



2019 **Guide**





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Royal Aberdeen Golf Club



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foreword

Paul Lawrie OBE,
former Open champion
and Ryder Cup player.



Welcome to the 2019 Guide

As an Aberdonian, I am extremely lucky to have some of the best golf courses on my doorstep, so I am always proud to show off our world-class facilities and breath-taking views.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire share an enviable reputation around the world and visitors return year on year to enjoy the area's many links and parkland courses, which have something to challenge golfers of all abilities.

Some of the most respected golf course architects in the game's history have contributed to the North-east Scotland's golfing heritage by building celebrated courses which regularly feature in golf magazines and television programmes.

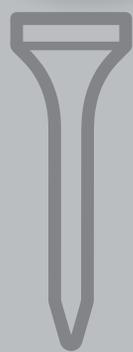
From the flowing links courses of Royal Aberdeen, Murcar, Cruden Bay, Fraserburgh and Trump International, you can also play fantastic parkland courses such as Newmachar and a range of stunning venues throughout the scenic dee valley of Royal Deeside including Aboyne, Banchory, Ballater and Braemar.

These are the courses that Stonehaven native, Sam Locke, honed his skills. The North-east youngster claimed the coveted Silver Medal as the highest placed amateur at the 147th Open at Carnoustie in 2018, further enhancing the reputation of the area as a golfing hotspot.

As Sam starts his first full year in the professional ranks, I hope you enjoy your own golf and make that trip to the North-east to see what gems we have here for yourself.

Beyond golf, we're proud of our area's beautiful natural environment which has everything from mountains to sea, fantastic food, and rich cultural heritage, including our many castles, whisky distilleries, and Deeside's strong royal connections.

I'm extremely proud to come from the North-east of Scotland and represent the area on my travels throughout the year. Once you've experienced golf in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire I guarantee you'll return to experience our great courses time and time again.



Follow in the footsteps of Dr Alister MacKenzie and James Braid

Renowned architects, Dr Alister MacKenzie and James Braid have left an outstanding legacy in the Granite City.

Golf Aberdeen's public courses are known to be among the best in the UK. We offer a golfing experience for all abilities, with each course enjoying their own distinct challenges, against the finest backdrops that the North East of Scotland has to offer.

A visit is a must for any golfing connoisseur who wants to experience courses dating back to the 1870s and benefit from unbelievable value for money.

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Revered course designers made indelible mark on the North-east



Cruden Bay Golf Club

Over the past 200 years, many of the world's leading golf architects have left their mark on Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by building beautifully contoured fairways that continue to inspire golfers to this day.

Fairways meticulously planned by legends Dr Alister MacKenzie, James Braid, Archie Simpson and Old Tom Morris draw large numbers of visitors each year, including many who are keen to play all the courses laid out by their favourite designers.

Established in 1777, Fraserburgh Golf Club is the oldest in Aberdeenshire. Redesigned by Scot James Braid, the traditional links course continues

to challenge members and visitors alike. It also has the distinction of being the fifth oldest club in Scotland and the seventh oldest in the world.

The legendary Dr Alister MacKenzie, architect of “The Masters” at the Augusta National in Georgia, designed the course at Duff House Royal in Banff in 1910, along with the MacKenzie Championship Course at Hazlehead in Aberdeen in 1927.



Royal Aberdeen Golf Club



Trump International Golf Links Scotland

Brothers Archie and Bob Simpson designed Royal Aberdeen's Balgownie course which has hosted several prestigious professional tournaments over the years, including the 2005 Senior British Open, the 2011 Walker Cup and the 2014 Scottish Open.

Founded in 1780, the club is the sixth oldest golf club in the world. It was originally founded as the Society of Golfers at Aberdeen and became the Aberdeen Golf Club in 1815, subsequently receiving royal patronage in 1903 from King Edward VII.

Archie Simpson, who held dual Scottish and American nationalities, also designed the neighbouring Murcar Links course and is credited with building the Blair's Course as well as the Haughton Course at Deeside Golf Club.

Simpson also assisted the legendary Old Tom Morris in the design of The Championship course at Cruden Bay Golf Club. Established in 1899, the course, just 25 miles north of Aberdeen, boasts some of the most dramatic scenery and challenging golf holes the North-east has to offer.

Today it continues to attract large numbers of golfers who want to experience one of the most exciting links courses in the land with spectacular dunes lining the fairways.

And lastly, the newest addition to North-east Scotland's wealth of golfing opportunities, is Trump International Golf Links, Scotland, which was designed by famed modern golf course architect Dr Martin Hawtree. With views that stretch for miles, towering dunes, immaculate fairways and contoured greens, the course lies just nine miles from the centre of Aberdeen.

Steeped in history, the inspirational courses of North-east Scotland continue to challenge and excite players from far and wide, thanks to the meticulous planning and forethought of some of the world's finest golf architects.

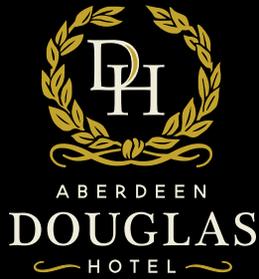
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Great names in golf and they all started here ...



River Dee Braemar

There have been many great golfers to emerge from the North-east of Scotland. Walker Cup players, a US Amateur champion, Ryder Cup and even an Open Champion. There's no doubt that the golf terrain of Aberdeenshire has done much to shape these special talents and there's more to come.



Photograph courtesy Aberdeen Journals

Aberdonian, **Harry Bannerman** played in the 1971 Ryder Cup at Old Warson Club, St Louis Missouri where he won two matches, lost two and halved the other against the legendary Arnold Palmer. He reached the last day of the Open Championship five times, with his best ever finish a tie for eleventh at Royal Birkdale in 1971. Harry honed his skills as a youngster at Murcar Links Golf Club and still thinks of it as his 'spiritual golfing home'.



Paul Lawrie OBE is best known for winning the 1999 Open Championship, one of the most dramatic in recent times. He has eight European Tour wins to his name including the Catalan Open, Qatar Masters and his most recent, the Jonnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles. He is a Ryder Cup stalwart having played for Europe in 1999 and again in the victory at Medinah in 2012. He was a vice-captain for the European Ryder Cup team in 2016. Paul is passionate about junior golf and his Paul Lawrie Foundation has introduced thousands of youngsters to the game.

