



The Aurora Borealis over Cullen Beach

EXPLORE ABERDEENSHIRE

Discover a diverse region packed with outstanding beauty, with expanses of wild, lush forests, winding rivers, rugged moorland and imposing mountains sweeping down to miles of unspoilt coastline.

As well as boasting fascinating royal connections and Scotland's only Castle Trail, there is a wealth of wonders to discover where Aberdeenshire meets the ocean.

The historic towns and villages which line the coast are a testament to this region's long-standing relationship with the sea and are perfect for exploring. Within these settlements, you'll find some great attractions which give you a unique insight into the maritime and industrial heritage of the past.

The scenery is pure drama; experience this coastal combination of rocky cliffs, long stretches of golden beach, ever-changing sand dunes, remarkable geological formations, and powerful white waves, which roll in from the North Sea.



Findlater Castle, near Cullen

2016-17 visitscotland.com/coastaltrail



HISTORIC BANFFSHIRE HARBOURS

The Banffshire Coast, also known as 'Scotland's Dolphin Coast', is brimming with wide sweeping beaches, welcoming towns and villages and abundant wildlife. Scratch below the surface of this remarkable area and you'll find the Banffshire Coast Harbour Trail.

The stories and folklore around these nine seafaring safe havens underpin the heritage of this part of the Aberdeenshire coast and these historic ports have in the past, and continue today, to play a pivotal role in daily life and are well worth exploring.

Find out about the fascinating historic trading, active smuggling and herring fishing heydays of this beautiful coast. Come and watch traditional boat building in operation at the new Boatshed in Portsoy harbour. Hear tales of dramatic storms and nature's impact on tiny seaside hamlets, visit pretty fishing villages that have inspired Hollywood directors and enjoy boat cruises, watersports or even just a short stroll from these ancient anchorages.

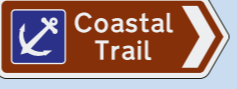


Gardenstown

Find out more at: banffshirecoast.com/Harbour+Trail/



Find out more about Aberdeenshire's Coastal Trail at: visitscotland.com/coastaltrail



© Ashworth Maps and Interpretation Ltd 2016. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.

01 Cullen Beach B1

Stroll along the golden sands of Cullen Beach and admire the striking natural rock formation of the Three Kings, perfect for photo opportunities. The beach is renowned for its excellent water quality and is ideal for paddling or, for the more adventurous, swimming. Play a round of golf at the bordering Cullen Golf Club, follow one of the many coastal walks or trails, or try to spot dolphins from the shore.

Postcode: AB56 4AG



02 Glenglassaugh Distillery B1

Situated at the east end of beautiful Sandend Bay is Glenglassaugh Distillery, founded in 1875 by Colonel James Moir. For over 20 years, this distillery was closed until it was purchased by a group of investors and production restarted in 2008. Discover the fine flavours of one of the Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire and go on a behind-the-scenes tour. You can even fill your own bottle of Glenglassaugh whisky and take it away with you!

Postcode: AB45 2SQ Tel: 0131 335 5130



03 Surfing at Sandend Beach and Banff Links B1

Surf's up! Head to the small, but perfectly formed, Sandend Beach and catch some of the best waves in the country. The area is a magnet for surfers who travel from far and wide to ride the waves which crash onto this quiet sandy beach. Unsurprisingly, the beach lends its name to the nearby village. Less than 10 miles east is Banff Links, another prime surfing location, where you can get lessons from Surf and Watersports Club Scotland.

Postcode: AB45 2JJ and AB45 2UA
Tel: 07867 522282



04 Portsoy Ice Cream B1

Treat yourself at Portsoy Ice Cream and order a scoop – or two – of this sweet and creamy frozen delight. This award-winning, family-run producer uses local ingredients wherever possible to make a tantalising range of flavours, from classic vanilla to strawberry panna cotta. Relax in the Coffee Corner, or order a cone to take away and enjoy your ice cream whilst taking in views of the pretty and historic harbour.


Postcode: AB45 2QT Tel: 01261 842279



05 Portsoy Salmon Bothy B1

Uncover the fascinating fishing traditions of the region at the Salmon Bothy Museum, housed in a charming limewashed building which dates back over 180 years. You'll find a range of exhibits in the former ice chambers. Learn about the town's harbours, its industry, trade and the salmon fishing operations, and get a unique insight into the geography, history and culture of Portsoy. In the bothy, trace your family tree with trained genealogists and discover your connections to the area.

