



Find all you want to do in Scotland, in one place.



At a VisitScotland Information Centre we'll tell you about everything you want to see, everything you want to do and everything else you'll need for your visit. Our friendly experts can offer advice on all things local as well as sharing their wider knowledge of Scotland. Ask and you'll find all the hidden gems, from cultural to culinary. We don't just advise either. We can sort out your accommodation and all your travel needs, as well as tickets for events across Scotland. So if you're looking to get the most from your visit, there really is only one place to go.

 Information Centres [visitscotland.com/wheretofindus](http://visitscotland.com/wheretofindus)

# Scotland's Castle Trail

[aberdeen-grampian.com](http://aberdeen-grampian.com)



# Explore Aberdeenshire

A land of unique heritage and stunning contrasts, Aberdeen City and Shire offers everything from vibrant city life, sparkling granite architecture and a host of shops and restaurants, to romantic hideaways, relaxing breaks and a mass of outdoor opportunities.

Explore breathtaking Aberdeenshire and choose from striking castles to beautiful stately homes or enchanting stone circles. Known as 'Scotland's Natural Larder', Aberdeenshire has a fantastic reputation for fresh, mouth-watering produce. Sample our finest flavours during your stay, visiting the region's eateries, farm shops and range of outdoor farmers' markets.

With outdoor opportunities aplenty, make a splash with watersports on the beautiful coastline, on lochs or rivers; in addition to hill walking, climbing and mountain bike trails through the region's hills and forests. Golfers are spoiled for choice with over 50 courses from links to parklands, all set within stunning scenery. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely walk with friends and family through Aberdeenshire's forest trails, or along miles of sandy beach and rugged coast.

