



ABERDEEN **2016**

WINTER FESTIVAL

ABERDEEN
CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

 25 NOVEMBER - 8 JANUARY 2017

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

... Aberdeen's Winter Festival returns including the Christmas Village and much more!

Aberdeen city centre will twinkle and sparkle during the 2016 festive season with events and activities for all the family to enjoy. Union Terrace will again host the popular Christmas Village, as our exciting programme of events returns with firm favourites and some new additions to add to the festive fun.



CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON

Castlegate Thursday 24 November 7pm FREE

Our twin town of Stavanger in Norway has once again kindly donated a magnificent Christmas tree. A short carol service will be held at the Castlegate prior to the switch-on, where the Lord Provost of Aberdeen and the Deputy Mayor of Stavanger Bjørg Tysdal Moe will light up the beautiful spruce. She will be accompanied by this year's artist of Stavanger, Ms. Hanne Vasshus.

LIGHTING OF MARISCHAL COLLEGE

Broad Street Thursday 24 November FREE

See Aberdeen's most iconic building illuminated for the winter period in traditional festive colours. Christmas trees will brighten Broad Street while Littlejohn Street will see the much-loved leopard in his favourite spot on the grassy mound. Why not visit Marischal College after you've seen the Christmas Tree donated by our twin city Stavanger, at the Castlegate.



GARRYSHAND.CO.UK

NEW FOR 2016

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WOODEN CARVINGS TRAIL

Various city centre locations

Thursday 24 November - throughout December FREE

Local chainsaw wood carver, Garry Shand has been commissioned to create 12 unique wooden totem pole sculptures based on the theme of the popular carol The Twelve Days of Christmas. Located across the city centre, this mini-trail is sure to be a popular challenge for all ages.

NEW FOR 2016

ABERDEEN'S CHRISTMAS TREE MAZE

Union Terrace Gardens,

Friday 25 November - Saturday 31 December,

11am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-9pm Sat & Sun (closed Christmas Day)

£4 per person, children under 13's must be accompanied by a paying adult

Prepare to get lost in our own magical Christmas Tree Maze. A joy for children and adults alike - can you make your way to the elves workshop and back? When you enter the maze, pick up a word card and collect stamps on your way around the maze, which when completed spells a festive word. Ticket holders will eventually find their way to the elf hut and after you hand in your completed word card you'll be rewarded with a pouch of treasure.

Our Christmas Tree Maze is designed and operated by Underbelly, the live entertainment company behind Edinburgh's Christmas festive season and its popular Christmas Tree maze.





ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Union Terrace Friday 25 November - Sunday 8 January

In partnership with Aberdeen Inspired, delivered by Codona's, we are thrilled to announce this year's open-air ice rink will be bigger, there will be double the number of market stalls, plus the return of the fairground rides and entertainment marquee.



Open-Air Ice Rink 11am - 10pm (Mon-Fri) & 10am - 10pm (Sat-Sun)

This year's larger ice rink is made from real ice, glide around the outdoor rink situated across from the Central Library. Non-skaters can keep warm and enjoy refreshments on offer in the village while watching those on the ice.



Festive Fairground Rides 11am - 10pm (Mon-Fri) & 10am - 10pm (Sat-Sun)

Children will love the Helter Skelter, cups and saucers and Christmas Carousel while the adults can release their inner child and test their nerve on the Bomber thrill ride.



Refreshments 12 noon - 10pm (Mon-Sun)

Soak up the atmosphere and take a break from the shops with some traditional snacks and drinks.



Market 11am - 8pm (Mon-Fri) & 10am - 8pm (Sat-Sun)

Christmas gifts and stocking fillers for friends and family.



Live Entertainment 12 noon - 10pm (Mon-Sun)

Enjoy performances in the entertainment marquee including live music and comedy.



More Information

Visit aberdeenchristmas.co.uk



TrinityCentre

THE TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE

Union Street Sunday 27 November, 12 noon FREE

Santa and his Cairngorm reindeer travel from the Castlegate up to the Trinity Centre. For full details visit trinityaberdeen.co.uk



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE

Union Street Sunday 27 November, 5.30pm FREE

The Lord Provost leads the colourful parade from Albyn Place, down Union Street to the Castlegate. This year's theme is Snow and Ice.