Postcode: AB45 2SS Tel: 01261 842951



06 Duff House C2

Take in the splendour of one of Scotland's architectural masterpieces. Built by William Adam in the 18th century, the house was originally a seat for the 1st Earl Fife and is now one of 19 sites on Scotland's only Castle Trail. Admire the artworks, many of which are on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland, before exploring the vast parkland grounds. Stroll along the banks of the River Deveron to the south of the house, or test your game with a round of golf at Duff House Royal Golf Club.

Postcode: AB45 3SX Tel: 01261 818181



07 Macduff Marine Aquarium C2

Discover astonishing underwater worlds at this brilliant attraction which is great fun for all the family. Learn about the marine life of the Moray Firth, from its rocky shores to the depths of the sea floor. Come face-to-face with local sea creatures such as octopus and wolf fish, and hold starfish and crabs at the touch pool. The aquarium is home to a living kelp reef, the only one of its kind in Britain. You might even see divers hand-feeding the fish!


Postcode: AB44 1SL Tel: 01261 833369



08 RSPB Troup Head, Pennan D1

Soak up the awesome sight of thousands of seabirds and hear their piercing cries. Troup Head is the only mainland gannet colony in Scotland and is also home to species such as guillemots, razorbills and puffins. Follow the clifftop path and look out to sea where you might spot dolphins, porpoises, seals and even minke whales. Explore the rocky coastline on a boat tour – there are three operators that depart from Banff, Macduff and Gardenstown.


Directions: the reserve is located between Pennan and Gardenstown on the B9031 road.



09 New Aberdour Beach E1

Explore the shoreline of New Aberdour beach and wander through the impressive sandstone caves. Set back from the beach is St Drostan's Well, a drinking fountain which is named after the saint who is said to have landed on the beach AD 580. At the west end of the beach, see if you can spot the memorial to Jane Whyte. In 1886, she helped rescue the crew of the steamship William Hope which was wrecked close to the shore.


Postcode: AB43 6HR



10 Pitsligo Castle, Rosehearty E1

Step back in time as you take in this impressive and atmospheric ruin which is the ancestral home of the Forbes. Lying half a mile inland from Rosehearty, the castle dates back to the 15th century and was pillaged by Hanoverian troops following the Jacobites' defeat at the Battle of Culodden in 1746. Venture to the nearby Peathill Church and see the Lairds Pew, which is adorned with fine Jacobean carvings.

Postcode: AB43 7JR Tel: 01346 571419



11 Sandhaven Meal Mill E1

Get connected to the past and join a guided tour of this brilliant 19th century meal mill on which you'll learn about the region's historic industries. Visit the mill where thousands of tons of oatmeal used to be ground and see the working demonstration in action. Make sure you take time to chat with local guides, who are more than happy to share their wealth of knowledge of the fishing and boat building heritage of Sandhaven and its neighbouring village Pittulie.

Postcode: AB43 4EP Tel: 01771 622807



12 Fraserburgh Heritage Centre E1

Explore this treasure trove of wonders and discover 400 years of history at this award-winning museum and visitor centre, established by members of the local community. It gives a great insight into the story of Fraserburgh and its people. Learn about Thomas Blake Glover, one of the founders of modern Japan, and see some remarkable garments by iconic 1960s fashion designer Bill Gibb.


Postcode: AB43 9DT Tel: 01346 513802



13 Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Fraserburgh E1

Take a guided tour of Kinnaird Head, the only lighthouse in the world built in a castle, whilst on your visit to this national museum. Look at the exhibitions to see a wonderful collection of glass lenses and learn about the lives of those who watched over Scotland's coastline for over 200 years. Enjoy some refreshments in the Lighthouse Museum Café and take in views of the entrance to the Moray Firth – you might even spot some wonderful marine wildlife.

Postcode: AB43 9DU Tel: 01346 511022



14 Fraserburgh Beach E1

Don't forget your bucket and spade when you head to Fraserburgh beach – it's the perfect spot for a traditional beach holiday building sandcastles and bathing in the sea. This stretch of coastline is the Home of Scottish Surfing, having previously hosted the Scottish Surfing Championships and is also popular with windsurfers. Explore the Waters of Philorth Local Nature Reserve known for its diversity of bird life resulting from the range of habitats.