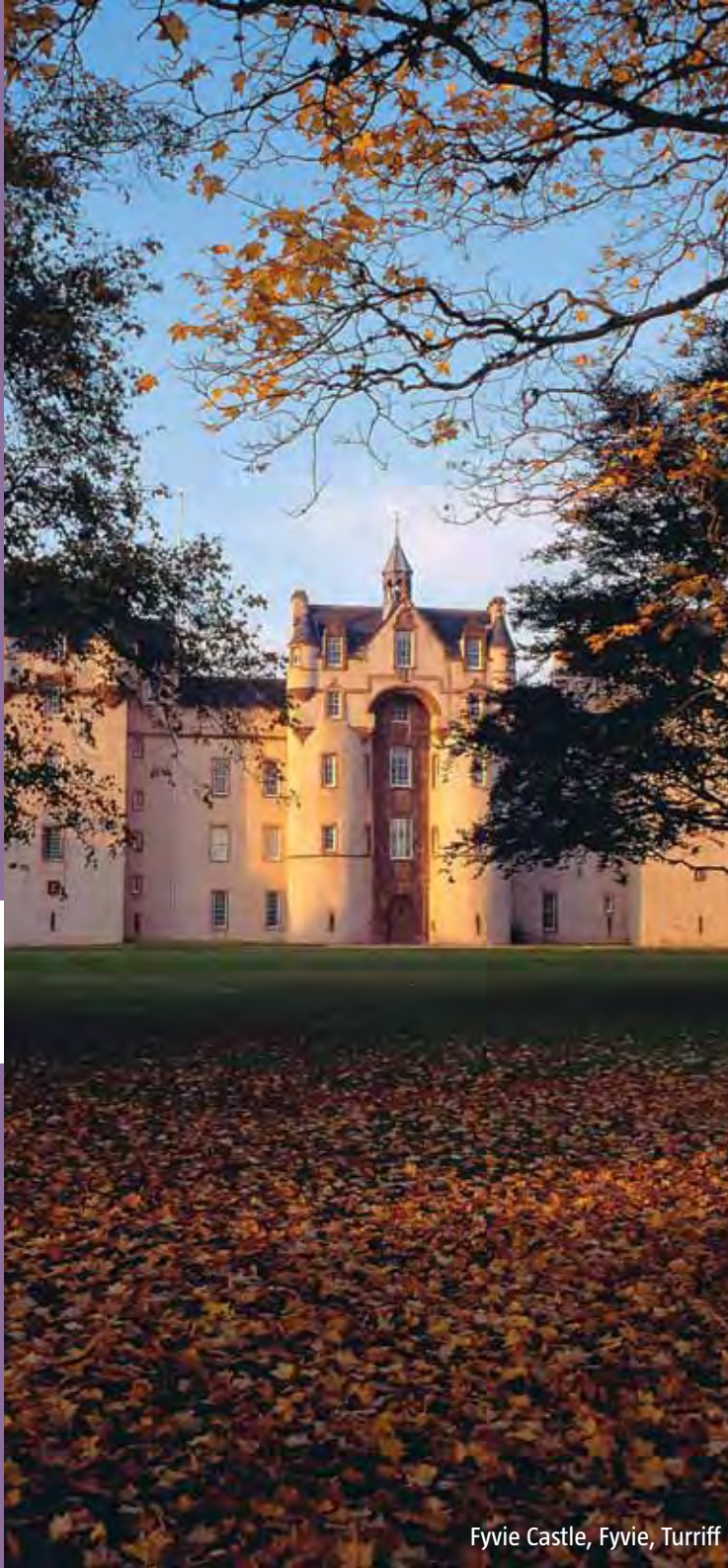


**Don't miss:** The Braemar Gathering, held annually in Braemar on the first Saturday in September - a colourful mix of traditional Highland Games. Also Braemar Castle, Seat of Clan Farquharson - see castle number 15 on the Castle Trail.



### Castle Fraser

Venture through the castle with its round tower and Great Hall then enjoy the tearoom delights.



Fyvie Castle, Fyvie, Turriff

Welcome to Aberdeenshire, the home of Scotland's only Castle Trail. The trail consists of 16 of the world's most unique castles, from the rugged splendour of Kildrummy Castle and the romantic ruins of Huntly Castle to restored family castles such as Crathes and Fyvie.

To follow the trail use this leaflet or simply follow the distinctive white on brown signs and blue castle logo which will lead you through the very heart of the region and take you on a journey through history where secret passages, haunted rooms and dungeons form the stuff of ghost stories.

When you're here make sure you make the most of your time by popping into a VisitScotland Information Centre and pick up a copy of the Aberdeen City and Shire What to See & Do guide. Our friendly information experts can also offer advice on all things local as well as sharing their wider knowledge of Scotland. They'll tell you everything you need to know to enjoy a great family day out, from local Visitor Attractions and picturesque walks to the best places to stop and recharge your batteries with a spot of lunch or light refreshments.

To help you explore this region more fully this leaflet also includes a selection of other things to see and do within close proximity to the castle trail including golf courses, distilleries and places to stay, eat and drink. Look out for the Featured Location map markers.

So go on, immerse yourself in our unique culture and breathe, encounter and enjoy the best of Scotland!



# Scotland's Castle Trail



**Balvenie Castle** The formidable stronghold of the great lords who ruled over this part of north-east Scotland.

Use the 16 numbered Castle Trail entries below to help you navigate your way round the trail.

Each castle is highlighted on the map so you can easily locate them. The map can also be used to find the featured business locations. Look out for the Featured Location white map markers.

Use the Trail and Map key to help you identify specific features within each property.

**06 Haddo House**  
★★★★ Historic House T: 0844 493 2179



This elegant mansion house boasts sumptuous Victorian interiors beneath a crisp Georgian exterior. Noted for fine furniture and paintings, Haddo also has a terraced garden and country park with lakes, walks and monuments.

Off B999, 19 miles north of Aberdeen, AB41 7EQ  
**Open:** 22 Apr - 30 Jun Fri-Mon | Jul - Aug daily  
1 Sep - 23 Oct Fri-Mon | Guided tours only | Guided tours at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm | Please call to book in advance and avoid any disappointment.  
**Entry:** Adult £9.00 | Family £22.00 | 1 Parent £16.50  
Concession £6.50 | Free to members



**07 Fyvie Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 0844 493 2182



Celebrating 800 years of history, Fyvie's charm ranges from its 13th-century origins to its opulent Edwardian interiors. View the superb collection of arms, armour and paintings, stroll around the loch or visit the racquets court and bowling alley.

