



CHRISTMAS

IN ABERDEEN

2017



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

Aberdeen will twinkle and sparkle for the 2017 festive season with Christmas in Aberdeen. Events and activities for all the family to enjoy with the exciting addition of the brand new Christmas Village on Broad Street.

ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Broad Street Friday 17 November - Sunday 31 December

In partnership with Aberdeen Inspired and delivered by Codona's Amusement Park, we are thrilled to bring the Aberdeen Christmas Village to Aberdeen's brand new civic space. There will be something for ALL the family including a spectacular ice rink and a wonderful festive fairground!



Open Air Ice Rink

Monday - Friday, 12pm - 10pm
(School holidays, 11am - 10pm)
Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 10pm

Boasting the beautiful backdrop of Marischal College, this family favourite is returning bigger and better! Skate on real ice under twinkling fairy lights while your family and friends keep warm and enjoy the refreshments on offer within the Village.



Community Events

This year's Christmas in Aberdeen community events will focus on schools and other creative groups including bands performing a wide-ranging programme of Christmas songs, Nativity plays, and music along with some dance and drama added to the wonderful seasonal mix. The full Community Entertainment Programme can be found at aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas17



Festive Fairground Rides

Monday - Friday, 12pm - 10pm
(School holidays, 11am - 10pm)
Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 10pm

With the addition of a traditional carousel and the return of the hugely popular helter-skelter, children will be kept busy! Thrill seekers will welcome the return of 'The Blizzard'.



Relaxed Skating Session

Friday 29 December, 10am - 11am

This will take place at the Aberdeen Christmas Village on Broad Street. Low music and no strobes aims to make this hour as inclusive as possible. For further information call **01224 595910** or email: phionna@metoomagazine.org



Refreshments

Monday - Friday, 12pm - 10pm
(School holidays, 11am - 10pm)
Saturday and Sunday, 10am - 10pm

Soak up the festive atmosphere and enjoy some traditional drinks and snacks.



Aberdeen Christmas Village is brought to you by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Inspired.

aberdeencity.gov.uk
aberdeeninspired.com



COMMUNITY MARKET

Marischal College

Friday 17 - Sunday 19 November

Young people and new business ventures will gather together in a Community Market, situated in Marischal College Marquee. Come along to kick-start your Christmas gift buying, in a relaxed, festive atmosphere whilst supporting the growth of local enterprise!



FINE CHRISTMAS FOOD AND DRINK MARKET

Marischal College

Thursday 23 November, 6pm - 9pm

Friday 24, Saturday 25 November, 10am - 6pm

Sunday 26 November, 12pm - 8.30pm

Let us tell you the story of our region by celebrating local producers at FINE Christmas Food and Drink market this November. During FINE you can choose from a selection of delicious artisan products and treat yourself or your loved ones to something tasty and unique this Christmas.

Positioned in the scenic quadrangle of Marischal College, this year's market will feature a diverse collection of exciting and innovative producers showcasing the very best Aberdeen and the North East has to offer; from organic growers to distillers, farm shops and craft bakers, specialist tea and coffee merchants, bespoke luxury confectioners, chutneys, seasonal pickles, sauces and oils....
Something 'FINE' to suit all tastes and get you into the festive spirit this Christmas.



HAAN CHRISTMAS DESIGN MARKET

Marischal College

Thursday 7 December, 6pm - 9pm

Friday 8, Saturday 9, Sunday 10 December, 10am - 6pm

Thursday 14 December, 6pm - 9pm

Friday 15, Saturday 16, Sunday 17 December, 10am - 6pm

Thursday 21 December, 6pm - 9pm

Friday 22, Saturday 23 December, 10am - 6pm

HAAN Christmas Design Market is a new, high quality showcase of creative products from local, national and international designers and makers. A local word for 'hand', HAAN celebrates the best crafted and handmade treats from the region.

Come along for a festive journey to discover the wide range of top-quality creative products. Over 50 talented and highly skilled designers and makers will be in the scenic Marischal Quad offering you their wares this Christmas. Choose from a carefully curated selection of jewellery, ceramics, textiles, illustration, apparel, homeware and lifestyle products.