NATIVITY SCENE

St Nicholas Kirkyard, Union Street Monday 28 November, 11am unveiling

Open daily until Friday 6 January, dawn-dusk FREE

Aberdeen Churches Together will officially bless the crib and refreshments will be available after the service. The scene is an important reminder of what the festivities are all about.



CAROL CONCERTS

Duthie Park Winter Gardens Saturday 17 December, 11am & 2pm FREE

Join in singing all your favourite carols to the accompaniment of the Bon Accord Silver Band and singers. Food bank donations will be welcomed.



FRIENDS OF HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND

Hazlehead Park Cafe Sunday 18 December, 12 - 2.30pm FREE

Get in the festive spirit with Santa and his reindeers, join in with music and browse the craft stalls. See Friends of Hazlehead Park on Facebook for info.



HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS

Schoolhill Saturday 31 December, from 9.30pm, midnight fireworks FREE

Watch local bands The Lorelei and Funk Connection perform, enjoy the Christmas Village attractions and see in 2017 with an impressive fireworks display from the HMT rooftop.



KEY

CHILDREN'S RIDE	CATERING
HELTER SKELTER	MARKET
THE BOMBER	ENTERTAINMENT
MIAMI RIDE	CHRISTMAS TREE MAZE
FAMILY RIDE	ICE RINK



Subject to change

ABERDEEN WINTER FESTIVAL 2016

<p>1 ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE Union Terrace</p> <p>2 CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON Castlegate</p> <p>3 LIGHTING OF MARISCHAL COLLEGE Broad Street</p> <p>4 THE TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE Union Street</p> <p>5 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE Union Street</p>	<p>6 NATIVITY SCENE St Nicholas Kirkyard, Union Street</p> <p>7 CHRISTMAS TREE MAZE Union Terrace Gardens</p> <p>8 CAROL CONCERTS Duthie Park Winter Gardens</p> <p>9 HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS Schoolhill</p> <p>10 HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND Hazlehead Park</p>
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CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES WEBSITE

ABERDEENCHRISTMAS.CO.UK

Visit the new website for full details including prices and opening times for the Christmas Village. You will also find a full event listing for our Winter Festival along with travel information.



SHARE YOUR PICTURES

Use **#AbdnXmas** when you're having fun in Union Terrace skating, watching performances on stage or shopping in the market stalls. Show us your selfies at events around the city such as the fireworks display and Christmas Lights Switch-On Parade.

Show us photos of you finding your way around the maze using **#AbdnMaze**

Share photos of you welcoming in the New Year with **#AbdnHogmanay**

Please note that by sharing your photograph with us we may use it for future publicity purposes.



ABERDEENCITY.GOV.UK/WINTERFESTIVAL

Go online to the Aberdeen City Council website for more information about events along with listings from other city venues. There's everything you could possibly want to see this time of year, from pantomimes, shows, ballet and classical music performances to charity events such as the Boxing Day Nippy Dipper. There are also details of church services, carol singing and mass.



SHOP, STAY, PLAY AND SAVE IN ABERDEEN

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

With unique independent boutique stores, colourful markets and all the high street chains, Aberdeen city centre is the perfect destination for your Christmas shopping.

Aberdeen's main shopping areas include:

The Academy, Bon Accord & St Nicholas Centre, Rosemount area, Merchant Quarter, The Trinity Centre, Union Square and The West End



PLAY EXPLORE

Whatever brings you to Aberdeen, whether it's Christmas shopping, a city break or visiting friends or family nearby, make the most of your stay and visit the host of tourist attractions nearby, including whisky distilleries, cultural museums and art galleries. For more details and ideas for a great visit to Aberdeen go to **visitabdn.com**



STAY OVERNIGHT OR MAKE A HOLIDAY OF IT

There's never been a better time to visit and stay in Aberdeen than during the festive season. Take advantage of fantastic accommodation offers at a variety of hotels in Aberdeen City and Shire. For further details and the latest offers visit **aberdeenhoteis.org**



YOUR OFFICIAL WINTER FESTIVAL SPREE APP

Get it now and start saving thousands while you're out and about shopping, eating and playing in and around Aberdeen - 2 for 1's, free admissions, cinema tickets and lots more. Get the Spree App now at **www.spreebook.com**





TRAVELLING TO ABERDEEN



By air

Aberdeen International Airport operates flights from around the world and many key destinations in the UK and Europe.



