The Comarty Firth

Kirkyard Trail

Nigg Old church and kirkyard, and Pictish stone

Housing the famous Pictish Nigg stone, the kirk itself is a seventeenth century building on a medieval foundation. The belfry is crowned with five pyramids with ball finials. In the kirkyard is a unique sarcophagus erected by John Grant of Dunskaith in honour of his first wife, Mary Urquhart, and a tablestone carved by Crompton stone-mason, geologist and writer, Hugh Miller, displaying the scalloped edges characteristic of Miller's style. Standing by itself is the Cholera Stone, where a parishioner, seeing a cloud of cloud of disease in the air, threw a blanket over it and weighed it down with a stone. Do not disturb!

For more see: www.niggoldtrust.org.uk

Directions: Signposted from the B9175, close to Nigg Ferry, NH0801 and IV4800. Park at the kirkyard.

Kilmuir Easter old church and kirkyard

The rectangular church has at the east the remains of an earlier church as burial vault and tower. This marvellous “pepper-pot” tower bears the eagle head of the Munros and initials GMR, and the legend “beligt [built] 1616”. It stands above the reputed ancient burial chamber of the Mackenzies of Tarbat. In the kirkyard is the wonderful burial enclosure of James Baillie, a merchant of Rotterdam who retired to Milton New Tarbat, and his spouse Mary Dunbar of the Dunbars of Boath.

For more see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilmuir_Easter_Ross

Directions: O’ye’ll tak’ the high road, and I’ll tak’ the low road, And I’ll be in Scotland afore ye .

Nigg Old church and IV4800. Park at the kirkyard.

Invergordon – Rosskeen old church and kirkyard

Renamed from Inverbreakey by Sir William Gordon, Invergordon in the 19th century supplanted Comarty as the main port on the Comarty Firth. When the whole British Fleet was anchored in the Firth, Invergordon teemed with activity. Rosskeen kirkyard surrounds a disused presbyterian church built in 1830-32 by James Smith on the site of an earlier chapel. The small building with a burial slab with eagle head of the Munros mounted into the wall is the mausoleum of the Munros of Newmore and Culrain. Originally erected in 1664, it was restored in 1908. The remains of a medieval chapel are also on site, partly converted into a mausoleum of the Macleods of Cadboll and with a buried vault of the Gordons of Invergordon. The great number of naval graves reflects the history of Invergordon as a naval port.

For more see: www.buildingstrust.org.uk/det/alls/B91557

Directions: O’ye’ll tak’ the high road, and I’ll tak’ the low road, And I’ll be in Scotland afore ye .

NH0801 and IV4800. Park at the kirkyard.