When you need to take a break from browsing, we've made sure you can refresh and refuel in FINE, our pop-up cafe courtesy of some of the best of Aberdeen's independent coffee shops.

A further programme of events for professional designers and makers will take place at the Anatomy Rooms behind Marischal Quad. If you would like to hear inspirational industry professionals talk about their work, or are interested in mentorship and advice on how to grow and develop your creative business then join us in the 'HAAN Makers Lounge' for a series of evening lectures and sign up for one to one professional development sessions. For details email: info@wearesmart.co.uk

DIY Crafts

This year you will also have the chance to try your hand at making some super cool Christmas decorations, a funky set of Christmas cards, and an alternative upcycled Christmas gift! Inspiring local designers will guide you through the process at family friendly workshops for the Creatively Christmassy.

HAAN & FINE are brought to you by **SMART** art agency with support from Creative Scotland.

CHRISTMAS GERMAN MARKET (JÄGER HAUS)

Union Square Saturday 9 November - Thursday 4 January 2018
11am - 10pm (food served 11am - 9pm)

BELMONT STREET MARKET

Saturday 25 November and Saturday's 2, 9, 16, 23 December, 9am - 3pm

ETSY MADE LOCAL - ABERDEEN

Foyer Restaurant and Gallery Friday 1 - Sunday 3 December, 11am - 4.30pm

THISTLE STREET MARKET

Saturday 9 December, 10am - 3pm



LOTTERY FUNDED



CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON

Castlegate - Thursday 23 November, 7pm - FREE

Our twin town of Stavanger in Norway has once again kindly donated a magnificent Christmas tree. A 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 will light up the beautiful spruce. Musical entertainment will be provided by Big Noise, Torry.



TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE

Union Street - Sunday 26 November, 12noon - FREE

Santa and his Cairngorm Reindeer will be in town offering an afternoon full of Christmas magic plus a host of special festive guests will be taking part in the parade. The fun starts at the Castlegate and travels along to The Trinity Centre followed by festive choirs, balloon modelling, Santa freebies and lots more in the centre.
#TrinitySantaParade



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE / DENIS LAW FREEDOM OF THE CITY

Union Street - Sunday 26 November, 5.30pm - FREE

Football legend Denis Law will be awarded the Freedom of Aberdeen, celebrated in a colourful parade from Albyn Place down to Union Street to the Castlegate. Denis will travel in an open top car to the Town House, in a parade led by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, as part of Aberdeen's Christmas lights switch-on.



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WOODEN SCULPTURES TRAIL

Friday 1 - Sunday 24 December - FREE

Twelve unique and striking totem pole sculptures will be located across the city centre. Created by local chainsaw wood carver Gary Shand, the carvings depict the popular carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. This is sure to be a popular challenge for all ages, join the fun by using the hashtag **#aberdeenchristmas2017** and share your pictures from the trail.



NATIVITY SCENE

St Nicholas Kirkyard - Monday 4 December, 11am unveiling
Open daily until Friday 5 January 2018, dawn - dusk - FREE

An important reminder of what this time of year is all about. Aberdeen Churches Together will officially bless the crib and refreshments will be available after the event.



CAROL CONCERTS

David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park - Saturday 16 December
11am and 2pm - FREE

Join in singing your favourite carols to the accompaniment of the Bon Accord Silver Band and singers. Food bank donations are also being accepted in aid of CFINE - a social enterprise charity committed to improving health and wellbeing for all. For more details visit cfine.org



FRIENDS OF HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND

Hazlehead Park - Sunday 17 December, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - FREE

Get in the festive spirit with Santa and his reindeer; join in with music and browse the craft stalls. Entertainment will be provided by Rock Choir, Hazlehead School Choir, Cairngorm Reindeers and Bon Accord Silver Band.

This event is free to attend but donations to Friends of Hazlehead are welcome.



HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS

Schoolhill - Sunday 31 December, from 8.45pm
Fireworks at midnight - FREE

Bring in the bells at our open air stage on Schoolhill for the ultimate Aberdeen street party. With live music from the Mersey Beatles and Banjo Lounge Four, before the spectacular fireworks display from His Majesty's Theatre rooftop at midnight - you don't want to miss the best party in town!

