



## GLENFESHIE, CAIRNGORMS

### Best for wildlife spotting

The general narrative for smart [Highlands](#) stays in recent years has been to play with tradition rather than stick to it. Indeed, Glenfeshie Lodge's owner Anders Holch Povlsen, a Danish businessman and [Scotland's](#) largest landowner, has been part of that trend, bringing various degrees of Scandi minimalism to his four other rentable houses set on 221,000 acres. But Glenfeshie Lodge, near Braemar, is the one that sticks most closely to its 19th-century roots. The grey-stone hunting lodge, standing proud over a mist-cloaked valley, is said to be where Sir Edwin Landseer painted *The Monarch of the Glen*, the stag on Walkers shortbread tins. There's a strand of Scottish Victoriana to the house and its surrounding 45,000-acre estate – from being met by head gamekeeper Davie McGibbon, in Glenfeshie tweed plus-fours, to sleeping in a floral-print, four-poster bed. But a more timeless plan underpins this place: striding up the 1,118-metre Sgor Gaoith for views down to Loch Einich and across the Moine Mhor (Great Moss), McGibbon explains how his team are keeping deer numbers down to regrow these woodlands and welcome red squirrels, pine martens and endangered black grouse and capercaillie. A golden eagle, flying towards an afternoon sun over Coire Garbhach, appears like a totemic endorsement of Holch Povlsen's scheme to rewild all of his land. At dinner, [chef](#) Richard Turner serves local venison with hedgehog mushrooms and purple sprouting broccoli foraged from the walled [gardens](#) of Aldourie [Castle](#), about an hour's drive away, and eaten with stag-antler cutlery. It tastes like the Highlands, done just right. *By Gabriel O'Rorke*

**Address:** Glenfeshie Estate, Kincaig, Kingussie, Scotland, PH21

**Telephone:** +44 1540 661 619

**Price:** From £9,500 for two nights full board for eight people (sleeps 10)

[BOOK ONLINE](#)