

# Mar Lodge Estate Cairngorms Sporting Estate



## Lifetime Memories in the Making!

For hundreds of years the seat of the earls and later dukes of Fife, Mar Lodge Estate is now owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland as a thriving Highland sporting estate.

Encompassing 72,000 acres, which include four of the UK's five highest mountains, the estate has long enjoyed a reputation as a wild and thrilling place for stalking, shooting and fishing.

Through our work to regenerate ancient Caledonian pinewoods, safeguard habitats for rare and endangered flora and fauna, as well as encourage and inform those who enjoy the wild Cairngorm landscape, we manage the estate to combine field sports harmoniously alongside conservation and access.

## Hospitality



For a sporting holiday in the Highlands to suit parties of all sizes and experience, Mar Lodge Estate offers a choice of comfortable, well-appointed accommodation. The present Mar Lodge was built for one of Queen Victoria's grand-daughters, Princess Louise. Extensively upgraded in the 1990s, it now offers five self-catering apartments for between 4 and 17 guests.

There are also the grander public rooms found in Scotland's larger lodges, including a dining room to seat 30, a large drawing room as well as a billiards room. As an alternative to Mar Lodge itself, two luxurious cottages which accommodate from 8 to 10 are also available for sporting clients.

All sport is let by the week or the day, and can be booked as a package with accommodation or taken on its own. While accommodation is self-catering, we would on request be pleased to arrange for an experienced cook to join your party.

At Mar Lodge Estate, we take pride in our staff and equipment. Our stalkers and ghillies are experienced in addition to being well trained. Whenever we can, we use Highland Garron ponies for bringing carcasses back to the larder, characteristic of our commitment to tradition and sustainability.

## An authentic sporting experience

To maintain the wild land quality of the remoter reaches of the estate, we have invested considerably in removing miles of previously bulldozed, highly intrusive tracks. By way of contrast, we continue to work hard to maintain environmentally more sensitive footpaths, including famous routes such as the Lairig Ghru linking us across the Cairngorms to Coylumbridge and Aviemore.

So, pursuing an authentic sporting experience, whether shooting, stalking or fishing, clients can expect some walking, all the better to appreciate the stunning country!

### Grouse

For shooting parties, depending on the year, we look for walked-up bags of around 10 to 15 brace, often over pointers. Our moorland is well looked after, with a muirburn plan in place, and no grazing cattle or sheep. Grouse shooting is a potentially dangerous pursuit and our head keeper will brief the party at the beginning of each day on safety matters as well as reminding guns that the bag at Mar Lodge Estate is restricted to red grouse (no blackgame, ptarmigan or capercaillie are shot).



### Red deer



Up to three stalking parties can be out after the stags, two for the hinds. As with our shooting parties, the day begins with a briefing so that each party and rifle knows which ground is to be covered. On the first morning, there's a chance at the target to check each rifle's zero and to ensure that everyone is well briefed on safety, ideal bullet placement and species identification. And the craic is always good!

## Salmon

The main fishing on the estate is on the upper beats of the world-renowned River Dee. Mar Lodge Estate has three miles of single-bank fishing east of the Linn of Dee and three miles of double-bank fishing upstream of the Linn to the west. As with the rest of the estate, the scenery is breathtaking along the beats' whole length. We operate catch-and-release for both salmon and sea-trout. The fishing is extremely varied, with plenty of quiet pools as well as fast runs and rapids. Often thought of as a spring and summer river, in recent years the autumn run has also proved very productive.



## Other activities

For visitors who don't shoot, stalk or fish, there are plenty of other outdoor activities. Our Rangers team runs a busy programme of guided walks around the estate and can tailor special walks to a party's requirements. We also welcome horses and are approved by the British Horse Society as the only Horses Welcome Centre in the region. Royal Deeside offers more visitor attractions, with Crathie, Balmoral and Glenshee, for example, all just a short drive away.

## What our clients say



"I had a wonderful time stalking with all of you. I got my first stag with David. I had a great stalk with James and I enjoyed getting stuck in on the river with Andrew and getting the Big Older Bruiser with you!" DL, Kansas, December 2011.

"For anyone who has not visited this part of the river as they feel it may be too far up then I urge them to think again, as it is without a doubt one of the most scenic places in Scotland to fish." GT, Dundee, May 2012.

"I've been lucky enough to have shot driven and walked-up grouse for over 30 years, but those two days last week at Mar Lodge rank among the best. Well organised, some very testing wild birds and great fun. We'll be back!" SF, Perthshire, September 2011.

## Your sporting holiday at Mar Lodge Estate

Mar Lodge Estate is three miles west of Braemar, about an hour and half's drive from Aberdeen or two and a half hours from Edinburgh.

For enquiries about fishing, shooting and stalking, email [marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk](mailto:marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk) or telephone Fiona McCulloch at the Estate Office on 01339 720163.

Mar Lodge Estate  
Braemar  
Aberdeenshire AB35 5YJ  
t 01339 720163  
e [marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk](mailto:marlodgeestate@nts.org.uk)  
w [www.nts.org.uk/property/mar-lodge-estate](http://www.nts.org.uk/property/mar-lodge-estate)



January 2013