Postcode: AB43 8UE



15 Maggie's Hoosie, Inverallochy F1

Stepping through the doorway of this traditional 'hoosie', you'll feel like you've been transported to a bygone age. This unmodernised fishing cottage, with its earth floor and original furnishings, would have once been typical of the accommodation lived in by the region's fishermen and their families. See where Maggie Duthie, a local girl born in 1867, lived and worked all her days – the dwelling has remained unchanged since her death in 1950.

Postcode: AB43 8YL Tel: 01346 582679




Image Credits

Front cover image: Pennan, Aberdeenshire.

Thank you to all our photographers, Image credits: VisitScotland /Neil McIntyre; RSPB /Andy Hay; Banffshire Coast; Mike Chandler; SNH/Lorne Gill; ACSEF, Iain Sarjeant; Lyn MacDonald Photography; April Dickson ; Dollar Photo Club; Ship Inn; Allan Robertson; Aberdeenshire Council; Glenglassaugh Distillery; David J Whyte/Linksland Golf; Scottish Traditional Boat Festival

Huntly Castle



Coastal Trail

St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



Puffin



Balmedie Beach



ONE OF THE FINEST COASTS IN THE WORLD!

Did you know that parts of Aberdeenshire's coastline were rated as one of the most scenic in the world by *National Geographic* magazine?

Jump in the car and follow the 165-mile signposted Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail and explore the delights of this incredible part of Scotland for yourself. You'll discover dramatic clifftop walks, captivating coves, beautiful nature reserves with an abundance of wildlife, expansive beaches, charming towns and villages, world-class links and parkland golf courses and much more besides.

Use the maps provided in this handy guide to make your way along both the Banffshire coast and the East Grampian coast. Make sure you stop off at some of the fascinating attractions and beauty spots along the Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail – we've highlighted 31 within this guide to get you started, but there are plenty more! Look out for the brown and white Coastal Trail road signs that will help guide you along the magnificent Aberdeenshire coastline.

WONDERFUL WILDLIFE

Nature lovers will adore Aberdeenshire's striking beaches and coastline, home to important eco-systems and teeming with incredible wildlife.

Spot spectacular coastal sights like bottlenose dolphins, seals or even whales from the shore and on boat trips. Or find some wonderful seabirds, mammals and flora at **Forvie** and **St Cyrus National Nature Reserves** and at other wildlife reserves such as **RSPB Fowlesheugh** near Stonehaven and the **Bullers of Buchan**, an impressive collapsed sea cave near Cruden Bay. The **Ythan Estuary** near Newburgh is renowned for its seals, eider ducks and an occasional king eider. All are located along the East Grampian coast.

In autumn, don't miss the staggering spectacle of 70,000 pink-footed geese and whooper swans arriving from Iceland to the **RSPB Loch of Strathbeg** reserve near Fraserburgh.

At **RSPB Troup Head** near Pennan on the Banffshire coast, witness the transformation of the striking cliffs as tens of thousands of seabirds return to roost during the summer months, coming inland after their winter at sea. Troup Head also contains the only mainland gannet colony in Scotland.

TRADITIONAL BEACH HOLIDAYS

When was the last time you had a fun family day at the beach? An afternoon where you and the kids built sandcastles with a moat, rooted around for crabs and shellfish in rock pools, cast a fishing line into the sea or just sat in the sun enjoying the scenery.

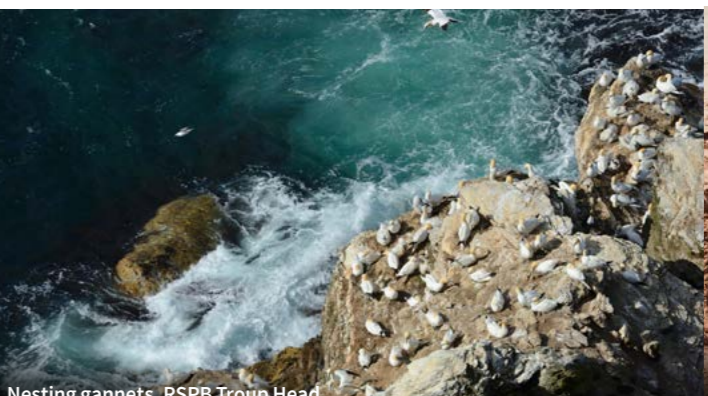
Aberdeenshire's 165-mile coast is dotted with beautiful beaches including Balmedie, Cruden Bay, Rattray Head, Fraserburgh, Cullykhan Bay, Banff, Sandend, Sunnyside and Cullen, perfect for gentle strolls and wildlife watching as part of a traditional beach holiday. You'll also find some of the cleanest bathing seas in Europe along this coast.

