



St Machar Cathedral



Aberdeen Art Gallery



His Majesty's Theatre



The Bay Fish & Chips



Nuart Aberdeen



Dunnottar Castle

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Noon: Arrival in Aberdeen

Aberdeen Art Gallery

Following its £34.6million restoration, [Aberdeen Art Gallery](#), is home to one of the finest collections in the UK, including works by influential Scottish artists, designers and makers such as Henry Raeburn, Joan Eardley, Samuel Peploe, Rachel McLean, Bill Gibb and James Cromar Watt, as well as nationally and internationally-acclaimed artists including Barbara Hepworth, Francis Bacon, Tracey Emin and Claude Monet.

The redevelopment has dramatically increased the amount of display space for the nationally-recognised collection, with the number of galleries increasing from 11 to 19, with a further three spaces presenting a programme of regularly-changing special exhibitions. The number of items from the permanent collection on display has increased from 370 in 2015 to 1,080 in 2019.

The fresh new approach to displaying the collection has created a rich variety of experiences for visitors as they move from gallery to gallery. The displays explore artists' ideas and inspiration, their creative processes and the materials they use. A wide range of artforms and media, the use of colour, hands-on interactives, music, innovative display methods and engaging interpretive information combine to create a range of experiences, moods and stories for visitors.



Explore Nuart Aberdeen

Thanks to the introduction of [Nuart](#) Aberdeen in April 2017, there is plenty of exciting street art to discover in the heart of the city centre. The festival returned for its third year in April 2019, adding more vibrant art to the city to be explored and more is to follow when the festival returns this April.



Dinner at BrewDog

[BrewDog](#) is leading the craft beer revolution and Aberdeenshire is where the global producer's story started. Enjoy pub grub with a twist at one of its three city centre bars where the knowledgeable bar staff will talk you through the beers and recommend the perfect brew to suit your taste and dinner choice.

Above the bar is [BrewDog Kennels](#), the brand's first mini-hotel in the UK which offers beer enthusiasts the option to combine amazing craft beer with a memorable hotel experience when visiting the city.



Attend a live event

With amazing venues like [P&J Live](#), [His Majesty's Theatre](#), [The Music Hall](#), The Blue Lamp and [The Lemon Tree](#) playing host to westend shows, comedy gigs, live music and literature events, there's an event that will certainly work into your visit to North-east Scotland.

Take a look at our [What's On Guide](#) and see what's coming up this year.

Suggested stay: The Sandman Signature Hotel

Just around the corner from Aberdeen Art Gallery is your accommodation for your culture trip in North-east Scotland. Located in one of Aberdeen's historic buildings at the heart of the city, [Sandman Signature Aberdeen Hotel](#) provides bold, luxurious accommodation steps away from key attractions in the Silver City. On-site restaurant, Chop Grill & Bar, uses fresh ingredients, hand-crafted cocktails and lively atmosphere make for great experience, day and night.



Breakfast at The Craftsman Company

A popular stop for coffee lovers, [The Craftsman Company](#) has a hand-selected range of artisan coffee freshly roasted every day. With a wholesome breakfast menu packed with variety, you have the selection of a traditional breakfast, pancakes, granola and pastries to kick-start your day.



Train to Stonehaven

A visitor attraction in its own right, Stonehaven is located south of the city along the Aberdeenshire coast. With a sandy seafront, picture perfect harbour, attractions and some of the region's top eateries, Stonehaven makes an ideal tourist spot to visit.

Dunnottar Castle

[Dunnottar Castle](#) is a dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress that was home to the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland. Steeped in the history of Scotland's colourful past, this romantic and haunting ruin is a photographer's paradise, a history lover's dream and an iconic tourist destination for visitors the world over.



Walk from Stonehaven to Dunnottar Castle which takes you along the stunning Stonehaven coastline and takes around 50 minutes. On route to the castle you'll pass a war memorial which is a popular photo spot for panoramic views. Walking route can be found [here](#).

Stonehaven Harbour

On route to lunch, you'll pass [Stonehaven Harbour](#). It was first built on 1607 but was destroyed by storms twice and a new plan was drawn up in 1825 by Robert Stevenson to successfully rebuild the harbour works. Today it is still one of the largest recreational harbours in Aberdeenshire.



Lunch at The Bay Fish & Chips

Enjoy some locally caught haddock with freshly cooked chips on the beautiful Stonehaven seafront. In August 2018, The Bay Fish & Chips was ranked as one of the world's best food experiences by Lonely Planet making it the top fish and chip shop in the world.



Explore Stonehaven Beach front

After your lunch, take in the sea breeze as you make your way towards the harbour on the south end of the beach and discover maritime themed sculptures which mysteriously appeared along the coastline. The local artist of these sculptures was unknown for some time causing many to wonder if a rival for Banksy is living in Stonehaven.



The Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum

If you find yourself back at the harbour, a visit to the [Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum](#) is a must. The museum is thought to have been originally founded by George Keith as a storehouse during the construction of Dunnottar Castle. Step back in time as you look through historic artefacts including the original cell door, the Inverbervie stocks and the punishment device known as 'The Crank'. Entry to this attraction is free.

Train back to Aberdeen

Dinner at The Esslemont

New to Aberdeen is the Esslemont a stylish and chic restaurant taking inspiration from its predecessor the prestigious local department store Esslemont and MacIntosh. The Esslemont is open seven days a week serving an eclectic menu complemented by quality produce, superior service and sophistication.



Breakfast at FoodStory

The quirky [Foodstory](#) which is known for a menu that's filled with ethical and organic food. Aberdeen's first vegan café specialises in creating healthy food using locally sourced ingredients feeding mouths from morning, noon and night.

With community at the centre of its ethos, FoodStory acts as a hub to bring people from all walks of life together in one space to share great food and relax.



Tour of His Majesty's Theatre

Step behind the scenes of [His Majesty's Theatre](#) and explore its 100 year history through a guided tour of the opulent venue that has brought leading west end shows and contemporary performances to the heart of the city.

Discover the inner workings of the theatre, step on stage and be spooked by some chilling stories of its past. Keep an eye out for Jake during your tour, he's the theatre's resident ghost who died on shift in 1942 when struck in the head by a spinning winch while attempting to stop a lift transporting circus horses to the lower floor. Jake's often seen in the passageway nicknamed "Lambeth Walk".

Tours take place most Saturday mornings, see our [What's On Guide](#) to find out dates.



Lunch at Cafe 52

Down on the city's ancient Merchant Quarter and sandwiched between stunning Nuart Aberdeen and Painted Doors creations, is Cafe 52 sits high on the Aberdeen must-eat list. Built into one of the arches of over-running Union Street, the cosy cave-like snug creates an intimate and unassuming dining experience.



Explore Old Aberdeen

Monks and scholars, traders and travellers settled round [Old Aberdeen](#) in the 14th century where [St Machar's Cathedral](#) still stands and where King's College, the forerunner to The University of Aberdeen, was founded by Bishop Elphinstone in 1495.

Old Aberdeen, where cobbled roads still run through the heart of the area, is a popular spot for tourists. Step back in time as you visit the historic sites, like the [Brig O'Balgownie](#) and adventure through neighbouring [Seaton Park](#).

St Machar's Cathedral stands dramatically on a high bank above the river Don within Old Aberdeen. The fifteenth century cathedral with its massive twin spires, world-famous heraldic ceiling and glorious stained glass is one of Scotland's 'must see' treasures. This is the oldest building in active use in Aberdeen.

