The
Ghillies Bar

Serving food daily from 12 noon until 2 pm and early suppers from 5 pm until 6.30 pm

Celebrating Tradition

One person who knows the ever-changing landscape of the hills, how the river bed lies through the months and where the wildlife is, better than most, is the ghillie. Roughly translating from Gaelic as an attendant, someone who looked after their employer and/or guests, today's ghillie manages the wilderness and guides guests through it responsibly.

Traditionally Highland chiefs would use ghillies to guide them through the landscape, do the heavy lifting, point out the best hunting spots and know the weather conditions. As time moved on and as many estates came under private ownership rather than the clans, the Highlands become a popular holiday destination, fuelled by Sir Walter Scott's stories and Queen Victoria's love of the country. As people travelled north seeking adventure, ghillies were in demand due to their knowledge of the landscape.

Royal Appointment

One of the most famous ghillies is John Brown, a ghillie to Prince Albert when visiting Balmoral.

After Albert's death, Brown became a constant figure with Queen Victoria and was a confidant to the monarch for over 20 years.

Ghillies Bar is a nod to the tradition of this role and the important part they play today in wildlife management, countryside maintenance and eco-tourism.

Taste of Royal Deeside

Our dishes in Ghillies Bar showcase the true taste of Royal Deeside. Alongside award-winning Gilmour Butchers, we showcase beef and game from the local butcher in Ballater – H. M. Sheridan, who have held a Royal Warrant since 1987 and are located just around the corner from the Balmoral Arms.

Seafood comes fresh from the North Sea and into the fishing ports of Aberdeen.

While You Decide

SPICED NUTS	4
GORDAL OLIVES	5
BREADBOARD Salted butter	4
SCOTTISH CHARCUTERIE SHARING BOARD & PICKLES (gf)	20

Small Plates & Light Lunches

SOUP OF THE DAY (v, ve, gf) Homemade bread, salted butter	6
PORK & WHOLEGRAIN MUSTARD SAUSAGE ROLL	5
CHARLES MACLEOD STORNAWAY BLACK PUDDING Pork Scotch egg, brown sauce	8
HALF PINT OF PRAWNS (gf) Lemon, garlic mayo	12
PLOUGHMANS LUNCH (v, ve, gfa) Homemade sausage roll, Scottish cheeses, crusty bread, apple and piccalilli	12

Main Courses

GAME PIE WITH CREAMY MASH POTATO TOP	18
BEER BATTERED HADDOCK Homemade tartar sauce, thick-cut chips	17
ABERDEEN ANGUS BEEF BURGER Cambus O'May Cheddar, dill pickles, thick-cut chips	17
MOVING MOUNTAINS PLANT-BASED BURGER (ve) Smoked Applewood, dill pickles, thick-cut chips	16
CLASSIC STEAK FRITES (gf) Peppercorn sauce	22
SPICED CHICKPEA AND LENTIL SALAD (v, vea, gf) Roasted peppers and Feta ADD GRILLED SALMON	16 +10

Open Sandwiches

Our sandwiches are made with thick cut brown or white Bloomer and come with dressed leaves and Taste of Game crisps

BEEF AND HORSERADISH	8
SMOKED SALMON AND CREAM CHEESE	9
HONEY ROASTED HAM AND WHOLEGRAIN MUSTARD	8
CAMBUS O'MAY CHEDDAR AND PICKLE (v, vea)	8
HUMMUS AND ROASTED PEPPERS (v, ve, gfa)	8
MINUTE STEAK AND REMOULADE	14
ADD A MUG OF SOUP	+4
ADD THICK-CUT CHIPS	+3.5

Puddings & Cheese

DARK CHOCOLATE MOUSSE AND HONEYCOMB ICE CREAM	8
BREAD & BUTTER PUDDING AND DRAMBUIE CUSTARD	8
TUNNOCKS TEA CAKE ICE-CREAM SUNDAE	8
LEMON POSSET AND SHORTBREAD	7
SELECTION OF MACKIE'S ICE CREAM	6

(gf – gluten free / gfa – gluten free available / v - vegetarian / ve – vegan / vea - vegan option available)

BEFORE ORDERING, PLEASE INFORM A MEMBER OF OUR TEAM IF YOU HAVE A FOOD ALLERGY OR INTOLERANCE.

Most of our guests now prefer to pay via debit or credit card including a service charge for great service. To make this easier we have added an automatic service charge - we've made it a default 10% and you can change it to any level you wish including no service charge. Our teams have always shared service charge - every penny you might want to give is shared equally by our teams through our "Fair Fund". There is no administration cost or anything retained by the company, what you may give is guaranteed to go 100% to our team. Service charge is entirely optional, if you would like us to remove it, you need only ask.