



Laich o' Moray

30 Mile Challenge

29th August 2026



Introduction

Welcome to Moray in the North of Scotland. Moray (pronounced Murray) is blessed with a beautiful coastline that stretches along the Moray Firth with miles of unspoilt beaches, cliffs and picturesque villages. Moray is also reputed to have 40 more days of sunshine than any other part of Scotland! Please note that this description of this 30-mile circular route (in 14hrs) is from the Rafford Village Hall. The terrain is a mixture of forest paths, beach and minor roads. Most of the route is fairly flat except for a minor climb to Nelson's Tower, and later to the forested ridge of Heldon Hill and Califer Hill. Total elevation is around 1700ft (518m).

You will need a compass and map (OS Explorer Map 423 or OS map 28, 1:50,000) to help you follow this description. Alternatively maps in downloaded electronic format will be allowed provided adequate power supply for 24hrs can be demonstrated. Sunset on the 29th August is at 20:19, with Civil twilight at 21:01.

Starting at Rafford, the route travels to Forres through the forest to the Dava Way and then after Nelson's Tower to the coast at Findhorn. Here you have the choice of following the Moray Coast Trail through the dunes or via the beach to Roseisle (low water 07:24, high water 13:46). From here the route runs out to the B9089 and then crosses the A96 at Alves. More minor roads lead to Garrowslack before the route enters the forest and rises above Pluscarden Abbey on Heldon Hill and later Califer Hill viewpoint before dropping down to the finish at Rafford.

Please be vigilant on roads especially later in the Event as you become increasingly tired and possibly less attentive. Also please keep noise to a minimum as you pass through Towns and built up areas on the route.

Abbreviations

TR	Turn Right	GR	Grid Reference (all NJ)
TL	Turn Left	CP	Checkpoint
N,S	North, South etc	Thru	Through
BR/L	Bear Right/Left	WM	Way Marker
jct	Junction	FP	Fingerpost
Immed	Immediately	St	Stile
Tk	Track	R/LHS	Right/Left hand side
AH	Ahead	M	Miles
km	Kilometre	m	metres

1. Rafford start to Findhorn CP1 – 17.9km, 11.1 miles

Checkpoint 1 Open: Saturday 10.15

Close: Saturday 12.45

Woodside (2.9km, 1.8M)

From the Rafford Village Hall, walk to the B9010 and TL(SE) for 200m along the road and on a pavement (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**). Cross road onto a vehicle track (NJ068554) and head SW for about 500m, keeping R at junctions with other vehicle tracks until you come to a locked gate. Go around the gate and head W and then SW on wide forestry tracks for about 700m, going past the Woodsman cottage and gate until you get to another locked gate. Go around the gate and keep heading SW over a stream and onto another vehicle track with woodland on the R and a large field on the L. After about another 400m, there is a track junction at the corner of the field, continue straight AH on a vehicle track with woodland on both sides. Continue SW along the forestry track for about 1km, until you come to the Dava Way junction (NJ047541).

For urgent assistance, our HQ contact number is 07543 414767

Dava Way (4.3km, 2.7M)

Turn R and go N and follow the Dava Way way markers for about 4km, to Dallas Dhu Distillery (on L) on forestry tracks and the disused railway line embankment. Stay on the Dava Way and keep heading N for about 800m to a stone over bridge (NJ036573) and immediately after it, turn R and go up steps to a farm track.

Sanquhar Woods (2.1km, 1.3M)

Head E on farm track for about 100m and then bear L onto a forestry track for about 700m, keeping woodland on the left and open countryside to the right. After the woodland cycle park (jumps) on L, in 200m go L (NJ043573) into the woodland on a wide uphill forestry track. After about 160m go R onto a trod path and head N across a woodland meadow. On the other side of the meadow join another path and go ½ L in a NNW direction. Keep on this wide path that takes you close behind housing on the left side and after about 500m the path bends to the right to head NNE away from housing and starts to go downhill. Continue going NNE until you get to the wooden footbridge over the Mosset Burn (NJ043582). Go over the bridge and TL(W) to follow the burn downstream for about 140m, then take a sharp R turn uphill on a narrow-stepped path. Follow this path up hill and then behind housing on LH side until you emerge onto a road.

Cluny Hill (1km, 0.6M)

Go R and head NE on a narrow-enclosed path between gardens, that leads to a wide access track going N to the B9010, St Leonards Road (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**). Go directly across the road and up a steep roadway up towards the Cluny Cemetery. Keep going uphill and after about 250m take the left fork to the cemetery corner. From corner, head N up hill to the highest point which is the Nelson Tower (NJ044590). Walk around it for some fantastic views of Findhorn Bay, the Moray Firth and the hills beyond. From here, go easterly (to R of Tower) on trod paths through the woodland and then steeply down the ridge to join a traversing path. From here head SE down a steep leaf covered slope to a minor road access point (NJ046590).

Drumduan School Grounds to Sueno's Stone (0.5km, 0.3M)

TL onto the minor road and in a short distance TR to the entrance of Drumduan School. (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**). Go down the rough vehicle track for 230m (ignore turning on L) into the school grounds and as the Tk bends L (school/play area on R), look for a narrow grassy path between two fields on L (NJ046592). Go down this grassy path which will take you to a road between houses. TL and then R to cross road (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**) and follow the pavement on the minor road to the large, visible, Pictish stone in glass case, Sueno's Stone. Note street signs for Sueno's Stone & Kinloss.

