**Glenshee**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

8

**Intermediate Runs**

13

**Advanced Runs**

15

**Total Runs**

36

**Lifts**

22

**Chairs**

3

**Drags**

19

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Glenshee is one of Scotland's most established and largest ski resorts, and is often referred to as the 'Scottish Three Valleys' after the world's largest lift-linked ski area around Courchevel and Méribel in France.

However, Glenshee is a rather more modest affair, albeit with an equally loyal fan base – the ski centre is the closest of Scotland's five ski areas to four of the country's six cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Stirling. Regular visitors from these centres and beyond cram the resort's car park and spread out over the slopes when conditions are good.

The area has sadly suffered from a lack of investment for many years, due to the challenging economic realities of running a ski centre in Scotland's unpredictable winter climate. Despite this, a new chairlift, the Baddoch Chair, was opened in early 2012 to improve access to the slopes. Glenshee has also invested in the country's first high-pressure snowmaking system, so as long as it is cold, enough snow can be made in order to open.

**Location**

Glenshee is located in the Cairngorms mountain range, within the Cairngorms National Park in the eastern Scottish Highlands. It is situated between Perth to the south, Aberdeen to the east, and Inverness to the north; on either side of the main A93 road from Perth to Aberdeen via Braemar.

**Website**

http://www.ski-glenshee.co.uk

**Piste Map**

http://www.ski-glenshee.co.uk/Piste-Map

**Hit The Slopes**

Glenshee's ski season normally takes place between December and April, subject to adequate snow cover. Depending on conditions, the centre may not be open every day so it is important to check ahead before visiting.

There are 40km (24 miles) of ski runs in Glenshee, with nearly three quarters of the runs rated easy blue or intermediate red. The ski area extends over the four peaks of Glas Maol, Meall Odhar, Cairnwell and Cairn Aosda.

There are beginners' areas on both sides of the road, near the car parks, with about a dozen drag lifts serving the area. These green-graded runs are predominantly in the Sunnyside sector.

Intermediates can spread out across the three valleys with long reds beneath Glas Maol. There are wide runs in Thunderbowl and popular sheltered terrain over the back at Coire Fionn. Meanwhile, freestylers and snowboarders will enjoy the bumps, jumps and natural half-pipe of Meall Odhar.

There are two black classified runs, the steepest of which, The Tiger, is beneath the Cairnwell chair. In this part of the mountains there's also a racetrack area that has in the past hosted speed skiing championships.

**Glenshee**

**Resort**

650

**Base**

650

**Top**

1068

**General**

**Beyond The Slopes**

There's a lot to do around Glenshee; however, most activities are located a few miles from one another so having a car is important to take full advantage of the opportunities.

Most of the leisure activities available are outdoors and include hill walking, mountain biking, horse riding, fishing, birdwatching and clay pigeon shooting. There are also many places of interest in the area with a true Scottish theme, including several whisky distilleries and the village of Braemar – famous for its annual summer Highland Gathering, which is normally attended by a member of the Royal Family.

One local facility is the Glenshee Pottery (tel: (01250) 882 238; [www.glensheepottery.co.uk](http://www.glensheepottery.co.uk)) which – apart from selling ceramics – stages winter workshops in a wide range of craft activities including needle felting, wire crocheted jewellery and silk papermaking.

**Family Fun**

Glenshee has a very family-friendly atmosphere, which is replicated in the small villages around the resort. The only absentees are indoor facilities such as swimming pools that exist in larger, more centralised resorts – Aberdeen, Perth or Aviemore are the best options for these type of facilities. On the slopes, the ski school accepts children aged six and older, who can learn in the safety of the nursery slopes near the main car park.

**Retail Therapy**

Glenshee’s location close to four major cities means shopping is never far away, but opportunities in the resort itself are very limited, with one ski and gift shop at the centre. Travelling north, Braemar has a small selection of shops covering all essentials and providing tourist gifts. The choice continues to increase as you head east towards Aberdeen through Royal Deeside.

