

THE PETERHEAD TOWN TRAIL

@aberdeenshire #BlootoonTrail

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www.peterheadtowntrail.co.uk



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Smugglers, secret passages, heroes, poets, influential ladies, ghosts, war, witchcraft, murder, rebellion and piracy – a fine day out in Peterhead.

From the haunting tale of Auld Harry in the Harbour, to witch trials, and the dubious business activities of the Baron Bailie Alexander Elles. Meet Fisher Jessie, and see the gift William 1st of Prussia sent to the people of Peterhead.

The Peterhead Town Trail starts here. Explore Aberdeenshire's largest town - the Blootoon - and find out more about its exciting past.

THE PETERHEAD TOWN TRAIL

Put on your walking shoes & let the story begin...



START

- 1 Muckle Kirk, Kirk Square, AB42 1RQ
- 2 Proclamation Pend, Drummers Corner, AB42 1BS
- 3 Broad Street, AB42 1BY
- 4 Russian Cannon, Harbour Street, AB42 1DJ
- 5 Graving Dock, Seagate, AB42 1JN
- 6 John A. Smith & Son, 12 Seagate, AB42 1JP
- 7 Patent Slipway, North Seagate, AB42 1JP
- 8 Port Henry Road, AB42 1LA
- 9 The Esplanade, AB42 1LF
- 10 The Gadle Braes, AB42 1PJ
- 11 Old Buchanhaven Harbour, AB42 1NN
- 12 The Ugie Estuary, AB42 6NF
- 14 Ugie Hospital, AB42 1LZ
- 13 Buchanhaven Heritage Centre, AB42 1NR
- 15 Peterhead Community Centre and Swimming Pool, AB42 1EP
- 16 Landale Road Gardens, AB42 1SU
- 17 Prince Street, AB42 1QL
- 18 Arbutnot Museum, AB42 1QD

FINISH

Smugglers



Find out what Baron Bailie Alexander Elles got up to in his spare time, and his links with Crooked Mary. Did employing a good cook save the Bailie's bacon?

Secret Passages



Underneath Broad Street is a large cave, supported by pillars. The only access is through a passageway from the basement of one of the buildings. What was it for? Nobody knows...

Heroes



Port Henry Pier was the base for a secret Norwegian Intelligence Unit during the Second World War. The Blootoon has no shortage of home-grown heroes either – local lifeboat crews have saved hundreds of lives in some of the UK's most dangerous coastal waters.

Ghosts



The New Model Lodging House is long gone – but at least one of its guests can't bear to leave. Find out where Auld Harry is still making things go bump in the night...if you dare!

Lady Belle Imlay and the Hallelujah Lobby



In the early 1800s, Lady Belle and her retinue of semi-clad beauties held court and entertained "gentlemen" at the New Inn, which became known as the Hallelujah Lobby. This was not due to religious fervour, but sarcasm, as Houses of Low Repute were often referred to as "Holy Ground" at that time. How did she get away with it? Contacts, darling... It was alleged she was the confidant of every notable gentleman in town.

Poets (and Writers)



Local fisherman Peter Buchan (1917 to 1991) lived here, at Mount Pleasant, on Harbour Street. He was renowned for his poetry and short stories written in his local Doric dialect, exactly as he spoke it every day of his life. Peter was one of the caretakers of the rich beautiful language and used it with great skill when describing the lives of the fisher folk.

Another Peter Buchan (1790 – 1854) was also well known for his poetry and writing, and wrote one of the first history books about his home town "Annals of Peterhead from Prehistoric Times" printed in 1818.

Wartime wrecks



Discover the U-boat Captain whose career was flushed away just off the coast. And how did a brave Peterhead skipper use his boat to lead a WW1 German sub to its doom?

Fisher Jessie



The statue of Fisher Jessie was the first public art commission created by the sculptor Andy Scott. He went on to produce works including the world famous Kelpies in Falkirk and the acclaimed Clydesdale Horse which stands beside the M8 motorway in Glasgow. But Peterhead found him first!

Witchcraft



Sandy Hay paid a harsh price for giggling during the sermon and upsetting his Minister. What was Auld Nick up to in church, and why did this bring poor Sandy to a grizzly end?

Murder



Investigate the delights of Clockie's Hoose – a local tavern of ill-repute. Find out what really happened to two supposed deserters from the Militia...

Rebellion



Why was Baron Bailie Arbuthnot not delighted when an unannounced Royal visitor turned up just before Christmas 1715?

Piracy



Notorious Pirate Daniel Fall thought Peterhead was a soft target. He'd pinched a ship from Aberdeen Harbour, and decided to try his hand in the Blootoon where his welcome was very warm indeed. Next stop, Great Yarmouth and easier prey.

Peterhead's Wildlife



At the harbour basin, look out for seals. They are often seen swimming near the boats cadging scraps from fishermen.

There were lots of juicy stories and scurrilous gossip from Peterhead's past that we couldn't quite squeeze onto the panels.

To find out more, see the Peterhead Town Trail website at:

www.peterheadtowntrail.co.uk



Welcome to the Peterhead Town Trail. There are two routes – the short route (the red one) is one and a quarter miles (or 2 km) long, and an average person will burn up 90 calories by walking round. This is enough for a cup of tea or coffee as reward for completing, but does not allow for much chocolate.

The longer (blue) route is three and a half miles (5.8km) and 263 calories,

which may justify a fancy piece to go with your fly cup at any of Peterhead's excellent cafes or bakeries.

You don't have to walk the whole trail at once – dip in and out, and go at your own pace. The route is along pavements and isn't too hilly, although the section along Golf Road is a little steep. Enjoy the fresh sea air and explore the UK's sunniest town.



Now see what else **you can discover**.

Find out how a loving aunt's legacy caused terror and wiped out over **300 people**. Hear how cannons salvaged from a wrecked galleon from the Spanish Armada saved the town.

Why is Peterhead the Blootoon? And what lies hidden just below your feet in Broad Street?

Follow **the trail** and **find out more**.

Document your trail by taking photos, notes and sketches.

