

Scottish Natural Heritage

Explore for a day

# Aberdeenshire



# Aberdeen



Situated in the Northeast of Scotland, Aberdeenshire is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and abundant wildlife. From craggy clifftops and sandy beaches to picturesque villages and historic towns the area has something to offer for everyone. Castles and lighthouses, ancient monuments and fabulous walks will make your trip to Aberdeenshire a memorable experience.

Discover the area by either following the suggested routes (own transport required; each round trip approximately 100 miles; total driving time approximately 3 hrs) or simply create your own perfect day.

Please note that sturdy footwear as well as appropriate outdoor clothing is recommended for most of the walks.

## Symbol Key

- Parking
- Information Centre
- Paths
- Disabled Access
- Toilets
- Wildlife Watching
- Refreshments

## 1 Forvie National Nature Reserve

Visit Forvie to admire the beauty of a wild landscape with a spectacular wealth of wildlife. The mud flats of the Ythan Estuary provide a fast food refuelling stop for many passing birds and the mouth of the estuary is a year round haul out for seals. The sand dunes are some of the largest in Britain.

In winter more than 20,000 wading birds such as the golden plover and lapwing are out in the estuary. Listen for the woo-wooing of about 5,000 eider ducks in the summer.

There are waymarked trails on the Reserve. Park at Waterside for the dunes or at the Forvie Visitor Centre for a cliff top walk. Don't forget binoculars if you have them!

### Admission free

Visitor Centre open from April to October. There are a range of waymarked trails including an 800m easy access trail with wheelchair accessible picnic tables. The areas where the terns nest is closed from 1 April to the end of August (alternative walking route through the dunes is marked).

Tel: 01358 751330

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



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## 2 The Bullers of Buchan cliff top walk

A short but exhilarating walk along the top of the pink granite cliffs will take you to the natural feature of the Bullers. This circular cauldron-shaped chasm was formed by a collapsed sea cave and has a plunging 200 foot drop to the ocean. Look out for seals, unusual cliff top plants adapted to this exposed environment and occasional dolphins and porpoises. In the summer, no doubt you'll smell the evidence of the thousands of sea birds that live on and around the cliffs! Puffins can be seen April to June.

### Admission free

Free parking in the layby 2km / 1.25 miles north of Cruden Bay. Beware there's no fence or handrail so this walk isn't for the faint hearted or those with young children.

[www.bullersofbuchan.me.uk](http://www.bullersofbuchan.me.uk)



## 3 Aberdeenshire Farming Museum and Heritage Centre

Just outside the village of Mintlaw and set in Aden Country Park, the Heritage Centre brings alive the story of rural Aberdeenshire's famous farming past set in the unique semi-circular steading of the restored estate home farm. Visit the Hareshowe Working Farm where 1950's farming is brought to life by guides and seasonal demonstrations on 20 worked acres of land.

### Admission free (charge for parking)

Craft shop, ice cream kiosk, picnic tables, children's play area and tree house, bird hide.

Tel: 01771 624590

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/museums/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/museums/)



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## 4 Loch of Strathbeg RSPB Reserve

Get a sense of landscape, relaxation and calm at Britain's largest dune loch. It's great for a wet weather day as the visitor centre has a large viewing window with panoramic views over the inland loch. Get close up to the wildlife using the telescopes or take a walk out into the reserve and visit one of the bird hides or the wildlife pond. In winter, thousands of wild geese, swans and ducks fly in, including 20 per cent of the world's population of pink-footed geese - it's a sight you'll never forget. In summer come and see the breeding terns and wildfowl.

### Admission free

Visitor Centre open all year, community café nearby. Wild flower garden, plenty for families and children, coffee machine, picnic area.

Tel: 01346 532017

[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



## 5 Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Kinnaird Head Lighthouse

Get a glimpse of the 200 years of history of the men and families that guarded Scotland's coastline in the oldest remaining lighthouse in mainland Scotland. Find out more about Scotland's lights and the role of the Stevenson family as engineers for the Northern Lighthouse Board that justifies the museum's strapline "battered by storms, ravaged by waves, built by Stevenson". The Lighthouse Museum has the best UK collection of lighthouse lenses and paraphernalia as well as interesting artefacts belonging to lighthouse keepers and their families. You can visit their cottages built over a century ago. A 45 minute tour will take you round Kinnaird lighthouse.