Off A947, 25 miles north west of Aberdeen, AB53 8JS  
**Open:** Apr - Jun Sat-Wed 12pm-5pm | Jul - Aug daily 11.00am-5.00pm. Sep - Oct Sat-Wed 12pm-5pm | Last admission 4.15pm  
**Entry:** Adult £11.00 | Family £27.00 | 1 Parent £21.00  
Concession £8.00 | Free to members



**01 Dunnottar Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 01569 762173



One of the most magnificent and most haunting ruins in Scotland. Follow in the steps of Mary Queen of Scots, The Marquis of Montrose and William Wallace.

Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2TL  
**Open:** Apr - Oct 9.00am-6.00pm  
**Nov - Mar 2012** 10:00am - sunset

**Entry:** Adult £5.00 | Child £2.00 | Season Pass £10.00  
Family Ticket £12.00 (2 adults 2 children) | Group rate £4.00



**02 Crathes Castle, Garden and Estate**  
★★★★ Visitor Attraction T: 0844 493 2166



This 16th-century castle will provide a memorable experience with its intriguing round towers and overhanging turrets. The gardens feature great yew hedges and a colourful double herbaceous border. The wider estate offers 6 separate trails to enjoy.

On A93, 3 miles east of Banchory. AB31 5QJ  
**Open:** Apr - Oct daily 10.30am-4.45pm  
**Nov - 23 Dec** Sat/Sun 10.30am-3.45pm

**Entry:** Adult £11.00 | Family £27.00 | 1 Parent family £21.00 | Concession £8.00 | Free to members



**08 Delgatie Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 01888 563479



Best Visitor Experience award winner. Dating from 1030, the castle is steeped in Scottish history yet still has the atmosphere of a lived in home. It has some of the finest painted ceilings in Scotland. Award winning restaurant/coffee shop.

Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 5TD  
**Open:** 8 Jan - 20 Dec | daily 10.00am-5.00pm | Out of hours tours by arrangement

**Entry:** Adult £6.00 | Child and Concession £4.00  
Family ticket £16.00



**09 Duff House**  
★★★★★ Historic House T: 01261 818181



One of Scotland's finest architectural masterpieces designed by William Adam and built in the 18th century as a seat for the Earls Fife. The house now contains works on loan from The National Galleries of Scotland.

**Open:** for opening times please visit [www.duffhouse.org.uk](http://www.duffhouse.org.uk)  
**Entry:** for admission prices please visit [www.duffhouse.org.uk](http://www.duffhouse.org.uk)



National Trust for Scotland  
nts.org.uk

National Trust for Scotland  
nts.org.uk

delgatiecastle.com  
joan@delgatiecastle.com

duffhouse.org.uk

dunnottarcastle@btconnect.com  
dunnottarcastle.co.uk

National Trust for Scotland  
nts.org.uk

**03 Drum Castle, Garden and Estate**  
★★★★ Castle T: 0844 493 2161



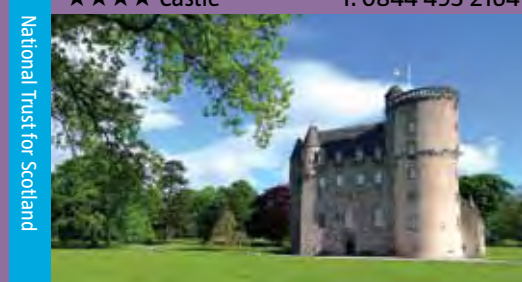
National Trust for Scotland  
nts.org.uk

The late 13th-century tower, fine adjoining Jacobean mansion house and the additions of Victorian lairds make Drum unique. Superb furniture and paintings, Garden of Historic Roses and woodland trails.

