

Finding your way around Loch Garten

Our peaceful trails take you through Caledonian woodland, which is home to hundreds of plants and animals, and on to the glorious serenity of Loch Garten and Loch Mallachie. As well as the Big Pines and Two Lochs trails, there is part of the Speyside Way between Nethy Bridge and Boat of Garten.

Soak up the tranquil atmosphere of the forest and listen out for woodland birdsong in the spring and early summer, including crested tits and redstarts. Keep your eyes peeled for energetic red squirrels and for wood ants going about their business. On the loch shores, look out for goldeneye ducks and common sandpipers.

Big Pines trail

This half mile trail takes fifteen minutes and leads from the Nature Centre car park to the Loch Mallachie car park, where the Two Lochs trail starts.

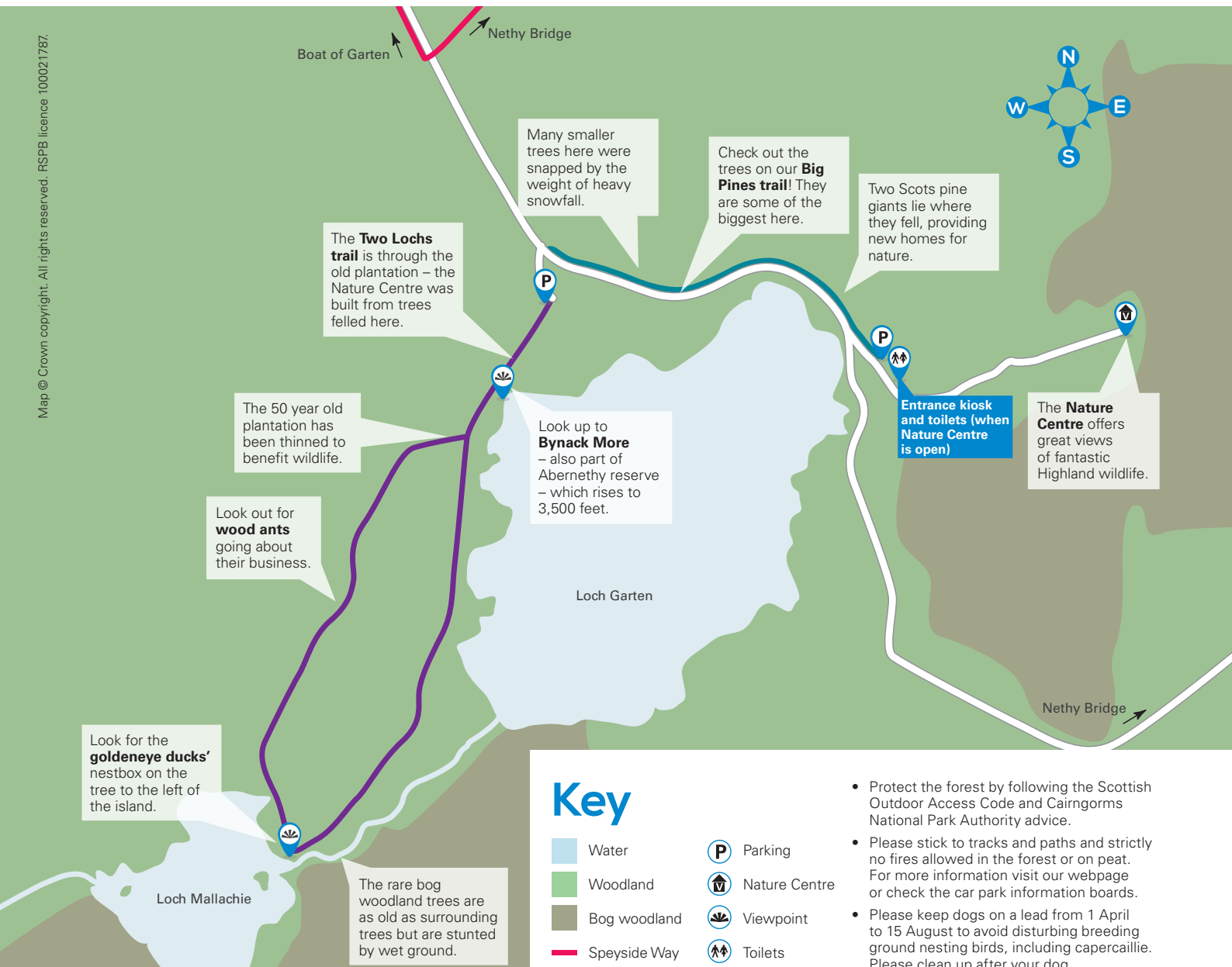
You'll walk through the best bits of woodland on the trails here. Look out for massive "Granny" Scots pines (trees which provide seed for the next generation of trees) and juniper bushes. You'll see that we don't remove dead trees – they're vital for a healthy forest. Listen and look for great spotted woodpeckers, especially on dead trees, and in late summer, look for white, creeping ladies' tresses orchids.

Two Lochs trail

This circular 1.7 mile trail takes about one hour to walk and leads you through the forest to the beautiful shores of Loch Garten and Loch Mallachie.

Look for lying and standing deadwood. It provides food, shelter and nesting holes for bugs, animals and birds, and when it rots it returns vital nutrients to the soil. Listen for flocks of crossbills flitting through the trees searching for pine cones, then rest and soak up the views over the peaceful lochs. The water is peaty brown and, surprisingly, supports very few fish!

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- Protect the forest by following the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Cairngorms National Park Authority advice.
- Please stick to tracks and paths and strictly no fires allowed in the forest or on peat. For more information visit our webpage or check the car park information boards.
- Please keep dogs on a lead from 1 April to 15 August to avoid disturbing breeding ground nesting birds, including capercaillie. Please clean up after your dog.
- If you notice any behaviour that is of concern, please call 01479 821409.
- Disabled visitors may drive up to the Nature Centre. Please ask at the entrance kiosk. For more information about the accessibility please visit rspb.org.uk/lochgarten