

Cullen Itinerary

An itinerary which takes you to the home of the famous Cullen Skink.

1. Cullen Bay

This beautiful village has a spectacular view down the main street to the bay. Take a walk along the beach and golf course, and back along the historic viaducts - enjoy the fantastic scenery, whilst all the time watching out for dolphins. Take a look at the Three Kings rock on the beach, the three singular masses of rock most likely named after the Magi, or Three Kings of Cologne - Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. Keep an eye out for the strange house numbers, especially number 58 and a half. The houses in Cullen were numbered as they were built. Take a wander around the harbour to see which boats are there, and then visit the ice-cream shop in the high street which is full of old fashioned sweets as well as home-made ice-cream...so stock up for the day and don't forget to take some pictures.

2. Railway Walks

The town is uniquely dominated by giant railway viaducts which are now open to walkers and offer fantastic views, as part of extensive footpaths.

3. Cullen Old Kirk

Visit this historic church on Old Church Road. Dating from the 14th century, and incorporates earlier work, probably of the 12th century. The internal organs of Scottish Queen, Elizabeth de Burgh, were buried here in 1327. Later additions to the kirk were St. Anne's aisle, the present south transept, built in 1536, and the Seafield loft, an imposing example of a Laird's gallery, built in 1602. The church features a beautiful sacrament house in the north wall and an ornate monument, dated 1554, to Alexander Ogilvie of that ilk, who in 1543 raised the church to collegiate status.

4. Findlater Castle

Between Sandend and Cullen are the ruins of Findlater Castle, perched precariously on an outcrop of rock. There has been some form of fortification on the site since at least the 13th century, but the surviving buildings probably date from the late 14th century, when the castle was owned by the Sinclairs, or possibly from the mid 15th century when it passed to the Ogilvies. In 1546 Sir Alexander Ogilvie disinherited his son and signed the property over to Sir John Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly. There is a coastal walk from Cullen, which takes in the Giant's steps and Sunnyside Beach. Alternatively, if you are travelling by car, take the A98 towards Portsoy and follow the signs 2 miles on your left. At the car park follow the track and you will come to a viewing area. The castle itself is very unsafe so don't attempt to reach it.



5. Crannoch Woods

Just out of Cullen heading in the direction of Portsoy you will find the Crannoch Woods which have various different paths suitable for walking. There is a small loch in the centre of the woods. All the walks are clearly posted. Some of the paths are not ideal for prams or buggies.