Don't forget to save time for an ice cream! Many towns along the coast have long-established local producers and parlours, offering their own individual delights. Round your day off in the most deliciously satisfying way and order a piping hot fish supper.

Seals on the East Grampian coast



Nesting gannets, RSPB Troup Head



Lasting memories building sandcastles





Don't miss the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival



Surfing fun at Banff

WHAT'S ON

Aberdeenshire's coastal towns and villages boast a variety of events to suit all, from festivals celebrating maritime heritage to traditional folk music.

In June make your way to Portsoy for the **Scottish Traditional Boat Festival**, where you can admire some beautifully crafted sailboats from the charming stone harbour. Soak up the unique atmosphere as you listen to live Scottish music, see traditional crafters in action and sample some freshly cooked local fare.

For those of you who enjoy a good pint, don't miss **The Midsummer Beer Happening** in Stonehaven this June which offers a magical mix of brilliant brews, fantastic food and magnificent music, all in its purpose built marquee in the town's Baird Park.

Folk music fans are spoiled for choice, with **Haal Folk Festival** taking place in Portsoy in June, and the **Stonehaven Folk Festival** being held in July.

In the summer months, enjoy a brilliant family day out at **Stonehaven** and **Cornhill Highland games**. Watch athletes toss the caber, see nifty steps of Highland dancers and take in the stirring scene of a pipeband performance.

Get a behind the scenes insight into the historic former Peterhead Prison when it opens this summer as **Admiralty Gateway** and learn what life was like as a prison warden. You'll also find a great new coastal footpath around the harbour town.



Find out more at:
visitscotland.com/aberdeenshireevents

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

With a variety of grassy trails, enchanting cliffs and coves and spectacular sand dunes, coastal walking is a delight in Aberdeenshire. However there are also many other outdoor activities to enjoy along Aberdeenshire's Coastal Trail.

Discover the kelp forests of the Moray Firth at diving sites such as Cullykhan, Portknockie, Cable Rock (off Cullen), Rosehearty, Collieston, Catterline and Todhead. You'll find an abundance of wildlife on the seabed and maybe even a shipwreck.

If you prefer to be on top of the water, climb into a sea kayak and paddle along the foreshore, where inquisitive seals might pop up for a closer look at you!

Explore the coastal roads on two wheels; take the family on a bike ride through quiet countryside and drink in remarkable sea vistas. Head to Banff and ride Scotland's Dolphin Coast.

For those with an appetite for adventure, head to the shorelines of Fraserburgh, the perfect location for surfing, kite surfing or windsurfing on the sea, or kite buggying on the expansive golden beach. There are also great opportunities to surf the waves off Banff Links, Sandend and Aberdeen beach.



Summertime fun, Portsoy

DELIGHT IN OUR COASTAL LARDER

Discover the region's abundant natural larder and make sure you sample some of the fruits of the North Sea. In traditional fishing towns you can see fresh catches being landed in harbours.

Enjoy Aberdeenshire's seafood, beautifully cooked by skilled chefs in local restaurants such as **The Ship Inn**, **The Tollbooth Seafood Restaurant** and **The Marine Hotel** all in Stonehaven, the **Creel Inn** at Catterline and the **Silver Darling Restaurant** in Aberdeen.

Tuck into a traditional supper from the region's award-winning fish and chip shops, including **The Bay Fish & Chips**, Stonehaven. Pick up daily catches from fish markets and fishmongers and cook your own. With monkfish, lemon sole, scallops and lobster just a few of the exciting seafood options available, you are sure to be amazed by what you can find. Some processors and smokehouses have little shops attached to them, stocked with gourmet ingredients and wonderful accompaniments.

