

EXPLORE:
**SCOTLAND'S
CASTLE
TRAIL**

2016-17

**Alba**

www.visitscotland.com/castletrail

Map Inside

**SCOTLAND'S
CASTLE TRAIL**

Explore Aberdeenshire
Aberdeenshire is bursting with rich history, stunning scenery, abundant local wildlife, a mouth-watering natural larder and a buzzing cultural scene. Come and see for yourself!

More than 4000 years of human activity has shaped Aberdeenshire's landscape making it one of the best places to learn about Scotland's fascinating past. Follow **The Stone Circle Trail** to learn more about Aberdeenshire's Bronze Age inhabitants, or visit wonderful carved stones on **The Pictish Stone Trail**. Finally discover Queen Victoria and Prince Alberts favourite spots along the **Victorian Heritage Trail**.



Royal Lochnagar Distillery, Royal Deeside

After you've explored our history and heritage, enjoy a day out at a number of beautiful beaches along the 165-mile **Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail**. From summit to sea, witness some breathtaking scenery and incredible wildlife. Enjoy the great outdoors and test your golfing skills on 57 links and parkland courses, walk in the **Cairngorms National Park** or try out some spectacular mountain biking. And at the end of the day, get a real taste of Aberdeenshire's delicious produce and the warming **Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire**.

Find out more about Aberdeenshire at www.visitscotland.com/aberdeenshire



Red deer stag, Royal Deeside

Scotland's Castle Country
Aberdeenshire is known as 'Scotland's Castle Country'. With an impressive count of over 300 castles, stately mansions and ruins scattered across the landscape, there are more castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK.

Use the map provided in this handy guide to explore the 19 magnificent sites along Scotland's Castle Trail – the only one of its kind in the country. Discover the dark, dramatic and often gruesome stories that bring the rich heritage of these historic fortresses to life. Jump in the car and follow the distinctive brown and white Castle Trail road-signs, which will lead you through Aberdeenshire discovering fine art, regal gardens, royal residences, Hollywood movie locations and much more.



Check out each of the entries in this leaflet for other things to see and do near to each castle. There are great options if you're planning to spend more time near a specific castle and there are some outstanding attractions suggested that you won't want to miss.

Find out more about Scotland's Castle Trail at www.visitscotland.com/castletrail

Cover: Dunnottar Castle, Stonehaven

Photography: National Trust for Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland, Paul Tomkins/VisitScotland.

Quality Assurance awards are correct at time of printing - February 2016.

This publication is printed on recycled content paper. VisitScotland is committed to ensuring that our environment, upon which our tourism is so dependent, is safe guarded for future generations to enjoy.



Investing in Growth, Scotland's new Economic Future



On the map
1 | D4



Dunnottar Castle

The romantic and evocative ruins of Dunnottar Castle, perched on its commanding clifftop position on the edge of the North Sea is one of the most outstanding landmarks in Scotland. This historically significant fortress has withstood a siege (protecting the Scottish crown jewels) from Oliver Cromwell, played host to kings and queens and was used for the recent Hollywood movie *Victor Frankenstein*. It also narrowly missed out on becoming the eighth wonder of the world. Come and experience Scotland's most striking coastal fortifications from the inside.



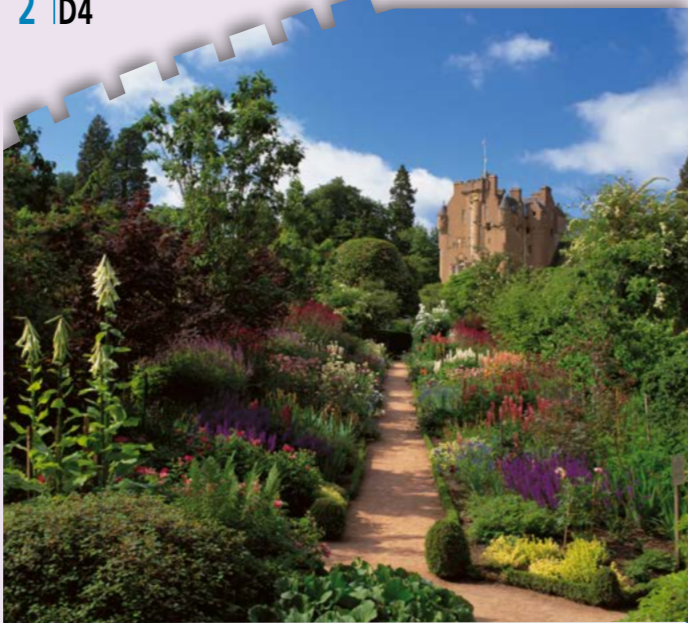
www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|--|--|---|
| | 1 Apr to 30 Sep 9am-6pm 1 Oct to 31 Mar 10am-5pm (or half an hour before sunset, whichever comes soonest) Last entry into the castle will be 30 minutes before closing, depending on weather, please call first. | Adult £7 Child £3 Season Pass £18 Family Ticket £17 (2 adults and 2 children) | Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2TL Telephone 01569 762173 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Tollbooth Museum Stonehaven AB39 2JU | Grassie Gibbon Centre AB30 1PB | Fettercairn Distillery (Secret Malts) AB30 1YB |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|

