



Old Aberdeen



Peterhead Prison Museum



Mackie's 19.2



Dunnottar Castle



Braemar Highland Games Centre



Royal Lochnagar Distillery

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## ► Day 1: Stonehaven & Aberdeen

## ITINERARY

Explore the picturesque coastal town of Stonehaven. Then travel only 20 minutes to the city of Aberdeen.

### i Dunnottar Castle

[Dunnottar Castle](#) is a dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress that was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland. The Scottish crown jewels were famously hid here.



### i Stonehaven Harbour & Stonehaven Sea Safari

A visitor attraction in its own right, [Stonehaven](#) is an idyllic spot with its own sandy seafront and [picture perfect harbour](#). Get adventurous with a trip on the new [Stonehaven Sea Safari](#) on the Aberdeenshire coastline.



### i Lunch at The Bay Fish & Chips

In August 2018, [The Bay Fish & Chips](#) was ranked as one of the world's best food experiences by Lonely Planet. The Bay was ranked 31st - making it the top UK entry and Lonely Planet's top Fish and Chip shop in the world.



### i Aberdeen Beach & Footdee\*

Take a leisurely stroll along the beautiful stretch of [Aberdeen Beach](#). Aberdeen Beach can be found only a short walk from Aberdeen city centre.

[Footdee](#) - known locally as Fittie - is a quirky fishing quarter at the end of Aberdeen's mile long beach with squares of tiny cottages, flower-filled gardens and brightly painted outhouses, their eccentric decorations drawing on the city's seafaring soul.

\* This is still a residential area, please respect the privacy of residents during your visit.



### i Old Aberdeen

Make your way to [Old Aberdeen](#) - one of Aberdeen's historic hidden gems. Step back in time as you visit the [Brig O'Balgownie](#), [Seaton Park](#), [St Machar's Cathedral](#) and the characteristic Chanory.



## i Nuart Aberdeen & Painted Doors

Take the [Nuart Aberdeen](#) and [Painted Doors](#) tour in Aberdeen - a street art paradise. While the contrast of old and new continues to attract top artists from around the world, eager to display their work in a setting unlike any other. Since Nuart started in 2017 over 30 international street artists have decorated the city.



## i Evening meal at Moonfish

[Moonfish Cafe](#) is located on the Medieval streets of Aberdeen's Merchant quarter with views of the 12th century Kirk of St Nicholas. Head chef and owner Brian McLeish is a former runner up in the BBC cooking show MasterChef the Professionals. Enjoy a constantly evolving innovative menu of modern British cuisine in a relaxed setting.



## i Mackie's 19.2

Located 19.2 miles from the family farm where they started making the famous ice cream 30 years ago, [Mackie's 19.2](#) is Mackie's of Scotland's first ice cream parlour.



## i Poised & Marischal College

Whilst enjoying your ice cream admire Andy Scott's, [Poised](#) statue directly outside the parlour. After, head outside to see [Marischal College](#) - the second largest granite building in the world.



## i Orchid

With a passion for creating better drinks, Porter's Gin was created in the basement of [Orchid Bar](#) in Aberdeen. The bar, also winner of Scotland's Best Cocktail Bar 2017, is now home to one of the UK's most innovative micro-distilleries. Whilst visiting the bar, sample Porter's for yourself - a classic, dry style of gin elevated by cold distilled botanicals.





Spend day two exploring 165 miles of outstanding coastline including vast beaches, quirky fishing villages, famous castles, and of course trying some famous local produce.

### i Seals at Newburgh Beach

Just 20 minutes north of Aberdeen find yourself at a vast sandy beach. [Newburgh Beach](#) is home to an extensive sand dune system at the mouth of the Ythan River and even a 400 strong colony of seals.



### i DogWalk Brewery Tour

Aberdeenshire is home of BrewDog - where the global craft beer producer's story started. The [DogWalk brewery tour](#) not only takes in the original brew-house but also includes the epic new expanded site three brew-house, Lone Wolf Distillery.



### i Lunch at The Kilmarnock Arms Hotel

In the heart of Cruden Bay, steeped in history lies the Kilmarnock Arms Hotel. In the late 1800's this small but perfectly formed 19 bedroom hotel was a vacation spot for Bram Stoker while he wrote Dracula (1897). You can even see the guestbook with Stoker's signature.



### i Slains Castle

On the coast of [Cruden Bay](#) lies the remains of [Slains Castle](#). The castle is famous for many reasons, partly because it was a place where celebrities were entertained on numerous occasions in the 19th century, most notable being Bram Stoker. It is believed that the castle was the inspiration for the setting of his novel, Dracula (1897).



### i Peterhead Prison Museum

The former Victorian [H.M. Convict Prison in Peterhead](#) is unique in scale, has the first state owned railway in the UK and part of its history saw the only time the SAS were used to end a domestic siege in Britain.

The museum highlights the work of the brave personnel that served here since it opened in 1888 to 2013, see what real prison life was like on a guided tour with a specialist guide.