### Admission charge

Entry to lighthouse by timed tour, gift shop, disabled access to museum but not lighthouse.

Tel: 01346 511022

[www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk](http://www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk)



## 6 Fraserburgh Heritage Centre

Adjacent to the Lighthouse museum, the Heritage Centre, set in an original herring barrel store tells the story of the fishing town of Fraserburgh - once Scotland's premier herring port. Step back in time to the bustling quayside, visit the harbourmaster's office and learn about making herring barrels in the cooperage, where as many 1500 men were employed at the height of the fishing boom. Many other interactive exhibits tell the story of the town, known as The Broch, and some of its famous sons.

### Admission charge

Open April - October

Tel: 01346 513802

[www.fraserburghheritage.com](http://www.fraserburghheritage.com)



## 7 Macduff Marine Aquarium

This award winning Aquarium features the underwater marine life from the Moray Firth, Scotland's largest bay. The innovative exhibits give unique and unusual opportunities to see hundreds of native fish, invertebrates and a living kelp reef – all normally only seen by divers who brave the chilly waters of the North Sea.

### Admission charge

Regular fish feeding by divers, picnic benches outside, drinks and ice cream on sale in gift shop.

Tel: 01261 833369

[www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk](http://www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk)



## 8 Duff House, Banff

Duff House is one of Scotland's finest architectural masterpieces with a fascinating past. Designed by William Adam and built in the early 18th century as a seat of the wealthy Duff family, it contains permanent exhibits of paintings and furniture, including chairs by Chippendale, tapestries and old masters by artists such as Sir Henry Raeburn, El Greco and Gainsborough. The property is now open as a Country House Gallery of the National Galleries of Scotland and also hosts special events and exhibitions.

### Admission charge

Open daily April – October; November - March Thursday – Sunday only. Free entry to shop and tearoom, children's play area.

Tel: 01261 818181

[www.duffhouse.org.uk](http://www.duffhouse.org.uk)



## 9/10 Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming Life

It's hard to imagine a garden being planted today on such an extravagant scale. The heart of the property is the formal walled garden originally laid out in 1675 by Sir Alexander Seton. Today, Pitmedden features over 5 miles of box hedging arranged in intricate patterns to form six parterres filled with some 40,000 plants bursting with colour in the summer months.

The adjacent Museum of Farming Life is housed in various outbuildings and boasts an extensive collection of domestic and agricultural artefacts of a bygone era.

Over 80 varieties of apple trees adorn the high granite walls, offering a spectacular show of blossom and scent in spring. Harvest celebrations are held on the last Sunday in September when you can buy fruits harvested from the gardens. Why not find out more about orchards – they're great for nature as well as being a tasty food source!

### Admission charge

Open May – September  
Picnic area

Tel: 0844 493 2177

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



## 11 Fyvie Castle

Fyvie was once a royal stronghold, one of a chain of fortresses throughout medieval Scotland, with the oldest part dating from the 13th century. The opulence of the Edwardian era is reflected in some interiors and there's a rich portrait collection, a fine collection of arms and armour and 17th-century tapestries. The 18th-century walled garden, has been redeveloped as a celebration of Scottish fruits and vegetables – perfect for this region and there are wider grounds to explore. Fyvie is also reputed to be the most haunted castle in Scotland!

### Admission charge

Landscaped gardens and parkland, restored racquets court, ice house, bird hide, restored earth closet, shop.

Tel: 0844 493 2182

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



## 12 Bin Forest

The Bin is a mixed conifer woodland with a good variety of walks ranging from 1 to 6.5 km. Trees have been here since the 1840s, when the Duke of Gordon started the first planting. Seeds were brought from America by the famous botanist David Douglas, whom the Douglas Fir is named after. The high paths provide excellent views across the surrounding countryside. Keep an eye out for sparrowhawks, peregrines, pine martens, frogs and newts. If you make it to the top of Bin Hill you'll find 'The Gallon of Water' a shallow pool that was said to have cured whooping cough.