Michele Thomson plays on the Ladies European Tour following an impressive junior and amateur career. Highlights being Scottish Ladies' Amateur Champion in 2008 and in the same year representing Great Britain and Ireland in the Curtis Cup against the USA. She's certainly a name to look out for next year as she aims to improve on her two top ten finishes to date, second in the Hero Women's India Open and tied ninth in the Omega Dubai Ladies' Classic. Michele plays out of Meldrum House Golf Club.



Richie Ramsay plays on the European Tour and has five professional wins already in the bag, three of them on the European Tour and two Challenge Tour successes. Richie was destined for a professional career after winning the Scottish Amateur Open Stroke Play Championship in 2004, followed by the Irish Amateur Open Championship a year later. In 2007, he became the first British player since 1911 to win the U.S. Amateur, defeating American John Kelly 4 & 2 in the 36-hole final. Richie is an honorary member of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club.

Photographs courtesy Kenny Smith Photography



Sam Locke. Cast your mind back to the summer of 2018 and the 147th Open Championship at Carnoustie. The then nineteen-year-old from Stonehaven and Scottish Amateur Champion, won the Open Silver Medal. He's in good company following in the footsteps of previous winners Rory McIlroy, Tiger Woods, Justin Rose and Sergio Garcia. Within days, Sam turned professional and has since played in several Challenge Tour events and comfortably made the cut on his European Tour debut at the Portugal Masters. Discover more about Sam's great year on page 26.





Plenty of room to improve on those long putts.

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Aberdeen Angus beef at The Marcliffe Hotel & Spa

World famous food and drink

Famous for the freshest fish, North-east Scotland has more to offer than daily catches of haddock, cod, plaice, whiting, prawns and squid.

No visit to the area is complete without a world-famous fish supper from the Bay Fish & Chips overlooking the North Sea at Stonehaven or a pint or two of our locally-brewed speciality beers from BrewDog or Fierce Beer.

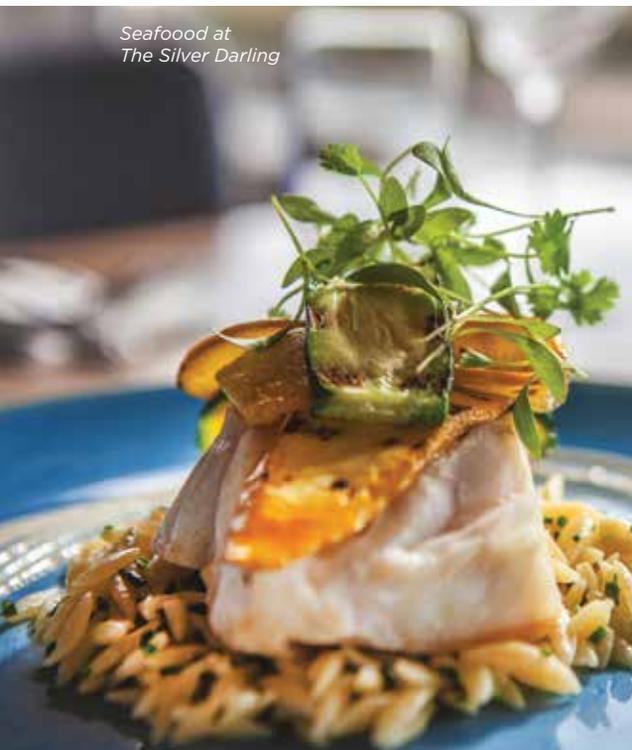
With a fertile climate and an history of innovation, it's not surprising that the area boasts several famous signature products, including Aberdeen Angus beef, ice cream direct from the family farm at Mackies,

shortbread from Dean's of Huntly, and, of course, world-famed whisky.

In recent years, there has also been an increasing trend for craft brewing which has seen several beer, gin and rum distilleries established in the North-east, which have received acclaim from national and international markets as well as local enthusiasts. Take a tour of Porter's Gin underneath their cosy bar in Aberdeen or sample deliciously spicy Dark Matter Rum, brewed in Banchory, Aberdeenshire at bars and hotels across the region.



Craft beer tasting at BrewDog, Castlegate



*Seafood at
The Silver Darling*

The North-east is also famous for hosting the annual Cullen Skink World Championships which sees competitors vie to create the best fish soup. Warming, creamy, rich in taste and a pleasure on the senses, haddock-based Cullen Skink is one of the most popular dishes with locals and visitors alike.

Unique to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, the rowie or buttery is a local delicacy which must be part of any visitor's breakfast routine. A savoury bread roll, the tasty 'flat croissant' rowie was invented for fishermen who needed their food to keep for two weeks. Enjoy on its own, or with butter and jam.

Go to visitabdn.com for our wide range of local produce and culinary innovation at pubs, hotels and restaurants throughout the region.

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2019

Dear Golfer

As a fellow golfer of over fifty years, having been a member of Royal Aberdeen for forty four years, Cruden Bay for forty eight years as well as several other Clubs, I am delighted you have chosen to stay at my hotel in Aberdeen. Among our first class facilities we are proud to bring to your attention our wonderful Golfing Memorabilia/Pool Room situated in the basement of the hotel. We also boast a treatment Spa, offering a range of massages and our Golfers Hydrotherapy Bath. Our gym is located on the ground floor next to the Spa.

We are obviously a golfers hotel as you will see over 60 Graeme Baxter artists proofs of the World Golf Courses on our corridor walls.

A very slick artificial grass putting green is located at the front of the hotel. Take your drinks out there before Dinner!

For Scottish Beef (aged a minimum of 35 days) and cut to suit, any weight, along with fish, lobster and seafood, you need go no further than the Conservatory Restaurant with an extensive wine list of over 400 bins, including a page dedicated to wines produced by golfers for golfers, plus over 100 Single Malt Whiskies. Copies of our menus are in your room and on our website.

We have drying facilities for your golf gear and a chauffeur driven limousine service is available for hire at short notice, should you want to sample some of Scotland's spectacular scenery, history and distilleries, golfers rates on request.

This was the host hotel for the 2 teams in the 2011 Walker Cup; Speith, Cantlay, English, Henley and Uihlein from the US. We were also the host hotel for the British Senior Open in 2005 and 2014 for the Scottish Open at Royal Aberdeen. Nicklaus, Watson, Player, O'Meara, Poulter, Jiménez, Mickelson, Fowler and many others have all stayed with us over the years.

If I have one piece of advice for you when you are tackling the great links courses of the North East, it would be "keep it slow and low"!