On the map
2 | D4



Crathes Castle

Turrets and towers, winding staircases, ornate painted ceilings and ancient sculpted yew trees combine to make a visit to Crathes Castle a great day out for the whole family.

An enchanting 16th century tower house, Crathes is surrounded by large formal gardens, woodland walks and rolling Scottish countryside.

Look out for Go Ape!™, discover the children's adventure playground and top off your visit with some home-baked treats in the café.

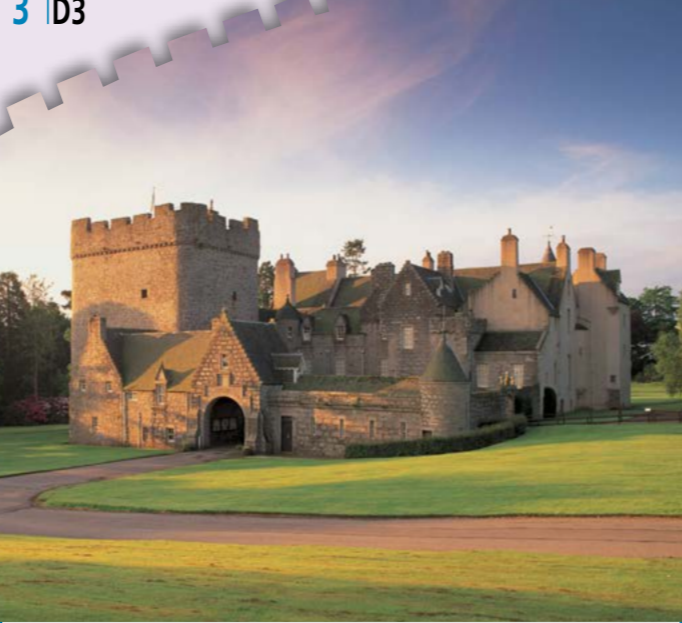


| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| National Trust for Scotland | | www.nts.org.uk/CrathesCastle | |
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | Grounds & Estate: All year, daily Castle: 9 Jan to 24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-3.45pm 25 Mar to 31 Oct, open daily 10.30am-5pm 1 Nov to 23 Dec*, Sat & Sun 11.00am-3.45pm Garden: 5 Jan to 24 Mar, daily 11am-4pm 25 Mar-31 Oct, open daily 10.30am-5pm 1 Nov-23 Dec, open daily 11am-4pm * Castle, shop & cafe also open daily 27-31 Dec | Adult £12.50 Family £29.50 Concession £9 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | On the A93, three miles east of Banchory AB31 5QJ Telephone 01330 844525 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Royal Deeside Railway AB31 5QH | Banchory Museum AB31 5SX | Peel of Lumphanan Motte AB31 4QD |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|

On the map
3 | D3



Drum Castle

Drum Castle, home of the Irvine family for over 650 years, dates back to the 13th century and contains a superb collection of furniture and paintings.

Outside, discover the Garden of Historic Roses, three waymarked walks and the Old Wood of Drum. Children can also enjoy the adventure playground.

In 2016, the castle, in partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery, is hosting 'Northern Lights' an exhibition celebrating the beauty of light in Scottish art.