By train or bus

To plan your journey, call 0871 200 22 33 or visit travelinescotland.com for the most up-to-date information on public transport in Scotland. The main train companies are Scotrail (scotrail.co.uk) and Virgin East Coast (virgintraineastcoast.com), and the main bus companies are Stagecoach (stagecoachbus.com) and Megabus (megabus.com).

Hop on First Aberdeen and Stagecoach services with the multi-operator scheme Grasshopper, with full details at grasshopperpass.co.uk.

Details of train Park and Ride routes and timetables are available from scotrail.co.uk. Cycle parking is also available at the railway station and park and rides.



By road

Drivers are advised to use car parks on the side of city they arrive in eg, East North Street, Bon Accord Shopping Centre if you're coming on the A90 Peterhead/Fraserburgh road or the A96 Inverness-Aberdeen road, or College Street Car Park, Union Square Shopping Centre if you're coming in from the south A90 Dundee road. Spaces in NCP car parks can be pre-booked. More details are available from www.aberdeencity.gov.uk



By Park and Ride

There are Park and Choose sites at Ellon (north of the city), Bridge of Don (in the north of the city), Woodhill House (on Westburn Road in the west of the city. Weekends only), and Kingswells (west of the city). All Park and Ride bus services travel to the city centre. Services will run through December.

Ellon

Stagecoach (stagecoachbus.com) operate regular services Monday - Sunday, with the journey taking 40 to 50 minutes.

Bridge of Don and Kingswells

First Aberdeen (firstgroup.com/Aberdeen) operate services from Bridge of Don and Kingswells Monday - Saturday, which run every 15 minutes at peak times and 30 minutes off-peak (Mon to Fri) and every 20 mins (Sat).

Stagecoach operate services from Kingswells which run up to every 12 minutes Monday - Saturday and every 20 minutes on Sunday. Stagecoach will also operate a Sunday service from Bridge of Don on 27 November, 4, 11 and 18 December.

Woodhill House

First Aberdeen services 23 and X40 and Stagecoach service X18 pass Woodhill House, and parking is available Saturday and Sunday only for the four weekends before Christmas. The bus stops on Westburn Road.

TRAVELLING AROUND ABERDEEN



By foot

Aberdeen city centre is easy to find your way around on foot, with shopping and most Winter Festival activities centred near Union Street.



By bike

There are 20 cycle parking locations across the city, with a map available from aberdeencity.gov.uk, the Tourist Information Centre on Union Street, Central Library and bike shops.

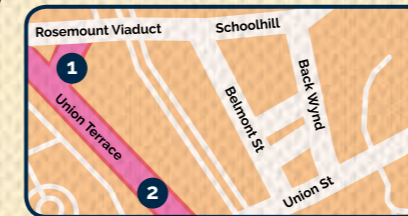


By taxi

There are taxi ranks during the day on Belmont Street, Chapel Street, Back Wynd, and the railway station. Night-time ranks are available on Union Street.



Road Closures



- 1 Slip road closed from 12 November, 5am
- 2 Closed from 18 November, 6pm



By bus

First Aberdeen operates buses to the city centre, and around Aberdeen. Exact change must be used. First also operates a Night Bus service at weekends. Stagecoach operates

buses from Aberdeenshire and various city locations.

Due to the Christmas Village, bus services utilising the bus stops on Union Terrace will be diverted. Affected services can be accessed at the following nearby locations: Skene Square (the north side just before the roundabout), Rosemount Viaduct (the south side at Skene Street) and Guild Street/Union Square Bus Station. Two further additional stops will also be provided at Wapping Street (the south side past the junction with Bridge Street) and on Denburn Road at Patagonian Court. For further information, please check with your bus operator before travelling.



Car Parking

Please park on the side of city you arrive in to try and reduce the amount of traffic crossing through the city centre. Don't forget to use Frederick Street and the part-time Marischal Street car parks.

The four disabled car park spaces on Union Terrace are to be moved and an extra two created: two on Diamond Street, two on Skene Terrace, and two on Rosemount Viaduct outside nos 41 to 45. In addition, five disabled car parking spaces created on the inset road at Schoolhill outside Robert Gordon's College are to continue for the festive season. The existing disabled bays on Back Wynd and Little Belmont Street will also be operational.





ABERDEEN WINTER FESTIVAL



ABERDEEN
CITY COUNCIL

2016



ABERDEEN
inspired
BRANDS & COMMUNITY DESIGN



ABERDEENCITY.GOV.UK/WINTERFESTIVAL