Best Wishes,

J. Stewart Spence

J. Stewart Spence MBE (Handicap 8)

Club champion Royal Aberdeen 1989
Member of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Cruden Bay Golf Club, Deeside Golf Club and Ballater Golf Club
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From Mountains to Sea

- we've got it all



North Sea Dolphins

From panoramic mountain views which reflect on mirror-like lochs, to endless sandy beaches, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire give visitors the opportunity to experience some of the most beautiful vistas on the planet.

The Cairngorms National Park, the largest in the UK, offers an inspirational backdrop of dramatic mountain views, and you may be rewarded with the regal view of majestic stags roaming the hills and moors. And don't forget to look up - eagles often

soar above a landscape unchanged for thousands of years.

Described as one of the top 20 most relaxing holiday destinations in the world by Rough Guides, the Cairngorms National Park is home to 18 Munros (mountains in Scotland with a height of more than 3,000 ft/914.4m) which are all accessible to hill walkers and those keen to 'bag' a Munro or two during their visit.



Aberdeen Beach



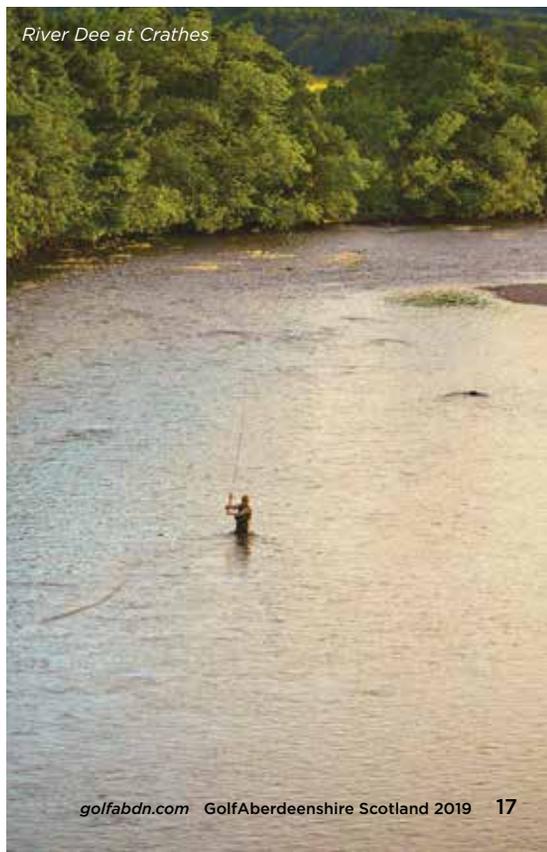
Bennachie

The 165-mile Aberdeenshire coastline is enjoyed by locals every day from Cullen Beach to the white sands of St Cyrus. With rugged cliffs, hidden caves, almost tame puffins, seals and dolphins, it's hardly surprising the area has been described by National Geographic as one of the world's outstanding coastlines.

Kite surfers are now a regular feature along Aberdeenshire's coast, with Fraserburgh Beach amongst the most popular for its strong winds and favourable waves. People travel from across the country to catch the waves here and watching them in action is a sight to behold.

A trip to the North-east of Scotland doesn't have to be adrenaline filled, although kayakers, snowboarders and gliding enthusiasts will find a wide variety of adventures awaiting them. Take time to cycle on quiet country roads or join the large number of anglers that visit each year in search of brown trout, sea trout and fresh salmon.

Discover a range of walking, climbing and fishing activities across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire at visitabdn.com



River Dee at Crathes



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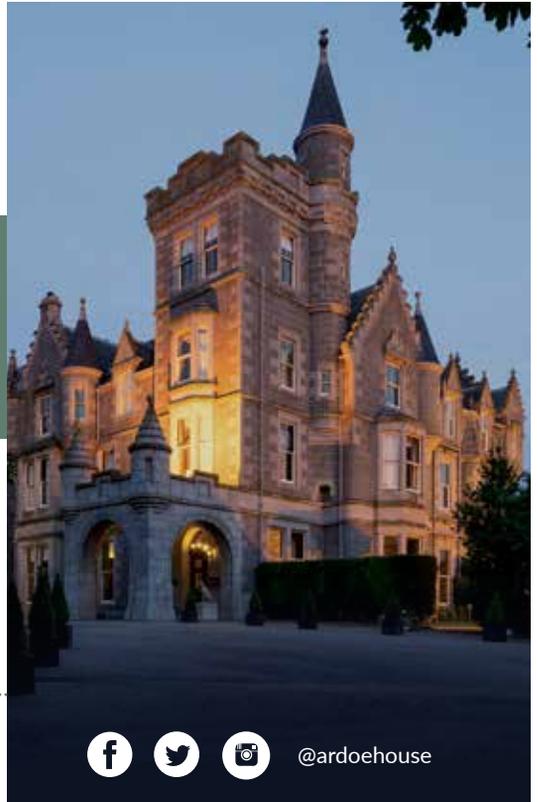


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Highland Games

Fit for a Queen

The rousing sounds of the massed pipes and drums and spectacular sights of colourful band members parading through towns and villages, signal opening ceremonies for Scotland's traditional spring and summer competitive events.

From May to September, Highland Games or Gatherings are held throughout Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, from small events in local villages to crowds of thousands at larger gatherings.

Generations of Scots have enjoyed taking part in the games, which see specialist events including Toss

the Caber and Highland Dancing as well as quirky competitions, such as Push the Hay Bale, open to anyone in the crowd.

Kilted 'Heavies' come from far and wide to toss the caber – a large wooden pole usually around 5-6m (15-20ft) long. Competitors take time to balance the pole before tossing it in the air and trying to flip it over, while crowds cheer on. Hammer throwers will spin a weight attached by a steel wire to a grip and then cry out as they let go and see it fly as far as they can.



Tug-of-War



Hammer throwing

Spectators at Highland games are spoilt for choice, as there are usually several competitions taking place in the arena at the same time, interspersed with parades of stirring pipe bands.

Highland dancers compete on a stage to the sound of bagpipes, wearing traditional costumes and specialist shoes or ghillies. An energetic solo event, Highland dancing requires great skill and strength with competitors dancing on the balls of their feet and leaping over swords. While men wear traditional kilts, ladies and girls wear the more feminine Aboyne dress.