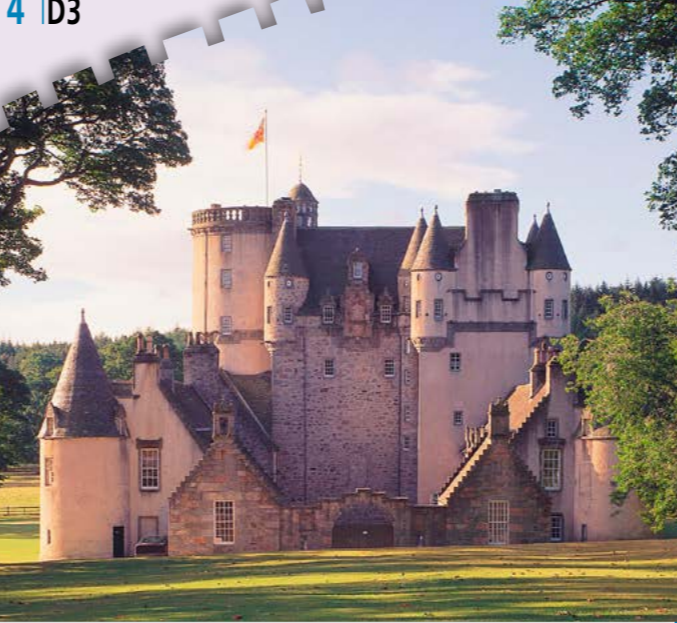


| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|
| National Trust for Scotland | | www.nts.org.uk/DrumCastle | |
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | Grounds: All year, daily Castle, Tearoom & Shop: 1 Mar to 24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm 25 Mar to 30 Jun, Thu-Mon 11am-4pm 1 Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-4pm 1 Sep to 29 Sep, Thu-Mon 11am-4pm 1 Oct to 30 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm Garden of Historic Roses; 29 Mar to 31 Oct, daily 11am-4:15pm | Adult £12.50 Family £29.50 Concession £9 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A93 10 miles west of Aberdeen AB31 5EY Telephone 01330 700334 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Cullerlie Stone Circle AB32 6UX | Milton Art Gallery AB31 5QH | Mains of Drum Garden Centre AB31 5SX |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|

On the map
4 | D3



Castle Fraser

An atmospheric baronial castle which dates back to the 15th century. One of the grandest Castles of Mar, this magnificent building contains an evocative great hall, fine furniture, paintings and a few spooky tales.

Discover the beautiful secluded walled garden and extensive woodland walks with picturesque views of the castle. Children can also enjoy exploring the 'Woodland Secrets' play area.

Visit the tearoom for home-baked cakes and take in the ambience of the 19th century castle kitchen.

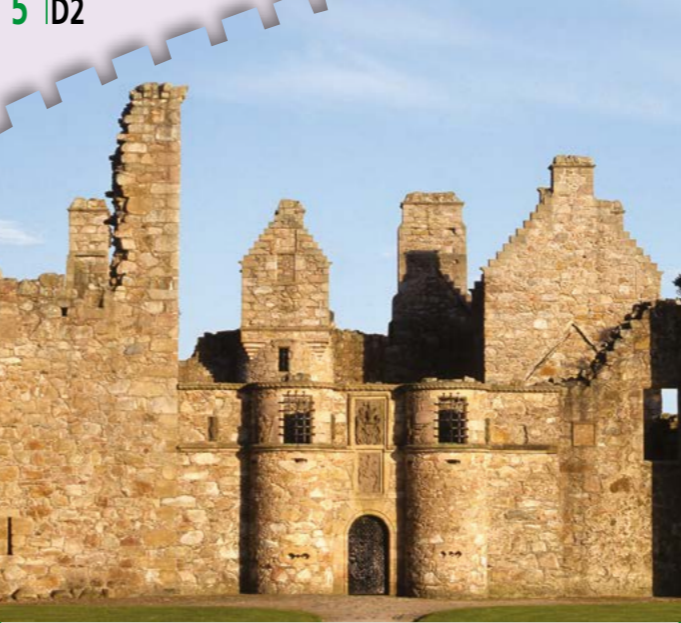


| National Trust for Scotland | | www.nts.org.uk/CastleFraser | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | Garden and Grounds: All year, daily Castle, Shop & Tearoom: 25 Mar to 30 Jun, Wed-Sun 11am-5pm 1 Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-5pm 1 Sep to 31 Oct, Wed-Sun 11am-5pm Also open Scottish Bank Holiday Mondays last entry 4:15pm | Adult £10.50 Family £24.50 Concession £7.50 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A944 16 miles west of Aberdeen AB51 7LD Telephone 01330 833463 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| The Bishops Palace Fetternear AB51 5LY | Bennachie Visitor Centre & Hill Fort AB51 5HX | Easter Aquorthies (Stone Circle Trail) AB51 5JL |
|--|--|--|

On the map
5 | D2



Tolquhon Castle

Sitting within spacious grounds, Tolquhon has been described as one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland. Sir William Forbes, who adapted and expanded an existing tower house in the 1580's, intended its construction to be an impressive residence, although he incorporated plenty of gunloops to deter any hostile visitors. This is a great building to explore, including a secret compartment in the laird's quarters where he hid his valuables.



| Historic Scotland | | www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/tolquhoncastle | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | 9.30am-5.30pm Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep | Adult £4.50 Child £2.70 Concession £3.60 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Just off the B999 15 miles north of Aberdeen between Pitmedden and Tarves AB41 7LP Telephone 01651 851286 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Pitmedden Garden (National Trust for Scotland) AB41 7PD | Prop of Ythsie walk & viewpoint AB41 7LT | Glen Garioch Distillery (Secret Malts) AB51 0ES |
|--|---|--|