Off A93, 10 miles west of Aberdeen. AB31 5EY  
**Open:** Castle, tearoom and shop: **2 Apr - 30 Jun**, Thur-Mon 11am-4.45pm | **Jul - Aug** daily 11am-4.45pm  
**1 - 30 Sep** Thur-Mon 11am-4.50pm | Last admission 45 mins before closing. Garden of Historic Roses **2 Apr - 31 Oct** daily 11am-5pm | Grounds open all year, daily  
**Entry:** Adult £9.00 | Family £22.00 | 1 Parent £16.50  
Concession £6.50 | Free to members



**04 Castle Fraser, Garden and Estate**  
★★★★ Castle T: 0844 493 2164



National Trust for Scotland  
nts.org.uk

One of the grandest Castles of Mar, this magnificent building contains an evocative Great Hall, fine furniture and paintings. Enjoy the beautiful secluded walled garden, extensive woodland walks with fine views of the castle and children's adventure playground.

Off A944, 16 miles west of Aberdeen. AB51 7LD  
**Open:** **Apr - Jun**, Wed-Sun 12pm-5pm | **Jul - Aug**, daily 11am-5pm | **Sep - Oct**, Wed-Sun 12pm-5pm | Last admin 45 mins before closing  
**Entry:** Adult £9.00 | Family £22.00 | 1 Parent £16.50  
Concession £6.50 | Free to members



**05 Tolquhon Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 01651 851286



Historic Scotland  
historic-scotland.gov.uk

Noted for its highly ornamented gatehouse, Tolquhon is one of the most picturesque of the castles in the Grampian countryside.

**Email:** [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
15 miles north of Aberdeen on the A920, AB41 7LP  
**Open:** All year | **Oct - Mar** open weekends only  
**Entry:** Adult £4.00 | Child £2.40 | Concession £3.20



**10 Huntly Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 01466 793191



Historic Scotland  
historic-scotland.gov.uk

Huntly Castle is majestically sited where the rivers Bogie and Deveron join. Remarkable for its splendid architecture, Huntly Castle served as a baronial residence for five centuries. Many impressive features include fine heraldic sculpture and inscribed stone friezes. The earliest stronghold on the site sheltered Robert the Bruce in the 14th century.

**Email:** [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
In Huntly off the A96, AB54 4SH  
**Open:** All year | **Nov - Mar** closed Thu and Fri  
**Entry:** Adult £5.00 | Child £3.00 | Concession £4.00



**11 Spynie Palace**  
★★★★ Historic Attraction T: 01343 546358



Historic Scotland  
historic-scotland.gov.uk

Spynie Palace was the residence of the bishops of Moray for five centuries and its mighty tower house, David's Tower, was one of the largest in Scotland. The beautiful surroundings and wildlife make the palace a wonderful place to visit.

**Email:** [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
2 miles north of Elgin off the A941, IV30 5DQ  
**Open:** All year | **Oct - Mar** open weekends only  
**Entry:** Adult £4.00 | Child £2.40 | Concession £3.20



**12 Balvenie Castle**  
★★★★ Castle T: 01340 820121



Historic Scotland  
historic-scotland.gov.uk

Balvenie Castle is one the oldest stone castles in Scotland and has a striking curtain wall. Originally the seat of the powerful Comyn Earls of Buchan it later became the home of John Stewart, Earl of Atholl. The Stewarts changed the formidable medieval stronghold into a pleasing Renaissance residence.

**Email:** [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)  
At Dufftown off the A941, AB55 4DH  
**Open:** Summer only  
**Entry:** Adult £4.00 | Child £2.40 | Concession £3.20



the National Trust  
for Scotland  
a place for everyone

The National Trust for Scotland  
is one of Scotland's leading  
conservation charities, with over  
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[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

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[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

HISTORIC  
SCOTLAND



ALBA  
AOSMHOR

### 13 Kildrummy Castle

★★★★ Castle

T: 01975 571331

Historic Scotland

historic-scotland.gov.uk



The great castle of Kildrummy was the stronghold of the earls of Mar and it dominated the landscape around Strathdon. Although ruined, it remains a good example of a 13th-century castle with many fine features including its hall and chapel.