The Highland Games celebrate Scotland's colourful traditions and are the perfect opportunity to spot a member of the Royal Family. Chieftain of the Braemar Gathering, HM Queen Elizabeth II has attended her local gathering at Braemar every year since 1952, carrying on a tradition started by Queen Victoria when she first attended the games in 1848.

Treat your senses by being a part of this fascinating tradition which has been taking place across Scotland for over 900 years.

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Highland dancing

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The hotel's Teaching Academy is built over 24-acres of mature estate land. The driving range has 12 contoured greens and 18 flags, protected by bunkers.

MELDRUM HOUSE

COUNTRY HOTEL & GOLF COURSE



The Clubhouse

The Clubhouse's luxurious lounge provides the perfect setting to relax before or after your game with panoramic views over the 1st, 17th and 18th holes. There is also a well-equipped Pro shop, open to the public, with a wide range of golf clothing and equipment.

Practice facilities

There is an outstanding teaching academy with a practice range, dedicated pitching green and a Trackman system to analyse your swing. The Head Pro, Neil Marr, is ranked amongst the UK's top 25 golf coaches by Golf Monthly magazine.

Touring Pros

Meldrum House is proud to support two young Touring Pros. Michele Thomson is currently on the Ladies European Tour. Chris Robb has qualified for the final stage of European Tour school to try and gain playing privileges on the European Tour in 2019.

For more details on a variety of golf packages, where you can stay at the hotel and play the course, simply call 01651 872294. For details on membership of the course, please call 01651 873553 or visit www.meldrumhouse.com



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Whisky

The Water of Life



Glen Garioch Whisky

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Knockdhu distillery produces the unique anCnoc single malt. Daily weekday tours demonstrate the 220-year old traditions used to create the award-winning range.

Glen Garioch is Scotland's most easterly distillery. Choose from a one-hour introductory visit to

a lavish whisky pairing dinner at Old Meldrum Country House Hotel.

Ardmore sources its water from naturally arising springs sitting on 1500 ft high Knockandy Hill. With no tour facilities currently, Ardmore Highland whiskies can be savoured in hotels and pubs across the region.

If you pay a visit to GlenDronach distillery, look out for the rooks which inhabit the warehouse. Locals believe that the eerie birds protect the Highland-style robust spirit. A gift shop and regular tours welcome visitors from near and far.

Royal Lochnagar Distillery sits on the outskirts of the Balmoral Estate, at the foot of the Cairngorm mountains. Enjoy a fascinating and entertaining guided tour with local experts, and experience one of the richest whiskies your taste buds will ever encounter.

Macduff distillery is based opposite the River Deveron near Banff, and houses five stills, and its single malts are enjoyed across the world. Open by special appointment.

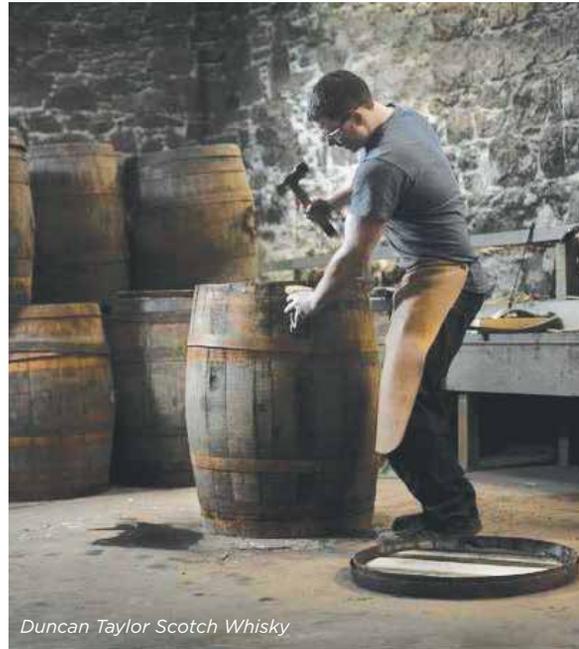
Glenglassaugh distillery lies at the end of the beautiful Sandend beach on Aberdeenshire's north coast. Its range of expressions can be tasted at weekday tours and visitors can also bottle their own to take home.



Royal Lochnagar Whisky



Tour at Glen Garioch Distillery



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For more information and to find a distillery near you go to visitabdn.com.



Tee Time

with Sam Locke

At just 20 years old, Aberdeenshire golfer Sam Locke won the Silver Medal at the 2018 Open Championship in Carnoustie.

Sam has now turned professional and is enjoying playing courses across the world. Here he shares how life has changed, and what he loves about playing in the North-east.

Photographs courtesy of Kenny Smith Photography

Q When did you first play golf?

A I picked up my first clubs at around three and a half. My dad Andrew is a PGA professional golfer and I quickly learned to love the game as much as he did. When I was at school, I would spend every spare moment playing golf, before and after school. I was never forced to play as I have always been determined to improve my game.

Q How has turning pro changed your life?

A I have had to give up my job in the coffee shop at Paul Lawrie's golf centre. They were always really good to me and what better job than being able to practise golf before and after work, and chat through your game with Paul Lawrie.

Life on the professional circuit is very different. As a pro you play more tournaments over four days, with a lot of travelling. I am often away weeks on end but I'm enjoying playing golf all over the world and experiencing different courses. The professional game is more of a marathon than a sprint. As an amateur, I would often play 36 holes in a day, but as a professional you have to keep that high level of concentration for much longer.

Q How did you feel when you teed off at the Open, the Silver Medal in your sights?

A I always have a mixture of nerves and excitement. I almost enjoy the nerves as it means I am ready and about to perform at my best. – it focuses you a bit more. At the Open I just wanted to finish as high as I could at the biggest tournament in the world. It was a great chance to show people what I was capable of and knowing I had won the medal after the first two rounds was just incredible. I didn't want to just stop and relax though, I love golf, so I wanted to carry on and do as well as I could over the weekend.

Q How did it feel to have your dad as a caddie?

A My dad has been central to my golf career. He is my coach and his encouragement has always made me determined to improve. I enjoy having him on the bag, not just because it is nice to have your coach there if you are struggling a bit, but I wouldn't have been at the Open if it hadn't been for my dad, so it was the right thing to do.

Q Who are your golfing heroes?