On the map
6 | D2



Haddo House

Originally designed by Scottish architect William Adam in 1732, Haddo House is a magnificent example of an historic Scottish stately home. Home of the Gordon family for over 400 years, Haddo House retains a homely feel. The house also contains an impressive collection of period furniture, ceramics and art, including paintings by Sir Thomas Lawrence and James Giles. Discover the family's fascinating story over the centuries throughout the house and grounds, admire the amazing interiors and then explore the garden and adjacent Country Park.

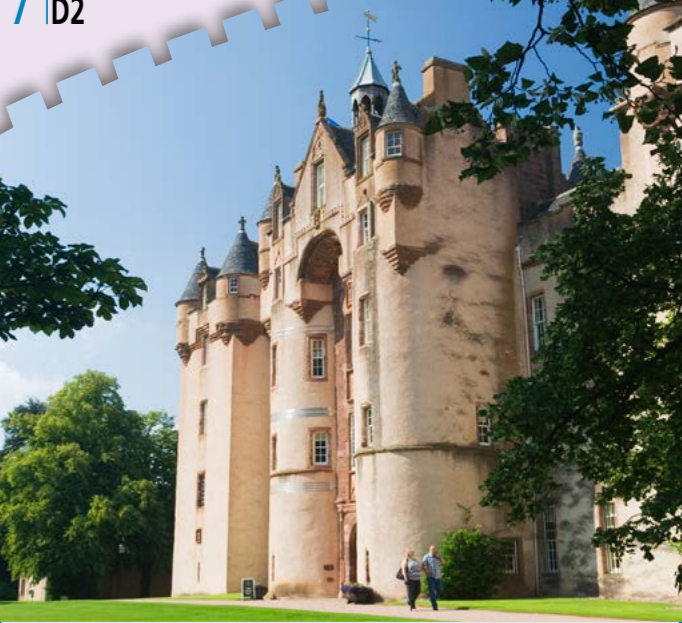


| National Trust for Scotland | | www.nts.org.uk/HaddoHouse | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | Garden and Grounds: All year, daily, 9am-sunset House: 25 Mar to 28 Mar 3 Apr to 30 May, Sun & Mon 5 Jun to 30 Aug, Sun-Tue 1-26 Sep Sun & Mon Access by guided tour (11am, 1pm, 3pm) Pre-booking recommended. Shop & Tearoom 1-24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm 25 Mar to 2 Oct, Daily 11am-5pm 8 Oct to 26 Feb 2017, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm | Adult £10.50 Family £24.50 Concession £7.50 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the B999 20 miles north of Aberdeen AB41 7EQ Telephone 01651 851440 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Formartine's Visitor Centre AB41 7NU | Forvie NNR/ Ythan Estuary AB41 8RU | Slains Castle & clifftop walks, by Cruden Bay (care required) AB41 8RT |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|

On the map
7 | D2



Fyvie Castle

Fyvie's history stretches back over 800 years. With medieval stones and the lavish Edwardian interiors, you can imagine what life must have been like for the families and their royal guests. Enjoy the superb collections of furniture, arms, armour and paintings as you explore.

Take time for a stroll round the walled garden and picturesque loch, and see the restored 1903 racquets court and bowling alley. Complete your visit with something tasty in the castle tearoom close to the historic kitchens.



| National Trust for Scotland | | www.nts.org.uk/FyvieCastle | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
| | Garden and Grounds: All year, daily 9am-sunset Castle, Shop & Tearoom: 25-28 Mar, 12noon-5pm 1 Apr to 30 Jun, Sat-Wed 12noon-5pm 1 Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-5pm 1-30 Sep, Sat-Wed 12noon-5pm 1-31 Oct, Sat & Sun 12noon-5pm (Sat-Wed during school holidays) Last admission to the castle 4.15pm | Adult £12.50 Family £29.50 Concession £9.00 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A947 in the village of Fyvie, half way between Oldmeldrum & Turfiff AB53 8JS Telephone 01651 891266 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Gight Castle & River Ythan AB41 7HY | Loanhead of Daviot (Stone Circle Trail) AB51 0JH | Deer Abbey AB42 4LP |
|--|---|------------------------|

Furnished castle Castle ruins Historic furniture Art collection Garden Walks around the property Events Guided tours Ranger service Shop/plant sales Picnic area Parking Tearoom Restaurant Facilities for families. This business has indicated that they have some accessible facilities. For specific details of what they have, go to www.visitscotland.com

Green Tourism: businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold **Taste Our Best, food and drink award:** assuring great quality Scottish food and drink is on the menu, prepared with care and delivered with passion.



