**Glenshee**

**Categories**

**Good For**

Beginners

Intermediates

Experts

Snowboarders

**Data**

**Beginner Runs**

21

**Intermediate Runs**

13

**Advanced Runs**

2

**Total Runs**

36

**Lifts**

22

**Chairs**

3

**Drags**

19

**Gondola Cable Cars**

0

**Parks**

1

**Pipes**

0

**Weather**

**Annual Snowfall**

Unavailable.

**Overview**

Although perhaps not the best known of Scotland’s five ski areas, Glenshee is in fact the largest in terms of the extent of the terrain and the number of lifts. The centre’s slopes, which have welcomed skiers since the 1930s, extend across three separate valleys.

Glenshee is located close to Braemar, home of the famous annual Highland Gathering each summer. The slopes stretch to Royal Deeside, past Balmoral Castle, the Queen’s Scottish retreat, and on towards Aberdeen.

As with all of the Scottish ski areas, Glenshee’s management do annual battle with the vagaries of British weather, some years having excellent, snowy winters and sometimes being plagued by warm weather that brings limited natural snowfall.

When conditions are good - and even when lacklustre but still open - the centre is very popular with a loyal fan base, aided a little by the fact that it is the closest of the centres to four of Scotland’s six cities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Stirling.

Despite the popularity of the slopes, there is no resort base at Glenshee and skiers tend to be day trippers, or stay in nearby villages, although a few stand-alone hotels closer to the centre are available.

**Location**

Glenshee is located in the Grampians 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 recent seasons Glenshee has also built a reputation within the Scottish freestyle ski and board community, building terrain park and boarder cross features and also staging popular competitions and events.

**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: +44 1250 882 238; [www.glensheepottery.co.uk](http://www.glensheepottery.co.uk)) that – 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.

However, due to the ski area’s small size and lack of conventional resort centre, indoor facilities such as swimming pools, which are common in larger, more centralised resorts, are absent; Aberdeen, Perth or Aviemore being perhaps the best options for those searching for these types of facilities.

On the slopes, there’s no specific ski kindergarten or teaching for the youngest children but there is a good ski school for 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: +44 1250 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**

Après ski at Glenshee is extremely limited with the absence of a real resort base or even a single resort village in the vicinity. Most skiers and boarders are day trippers from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Perth or Dundee and they head back there once the lifts close, taking any real party spirit with them.

Most of the après ski opportunities are therefore concentrated within the hotels and village bars of the area.

Braemar is the closest village and there are half a dozen choices here. The Fife Arms Hotel Restaurant (tel: +44 1339 741 927), originally a 19th-century hunting lodge, has an open fire in the lounge where regulars sip beers contentedly. Moorfield House (tel: +44 1339 741 244) has a snug traditional bar with a good range of malt whiskies.

**Eating Out**

There are three on-mountain restaurants in Glenshee. The Cairnwell Mountain Restaurant is situated mid-mountain, accessed by 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: +44 1250 885 224; [www.dalmunzie.com](http://www.dalmunzie.com)), with its restaurant based in a former laird's mansion.

At the nearby village of Braemar, the intimate Gathering Place Bistro (tel: +44 1339 741 234) is superb with an eclectic menu of Scottish, British and European cuisine, plus vegetarian options. Taste Braemar (tel: +44 1339 741 425), situated within Airlie House, is also very good for a lighter meal or snack – make sure to try one of the home made cakes on offer.

**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 good 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.

**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**

+44 1250 885 255

**Website**

http://www.gulabinoutdoors.co.uk