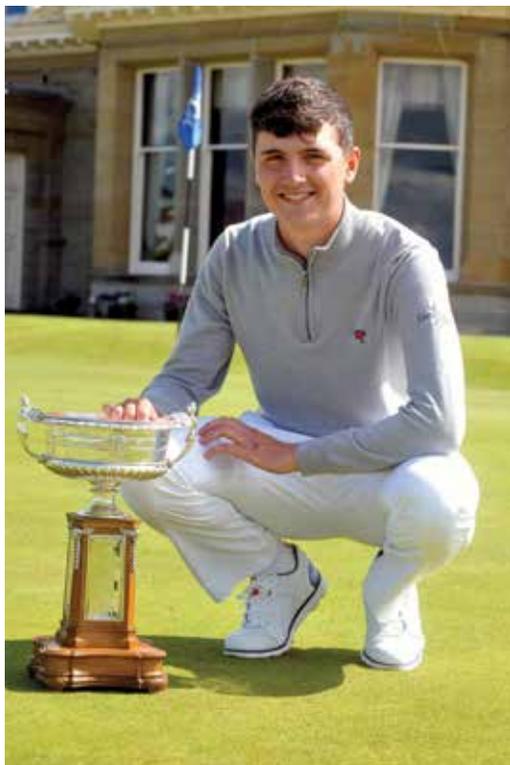
A Of course, like anyone I really admire Tiger Woods, but I am too young to have seen him play at his prime. My idols are also Rory McIlroy, particularly because he did well from a young age, and Jordan Spieth who is another hero of mine.

Q What's your favourite course in the North-east?

A I think Royal Aberdeen is the best links golf course we have in the area – you've got to know the best places to be and where not to hit. The new Trump course is also great. Newmachar is one of best inland courses in the area – the great layout makes you really think and it's really pleasing to the eye.

Q And your favourite hole?

A That's a hard one. There are so many but if I had to pick one, it would be the 17th at Royal Aberdeen, which is a brilliant par 3.





Lonely Planet's **Best-in-Travel** 2019

Touring route, Glenshee

Well respected travel guide Lonely Planet listed Scotland's Highlands and Islands, which includes Aberdeenshire, as one of the world's top 10 regions to visit this year.

Its Best-in-Travel 2019 guide encourages travellers to experience our awe-inspiring landscapes, exciting road trips and welcoming villages.



The North East 250

Mixing countryside and coast, the North East 250 is Scotland's newest driving route which enables visitors to experience 250 miles of castles, wildlife, coastal villages, stunning beaches, golf courses, mountains, forests and distilleries. The clearly marked route links the Cairngorms mountains and Royal Deeside to the beaches, sea cliffs, fishing villages and wildlife of Aberdeenshire.

Breath-taking Snow Roads

Britain's highest public road is a rollercoaster of a drive, offering a journey through dramatic landscapes carved by granite and ice. Enjoy breath-taking scenery at every twist and turn and spot a curious glimpse of snow on the hilltops almost all year round. Along the way, stop off at cosy villages and try out the wide range of outdoor activities available spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Spectacular Cairngorms National Park

Home to four of the five highest and snowiest mountains in the UK, the Cairngorms are easily accessible from Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Twice the size of England's famous Lake District, the Cairngorms is the largest park in the UK, with countless lochs, forests, scenic paths and cascading waterfalls. Look out for ptarmigans and mountain hares, which change their colour in winter to escape the roving eyes of eagles soaring above.



Stonehaven Harbour

Royal Deeside

The spectacular valley along the River Dee is home to Balmoral Castle, the Royal Family's summer retreat. Over 150 years ago, Queen Victoria chose Deeside to escape the hustle and bustle of the south, and visitors today can easily see why. Hills and mountains provide active and relaxing sporting activities, historic castles proudly display their strength, and the riverside towns and villages welcome weary visitors and locals alike.

Charming Fishing villages

The North East 250 touring route passes by towns and villages which have relied on the produce of the sea for hundreds of years. The picturesque 17th century harbour welcomes thousands of visitors each June for its vibrant boat festival, where the boats, music, crafts and food are brought together to celebrate the village's connection to the sea.

Go to visitabdn.com to find out more about the wide variety of things to do, see and experience in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.



Cairngorms National Park

Captivating castles and coastlines



Dunnottar Castle

There are more castles per acre in North-east Scotland than anywhere else in the British Isles. Most you can see, many you can visit – and some you can even stay in. Easy to follow trails will guide you not just to the region’s historic castles but also help you enjoy our varied coastline and fascinating shores.

Legendary castles

Through invasions and wars, rebellion and uprising, independence and occupation, hundreds of castles have protected the strategic North-eastern corner of Scotland, its people and land. Follow the Castle Trail and come across long-since abandoned fortresses as well as cosy family homes.

Perched on a cliff edge, overlooking the North Sea, just two miles south of Stonehaven, the dramatic ruins of Dunnottar Castle offer unrivalled panoramic coastal views. Its spectacular setting undoubtedly helped it to be named Scotland’s top castle by travel website Culture Trip.

Dunnottar played a vital role in the history of Scotland through to the 18th century Jacobite risings, thanks to its strategic location and defensive strength. A narrow strip of land joins the headland to the mainland and a steep path leads up to the gatehouse. Unsuspecting visitors are then led along a meandering path, and up a

narrow castle corridor before revealing the breathtaking viewpoint.

Sitting atop the dramatic Buchan cliffs at Cruden Bay, Slains Castle is a prominent landmark on the Aberdeenshire coastline. The 16th century castle, just 26 miles north of Aberdeen, is widely known as the inspiration for Bram Stoker’s classic novel *Dracula*. Take care as you marvel at how some of the castle’s walls become an extension of the cliff face.



Slains Castle



Buchan Ness Lighthouse, Boddam

Coastal retreats

Much of Aberdeenshire's coast was rated as one of the most scenic in the world. The 165-mile Coastal Trail is well sign-posted to help visitors enjoy every beach and clifftop.

Situated on Aberdeenshire's northern scenic coast in the traditional fishing town of Macduff, Macduff Marine Aquarium looks out on the shore of the Moray Firth, Scotland's largest bay. It is a haven for wildlife where you will come face to face with all kinds of sea creatures that live beneath the steely blue waters.

The aquarium's exhibits lead you from the coast, where you can explore the estuaries and the rocky shores. See the unique underwater kelp reef exhibit and watch divers hand feed the fish.

The sound of the thousands of gannets will welcome you at the RSPB Troup Head nature reserve. A clifftop path will enable you to sit watch the breath-taking colony and look out to sea and you might spot dolphins, porpoises, seals and even minke whales. The rocky coastline which is home to over 38,000 seabirds can also be explored by boat.