ABERDEEN CITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- A** ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE
Broad Street
- B** CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON
Castlegate
- C** THE TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE
Union Street
- D** CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE
Union Street

- E** NATIVITY SCENE
St Nicholas Kirkyard, Union Street
- F** CAROL CONCERTS
Duthie Park Winter Gardens
- G** HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS
Schoolhill
- H** HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND
Hazlehead Park



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12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WOODEN SCULPTURE TRAIL

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE
Castlegate | 5 FIVE GOLD RINGS
St Nicholas Street | 9 NINE LADIES DANCING
George Street |
| 2 TWO TURTLE DOVES
Aberdeen Arts Centre | 6 SIX GEESE A LAYING
Bon Accord Centre | 10 TEN LORDS A LEAPING
Schoolhill |
| 3 THREE FRENCH HENS
St Nicholas Kirkyard | 7 SEVEN SWANS A SWIMMING
Rosemount Viaduct | 11 ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING
Union Square |
| 4 FOUR CALLING BIRDS
Broad Street | 8 EIGHT MAIDS A MILKING
Rose Street | 12 TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING
The Green |

ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE



HELTER SKELTER



CAROUSEL



ICE RINK



SKATE EXCHANGE



BLIZZARD



MIAMI RIDE



MARKET



COVERED DINING AREA

COMMUNITY EVENTS

There are some brilliant community events happening this festive season.

Dyce Primary Christmas Fair

Thursday 16 November, 7pm - 9pm

Christmas shopping night. Various stalls. Raising money for the school playground. £5 per ticket includes fizz and special raffle entry.

Comper Centre, Gallowgate Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 18 November, 10am - 12pm

A traditional Christmas themed coffee morning with refreshments & crafts for sale. £5 includes entrance and refreshments.

Airryhall Primary School Christmas Fair

Friday 24 November, 10am - 2pm

Lots of Christmas fun and games, as well as Christmas present ideas crafted by our very talented children and also professional crafters. Entry £2 per adult and £1 for children.

Peterculter Parish Church Hall

Saturday 25 November, 6pm - FREE

Culter Christmas Lights Switch On, stalls, visit from Santa, magic show, music acts, mulled wine and mince pies.

Brimmond School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 2 December, 12pm - 3pm - FREE

Santas grotto stalls bouncy castle and much more.

Kirk of St Nicholas Christmas Concert

Saturday 9 December, 3pm

In aid of Sue Ryder. All welcome.

Choir, Bon Accord Shopping Centre

Thursday 14 December 2017, 5pm - 7pm

Aberdeen Performing Arts Staff Choir and members of the Community Choir bring some festive cheer to raise funds for The Music Hall Transformation.

Northfield Church

Friday 15 December, 12.45pm - 1.30pm - FREE

Part of Aberdeen Art Gallery & Museums' popular Lunchbreak Concerts series, Jeremy Coleman (piano) and Roger B Williams share Christmas cheer with an irresistible programme of traditional carols.

Hebron Evangelical Church

Christmas Carol Concert

Saturday 16 December, 7.30pm - FREE

Shazam Theatre Company, Tesco Woodend

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 December, 10am - 4pm

Shazam Theatre Company will entertain Christmas shoppers with classic Christmas songs.

Deeside Christian Fellowship Church

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday 24 December, 5pm and 7pm - FREE

Tivoli Theatre

Wednesday 27 December, 2pm

All kids love magic, so join us for a fun filled afternoon with Garry Seagraves the Magician, assisted by Basil the live white rabbit. £15.40 - £13.20 inc. bf
Tickets available at Aberdeen Performing Arts
01224 641122.

For full events line-up visit aberdeencity.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

With unique independent boutiques and all of your favourite high street stores, Aberdeen is the perfect destination for your Christmas shopping.