And it's not just seafood you'll find here. Discover local delicacies like Aberdeen Angus beef at farmers' markets and farmshops and make sure you experience one of the distinctive **Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire** at **Glenglassaugh Distillery** near Sandend.

Look out for businesses displaying VisitScotland's **Taste Our Best** Quality Assurance award. It recognises quality Aberdeenshire food and drink on menus across the region.

Learn more at: visitscotland.com/tasteourbest





Fresh local seafood at the Ship Inn, Stonehaven

16 Loch of Strathbeg and Rattray Head F2

Regardless of season, there's always something fascinating to see at RSPB Loch of Strathbeg. During spring and summer, you might spot gulls, terns and wading birds raising their young, while in the autumn and winter months you can marvel at the spectacle of thousands of pink-footed geese, which arrive from Iceland. The reserve has three hides and an observation room in the visitor centre. Nearby see Rattray Head Lighthouse, explore the extensive sand dunes and spot old shipwrecks on the beach.

Postcode: AB42 3HA Tel: 01346 532017



17 Arbuthnot Museum, Peterhead F2

Immerse yourself in the wealth of Peterhead's maritime history at one of Aberdeenshire's oldest museums. Learn about fishing traditions and maritime explorations of the past through some fascinating exhibits, such as models depicting the development of Peterhead fishing boats, Inuit artefacts, a large coin collection and even a stuffed polar bear. Get a glimpse into history and check out the many old photographs of the area, or join in with the programme of special events.


Postcode: AB42 1QD Tel: 01779 477778



18 Peterhead Bay F2

Take in the sights, sounds and smells of one of the busiest fishing ports in Europe. Historic Peterhead harbour is home to over 400 vessels, a bustling daily fish market and a leisure marina. Explore the bay on foot and try to picture hardy sailors, whalers and fisher folk from the past. Make sure you pop into Ugie Salmon Fishings to pick up some freshly landed fish – it's Scotland's oldest salmon fish house and sells directly to the public.

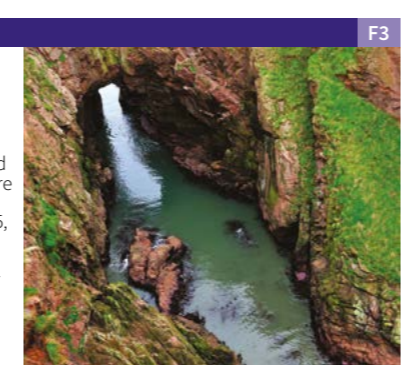
Postcode: AB42 2PF



19 Bullers of Buchan F3

Don't miss the chance to witness this collapsed sea cave, one of the most impressive geological features of Aberdeenshire's coastline. Follow a narrow clifftop coastal path (care required) to the Bullers of Buchan and look upon the 30 m deep chasm where you'll see the waves rush through the natural archway. Located off the A975, just north of Cruden Bay, this natural marvel boasts some spectacular clifftop scenery and is a great spot for catching sight of puffins, kittiwakes, guillemots and razorbills.

Directions: 6 miles south of Peterhead



20 Cruden Bay Beach F3

Stretch your legs and take a walk along beautiful Cruden Bay beach, a two mile wide arc of pink sands which lies between Cruden Bay and Port Erroll. This Blue Flag beach is popular with day trippers, watersports enthusiasts and sea anglers. The entire bay is a designated bathing water area, so be sure to pack your swimsuit! You can access the beach by the White Ladies Bridge across the Water of Cruden.


Postcode: AB42 0RF Tel: 01358 751330



21 Forvie NNR and Ythan Estuary, near Newburgh F3/E3

Walk through a breathtaking landscape of shifting sand dunes at Forvie National Nature Reserve and explore the heather moorlands, clifftops and a secluded bay which lie nearby – there's even the ruins of a half-buried 12th century church to explore. Birdlife is plentiful; waders and waterfowl feast in the mud in winter, and in summer you'll see a thousand breeding eider ducks in the Ythan Estuary. You're also virtually guaranteed to see basking common and grey seals.