Delgatie Castle

Best Visitor Experience award-winner. Dating from 1030, Delgatie Castle is steeped in Scottish history yet still has the atmosphere of a lived-in home. The castle boasts a Mary, Queen of Scots bed chamber, Victorian clothes, fine furniture and some of the most exquisite painted ceilings in Scotland. Home baking and lunches are served in the award-winning Laird's Kitchen. There is also self-catering accommodation available in the castle.



www.delgatiecastle.com

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|--|---|
| | 8 Jan to 20 Dec Daily 10am-5pm Winter closing 4pm | Adult £8 Children £5 Concession £5 Family ticket £20 (2 adults and 2 children) | Approx two miles north of Turiff, turn off A947 AB53 5TD Telephone 01888 563479 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cullykhan Bay/ Hill Fort near Pennan | Strichen Stone Circle (Stone Circle Trail) AB43 6TN | Aden Country Park AB42 5FQ |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|



NEW ENTRY

Kinnaird Head

Kinnaird Head Castle, which now forms part of the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, was built by the Frasers of Philorth in 1570. Looks down on the bustling harbour of Fraserburgh while the adjoining Wine Tower sits perched dramatically over the crashing tides. Come and visit Scotland's most unique castle structure, with a Stevenson Lighthouse Tower built through its heart. Discover Kinnaird Head's fascinating history from castle, to lighthouse, to museum. Afterwards relax in Stevenson's Tearoom taking in some stunning views.



www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|--|---|---|
| | Summer Daily 10am-5pm Winter Tues-Sun 10am-5pm The Lighthouse Tearoom All year daily 10am-4.30pm Tours Summer 11am, 12noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, and 4pm. Winter 11am, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm. | Adult £7 Concession £5 Student £5 Child £3 Family £16 Tickets give access to Castle and Lighthouse as well as the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses | Kinnaird Head, Stevenson Road, Fraserburgh, Off the A98 AB43 9DU Telephone 01346 511022 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fraserburgh Heritage Centre AB43 9DT | Fraserburgh Golf Course AB43 8TL | Willows Animal Sanctuary AB43 6NY |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|



Duff House

One of the finest houses built in Scotland, Duff House is a magnificent Georgian mansion designed by William Adam. Standing in extensive parkland, today it houses a beautiful collection of paintings and furniture on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland. There is a shop on-site offering special and unusual gifts and a tea room providing delicious food and drink. Visitors can take a stroll along the banks of the River Deveron to the south of the house or along the Banffshire coast to the north.



www.duffhouse.org.uk

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|--|
| | 25 Mar to 31 Oct Daily 11am-5pm 1 Nov to 31 Mar Thu-Sun 11am-4pm | Adult £7.10 Child £4.30 Concession £5.70 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Banff Aberdeenshire AB54 3SX Telephone 01261 818181 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Macduff Marine Aquarium AB44 1SL | Glenglassaugh Distillery (Secret Malts) AB45 2SQ | Findlater Castle & Coastal View AB45 2UD |
|----------------------------------|--|--|



Huntly Castle

Huntly Castle is majestically sited where the rivers Bogie and Deveron join. Renowned for its splendid architecture, Huntly Castle served as a baronial residence for five centuries. The palace block, erected between the 16th and 17th centuries, has an impressive L-plan tower house and defensive earthworks from the civil war. Many impressive features include fine heraldic sculpture and inscribed stone friezes. The earliest stronghold on the site sheltered Robert the Bruce in the 14th century.



www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/huntlycastle

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|--|---|---|
| | 25 Mar to 30 Sep 9.30am-5.30pm 1 Oct to 31 Mar 10am-4pm Closed Thu & Fri | Adult £5.50 Child £3.30 Concession £4.40 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A96 in Huntly AB54 4SH Telephone 01466 793191 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Tap O'Noth Hill Fort AB54 4QS | GlenDronach Distillery (Secret Malts) AB54 6DB | Knockdu Distillery (Secret Malts) AB54 7LJ |
|-------------------------------|--|--|



Spynie Palace

For nearly 500 years, the Bishops of Moray relaxed in this majestic building a short distance from their cathedral at Elgin. It even had its own bowling green and, according to one account, a tennis court. Today, you can climb David's Tower, where bishops once entertained kings and queens. The views over Moray Speyside are well worth the ascent. Look out for the wildlife – barn owls nest here.