BON ACCORD IN THE CITY'S HEART

Bon Accord Centre

Over 70 shops featuring favourite high street names as well as some more specialised stores, whether you're looking for fashion, beauty, something for the house or the latest gadget, you're sure to find it in the Bon Accord Centre.

bonaccordaberdeen.com

TrinityCentre

Trinity Centre

The Trinity Centre is home to over 20 shops, bringing you everything from fashion to footwear, DVDs to jewellery, accessories to eateries all under one roof. With high street brands like Debenhams, Waterstones, Schuh and Ernest Jones there is something for everyone. The Trinity Centre car park has over 400 spaces.

trinityaberdeen.co.uk

UnionSquare

Union Square

Union Square boasts over 85 stores and restaurants, a 10 screen cinema and a 203 bedroom hotel right in the centre of Aberdeen. Alongside stores such as Marks and Spencer, Zara and Apple, restaurants such as YO! Sushi, Nando's and ASK Italian happily reside to provide a unique offering to the city.

unionsquareaberdeen.com

UNION ST ABERDEEN

Union Street and Hidden Gems

Experience Aberdeen's granite mile, the sparkling heart of our festive city. Union St boasts a mixture of independent and high street stores as well as an abundance of popular cafés and restaurants. Venture beyond the high-street to nearby Rosemount and the West End to find streets full of independent retailers - from cool record shops, and quirky tea rooms, to vintage clothing, galleries and gift stores, proving just how much style the city has.



Your Official Christmas in Aberdeen Spree App

Everyone loves a deal, so save money on things you love to do in Aberdeen this Christmas. Subscribe to Spree for only £2 per month and start saving while you're out and about shopping, eating, and playing - 2 for 1's, free admissions, exclusive discounts and more! Start saving today at spreebook.com

SHOP, STAY, PLAY AND SAVE IN ABERDEEN



STAY

Aberdeen during the festive season is truly magical, so why not take advantage of the fantastic accommodation offers available at a variety of hotels in Aberdeen City and Shire.

Carmelite, Merchant Quarter, City Centre, Aberdeen

£65 B&B in Design/Dapper Double Room. WiFi and complementary bottle of fizz.
Available 7 days. Contact: 01224 589101 carmelitehotels.com

Doubletree by Hilton Aberdeen Treetops, Aberdeen

£60 per night (minimum two consecutive nights). Includes full Scottish breakfast, access to swimming pool, sauna, gym facilities. Contact: 01224 313377 hilton.com

Doubletree by Hilton Aberdeen City Centre (Aberdeen Beach)

£79 per night, B&B. Classic room type for 2 adults, Thursday - Sunday throughout December. Contact: 01224 633339 hilton.com/doubletree/Aberdeen

Douglas Hotel - Merchant Quarter, City Centre, Aberdeen

£65 Double Room, B&B Thursday - Sunday.
Contact: 01224 582255 aberdeendouglas.com

Hallmark Hotel, Airport Dyce

£49 per night B&B with upgrade to an executive room. Available weekends.
Contact: 0330 028 3409 hallmarkhotels.co.uk

Park Inn by Radisson, City Centre, Aberdeen

£65 per night, double room, B&B, available weekends.
Contact: 01224 592999 parkinn.co.uk/hotel-aberdeen

Residence Inn by Marriott, City Centre, Aberdeen

£63 B&B Standard / £80 B&B Deluxe Studio. £105 one bedroom apartment Friday and Saturday nights, including buffet breakfast for up to 2 people (kids go for free) and WiFi.
Marriott.com/abzri Use Corporate / Promo Code: FN7

Rox Hotel, Merchant Quarter, City Centre, Aberdeen

£75 Standard Double B&B. £99 Executive Double B&B. Available Friday - Sunday.
Contact: 01224 212224 roxhotel.com



PLAY AND EXPLORE

This winter, take the time to explore Aberdeen and discover why the North-east continues to captivate visitors from around the world thanks to its strong music, heritage, festivals and food and drink experiences. Home to a varied and vibrant collection of cultural celebrations, featuring traditions both old and new, Aberdeen is transformed into a winter wonderland, promising to capture the magic of Christmas.