Email: [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

10 miles south west of Alford on the A97, AB33 8RA

Open: Summer only

Entry: Adult £4.00 | Child £2.40 | Concession £3.20



### 14 Corgarff Castle

★★★★ Castle

T: 01975 651460

Historic Scotland

historic-scotland.gov.uk



In a striking moorland setting, Corgarff's medieval tower house, built in the mid-16th century, is surrounded by a distinctive 18th-century star shaped perimeter wall. See the reconstructed barrack rooms and feel the atmosphere of barrack life at the castle in 1750, when redcoats from Pulteney's 13th Foot were stationed here.

Email: [hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

8 miles west of Strathdon on the A939, AB36 8YP

Open: All year | Oct - Mar open weekends only

Entry: Adult £5.00 | Child £3.00 | Concession £4.00



### 15 Braemar Castle

T: 01339 741219

[info@braemarcastle.co.uk](mailto:info@braemarcastle.co.uk)

[braemarcastle.co.uk](http://braemarcastle.co.uk)



Fairytale castle built by the Earl of Mar in 1628, garrison for Hanoverian troops after Culloden, home to the Chiefs of Clan Farquharson. Scotland's only community run castle. 12 furnished rooms. Guided tours, Tales of Jacobites, Farquharsons and ghosts.

Braemar, AB35 5XR

Open: 2 Apr - 30 Oct Sat-Sun | Jul-Aug Wed, Sat-Sun 11.00am-4.00 pm | Last admission 3:45pm

Entry: Adult £6.00 | Concessions £5.00 | Child £3.00 | Family ticket £12.00



### 16 Craigievar Castle

★★★ Castle

T: 0844 493 2174

National Trust for Scotland

[nts.org.uk](http://nts.org.uk)



This fairytale castle, a fine example of Scottish baronial architecture, seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. The great tower stands just as it did when completed in 1626. Visitors can also enjoy the grounds and waymarked trails.

On A980, 6 miles south of Alford. AB33 8JF

Open: 22 Apr - 25 Apr Fri-Mon 11am-5pm | 2 May - 30 Jun Fri-Tues 11am-5pm | Jul - Aug daily 11am-5pm | 1 - 30 Sep Fri-Tues 11am-5pm | Guided tours only | Last admission 45 mins before closing

Entry: Adult £11.00 | Family £26.00 | 1 Parent £21.00 Concession £8.00 | Free to members



# Find all you want to do in Aberdeen and Grampian, in one place.



Make the most of your stay in Castle Trail country by popping into one the Information Centres listed below to pick up a What to See & Do guide. To check opening hours click on [visitscotland.com/wheretofindus](http://visitscotland.com/wheretofindus)

- Aberdeen** 23 Union St, Aberdeen, AB11 5BP - 01224 288828
- Alford** Old Station Yard, Alford, AB33 8FD - 01975 562052
- Ballater** Old Royal Station, Ballater, AB35 5RB - 01339 755306
- Banchory** Bridge Street, Banchory, AB31 5SX - 01330 822000
- Banff** Collie Lodge, Banff, AB45 1AU - 01261 812419
- Braemar** The Mews, Mar Road, Braemar, AB35 5YL - 01339 741600
- Fraserburgh** 3 Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh, AB43 9DA - 01346 518315
- Huntly** 9A The Square, Huntly, AB54 8BR - 01466 792255
- Inverurie** 18 High Street, Inverurie, AB51 3XQ - 01467 625800
- Stonehaven** 66 Allardice Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2AA - 01569 762806

## aberdeen-grampian.com

### Trail and Map Key

- Historic furniture
- Garden
- Events
- Ranger service
- Picnic area
- Tearoom
- Art collection
- Walks around the property
- Guided tours
- Shop/Plant sales
- Parking
- Restaurant

Businesses that try to work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold

The following symbols will help visitors with physical disabilities to decide whether the property is suitable:

- Unassisted wheelchair access
- Assisted wheelchair access
- Access for visitors with mobility difficulties

- VisitScotland Information Centres open all year
- VisitScotland Information Centres - open seasonally
- Information Point in Partnership with VisitScotland
- Castle Trail Destination
- Featured Location
- The Castle Trail
- Primary Route
- A Road
- Secondary B Road
- Airport
- National Trust for Scotland Property
- Historic Scotland Property
- Privately Run Property