www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/spyniepalace

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|---|
| | Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep 9.30am-5.30pm | Adult £8.70 Child £5.30 Concession £7.00 Joint ticket with Elgin Cathedral: Adult £7.20 Child £4.40 Concession £5.80 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A941 two miles north of Elgin IV30 5QG Telephone 01343 546358 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Elgin Cathedral IV30 1HU | Glen Moray Distillery Elgin IV30 | Bow Fiddle Rock, from Portknockie |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|



Balvenie Castle

Defended by a magnificent curtain wall and an iron yett, Balvenie was a stronghold of the powerful Black Comyns, rivals to Robert the Bruce in the early 1300s. It ultimately became the Renaissance residence of the Earls of Atholl, who built the Atholl Lodging with its grand circular tower. In September 1562 the 4th Earl of Atholl John Stewart played host to Mary, Queen of Scots, and probably gave over the master suite to her.



www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/balveniecastle

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|---|
| | Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep 9.30am-5.30pm | Adult £4.50 Child £2.70 Concession £3.60 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | Off the A941 at Dufftown AB55 4DH Telephone 01340 820 121 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Ballindalloch Castle AB37 9AX | Auchindoun Castle AB55 4DR | Speyside Cooperage Visitor Centre AB38 9RS |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--|



Leith Hall, Garden & Estate

Leith Hall is a typical Scottish laird's residence brimming with family treasures and set in a scenic estate that overlooks some of Aberdeenshire's finest rolling countryside. A tour of Leith Hall gives you a real insight into the life of the Leith-Hay family over 10 generations. Discover the curious collections, including the 'boxing squirrels'. An exhibition tells the story of generations of military men and the part they played in battles through the decades. Enjoy a visit to the beautiful gardens with features including a Rock Garden which is being restored to its original 1900s design.



www.nts.org.uk/LeithHall

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|--|--|
| | Garden & Grounds: All year, daily 9.30am-sunset Hall, Shop & Tearoom: 25 Mar to 31 Oct, Thu-Sun 11am-5pm Guided tours are available at 11.30am, 1pm, 2.15pm, 3.15pm and 4.15 pm. Last orders in tearoom at 4.15pm | Adult £10.50 Concession £7.50 Family £24.50 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | On the B9002 seven miles south of Huntly AB54 4NQ Telephone 01464 831216 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| Ardmore Distillery (Secret Malts) AB54 6DB | Dunnideer Hill Fort & Castle AB52 6QJ | Touched by Scotland, Gallery & Restaurant AB52 6QS |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|

Furnished castle Castle ruins Historic furniture Art collection Garden Walks around the property Events Guided tours Ranger service Shop/plant sales Picnic area Parking Tearoom Restaurant Facilities for families. This business has indicated that they have some accessible facilities. For specific details of what they have, go to www.visitscotland.com

Green Tourism: businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold **Taste Our Best, food and drink award:** assuring great quality Scottish food and drink is on the menu, prepared with care and delivered with passion.



Kildrummy Castle

Possibly built or adapted by the invading English King Edward I, the great castle of Kildrummy was the stronghold of the Earls of Mar. Although ruined, it remains a good example of a 13th century castle with many fine features. It was from Kildrummy Castle that John Erskine, Earl of Mar launched the Jacobite Rising of 1715. Mar's shortcomings as a general were largely to blame for the rising's failure.



Historic Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/kildrummycastle

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|--|
| | Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep 9.30am-5.30pm | Adult £4.50 Child £2.70 Concession £3.60 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | On the A97 10 miles south west of Alford AB33 8RA Telephone 01975 571331 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Glenbuchat Castle AB36 8TN | Grampian Transport Museum AB33 8AE | Alford Heritage Centre AB33 8BZ |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|



Corgarff Castle

An isolated tower house in Strathdon, now part of the Cairngorms National Park, that was a residence of the high status Forbes family. After Culloden in 1746, it was converted to become a Redcoat garrison fortress, largely to suppress Jacobite activity. Adaptations and additions include the distinctive star-shaped perimeter wall. The reconstructed barrack rooms offer a window into military life in the late 1700's.