To download the Castle Trail and Coastal Trail maps, go to visitabdn.com.



Macduff Marine Aquarium

EAT, SLEEP & PLAY GOLF!



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HOTEL | RESTAURANT | BAR

Kilmarnock Arms Hotel
Bridge Street
Cruden Bay AB42 0HD

Kilmarnock Arms Hotel...

Kilmarnock Arms Hotel, steeped in history, shares its home at the heart of Cruden Bay with the world renowned Cruden Bay Golf Course. It is the perfect location to house the golfer who wishes to experience challenging links courses within 30 minutes of their base. Cruden Bay, Royal Aberdeen, Trump International, Murcar and Peterhead are just for starters, as many more stunning courses are within an hour's journey.

Cruden Bay features a picturesque harbour, a beautiful sandy beach and the dramatic ruins of Slains Castle, which provided inspiration to Bram Stoker when he wrote Dracula. With 19 en-suite bedrooms, a restaurant that serves fresh, local produce and over 80 whiskies to sample in either of its two bars, the Kilmarnock Arms is a great place to relax and unwind.

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Email: reception@kilmarnockarms.com
www.kilmarnockarms.com



THINKING OF PLAYING
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The White Horse Inn is in Balmedie just North of Aberdeen, the perfect place to base your golfing break.

On our doorstep are some of the finest and oldest golf courses in Scotland including Trump International, Royal Aberdeen and Murcar, all set along seven miles of golden sand dunes. All of these courses are within ten minutes of the White Horse Inn with Newmachar and Cruden Bay only slightly further away.

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South Road, Peterhead
AB42 2ZX

Tel: +44 (0) 1779 482200
peterheadprisonmuseum.com



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Old Pier Harbour, Stonehaven, AB39 2JU





Doric

the sound of
North-east Scotland

Marischal College

Travelling around Aberdeenshire, listen out for our warm and friendly local dialect. Of course, the locals speak English fluently, but you might hear some sounds and phrases that could leave you lost for words.

Doric is a rich and highly expressive vernacular heard in the city of Aberdeen and throughout Aberdeenshire. Spikkin Doric, or speaking Doric (see, it's not that hard) can be heard all over the North-east of Scotland. Some say it's not a dialect at all, but a language in its own right, with an extensive body of literature, poetry, ballads and songs. In fact, Doric has been officially recognised as the third Scots language alongside English and Gaelic, after being brought to the attention of a global audience by the Pixar film Brave.

So, what might you hear on your trip to the Aberdeen region? You may be addressed with the greeting '*fit like?*' which simply means, hello, how are you? After spending four to five hours on the golf course, followed by a warm-down at the nineteenth hole, you might be asked '*Far hiv ye bin?*' which of course means 'where have you been?'.

There's *wifie*, nothing to do with Wi-Fi but the name for a woman or wife, then there's *mannie*, a friendly reference to a man, along with *loon* for a young man and *quine*, for a young lady.

If you're playing golf with one of the locals and hit a superb drive, splitting the fairway and landing in the perfect position you might receive the following praise, '*great ba min*'. This simply means 'great shot man'. Praise indeed.

When you sympathise with your playing partner who's knee-deep in the rough or *roch* and takes several agricultural hacks to get the ball out, don't be surprised if he describes the punitive state of the rough as '*gye teuch*' or very tough.

And when you're striding up the eighteenth fairway in what has been a memorable and rewarding round of golf, where you have lived up to the challenge and given your best, you should be feeling *fair-trickit* or delighted with yourself. But don't forget to finish off with a wee dram of whisky at the nineteenth hole, particularly if you are feeling a little weary - or *wabbit*.

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Aberdeenshire





BANCHORY

Forging out into majestic Royal Deeside from the heart of the town, Banchory Golf Club offers a charming course and characterful clubhouse. With views of the shimmering river and rolling hills, it's a captivating setting for golf.

Banchory Golf Club,
Kinneskie Road, Banchory
AB31 5TA
T: +44 (0) 1330 822365
E: bgc.secretary@btconnect.com

W: banchorygolfclub.co.uk

Banchory is a highly enjoyable riverside course with hints of both park and heathland in evidence. The club dates from 1905 and the original course was laid out with advice from Archie Simpson.

Fairways pass indigenous pines and birch, heathers and wildflowers as they flow towards small but perfectly formed greens, with the surrounding hills and forests providing a beautiful backdrop.

A short walk from the town's bustling high street, the clubhouse is a social hub and a welcoming, lively place for "après golf." On course and off, Banchory GC delivers a memorable day out.



Holes: 18 Par: 69 SSS: 68 Length: 5,864 yards (5,362m)

Architects: Local designers with advice from Archie Simpson



CRAIBSTONE

Craibstone Golf Club, what a hidden gem if you haven't visited before! Only a few minutes' drive from the city centre of Aberdeen and set in beautiful surroundings.

Craibstone Golf Club,
Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9SX
T: +44 (0) 1224 716777
E: golf@marshall-leisure.co.uk

W: marshall-leisure.co.uk

A warm welcome awaits all visitors to Craibstone Golf Club. Our course will test all abilities with each hole offering a different but truly enjoyable challenge. Our greens are recognised as some of the best in the North East with subtle slopes and breaks.

Golf buggies are available to hire and we welcome all group sizes to try the Craibstone experience, visit customise-your-day on our website for full details. With our Brimmond Bistro offering top quality home cooked food we are more than just a golf course. Visitors can also book a coaching session at the Craibstone Golf Academy to make their visit a memorable experience.



Holes: 18 Par: 69 Length: 5,808 yards (5,310m)

Architects: Greens of Scotland



CRUDEN BAY

Originally designed by Old Tom Morris with help from Archie Simpson, Cruden Bay is a classic Scottish links course. Opened in 1899, its 18 holes are set against a backdrop of towering sand dunes and dramatic views of the North Sea.

Cruden Bay Golf Club,
Aulton Road, Cruden Bay
AB42 0NN
T: +44 (0) 1779 812285
E: les@crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk
W: crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk

Cruden Bay creates unique challenges demanding the skills of power, placement and fine judgement of the discerning golfer. This championship course makes a big impression and has attracted golfers from across the world who have been keen to take on the challenge of one of the world's top 100 courses.

It is one of Scotland's hidden gems, where every hole provides a test and its difficult not to completely enjoy a round of golf.