Lossiemouth

Elgin

Forres

Granttown-on-Spey

Keith

Huntly

Braemar

Ballater

Banff

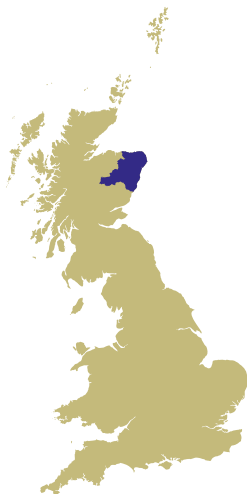
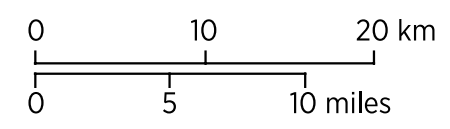
Inverurie

Stonehaven

Peterhead

Fraserburgh

Aberdeen



# Other Castles and Gardens in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is known as Scotland's Castle Country and rightly so, with some 350 castles and a myriad of gardens to choose from. In fact many of Scotland's best gardens are to be found keeping one another company in this part of the world.

In addition to the Castle Trail you'll find other delightful castles and gardens. Brighten your life with stunning gardens like Ballindalloch and Leith Hall. The National Trust for Scotland's Pitmedden Garden is a 'must see' with its beautifully arranged formal garden that includes around 40,000 colourful bedding plants and woodland walks, herb and wildlife gardens.

Balmoral Castle by Ballater is well known as the Royal family's favourite summer retreat. Dunnottar Castle by Stonehaven is one of the most magnificent and haunting ruins in Scotland and Braemar Castle, now run by the community of Braemar, has 12 fully furnished rooms on show.



**The Braemar Gathering** Held annually in September at Braemar.



**Pitmedden Gardens**

## A Balmoral Castle

★★★★★ Visitor Attraction T: 013397 42534



Balmoral Castle, Scottish home to the royal family – gardens, grounds, castle ballroom and exhibitions. Coffee and gift shop.

Balmoral Estate, Ballater AB35 5TB  
[info@balmoralcastle.com](mailto:info@balmoralcastle.com)  
[balmoralcastle.com](http://balmoralcastle.com)

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**Open:** Apr - Jul | 7 days a week year

**Entry:** Adult £8.70 | Child (5-16 years) £4.60 | Seniors/Students £7.70 | Family (2 adults and up to 4 children) £23.00

## G Grampian Transport Museum

★★★★ Museum T: 01975 562292



Dramatic displays, exhibits and video presentations trace the history of travel and transport in the locality. Exhibitions and vehicles change every season. Lots to see and do including outdoor events and activities. Picnic and children's play area, free car parking, gift shop, tea room (check website for opening hours).

Alford, Aberdeenshire AB33 8AE  
[info@gtm.org.uk](mailto:info@gtm.org.uk) | [gtm.org.uk](http://gtm.org.uk)

♿️

**Open:** 1 Apr - 30 Sep 10.00am-5.00pm | 1-23 Oct 10.00am-5.00pm

**Entry:** Adults £6.00 | Senior Citizen £5.00 | Child £3.00 Family £15.00

## B Castle Hotel

★★★★ Country House Hotel  
 T: 01466 792696 F: 01466 792641



It takes a special kind of passion to seek out the rare, beautiful and extraordinary, from the moment you step inside you will sense you have arrived at a very special place. The Castle Hotel combines country elegance with genuine warmth. Welcome!

Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4SH  
[info@castlehotel.uk.com](mailto:info@castlehotel.uk.com)  
[castlehotel.uk.com](http://castlehotel.uk.com)

**Open:** All Year

## H Inchmarlo Resort & Golf Centre

★★★★ Self Catering T: 01330 826424



Luxury 2 or 3 bedroom accommodation in the Heart of Royal Deeside 30 minutes from Aberdeen City Centre & airport. Accommodates up to 6 people sharing. Ideally positioned to explore many visitor attractions. Enjoy a round of golf on our 18 or 9 hole courses. Excellent restaurant open to the public.