Historic Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/corgarffcastle

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|---|
| | Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep 9.30am-5.30pm | Adult £5.50 Child £3.30 Concession £4.40 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | On the A939 eight miles west of Strathdon AB36 8YP Telephone 01975 651460 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| Doune of Invernochty Motte & Bailey AB36 8UR | The Lost Gallery AB36 8UJ | Tomnaverie Stone Circle (Stone Circle Trail) AB34 4YQ |
|---|------------------------------|---|



Braemar Castle

Visit this fairytale castle in Royal Deeside and the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Built by the Earl of Mar in 1628, the castle was also used as an 18th century garrison and was home to the Chiefs of Clan Farquharson. Learn about Jacobites, ghosts and see soldiers' graffiti in 12 beautifully furnished rooms. Expect a warm welcome in the only castle in Scotland run by local volunteers and take a guided or an audio tour. Free wifi available.



www.braemarcastle.co.uk

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|---|--|
| | Apr to Oct Wed-Sun 10am-5pm Jul to Aug open daily 10am-5pm | Adult £8 Child £4 Concession £7 Family ticket £18 (2 Adults and up to 3 children) Pre-school children free | On the A93 east of Braemar AB35 5XR Telephone 01339 741219 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Loch Muick Walks & Reserve AB35 5SU | Kindrochit Castle AB35 5YL | Mar Lodge Estate (National Trust for Scotland) AB35 5YJ |
|---|-------------------------------|---|



Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle in the shadows of the mighty Munro of Lochnagar is the renowned Scottish home of the Royal Family and nestles elegantly in stunning Royal Deeside countryside. In her Journals, Queen Victoria described Balmoral as "my dear paradise in the Highlands". Enjoy gardens, the castle ballroom, coffee and gift shop together with special exhibitions and audio handset tour.



www.balmoralcastle.com

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|--|---|--|
| | Grounds, gardens and exhibitions open daily 25 Mar to 31 Jul 10am-5pm Last admission 4.30pm | Adult £11.50 Child £5 (5-16 years) Seniors/Students £10.50 Family £28.50 (2 adults and up to 4 children) | Balmoral Estate Ballater AB35 5TN Telephone 01339 742534 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Crathie Kirk AB35 5UL | Royal Lochnagar Distillery (Secret Malts) AB35 5TB | Knock Castle, Ballater AB35 5QW |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------------|



Craigievar Castle

This fairytale castle, a fine example of Scottish baronial architecture, seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. The great tower stands just as it did when completed in 1626. The castle is home to original furniture, a fine collection of family portraits by artists such as George Jamesone and Raeburn, and ornate plaster ceilings. Visitors can also enjoy the grounds and waymarked trails surrounding the castle.

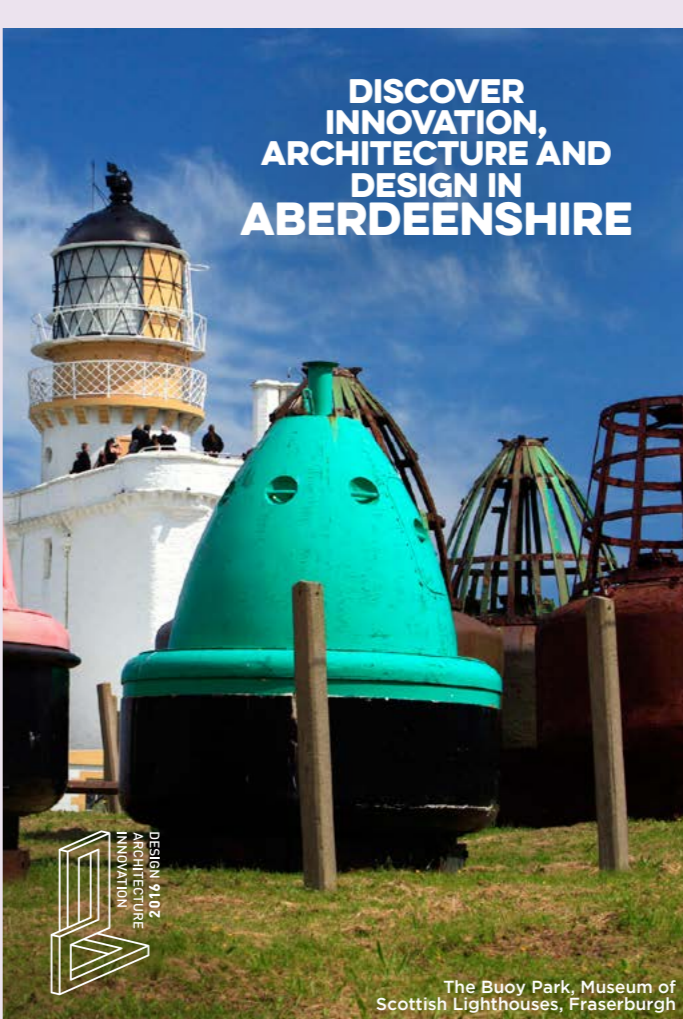


National Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk/craigievarcastle

| Facilities | Opening times | Entry charge | Getting here |
|------------|---|--|--|
| | Grounds: All year, daily 11am-5.30pm Castle: 30 Mar to 30 Jun, Fri-Tue 11am-4.45pm 1 Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-4.45pm 1 Sep to 29 Sep, Fri-Tue 11am-4.45pm Guided tours only | Adult £12.50 Family £29.50 Concession £9.00 Free to National Trust for Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival) | On A980, six miles south of Alford AB33 8JF Telephone 01339 883635 |