Postcode: AB41 8RU



22 Balmedie Beach E4

Visit the expansive, award-winning beach at Balmedie and discover the perfect place to spend a sunny afternoon playing in the sand or kicking a ball around with the kids. Stroll across the long stretches of white sand or, if you feel like something more energetic, why not experience the exhilaration of cantering across miles of beach on horseback, or bring a body board and hit the waves? Trump International Resort is also nearby if you prefer to enjoy a round of exquisite links golf.

Postcode: AB23 8XG



23 Aberdeen Fun Beach E4

Blow off some steam at fun-filled amusements, located on Aberdeen's beach promenade, only one mile from the bustling city centre. Challenge yourself on the Vertigo Aerial Assault Course, take a ride on the Crazy Train Rollercoaster, or test your skills on a round of adventure golf, all at Codona's Amusement Park. Kids will have tons of fun in Smugglers Cove indoor play area. Enjoy a bracing walk along the beach before checking out the cafes and restaurants which line the esplanade.

Postcode: AB24 5NS Tel: 01224 595910




1 VisitScotland iCentre (All year / Seasonal)


1 Place of interest

Primary road (green line)
A road (red line)
B road (orange line)
Minor road (grey line)
Railway (black line)

24 Dolphins at Torry Battery, Aberdeen E4

For many, the star attraction of Aberdeen's busy harbour is its pod of bottlenose dolphins, and Torry Battery is an excellent viewpoint to try and spot these playful creatures – make sure you bring your binoculars and camera! Take a stroll to this former fortified artillery battery, which was last used defensively in WWII. Standing nearby at the entrance of the River Dee is Girdleness Lighthouse which was designed by Robert Stevenson and built in 1833.


Postcode: AB11 9DA



28 Dunnottar Castle D5

Ruined castles don't get much more dramatic than magnificent Dunnottar Castle, perched 160 ft above the North Sea. Nothing beats approaching the castle on foot along the coastal path from Stonehaven. This fortress has a long and enthralling history: it was besieged by Oliver Cromwell, has housed the Scottish Crown Jewels and also been graced by visits from Scottish icons William Wallace and Mary, Queen of Scots. If you're lucky, you'll also see dolphins and puffins from the castle ramparts.

Postcode: AB39 2TL Tel: 01569 762173



25 Stonehaven Open Air Swimming Pool D5

Make a splash at Stonehaven's open air heated swimming pool, located in the town's Queen Elizabeth Park. Beautifully designed in Art Deco style, this Olympic-sized public pool and lido is filled with clean sea water. With a water temperature of 29°C (84°F), it's perfect for a refreshing dip on a summer's day. Kids will love the fun sessions, and look out for the special night time openings where you can swim beneath the stars.

Postcode: AB39 2RD Tel: 01569 762134



29 RSPB Fowlsheugh, by Stonehaven D5

Guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes are some of the thousands of pairs of breeding birds which collectively form an awesome natural spectacle on the cliffs of Fowlsheugh in the spring and summer months. You might see comical-looking puffins and beady-eyed fulmars too. Put on your boots and follow one of the clifftop paths and admire the breathtaking coastal vistas, and keep your eyes to the sea; grey seals, dolphins and minke whales are often spotted by walkers.

Postcode: AB39 2TP Tel: 01346 532017



26 Aunty Betty's and Giulianotti's Ice Cream Shops D5

Indulge your sweet tooth and sample some cool, creamy treats from Stonehaven's much-loved ice cream and sweet shops. Pop into Aunty Betty's and choose from a delicious array of ice creams, ice cream cakes, sweets and coffees – the perfect reward after you've stretched your legs along the promenade. Experience old fashioned sweet shop charm at Giulianotti's, where Italian ice cream has been made to a secret recipe for generations.

Postcode: AB39 2RD Tel: 01569 763656 and AB39 2EQ Tel: 01569 762444



30 Maggie Law Maritime Museum D6

The Maggie Law was one of the first inshore lifeboats, built in 1890 and rowed by six men she was in service for 40 years and saved 36 lives. If you are interested in maritime heritage you will be amazed at what's on display at the Maggie Law Maritime Museum which caters for all ages. The old two-storey coastguard building, which sits beside the old harbour and slipway (the Gully) can be found in the centre of Gourdon.