Championship Course Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 71 Length: 6,263 yards (5,727m)

St Olaf Holes: 9 Par: 64 SSS: 64 Length: 4,866 yards (4,449m)

Architects: Old Tom Morris and Archie Simpson

1926 redesign by Tom Simpson and Herbert Fowler



CULLEN LINKS

Old Tom Morris design in late 1800s. Combination of clifftop and links land golf. Spectacular seaviews all around the course and from the hotel next to the second green.

Cullen Links,
The Links, Cullen, Moray,
AB56 4WB
T: +44 (0) 1542 840685
E: info@cullenlinksgolf.co.uk

W: cullenlinksgolf.co.uk

Cullen Links offers seaside golf but an alternative to the nearby classic championship layouts. Location is halfway between Aberdeen and Inverness on the Moray Firth coastline. Three hours on the shortest true links of the world.

Nothing short about the holes themselves. There just happens to be more of the par 3 variety. Fun is the key. The Old Tom Morris architecture of playing golf on sandy turf and between the geological features of the 80ft high red rocks gives a unique golfing experience.



Holes: 18 Par: 63 Length: 4,623 yards (4,227m)

Architects: Old Tom Morris/ Charlie Neaves



INVERURIE

The Royal Burgh of Inverurie nestles in the heart of rural Aberdeenshire. It lives up to its motto: "Urbs in Rure" - Town in the Country.

Inverurie Golf Club
 Davah Wood, Inverurie AB51 5JB
 T: +44 (0) 1467 624080
 E: admin@inveruriegolfclub.co.uk

W: inveruriegolfclub.co.uk

Inverurie Golf Club is a friendly members club. The clubhouse is attractively designed on two levels with a very pleasant outdoor veranda overlooking the first and eighteenth holes. We extend a warm welcome to visitors, corporate events and golf outings for whom a rewarding golfing experience and day-out is on offer.

The course, 5,725 yards, par 68, features an initial gently undulating opening nine holes followed by a more testing and tight finish with broom, gorse and tree-lined mature woodland.



Holes: 18 Par: 69 SSS: 68 Length: 5,725 yards (5,234m)

Architects: Graeme Webster



MURCAR LINKS

Playing Murcar Links is a truly memorable and rewarding experience where each hole offers its own challenge.

Murcar Links Golf Club,
 Bridge of Don,
 Aberdeen AB23 8AN
 T: +44 (0) 1224 704354
 E: golf@murcarlinks.com

W: murcarlinks.com

Playing Murcar Links is a truly memorable and rewarding experience where each hole offers its own challenge. Murcar Links has undergone alterations over the years, which has stretched the layout to 6,516 yards. Originally designed by Archie Simpson and revised by James Braid, it is located on a classic stretch of links land with massive sand dunes, undulating fairways, and is covered in whins and heather with some magnificent views across the North Sea.

There can be some wicked bounces off the crumpled fairways and there are burns and the odd blind shot to contend with. The signature hole is considered to be the seventh – a 423 yard par four which is ominously called Serpentine. From a high tee, the drive is over a twisting burn through a ravine on the right and heavy rough on the left with towering dunes everywhere.



Holes: 18 Par: 71 SSS: 73 Length: 6,516 yards (5,958m)

Architects: Archie Simpson, redesigned by James Braid



NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN

Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club was founded in 1888 on the Udney links and is set against a dramatic backdrop of the Ythan Estuary, the North Sea and the ever-changing dunes of the Forvie National Nature Reserve. It is situated midway between Trump International Links and Cruden Bay Golf Club.

Beach Road, Newburgh, Ellon,
Aberdeenshire, AB41 6BY
T: +44 (0) 1358 789058
E: secretary@newburghgolfclub.co.uk
W: newburghgolfclub.co.uk

The course has enormous variety with every hole presenting a different challenge and great fun to play. The Club has recently been given the "North East Scotland Golf Club of the Year" award from Your Golfer magazine. A true hidden gem.

Welcoming to visitors, tee times are available throughout the week including Saturday mornings. The club has a modern and spacious clubhouse where a warm welcome awaits and golfers can relax and enjoy the spectacular views.



Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 72 Length: 6,423 yards (5,870m)
Architects: James McAndrew



NEWMACHAR

Located in rolling countryside on the outskirts of Aberdeen. Newmachar Golf Club is home to two exceptional 18-hole courses. Both courses were designed by Dave Thomas, with Hawkhill opening in 1990 and Swailend following seven years later.

Swailend, Newmachar,
Aberdeen AB21 7UU
T: +44 (0)1651 863002
E: info@newmachargolfclub.co.uk
W: newmachargolfclub.co.uk

Despite its youth, Hawkhill looks and feels more mature than its age suggests, mainly due to the stately pine and birch trees flanking the fairways. With clever bunkering and water hazards coming into play in no fewer than seven of the holes, this is one of the area's toughest tracks.

Swailend is not as mentally challenging as its older brother, but its subtle contours, well positioned bunkers and testing greens present every standard of golfer with a challenge which should not be underestimated.

Although challenging, Newmachar provides two memorable golfing experiences..



Hawkhill: Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 74 Length: 6,717 yards (6,143m) Architect: Dave Thomas
Swailend: Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 71 Length: 6,323 yards (5,783m) Architect: Dave Thomas



PETERCULTER

Founded in 1989, Peterculter Golf Club is situated on the banks of the River Dee in some of the most beautiful scenery in Aberdeenshire.

Peterculter Golf Club,
Burnside Road, Peterculter,
Aberdeen AB14 0LN
T: +44 (0) 1224 734994 (Pro Shop)
E: info@petercultergolfclub.co.uk

W: petercultergolfclub.co.uk

Founded in 1989, Peterculter Golf Club is situated on the banks of the River Dee in some of the most beautiful scenery in Aberdeenshire.

Often referred to as the hidden gem on Royal Deeside, the 18 hole course is spread over several terraces and follows the natural contours of the river bank offering a fair test to all golfers. Over the years the course has matured very well and is kept in immaculate condition all year round, receiving praise from members and visitors alike. Players can't fail to be inspired during their round by the panoramic views of the Dee valley with the imposing Grampian Mountains in the distance. Another attractive feature at Peterculter is the cosy clubhouse where you will always find a warm welcome, especially for visitors. Come along and try it, you will not be disappointed.