**Splashing Out**

Sign up for an introduction to winter mountaineering with Gubalin Lodge Outdoor Centre (tel: (01250) 885 255; [www.gulabinoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.gulabinoutdoors.co.uk)). The full-day course provides an introduction to the use of the ice axe, crampons, navigation techniques and avalanche awareness.

**Apres Ski**

As many skiers at Glenshee are day trippers from Aberdeen, Dundee or Perth, the après-ski scene tends to be limited to locals, winter holidaymakers or weekenders. The main action is found in the hotels that are dotted around the area. The Spittal of Glenshee Hotel (tel: (01250) 885 215; [www.spittalofglenshee.co.uk](http://www.spittalofglenshee.co.uk)) is the nearest to the ski slopes and has a reputation for serving superb food with a good atmosphere, cosy log fires and a games room. Ceilidhs and other live local entertainments are sometimes organised in the area and are advertised locally.

**Eating Out**

There are three on-mountain restaurants in Glenshee. The Cairnwell Mountain Restaurant is situated mid-mountain, accessed by the new chairlift, and has great views on a clear day. The cosy Meall Odhar Café is nestled in the middle valley over the road, and is accessed via the Beag Tow. The licensed Base Café is situated at the car park and is a good meeting place and popular with beginners.

In the wider area, much of the evening dining is provided by local hotel restaurants such as Dalmunzie Castle (tel: (01250) 885 224; [www.dalmunzie.com](http://www.dalmunzie.com)), with its restaurant based in a former laird's mansion.

**Transport**

**Getting There**

Nearest airport: Dundee Airport (DND); Aberdeen Airport (ABZ); Edinburgh Airport (EDI); Glasgow Airport (GLA).

Distance to resort: 60km (37 miles); 119km (73 miles); 120km (74 miles); 162km (100 miles).

Driving time: 1 hour 10 minutes; 1 hour 50 minutes; 1 hour 50 minutes; 2 hours 15 minutes.

**Getting Around**

Glenshee ski centre is situated 14km (8 miles) south of Braemar and 40km (24 miles) north of Blairgowrie on the A93 road. There is no winter bus service and the nearest rail station is Pitlochry, 52km (32 miles) away, so most visitors arrive by car. Fortunately, there is extensive car parking available, the majority of which can be found in the main car park at the foot of the slopes.

**Hotels**

Accommodation in Glenshee and the surrounding towns and villages is made up of friendly, comfortable and great value hotels, bed and breakfast guest houses and hostels. There is a wide selection of places to stay in and around Blairgowrie, Alyth, Kirkmichael and the Spittal of Glenshee to the south, and Braemar and Ballater to the north and east. There are also plenty of self-catering lodges, varying in style from traditional wooden chalets to modern builds.

**Dalmunzie Castle**

Dalmunzie Castle is a warm, friendly, family-run country house hotel with 16 en-suite rooms. It was formerly visited by Queen Victoria and has parts dating back 500 years. Ski packages can be arranged by the hotel.

**Category**

Luxury

**Thoroughfare**

Dalmunzie

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Perthshire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

PH10 7QG

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(01250) 885 224.

**Website**

http://www.dalmunzie.com

**The Green Park Hotel**

Located in Pitlochry, the nearest tourist town to the ski area, this imposing hotel enjoys unrivalled views over Loch Faskally and has a restaurant serving French-influenced cuisine.

**Category**

Moderate

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

Pitlochry

**Locality**

Perthshire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

PH16 5JY

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(01796) 473 248.

**Website**

http://www.thegreenpark.co.uk

**Gulabin Lodge**

A family-run hostel located 10 minutes from Glenshee ski centre, Gulabin Lodge also provides self-catering or bed and breakfast accommodation. Ski and activity breaks can be organised from here.

**Category**

Cheap

**Thoroughfare**

Spittal of Glenshee

**Neighborhood**

Blairgowrie

**Locality**

Perthshire

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

PH10 7QE

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(01250) 885 255.

**Website**

http://www.gulabinoutdoors.co.uk/accommodation