Get into the festive spirit at one of the city's award-winning bars, where you can sample whisky, craft beer and gin all produced in Aberdeenshire. The city centre is set against an urban backdrop rich in history, culture and heritage, with many citing Aberdeen as one of the most architecturally unique in the world thanks to the grand granite buildings. The compact layout of the Granite City makes Aberdeen a shoppers' paradise, where you can finish your Christmas shopping at west end boutiques and high street fashion brands.

They say variety is the spice of life, so when you need to take a break from the shops to re-fuel, Aberdeen offers a truly international flavour, sample mouth-watering menus at every turn, all produced with the finest local ingredients from the famous Aberdeen larder.

There are few places that capture the magic of Christmas better than a grand Scottish castle, and with 300 located in Aberdeenshire you'll be spoilt for choice, as many of them host pop-up Christmas markets selling locally handmade gifts.

So, don't go cold turkey this festive season, discover a Christmas adventure none of the family will forget. Plan your Scottish winter break at visitabdn.com



Visit **Aberdeenshire**

SHOP, STAY, PLAY AND SAVE IN ABERDEEN

TRAVELLING TO ABERDEEN

With so many transport options Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have never been easier to get to.



By Air

Aberdeen International Airport is located just six miles from Aberdeen city centre and is within easy reach of Aberdeenshire.

The region is well connected globally with daily flights to all major airports including all three London airports, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam. The international airport also has many direct routes to most UK cities as well as many key European destinations. aberdeenairport.com



By Road

No matter where you start your journey in the UK, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are simple to get to by road.

Aberdeen is approximately 2.5 hours' drive from Edinburgh or Glasgow and less than a three hour drive from Inverness.

For help with planning your journey to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire please visit traveline.info



By Rail

Aberdeen's railway station, right in the heart of the city, has frequent fast and reliable services to and from major cities. Travel on one of the hourly trains from Glasgow and Edinburgh or use the east

coast line to travel from cities such as York or Newcastle.

Scotrail provides an express rail service direct to Aberdeen from many major cities. For timetables and to book your train tickets to Aberdeen visit scotrail.co.uk Aberdeen can also be reached overnight from London on the Caledonian Sleeper. Visit sleeper.scot for more information about this service.

Virgin Trains East Coast run services along the East Coast Main Line and frequently run trains from cities such as Edinburgh, York, Newcastle and London further details can be found on virgintrainseastcoast.com

National Rail offers also offers rail services to Aberdeen and the surrounding area, visit nationalrail.co.uk for further details.



By Sea

Aberdeen Ferry Terminal is located at Jamieson's Quay directly across from Aberdeen Bus Station.

The centrally located harbour is where ferries travel regularly to/from the Scottish Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

For information about travelling from Orkney and Shetland visit northlinkferries.co.uk

TRAVELLING AROUND ABERDEEN



By Foot

Aberdeen city centre is easily navigated on foot with most of the key attractions within walking distance.



By Bike

There are cycle facilities such as cycle lanes, as well as cycle shops, places to lock bikes, recommended quiet routes and recreational routes around the city. A map is available on aberdeencity.gov.uk



By Taxi

Taxi ranks are available on Chapel Street, Back Wynd, Hadden Street, and the railway station. Weekend night-time taxi ranks are available on Union Street.



By Bus

First Aberdeen operates a high frequency network of services across the city while Stagecoach Bluebird buses link the towns and villages in Aberdeenshire and various city location.

firstgroup.com/aberdeen
stagecoachbus.com/timetables



Car Parking

City Centre car parking is available at Union Square, Bon Accord Centre (Harriett Street and Loch Street) and Trinity Centre shopping centres, as well as council car parks at Gallowgate, Frederick Street, Denburn, Chapel Street, West North Street and Virginia Street, and the widely available on-street parking.

There are dedicated Blue Badge spaces across the city, allowing badge holders to park closer to their destination. National concessions apply to on-street and Aberdeen City Council car parks, but please check with private off-street car parks prior to parking.

RingGo is a quick, easy to use mobile phone service that lets you pay for your parking with a credit or debit card rather than using cash at a machine. Download the app to your phone for quick and convenient parking payment.



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To keep up to date with all the exciting events in
Aberdeen this Christmas, visit us regularly at
aberdeencity.gov.uk/Christmas17