Postcode: DD10 0LW Tel: 01569 750730



27 Stonehaven Harbour and Tolbooth Museum D5

Stonehaven's pretty working harbour, busy with sailing yachts and fishing boats, makes the perfect subject for budding photographers. Visit the Tolbooth Museum, housed in the oldest building in the town, and uncover the fascinating heritage of both the town and the 16th century building itself; historically, it served as a prison and has connections to nearby Dunnottar Castle. In the summer months, take a boat cruise to see the magnificent RSPB Fowlsheugh, a seabird cliff colony packed with 130,000 breeding seabirds.


Postcode: AB39 2JU Tel: 07512 466329



31 St Cyrus NNR C6

Feel like you're miles from the hustle and bustle of urban life as you wander along the cliffs and dunes of St Cyrus National Nature Reserve. In the summer months, this protected area is awash with colour and life, from pretty purple bellflowers dotted across the grassy dunes to the constant movement of fluttering butterflies. Keep your eyes to the skies, where you might spot circling peregrine falcons, or in the winter months look out for feeding waders on the shoreline.

Postcode: DD10 0AQ




i i VisitScotland iCentre (All year / Seasonal)

1 Place of interest

Primary road (green line), A road (red line), B road (orange line), Minor road (grey line), Railway (black line)

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016.




GLORIOUS GOLF

Aberdeenshire's coast offers some of the best examples of links golf in Scotland with courses to suit all abilities. Test your swing as you tee off amidst stunning scenery on the fantastic links and coastal courses at **Royal Tarlair, Duff House Royal Banff, Trump International near Balmedie, Newburgh and Stonehaven.**

For those who really want to challenge themselves head to **Royal Aberdeen**, host of the 2014 Scottish Open, or to **Cruden Bay**, which placed second in a list of the best fun courses in Great Britain by Golf World magazine.

If you've never tried golf before and want to give it a go, why not visit one of the charming 9-hole courses in the area such as **Rosehearty Golf Club**, set in the shadow of the ruins of Pitsligo and Pittulie castles? Or head to the driving range at the Myrus Golf Centre in Macduff.

Find out more at: golfaberdeen.com




SCOTLAND'S CASTLE COUNTRY

The Aberdeenshire coast is awash with history and intriguing tales just waiting to be uncovered.


Aberdeenshire is 'Castle Country' and the Coastal Trail hosts some of its finest examples. Explore the romantic ruins of **Pitsligo Castle** in Rosehearty, or admire world-class art and spectacular furnishings at **Duff House** in Banff. Witness the atmospheric ruins of **Slains Castle**, near Cruden Bay, often said to be the inspiration for Count Dracula's Castle. There are even the remains of an ancient Pictish hillfort at **Cullykhan** above Pennan. Visit Stonehaven and see the magnificent clifftop ruins of **Dunnottar Castle** – you might even spot dolphins swimming off the coast from the castle ramparts.

Discover stories of maritime life at Fraserburgh Heritage Centre and the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, where Scotland's first mainland lighthouse is actually built in 16th century Kinnaird Castle. Learn how people lived and worked in coastal settlements at Maggie's Hoosie in Inverallochy and Sandhaven Meal Mill near Fraserburgh.



Visit Scotland | Alba™ iCENTRE

ASK US WHERE TO FIND ABERDEENSHIRE'S BEST KEPT SECRETS.



European Union European Regional Development Fund

If you're looking for the true spirit of Aberdeenshire, start your search at one of our VisitScotland iCentres. We'll point you in the direction of the best the region has to offer, whether you need advice on where to go and what to do, or even if you're looking to book accommodation and tickets for all kinds of events, activities and transport. Come and talk to our knowledgeable and friendly staff. You never know, we might just let you in on a few local secrets.

23 Union Street, Aberdeen , AB11 5BP 01224 269180	Unit 3, The Mews, Mar Road, Braemar , AB35 5YL 01339 741600	9A, The Square, Huntly , AB54 8BR 01466 792255
Cairngorms National Park Authority, Albert Memorial Hall, Station Square, Ballater , AB35 5QB 01339 755306	Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Kinnaird Head, Castle Terrace, Fraserburgh , AB43 9DU 01346 518315	66 Allardice Street, Stonehaven , AB39 2AA 01569 762806
Collie Lodge, Low Street, Banff , AB45 1AU 01261 812419		

Gardenstown, Aberdeenshire VISITSCOTLAND.COM/iCENTRE