Glassel Road, Banchory, Royal Deeside AB31 4BQ  
[reception@inchmarlo.com](mailto:reception@inchmarlo.com)  
[inchmarlo.com](http://inchmarlo.com)

**Open:** All year

**C Castle Tours**  
T/M: 07525 865348




Castle and Whisky sightseeing tours depart 10:30am, Mon-Wed from the Maritime Museum, Shiprow, Aberdeen. Small, friendly and fun. Full day tours £45.00 per person. See website for more tour information.

Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4SH  
info@castle-tours.co.uk  
castle-tours.co.uk

**I The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses**  
★★★★ Visitor Attraction T: 01346 511022



Kinnaird Head is the only lighthouse to be built on top of a castle! Formerly the home of the Frasers, the castle was modified to become the first manned lighthouse in 1787. Join our guided tour right to the top.

Kinnaird Head, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, AB43 9DU  
info@lighthousemuseum.org.uk 

**Open:** Apr - Nov Mon-Sat 10.00am-5.00pm, Sun 12.00pm-5.00pm | Nov - Mar Mon-Sat 10.00am-4.00pm, Sun 12.00pm-4.00pm  
**Entry:** (if applicable) Adults £5.00 | concessions £4.00 child £2.00 | Family and group rates available

**D Delgatie Castle Trust**  
★★★ Self Catering T: 01888 563479



Holidays are about getting away to where you can forget the pressures of everyday living – about unwinding in fresh surroundings. Here in the peace and tranquillity of Delgatie Estate you will have your own country hideaway, with the forest on your doorstep.

Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 5TD  
joan@delgatiecastle.com  
delgatiecastle.com

**Open:** All year

**J Royal Lochnagar Distillery**  
★★★★★ Visitor Attraction T: 013397 42700



Close to the Royal Family's Highland Home of Balmoral Castle is Royal Lochnagar Distillery. It is a small distillery which is a whisky lovers dream. Its production methods are very traditional which lends itself to a special and intimate tour.

Crathie, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, AB33 5TB  
Royal.Lochnagar.Distillery@diageo.com  
discovering-distilleries.com/royallochnagar/

**Open:** Apr - Oct Mon-Sat 10.00am-5.00pm | Tours on the hour until 4pm | Nov - Mar Mon-Sat 10.00am-4.00pm | Tours 11.00am, 12.30pm, 2.00pm, 3.00pm  
**Entry:** (if applicable) | £6.00 individual | £12.00 family of Whiskies Tasting Tour

**E The GlenDronach Distillery**  
★★★★★ Visitor Attraction T: 01466 730202



Visit one of Scotland's oldest working distilleries. Guided tours, visitor centre & gift shop. Free dram with every tour!

Forgue by Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 6DB  
info@glendronachdistillery.co.uk  
glendronachdistillery.co.uk

**Open:** Nov - Mar 5 days a week | Apr - Oct 7 days a week  
guided tours 10.00am-4.30pm, last tour 3.00pm  
**Entry:** £3.00

**K The Ship Inn**  
★★★ Inn T: 01569 762617



The Ship Inn (est 1771), situated on the edge of Stonehaven's picturesque and historic harbour, is an ideal base to explore the Grampian region and Royal Deeside. Aberdeen – the Oil Capital of Europe – is only a 20 minute drive away.

5 Shorehead, Stonehaven AB39 2JY  
enquiries@shipinnstonehaven.com  
www.shipinnstonehaven.com

**Open:** All year | Bed and Breakfast from £47.50 per person per night | Meals served 12:00pm-2:15pm and 5:30pm-9:00pm weekdays | 12.00pm-9:00pm weekends

**F Gordon Arms Hotel and Highlander Bunkhouse**  
★ Small Hotel T: 01466 792288



Comfortable, friendly and well used by locals and visitors. Under personal supervision of the resident proprietors David and Jennifer Sherriffs. Four star Highlander Bunkhouse now open – www.highlanderbunkhouse.com or phone for details.

The Square, Huntly AB54 8AF  
reception@gordonarms.demon.co.uk  
or info@highlanderbunkhouse.com  
www.gordonarms.demon.co.uk

**Open:** All year

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