### i Gardenstown

Rather like seabirds which have adapted to living in the nooks and crannies of cliffs, buildings in [Gardenstown](#) also cling to steep slopes as the village has grown vertically towards the sea's edge. The first houses in Gardenstown were constructed at sea level next to the harbour and over the centuries subsequent development has taken place in tiers above. The houses right at the top of the cliff provide an incredible vista of the stunning bay.



### i Pennan

It's not a stunning piece of Georgian architecture or a centuries-old fishing cottage that can lay claim to being [Pennan](#)'s most famous building. That title goes to a less conventional structure – a traditional red telephone box. The payphone was granted listed building status and Pennan was catapulted into the spotlight after it was used as the backdrop to Bill Forsyth's cult movie, Local Hero. Everyone who comes to visit makes a call from the iconic phone box where oil executive Mac would connect to his Texas HQ, and drop his coins in when he heard the pipes!



### i Evening meal at Eat on the Green

Stylish fine-dining restaurant in a former post office, offering refined modern Scottish cuisine. Craig Wilson, known as the 'kilted chef', opened [Eat on the Green](#) in 2004, transforming what was once a small village pub, in the quaint village of Udney Green, into a high quality fine-dining restaurant. Since then, Eat on the Green has become known as one of the best restaurants in Aberdeenshire, securing numerous accolades and welcoming celebrities and high profile dignitaries. Here you can also try a selection of over 50 local and global gins within the surroundings of a beautiful shabby chic floral paradise in the restaurant's luxurious Gin Garden.





## ▶ Day 3: Royal Deeside & the Cairngorms National Park

## ITINERARY

The Cairngorms National Park is where countryside and nature come together. Here, find impressive and untouched Scottish beauty. It's a matter of record that Queen Victoria fell deeply in love with what would become known as Royal Deeside (and the place where the current Queen is said to be her happiest): "All seemed to breathe freedom and peace ..." she wrote. It's a sentiment that echoes through the years and still rings true today.

### i Loch Muick and Lochnagar

[Loch Muick](#) is a beautiful freshwater loch roughly 8km south of Braemar. Keep your eyes peeled as you will frequently spot red deer and other wildlife roaming across the hills.

On the western side of the loch you will find Glas-allt Shiel - a hunting lodge built for Queen Victoria in 1868.

[Lochnagar](#), one of Scotland's most celebrated munros can be accessed by Loch Muick. From the summit you can take in breath-taking views over the mountain ridges and lochs, and if you do scale the mountain, during the ascent enjoy panoramic views of Royal Deeside. You might recognise the name of this mountain as it starred in Prince Charles' popular novel, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*.

Loch Muick walk time: 3 - 3.5 hours

Lochnagar walk time: 6 - 7 hours



### i Balmoral Castle

The British Royal Family has been visiting Aberdeenshire for over 100 years as their summer holiday destination of choice. [Balmoral Castle](#) is open to the public (except when the Royal Family are in residence) to explore important parts of the majestic castle as well as the great estate.



### i Lunch at The Rothesay Rooms

Could you imagine having dinner at HRH Prince Charles's house? [Well this is as close as it gets.](#) Royal Deeside is a place that remains close to Prince Charles's heart, and in 2015 when storms damaged Ballater, a local village located just six miles from Balmoral Castle, the Prince wanted to support the local community and opened a new restaurant and luxury gift shop to help rejuvenate the area. The result is a restaurant which in just a few years has been recognised as the North-east of Scotland Restaurant of the Year, and gained entry into the Michelin Guide.



## ► Day 3: Royal Deeside & the Cairngorms National Park (cont'd)

## ITINERARY

### i Royal Lochnagar Distillery

Neighbour to Balmoral Castle, [Royal Lochnagar Distillery](#)'s previous canny owner, John Begg invited Prince Albert to visit the distillery in 1848. Queen Victoria, Albert and their three eldest children visited and following the visit bestowed a 'By Royal Appointment' warrant. It remains one of the finest distilleries in Aberdeenshire. Watch as the team of operators tend to the traditional mashtun, gleaming copper stills and fill casks.



### i Braemar Highland Games Centre

The [Braemar Highland Games Centre](#) explores a living tradition, the Highland Games, focusing on the world-famous Braemar Gathering and it's long-standing royal connections. Housed in The Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion, it was unveiled by HM The Queen in September 2018 and opened to the public on 15 March 2019.

The building is named in honour of HRH The Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, a keen supporter of the project through his charity, The Prince's Foundation.



### i Evening meal at The Fife Arms

Described as "Scotland's Hottest Hotel" by The Financial times, [The Fife Arms](#) is complete with 46 bedrooms, spa, cocktail bar, restaurant, library and cinema along with impressive paintings, sculptures and murals from high-profile contemporary artists including a piece by Picasso and a painting by the Queen Mother herself.

You'll be met with a showcase of traditional Scottish dishes which features ingredients sourced from suppliers, gamekeepers and farmers local to the area.



For more information about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to [visitABDN.com](https://www.visitABDN.com)