### Admission free

Tel: 01466 760790

[www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)



## 13 Dunnideer Hill and Hillfort

The 0.5 mile short but steep return walk to the top of this hill is well worth it to take in two fascinating historic monuments as well as give you great views over the surrounding countryside. You can still see five concentric rings of defences of the early hillfort with the inner two being older and built of stone, originally strengthened with wood. At one time the fort was subject to burning leaving the rocks fused together, or 'vitrified'. The ruins of a medieval stone tower now stand nobly crowning the hilltop within the hillfort ramparts.

Access to the group of monuments on Dunnideer Hill is by a signposted path from minor road from Insch to Clashindarroch Forrest about 1 mile West of Insch, off the B 992. Walk takes about 30 minutes.

### Admission free

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/sites/forts](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/sites/forts)



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#### 14 Easter Aquhorthies Stone Circle

The recumbent stone circle is Aberdeenshire's unique contribution to the tradition of erecting rings of standing stones 2-3,000 years BC and no visit to the area should be without a visit to at least one – there's 99 to choose from! Easter Aquhorthies is almost perfectly circular and 19.8 metres in diameter with 11 erect stones, two of which flank the huge recumbent. The stones are graded in height and are of varying colour and geological origin. The stone of red jasper was said to have magical qualities if touched and as a result parts of the surface have been rubbed smooth over the centuries. A scenic spot with great views out over the surrounding countryside.

##### Admission free

[www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/sites/stonecircles/](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/archaeology/sites/stonecircles/)



#### 15 Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve

The last glaciers melted here more than 10,000 years ago but the marks they made on the landscape still survive. Take a walk to the Vat, a giant pothole, formed by glacial meltwater and hollowed by the grinding action of rocks. Listen for the odd echoes that make the water sound like it's running out of solid rock and try to imagine the mile of ice that would have been overhead 15,000 years ago.

The Reserve has a network of paths to explore, with walks through the woods and round the loch. There's something to see here all year round, be it singing birds in spring, dragonflies in summer, autumn colours in October or (if conditions are right) huge icicles in the Vat. You can also explore some local history by following the Little Ord Trail to visit the Iron Age hut circles, see the crannog island and the 1200 year-old Pictish stone.

##### Admission free

Visitor Centre open daily Easter-October, otherwise when staff available; walks and toilets open all year, strong footwear recommended if going into the Vat.

Tel: 01339 881667

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



#### 16 Glen Tanar National Nature Reserve

Glen Tanar provides a great opportunity to explore Scotland's classic Caledonian pine forest in search of its elusive wildlife. A darting red squirrel or an acrobatic Scottish crossbill might be above your head as you wander through ancient trees or, from the banks of the rushing river, you might see the silvery flash of a salmon powering upstream. There's a network of waymarked paths and tracks suitable for walking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and pony trekking.

##### Admission free

Visitor Centre with Ranger service in summer, reduced service in winter.

Tel: 01339 886072

[www.glentnar.co.uk](http://www.glentnar.co.uk)



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#### 17 Corgarff Castle and Barracks

Set in the wide expanse of moorland in the eastern reaches of the Cairngorms National Park, the medieval Corgarff Towerhouse Castle has a lonely but stunning setting in the Lecht Pass – a very strategic position. In the wintertime the pass is usually one of the first roads to be made impassable by heavy snowfall and the hills to the left are part of the Lecht Ski Resort. In its heyday the four storey towerhouse was an impressive fortified home, then used as a soldiers barracks for the redcoats, hunting down Jacobite sympathisers. Latterly they helped the excisemen stamp out the illegal production and smuggling of whisky. Today, visit the castle to see the reconstructed barrackrooms – recreating something of the atmosphere of barrack life in 1750, when redcoats from Pulteney's 13th Foot were stationed here

##### Admission charge

Open all year (closed over lunch period usually between 12:30-13:30; weekends only October-March), strong footwear recommended.

