennan oan th' B9031, yil e'e a road-sign tae Troup Heid nature reserve. Th' nerra roadie taaks yi aroon th' glaur o' Northfield fairm-toun til yi reach a barkit roadie leadin tae th' RSPB car park; wir saxth stappin pint o' interes. Ers a path leadin tae Troup Heid fits hoatchin wi th' maist muckle mainland parrock o' gugas. Ers forby thousans o' scurries lik kitties, queet, scoot as weel as tammie cheekies bit aiblins yi micht be luckit tae e'e porpoises, minke whaals and common dunters, awe o' fa aften win tae thae seas. Th' dauner iss about ay mile hine tae th' pint on th' knowe. Bit be warnt, ers nae veesitor biggin or lavies here.

Is wis wir last stappin pint by th' stran an wir gang awa fae the sea thereafter tae maak wir hinmaist stap. Efter leavin Troup Heid, ging back along th' siclik road tae th' B9031 an jink left tae return tae New Aiberdour. Rither than knypin oan th' B9031, taak a richt tae pass ben th' veelage oan th' road taewards Strichen. It's a fair stracht wye, altho' it isnae nummert. Ging stracht ower th' junction wi th' A98 at Marchlands an syne yil come tae a junction wi th' A981 about sax miles efter leavin New Aiberdour. Taak a richt ontae th' A981 bit ass yi come tae Strichen itsel, skew left oan th' B9093 pintit tae Mintlaw. Yil come tae an junction wi th' A92 efter fower miles oan th' B9093. Efter th' junction, its ainly twa miles tae Mintlaw, far yi maun turn richt at th' sheddins ontae th' A950. Syne efter nae bit ay mile, turn aff left intae Aden Country Pairk.



Wir echt, an hinmaist stap, iss at th' Aiberdeenshire Fairmin Museum fa iss in a semi-roond steidin an fa splores anent life oan th' lairdship in th' fore-en pairt o' th' 20th century ass weel ass an exhibition cawd "Weel vrocht grun". Its aw about NE Scoatland's fairmin ower th' last twa hunner eer an ers a hale heap o' amazin fairm tuils an machines. 45 meenits iss a fine whilie tae bide here.

Yir best wye hame, iss tae bide oan th' B9030 thro' Stuartfield tae Auchnagatt, far yi kin jine th' A948 sooth tae Ellon. It's a guid fest road wi a braw surface an sweeping boos. The road jouks aroon Ellon an jines th' A90 tae Aiberdeen.

Wi howp yi enjoy wir **Buchan Bourachie** raik in wir "Oot an' Aboot" series. Wi ken ers a fair hillock o' places tae clap een oan sae yi micht divvy this route intae twa or three bitties, depenin oan th' whilie yi wanae spen at ilka sicht.

Planning: Please check the websites for the Peterhead Prison, RSPB Strathbeg and Aberdeenshire Agricultural Museum because their opening times can vary during different times of the year. Troup Head is best visited in spring or summer.