

## The Formartine and Buchan Way - with Eat on the Green

Distance: 86 km

Approximate Time: 5 days

Read EatScotland's review of [Eat on the Green](#)



Image: A couple stand on a rocky outcrop on a sandy beach in Aberdeenshire

The Formartine and Buchan Way is a well established route, suitable for walkers and bikers, having opened in 1987. It runs north from the outskirts of Aberdeen to the towns of Peterhead and Fraserburgh on the Aberdeenshire coast, taking in the settlements of Dyce, Ellon and Maud along the way.

The full route is a total of 86 km/53 miles to Peterhead or 66 km/41 miles to Fraserburgh (although it is easy to do in sections) and is fairly level throughout as it follows the route of the old Buchan railway line.

Because the way is based on the old railway line, navigation is straightforward. The route starts in Dyce, at the far end of the railway station car park and from here travels north skirting Newmachar and on to the village of Udney Station.

The route then heads north east to Ellon, where you can stop at the award winning gastro pub, Eat on the Green, for a well deserved bite to eat. Overlooking the village green the restaurant has an informal feel and then onto Maud where you need to choose whether to head to Peterhead or Fraserburgh and the route end.

The Way is well sign posted and is easy to follow. The track is relatively flat and only undulates when roads have to be crossed. It is well maintained and few parts are overgrown.

The F&B Way passes through (or close to) many place of interest including Aden Country Park, Drinnies Wood Observatory, Strichen Stone Circle and Deer Abbey. These all make interesting detours.

Like most old railway lines, the Formartine and Buchan way acts as a valuable corridor for wildlife by linking isolated woods, crossing waterways and marshes and providing a sanctuary for plants, animals, birds and insects.

Deer, fox, weasel, stoat and badgers all use the line. Early morning and dusk are the best times for spotting them.

The old railway embankments and cuttings also provide a home for a wide variety of fauna which attracts a great variety of insects and butterflies. Flowers to look out for include rosebay willowherb, harebells, oxeye daises, yellow toadflax, foxgloves and red campion. Dog violets attract pearl bordered fritillary butterflies; an increasingly rare butterfly.

For such a long walk or even if you've just done a section of it, you're likely to welcome the cosy gastro pub, Eat on the Green. It's won Gastro Pub of the Year awards in the past and its menu boasts plenty local seafood and game. With views over the traditional village green, it's a popular place to unwind.