Nearby attractions

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Queen's View, Tarland | The Butterworth Gallery AB34 5DP | Glen Tanar, NNR AB34 5EU |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|



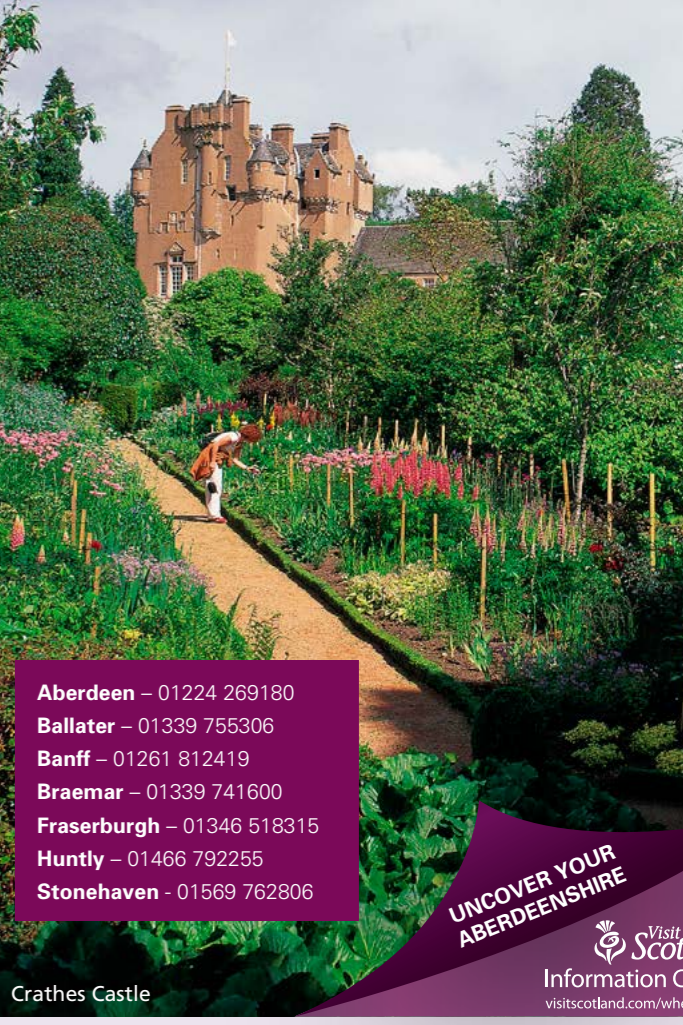
From textiles to technology, architecture to fashion, the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016 shines the spotlight on Scotland's greatest assets, icons and hidden gems. We invite you to discover awe-inspiring design and breath-taking built heritage along Scotland's Castle Trail and across Aberdeenshire during 2016!

visitscotland.com/iad2016
Join the conversation #IAD2016

visitscotland.com

Uncover all that Aberdeenshire has to offer. Drop into one of our VisitScotland Information Centres and get the best advice on everything there is to see and do. Get top travel tips, tickets for events, tours and activities, book the perfect accommodation and even pick up that special Scottish souvenir.

Whatever you need, our friendly experts are here to help you make the most of your time in Aberdeenshire.



Crathes Castle

This guide has been produced and published in good faith, in conjunction with our partners Historic Scotland and The National Trust for Scotland. Although VisitScotland has taken reasonable steps to confirm the information contained in this guide at the time of going to press, it cannot guarantee that the information published is and remains accurate. Accordingly, VisitScotland recommends that all information is checked with the establishments/ visitor attractions prior to visiting/booking to ensure that the details of the establishment/ visitor attraction are correct. VisitScotland accepts no responsibility for any error or misrepresentation contained in the guide and excludes all liability for loss or damage caused by any reliance placed on the information contained in this guide. VisitScotland also cannot accept any liability for loss caused by the bankruptcy, or liquidation, or insolvency, or cessation of trade of any establishment, visitor attraction, company, or firm contained in this guide.

Furnished castle Castle ruins Historic furniture Art collection Garden Walks around the property Events Guided tours Ranger service Shop/plant sales Picnic area Parking Tearoom Restaurant Facilities for families. This business has indicated that they have some accessible facilities. For specific details of what they have, go to www.visitscotland.com

Green Tourism: businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold **Taste Our Best, food and drink award:** assuring great quality Scottish food and drink is on the menu, prepared with care and delivered with passion.