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.

VisitScotland™ Information Centres visitscotland.com/wheretofindus
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.

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

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.

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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

03 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

04 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

05 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 £15.00 | Child and Concession £14.00
Family ticket £16.00

06 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.

For opening times please visit www.duffhouse.org.uk

Entry: for admission prices please visit www.duffhouse.org.uk
**Castle Fraser, Garden and Estate**

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.

**Drum Castle, Garden and Estate**

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.

**Tolquhon Castle**

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

**Huntly Castle**

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.

**Spynie Palace**

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.

**Balvenie Castle**

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.

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**The National Trust for Scotland**

One of Scotland’s leading conservation charities, with over 100 fascinating sites in its care.

Admission is free for members with a family membership from just £5.25 per month – ask about the benefits when you visit.

www.nts.org.uk
### Kildrummy Castle

- **Rating:** 4 stars
- **Type:** Castle
- **Address:** 6 Allardice Street, Stonehaven, AB39 2AA - 01569 762806
- **Email:** hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- **Open:** Summer only
- **Entry:** Adult £4.00 | Child £2.40 | Concession £3.20

**Description:**

Kildrummy Castle is a 13th-century castle with many fine features. It 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.

**Historic Scotland Property**

### Corgarff Castle

- **Rating:** 4 stars
- **Type:** Castle
- **Address:** The Square, Huntly, AB54 8BR - 01466 792255
- **Email:** hs.explorer@scotland.gsi.gov.uk
- **Open:** All year | Oct - Mar open weekends only
- **Entry:** Adult £5.00 | Child £3.00 | Concession £4.00

**Description:**

Corgarff Castle is a distinctive 18th-century star shaped perimeter wall. In a striking moorland setting, Corgarff’s medieval tower house, built in the mid-16th century, is surrounded by a mediæval moat. Visitors can also enjoy the grounds and waymarked trails.

**Historic Scotland Property**

### Braemar Castle

- **Rating:** 4 stars
- **Type:** Castle
- **Address:** 14 High Street, Inverurie, AB51 3XQ - 01467 625800
- **Email:** info@braemarcastle.co.uk
- **Open:** 2 May - 30 Jun Fri-Mon 11am-5pm | Guided tours only | Last admission 45 mins before closing
- **Entry:** Adult £6.00 | Concessions £5.00 | Child £3.00 | Family ticket £12.00

**Description:**

Braemar Castle is a 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.

**National Trust for Scotland Property**

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**Information Points:**

- **VisitScotland Information Centres visitscotland.com/wheretofindus**
- **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**

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**Aberdeen and Grampian, in one place.**

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

- **Aberdeen** 23 Union St, Aberdeen, AB11 5BP - 01224 288828
- **Alford** Old Station Yard, Alford, AB33 8FD - 01975 562052
- **Ballater** Old Royal Station, Ballater, AB35 5BR - 01339 755060
- **Banchory** Bridge Street, Banchory, AB31 5XS - 01330 822000
- **Banff** Collie Lodge, Banff, AB45 1AU - 01261 812419
- **Braemar** The Mews, Braemar 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, AB59 2AA - 01569 762806

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**VisitScotland** Information Centres visitscotland.com/wheretofindus
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.

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
balmoralcastle.com

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

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
castlehotel.uk.com

Open: All Year
Entry:
Adult £6.00 | Senior Citizen £5.00 | Child £3.00
Family £15.00

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 | 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

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

Open: All year
Entry:
Adult £6.00 | Senior Citizen £5.00 | Child £3.00
Family £15.00

© gold

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The Braemar Gathering Held annually in September at Braemar.
Entry:

(if applicable) Adults £5.00 | concessions £4.00
child £2.00  | Family and group rates available

Sun 12.00pm-4.00pm
Mon-Sat 10.00am-5.00pm, Sun
Apr - Nov

Open:

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

Delgatie Castle Trust

★★★ Self Catering  T: 01888 563479

When you are staying at Delgatie you can get your

Guided tours, visitor centre & gift shop.  Free dram
every tour!

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

Delgatie was acquired by the Delgatie Trust in the 1980s
and is now maintained as a derelict, historical property
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