Holes: 18 Par: 71 SSS: 70 Length: 6,226 yards (5,693)

Architects: Eddy Lappin



PETERHEAD GOLF CLUB FND.1841

Set in the breathtaking dunes of the North East of Scotland, Peterhead is the 18th oldest golf club in the world and certainly one of the best.

Peterhead Golf Club,
Riverside Drive, Peterhead,
AB42 1LT
T: +44 (0) 1779 472149
E: enquiries@peterheadgolfclub.co.uk

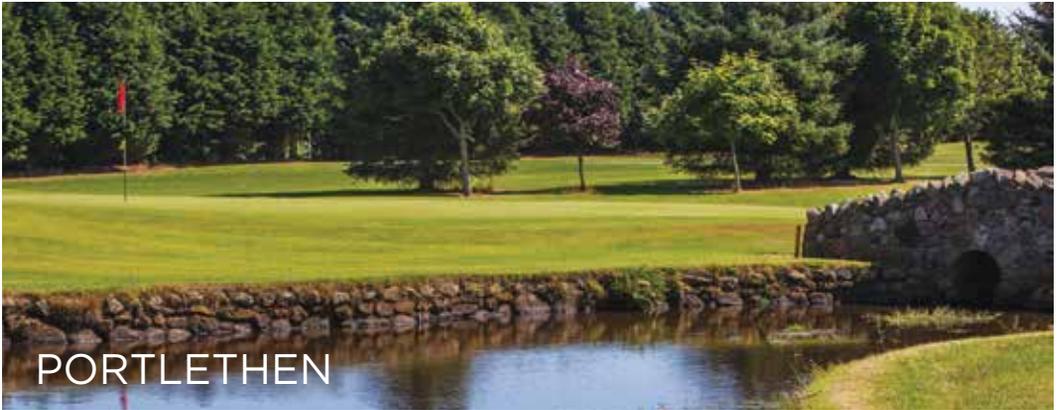
W: peterheadgolfclub.co.uk

Among the dunes and across the Craigewan Links the course is a classic example of Scottish seaside golf at its best - and the toughest! Peterhead Golf Club was established in 1841. The current 18 hole layout "Craigewan Links" began as a 9 hole course in 1892, designed by Willie Park Jnr a dual winner of the Open Championship and was extended to 18 holes in 1908. A second 18 hole course was established in 1923, however today it exists as a nine hole course, appropriately named the "New Course". Take the opportunity to come and play the course and enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of the club. Groups and societies welcome. Full catering and bar facilities for visitors. Advanced bookings required for large groups.

Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 71 Length: 6,147 yards (5,621m)

Architect: Willie Park Jnr





PORTLETHEN

Portlethen Golf Club is conveniently situated on the A90 only 6 miles south of Aberdeen City Centre making it an ideal location for golfers travelling to or from the City from the South.

Portlethen Golf Club,
Badentoy Road, Portlethen,
Aberdeen AB12 4YA
T: +44 (0) 1224 781090
E: admin@portlethengolfclub.com

W: portlethengolfclub.com

Maturing into one of the more popular parkland courses in the north-east of Scotland having been blessed with natural features, the principal being the Findon burn which, lined with mature broadleaf trees, crosses five of the holes on the first nine influencing either tee or approach shots.



As well as hosting the Scottish Under-16 Boys Stroke-play Championship in 2013 the course has been chosen to host many local golfing events including the 72 hole North-East Open and offers players the option of a gentle, but still testing, 5,757 yard, Par 70, SSS 68 course or for those who prefer a greater challenge play from our white tees to lengthen the course to 6,449 yards, Par 72, SSS 71.

Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 71 Length: 6,449 yards (5,897m)
Architect: Donald Steel



ROYAL ABERDEEN

The 6th oldest club in the world, founded in 1780, awarded royal patronage in 1903 by Edward VII.

Royal Aberdeen
Links Road, Bridge of Don,
Aberdeen, AB23 8AT
T: +44 (0) 1224 702571
E: GeneralManager@
royalaberdeengolf.com

W: royalaberdeengolf.com

Often referred to as having the best opening nine holes in golf, offering a challenge for any avid golfer. Boasting spectacular views across the undulating dunes and fairways of the Balgownie links while providing each golfer with scenery that can only be described as remarkable, with views of the River Don and North Sea. Royal Aberdeen Golf Club is a Championship course, proud of its heritage and welcoming atmosphere to new members and visitors. Having recently hosted 'The Amateur Championship in 2018, Scottish Open 2014 and the 43rd Walker Cup in 2011' it's simply a must play course on any visit to Aberdeen.



—Founded 1780—
**ROYAL ABERDEEN
GOLF CLUB**

Holes: 18 Par: 71 SSS: 75 Length: 6,922 yards (6,329m)

Architect: The Course was originally designed by the Simpson Brothers, Archie and Robert of Carnoustie and later re-bunkered and lengthened by James Braid. Hawtree & Company are now engaged as the club's architects to ensure our classic links keeps pace with the modern game.

597 reasons to make your next golf break ... Aberdeenshire

Chances are that if your reading this you're interested in playing golf in Aberdeenshire and who could blame you? It has one of the finest stretches of links golf you'll find anywhere in the world. You'll probably know all about Royal Aberdeen, Murcar Links, Cruden Bay and of course, Trump International Scotland but there are other gems such as Newburgh On Ythan, Peterhead, Fraserburgh and Inverallochy that offer all the characteristics of traditional Scottish links golf.

Away from coastline, you will also find some rewarding golf courses. Newmachar, the majestically scenic Ballater on the Royal Deeside trail as well as Braemar, the highest 18-hole course in Scotland at around 1,205 feet above sea level and situated in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Then there's Duff House Royal Golf Club in Banff, with its two-tier greens and the River Deveron ambling alongside five holes of this beautifully manicured course.

You may want to take some time to see for yourself why Aberdeenshire receives great reviews from visitors keen to explore the city and shire, its culture, heritage, beauty and amazing landscape, whether that be the coastal trail or the hills and mountains.

Take a day away from golf and there's no shortage of things to do. How about planning a whisky tour deep into the Scottish glens? See some wonderful scenery along the way before discovering why we call whisky the 'water of life'. We've got some great castles too - some 263 would you believe.

We look forward to welcoming you to Aberdeenshire for your next golf break. For more information about what's on in Aberdeenshire go to visitabdn.com.



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please contact our Sales Manager:
sales_aberdeen@sandmanhotels.co.uk

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