



SECRET BOTHY

the wee cottage with big ideas

GOLF

Here is a graphic explanation of why Perthshire is the golfers' fairway to heaven. The map below shows all 40 courses in the county. They range from championship venues such as Rosemount, Blairgowrie (flag 4) and the three courses at Gleneagles (flags 18, 19 and 20) to the short but spectacular course at nearby Strathtay (flag 40), laid out in 1909 by Captain Steuart of Ballechin.

Secret Bothy is near the top of the map, north of Pitlochry and south of Blair Atholl where the two nearest courses are located.



1. Alyth
2. Alyth - Glenisla
3. Alyth - Strathmore
Rannaleroch
4. Blairgowrie - Rosemount
5. Crieff - Ferntower
6. Culcrieff Golf Course
7. Dunkeld & Birnam
8. Kenmore - Taymouth Castle
(due to re-open in 2014)
9. Kinross - Montgomery
Course
10. Muckhart
11. Perth - Craigie Hill
12. Perth - Murrayshall
13. Perth - North Inch

14. Pitlochry
15. Aberfeldy
16. Auchterarder
17. Blairgowrie - Lansdowne
18. Gleneagles - King's
19. Gleneagles - PGA Centenary
20. Gleneagles - Queen's
21. Kinross - Bruce Course
22. Perth - King James VI (Island)
23. Scone - Murrayshall
Lynedoch
24. Whitemoss (currently closed)
25. Comrie
26. Killin
27. Dunning

28. Spittal of Glenshee -
Dalmunzie
29. Muthill
30. St Fillans
31. Alyth - Strathmore Leithie
32. Blair Atholl
33. Blairgowrie - Wee
34. Crieff - Dornock
35. By Crieff - Foulford Inn
36. Gleneagles - Wee
37. Kenmore - Mains of
Taymouth
38. Kinnesswood - Bishopshire
39. Milnathort
40. Strathtay

Pitlochry Golf (<http://www.pitlochrygolf.co.uk/>) must have the winning scorecard when it comes to romance. Here is how they describe themselves: "On the grounds of ancient Pictish forts, where druids once met and where the footsteps of Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, General Mackay and the Earl of Marr once fell, there now lies one of the finest inland golf courses in Scotland." It lies 10 minutes in one direction while [Blair Atholl Golf Club](http://www.blairathollgolfclub.co.uk/) (<http://www.blairathollgolfclub.co.uk/>) is 10 minutes in the other. It has 9 holes and though small, is perfectly challenging.

There are 2 useful discount cards available to golfers playing in this area. The first is the [Perthshire Green Card](http://golf.visitscotland.com/offers_packages/passes/perthshire_green_card.aspx) (http://golf.visitscotland.com/offers_packages/passes/perthshire_green_card.aspx) which offers discounted golf on 17 venues. The £99 tickets buys 5 rounds and the £65 ticket 3 rounds. It also permits discounted admission to Perth Racecourse meetings and a number of local distilleries.

The Green Card can be used at:
Aberfeldy, Alyth (1894), Alyth - Glenisla, Alyth - Strathmore, Auchterarder; Blairgowrie – Lansdowne, Crieff – Ferntower, Culcrieff Course at Crieff Hydro, Dunkeld & Birnam, Kinross - Montgomery Course, Kinross - Bruce Course, Muckhart, Perth - Craigie Hill, Perth - King James VI, Perth - Murrayshall Championship, Perth - Murrayshall Lynedoch, and, of course, our own Pitlochry.

The [Highlands Golf Ticket](http://www.perthshire.co.uk/index.asp?lm=29) (<http://www.perthshire.co.uk/index.asp?lm=29>) can be used on 12 different 9-hole courses. Five days of golf is available for £70 and three days for £45. Like the Perthshire Green Card, this discount ticket also affords discounted admission to Perth Racecourse meetings as well as to the following whisky distilleries: Bell's Blair Athol Distillery, Dewar's World of Whisky, the Famous Grouse Experience at Glenturret Distillery and Tullibardine Distillery.

The Highlands Golf Ticket can be used at:
Alyth - Leithie Links, Blair Atholl, Comrie Golf Club, Crieff Golf Club - Dornock Course, Glenshee - Dalmunzie Course, Dunning Golf Club, Kenmore Golf Course, Killin Golf Club, Milnathort, Muthill Golf Club, St Fillans Golf Club and Strathtay.

We are surrounded by golf courses. There are 2 within 10 minutes of Secret Bothy; 4 courses within half an hour and dozens within an hour. Rosemount (Blairgowrie) and Gleneagles are within an hour of here though if you are looking for more big name challenges those too are easy to find. Beyond Perthshire in neighbouring Fife and Angus are another 60 courses which include Carnoustie and St Andrews. Both of these are about 1 hour and 30 minutes by road.

Just for the record, Castle Stuart near Inverness is 1 hour 40 minutes away and Royal Dornoch, north of Inverness, is 2 hours 20 minutes.

So it is easy to stay in Killiecrankie – possibly as close to the centre of Scotland as is possible to be -- and play exactly the amount of golf you want. Whether you are looking for just one quiet day on a charming course, set amid stunning scenery or going for a blockbuster variety of links and courses, this location can deliver. It is quite feasible to play as many or as few holes as you like without having to travel too far on any one day. Should you need further help, particularly if you want a day in St Andrews while staying here, please ask for details.