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Deep in the majestic Cairngorms mountain range, along 165 miles of outstanding coastline, in the heart of an architecturally vibrant city, Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire is where your true Scottish adventure begins. Here is your three day Scottish break inspiration:



Breakfast with a view

Scotland - the birthplace of golf. Start your day with the breakfast of champions at [Stonehaven Golf Club](#) as you enjoy glorious panoramic views over the coastline and [Dunnottar Castle](#) in the distance.



Visit a famous castle ruin

[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 too.



Dip your toes in the sand

Located only five miles north of [Aberdeen](#) is the beautiful [Balmedie Beach](#) which stretches 14 miles along the Aberdeenshire coastline. It is known for its idyllic sandy beach and towering dune system which is the fifth largest dune system in the UK.



Lunch at the Kilmarnock Arms

Steeped in history, have lunch at the [Kilmarnock Arms Hotel](#). In the late 1800's this small hotel was a regular vacation spot for Bram Stoker while he wrote Dracula (1897). Enjoy locally sourced fayre with a modern twist.



Walk along the sand

Let your food settle as you take a wander down to [Cruden Bay Beach](#). A peaceful and beautiful sandy beach.



Bare your fangs

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).



Walk the dog

Ok - not literally! 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.



Evening meal with a stamp of approval

Enjoy stylish fine-dining and refined modern Scottish cuisine. Since opening in 2004, owner and 'The Kilted Chef', Craig Wilson, has nurtured [Eat on the Green](#) in to one of the best restaurants in Aberdeenshire.





Breakfast in the city

Begin your day at [Books and Beans](#), a quirky fairtrade cafe found on charming Belmont Street. Serving up delicious local produce and homebakes.



Sightseeing in the city centre

[Aberdeen](#) is a city that looks and feels quite different. Not just because the main thoroughfare, Union Street, is lined with classic granite buildings that help make this “one of the most architecturally distinctive cities in Europe” but also thanks to its vibrant street art. Get to know the city centre a little better as you discover [Nuart Aberdeen](#) and the [Painted Doors](#).



Find your Muse

The [Gordon Highlanders Museum](#) is a 5* VisitScotland' attraction just a short distance from the city centre. It preserves and shares the legacy of the world-famous Gordon Highlanders Regiment. There's a wide range of unique experiences for all of our visitors, young and old.



Lunch at the beach

You'll be in need of a much-earned treat so kick back at the beach for lunch with a sea view. Sit on the top deck of a parked double-decker bus transformed into a cafe at [The Highlander Cafe Bus](#), or find a spot outside one of our lovely seafront cafes, like [The Pier](#) and Sand Dollar.



Find the unexpected

[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.



Walk down memory lane in Aberdeen

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



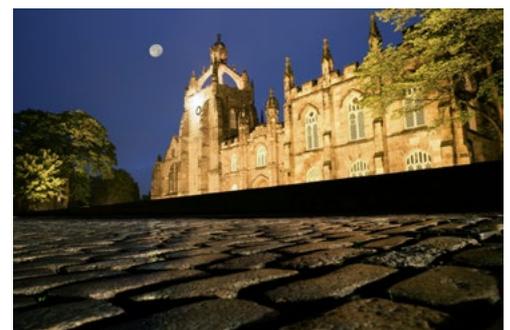
Enter foodie heaven with a Master Chef Professional

Established in 2004, [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 Brian McLeish is a former runner up in the BBC cooking show Master Chef the Professionals. Serving a constantly evolving innovative menu of modern British cuisine in a relaxed setting.



Raise a glass

Put your feet up and sample some of our finest local whisky. [The Grill](#) has long been a favourite for whisky lovers and was even awarded "World Whisky Bar of the Year" by Whisky Magazine.





Breakfast in Royal Deeside

Organic, ethical and wholesome foods all prepared in house at [Buchanan Bistro](#) and served informally in a light and bright atmosphere with wonderful views overlooking the surrounding countryside. The perfect start to your day in [Royal Deeside](#).



Visit Loch Muick

[Loch Muick](#), on the Balmoral Estate, is a freshwater loch roughly 8km south of [Braemar](#); set in a picturesque location there is a pleasant terrain for walkers. Keep your eyes peeled as you will frequently spot red deer and other wildlife roaming across the mountain passes. Top tip: On the western side of the loch you will find Glas-allt Shield - a hunting lodge built for Queen Victoria in 1868. This lodge became her retreat after the death of Prince Albert. It is also known as Widow's House.



Comforting meal at Clachan Grill

This converted steading provides a tranquil and comfortable dining atmosphere along the River Dee. With pristine views, cosy dining and quality Scottish fare, the [Clachan Grill](#) has proved a hit with locals and visitors alike.



Experience royalty at Balmoral Castle

The British Royal Family has been visiting [Balmoral Castle](#) in Aberdeenshire for over 100 years as their summer holiday destination of choice. 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 HM Queen Elizabeth 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.



Sample a wee dram (or two) at Royal Lochnagar Distillery

[Royal Lochnagar Distillery](#) one of the jewels in the Royal Deeside crown is situated beside her Majesty the Queen's Scottish Home, Balmoral Castle, in Crathie. The distillery takes its name from the mountain, Lochnagar, which is a Munro, a mountain over 3000ft high. The Royal name was bestowed upon the distillery following a visit by Queen Victoria on the 12th September 1848. At the end of this, the first ever distillery tour, Queen Victoria enjoyed a dram of mature Lochnagar highland single malt scotch whisky.



Dine like a Royal

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 [The Rothesay Rooms](#), 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.

This is just a flavour of what there is to do in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. For more inspiration about what to do here just go to www.visitabdn.com.

