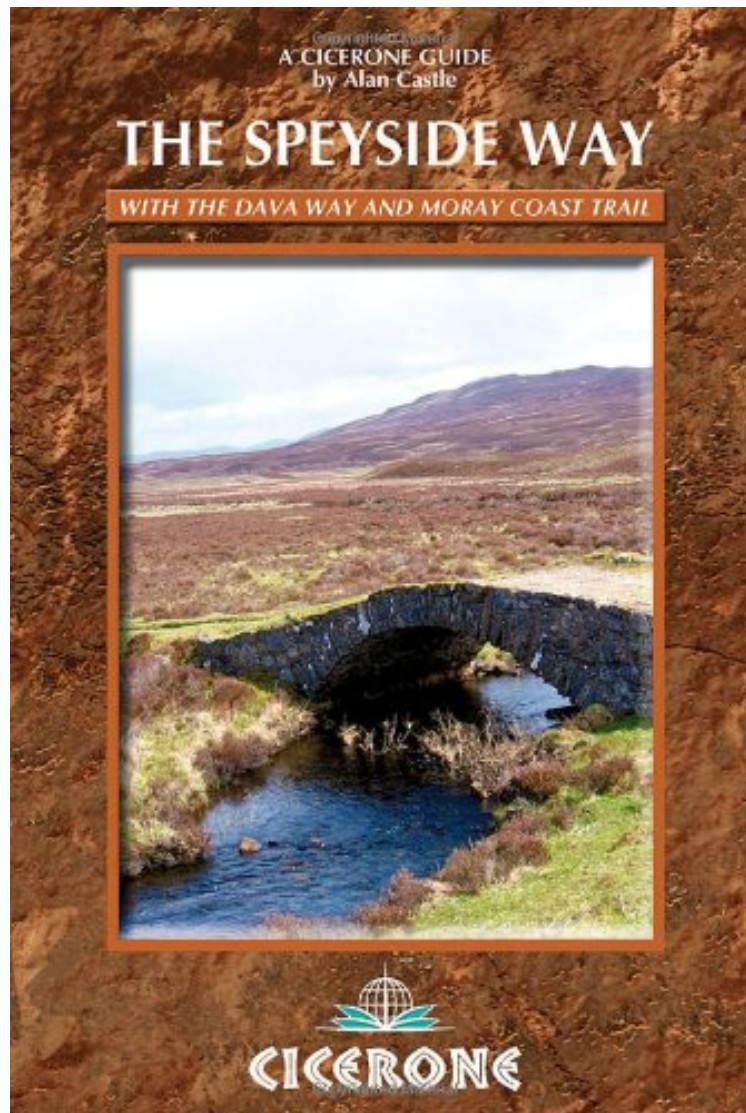


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The Speyside Way.

Alan Castle

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Alan Castle : The Speyside Way. before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Speyside Way.:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Everything you need to walk the Speyside Way, and related trails By T Heel Walker I have used other Cicerone guidebooks to do British walks in the past. This 2010 first edition guide for the Speyside Way (which we used in June 2013 to do the walk) is one of the best we have seen. The author Alan Castle is very experienced and his coverage of this walk is thorough and well done. A strong characteristic of the book is that it covers not only the "standard" 66 mile Speyside Way. Rather, this guidebook also deals carefully with other more

rugged and remote "prologue" trails, as well as the Badenoch, Dava, and Moray Coast trails in the same area. In addition, the book effectively addresses two other spur routes (Tomintoul and Dufftown) which are optional parts of the Speyside Way, which can supplant or supplement parts of the "standard" route (we did both Tomintoul and Dufftown, instead of a couple of less interesting/scenic parts of the "standard" route, and our walking mileage was more like 75 miles instead of 66). These options allowed some more challenging and scenic terrain, and free visits/tastings at both Glenlivet and Glenfiddich single malt distilleries (the region is awash in world-class single malt whisky distilleries - fun and interesting). The book contains an ordinance survey map, which was the only map we needed. The book discusses the route primarily going south to north, but also north to south. The book is not perfect. In a couple of places the trail description is not as clear as it could be. In addition, I think the trail route has changed in a couple of places (due to weather or minor rerouting, especially near the northern area between Fochabers and Buckie) since the author did his walk/research in 2009. I would not be surprised if a second edition of this book is in the offing; check that before you buy this edition.

The Speyside Way runs for 66 miles along good paths beside the River Spey from Aviemore to Buckie on the Moray Coast. Together with a 20-mile extension back to Newtonmore it makes a perfect easy week's walking holiday. Included in the book are prologue routes from the source of the River Spey, making a 118-mile route from the Monadhliath Mountains to the coast at Buckie. The connecting routes the Dava Way and the Moray Coast Trail are also described step-by-step in this guidebook, as well as the Moray Way - a combination of the three long distance trails in the Moray region. Information is also included for mountain bikers, who can follow several stretches of the routes. The detailed route descriptions are illustrated with OS map extracts.

About the Author Alan Castle has trekked and cycled in over thirty countries across five continents and led European walking holidays. A member of the British Outdoor Writers and Photographers Guild and former National Secretary of the Long Distance Walkers Association, he has written 18 guidebooks, many for Cicerone. He lives at the foot of the Moffat Hills, in the heart of the Scottish Southern Uplands.