Sueno's Stone to Findhorn CP1 (7km, 4.4M)

Just before Sueno's Stone, take the tarmac cycleway/pavement (signed for Kinloss & Findhorn) over A96 bridge towards Kinloss, and continue for 2.3km to go over the railway bridge after LH bend. Just after the bridge, cross road (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**) to opposite pavement and continue to pedestrian crossing (after petrol station). Cross road and follow pavement for 2.3km (NW) to end of pavement opposite Findhorn Foundation (NJ050634). Cross road to opp pavement for 1.2km keeping the shoreline of the bay to your left until the start of the one way traffic system at the fork junction. Take the right fork & TR to go past the Church parking area (on R). The Findhorn Village Centre is the stone building just ahead of you. Please use the entrance on the right side of the building, by the wooden fence. This is **Checkpoint 1** (NJ041641).

Total Distance – 17.9km, 11.1M

2. Findhorn CP1 to Alves CP2 – 14.2km, 9M

Checkpoint 2 Open: Saturday 12.00

Close: Saturday 16.00

From the Findhorn Village Centre, go back to the fork junction and follow the shoreline road towards the harbour. Come off the tarmac road opposite the Kimberly Inn and walk along the shoreline tracks until you reach the coastal path fingerpost pointing inland (NJ037645). TR and take the road past the Royal Yacht Club, then TL at a crossroads junction. Follow the public road NW to the Ice House (on L), and then in 100m, TR (just after the toilet block) onto the beach car park (past car park barriers) and continue AH to where the beach is accessed via wooden steps There will be a marshalled clipper post at this point (NJ036648). The tide will be sufficiently out along Bay to walk the 4 miles along the beach to Roseisle. Alternatively the Moray Coast Trail (slightly longer) runs parallel to the beach through the adjacent woodlands and although difficult to follow around the dunes area (path is more inland than shown on map), is well signed beyond this area.

At Roseisle, there is a forestry picnic area with toilet facilities There will be a marshalled clipper post at this point (NJ105657) that is on the way marked coastal trail, but is also easily accessed from the beach. You can of course use a combination of both options of beach and coastal trail.

If you are on the beach, from location NJ103658, go up sandy path to the picnic and car parking area where there are also public toilets. From the toilet and information area, follow the vehicle tracks SW through the woodland parking area and then SE on the tarmac access road that leads to the B9089.

Cross directly (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**) to the narrow minor road and continue AH for 1.3km to reach the road jct at Coltfeld (NJ119637). Continue straight ahead for 2.3km on winding minor road (**traffic – take care**) to reach the A96. Cross the road (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**) using the centre isle crossing point and continue ahead (SE) on uphill minor road for 400m to reach **Checkpoint 2** (NJ135618) on R.

Total Distance – 32.2km, 20.1M

3. Alves CP2 to Rafford Finish - 17.4km, 10.8M

Finish Checkpoint Open: Saturday 16.00 Close: Saturday 22.00

From the Alves Hall, come back out on to the minor road, TR, and continue (SE) for 840m, over railway bridge and past road jct on right, to Cloves (NJ139612). Continue on minor road for 760m to next crossroads jct and TR for 1.3km on road to Garrowslack corner (NJ149602). Go straight ahead up the forest track (S and then SW) for 680m (ignore turning on R) to jct (NJ148596). TR and continue for 1km to next jct (NJ138592). TL to go uphill for 970m to jct (NJ142583). TR and continue for 2.75km to jct (NJ116572). TR for 600m to go downhill to next jct (NJ114578). TL for 1.5km and the last section of forestry track to the single-track public road (NJ101570) (**PUBLIC ROAD – TAKE CARE**). TR here (NNW) and go downhill to t-junction, then TL up the gently sloping public road for 1.6km to the Califer Hill Viewpoint access point, where there will be a marshalled clipper post at the viewpoint (NJ084571).

Go back to the Califer Hill Viewpoint access point, TR (SW) and go down the road for 350m and take the sharp L turning onto a farm track signed Laverock Height and Burnside. Keep R on this track and follow this to a jct and take the R fork (S), leading to a converted steading at Burnside (NJ083564). Go straight past the house and in a short distance TR (before gate) and follow rough/muddy woodland path downhill (SW – signed Sourbank), for 800m to field gate at public road end. Continue downhill on road for a short distance, to where road bends sharply to L. BR here down a rough track/driveway (Parkview), to go in front of the house to a rough trod path heading W. through a corridor of tall gorse and broom bushes, followed by a less enclosed path section to where it eventually meets a wide farm track (NJ070560). TL onto farm track and head SE past scattered houses on RHS, then SW through housing at either side of this rough vehicle track, which bends R, before emerging at the B9010 public road. TR for 180m on pavement then road to arrive at the Rafford Village Hall car park entrance, which marks the end of the Laich o' Moray 30M challenge.

Total Distance – 49.6km, 30.9M