Tel: 01975 651460

[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)



#### 18 Grampian Transport Museum

The transport museum is a treasure house of transport history! Follow the history of travel and transport in the North East of Scotland through dramatic displays, working exhibits and DVD presentations. Huge variety of exhibits including bicycles, motorbikes, cars, trams and buses. Alford also is the home of the Alford Valley Narrow Gauge Railway which runs during the summer months. It's a 1 mile journey in each direction from Alford village to a station within Haughton Country Park. A steam engine is used on the first Sunday of each month and the journey gives spectacular views of the Bennachie hill range.

##### Admission charge (Museum & Railway)

Museum: Open April – October

Narrow Gauge Railway: Open March – September & December (Operational times vary throughout the season; please phone 07879 293934 or 019755 63942 for current timetable)

Tel: 01975 562 292

[www.gtm.org.uk](http://www.gtm.org.uk)



#### 19 Crathes Castle, Garden & Estate

Visit one of the most beautiful and best preserved castles in Scotland set against a magnificent garden with its world-renowned June flower border. In the autumn and winter the atmosphere changes and it is easier to imagine the lives of previous generations with only the light of an oil lamp and candles to see them through the long nights. From the gallery on the top floor of the castle there are views of autumn colour and the white landscape of Aberdeenshire after snows and frost. Occupied by the Burnetts of Leys for over 350 years, the castle, garden and estate are a must see for any visitor to the north-east of Scotland.

##### Admission charge

Open all year (weekends only January - March, Nov. & Dec.)

Tel: 0844 493 2166

[www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)





## 20 Falls of Feugh, Banchory

Stand on the bridge on the old turnpike road where, in the 1800's, you would have had to pay a toll at the toll house to use the bridge. Notice how its windows face both ways along the road to watch for any passing travellers. The river flowing beneath you is the Water of Feugh, the largest tributary of the River Dee, which it joins at Banchory. Watch the falls for leaping salmon on their way to spawn in the gravel of the less turbulent waters upstream. How many fish can you see and did they leap successfully up stream?

**Admission free**



## 21 Cairn O Mount viewpoint

The viewpoint sits almost 1500 ft above sea level giving 360 degree views to be enjoyed by all. The coastline to Montrose can be viewed when clear and views to the north over Royal Deeside allow appreciation of the outstanding woodlands, mountain scapes and open moorland.

**Admission free**



## 22 St Cyrus National Nature Reserve

The natural barriers of inland cliffs and a seaward ridge of sand dunes protect the St Cyrus grasslands from the ravages of the weather. In summer the Reserve is awash with colour and life, from the intense purple of the clustered bellflower to the constant movement of countless butterflies and moths. Soaring above all this, peregrine falcons circle high in the air, waiting for an opportunity to dive on their prey. Enjoy a wonderful and refreshing walk through the Reserve and along the coast.

**Admission free**

Visitor Centre open daily April – October, weekdays only  
November - March

Tel: 01674 830736

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



## 23 Grassic Gibbon Centre

This Centre is dedicated to the life and times of the author who wrote under the name of Lewis Grassic Gibbon. James Leslie Mitchell was born near Turriff but moved to the Howe of the Mearns where he spent his formative years within the sights and sounds of this unique part of the countryside. His upbringing was to be a profound influence on his writings in later life and his experiences were epitomised in "Sunset Song", the first part of his trilogy about life in the Mearns in the early part of the twentieth century.

**Admission charge**

Open March – October

Tel: 01561 361668

[www.grassicgibbon.com](http://www.grassicgibbon.com)



## 24 Dunnottar Castle

Dunnottar Castle is a dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress in a truly stunning setting - a visit you won't forget. You can view the castle from the cliff top paths running from the car park, or go and wander around the extensive buildings where you'll discover its importance, an impregnable Castle that holds many rich secrets of Scotland's colourful past. William Wallace and Mary Queen of Scots both graced the Castle with their presence. Most famously though, it was at Dunnottar Castle that a small garrison held out against the might of Cromwell's army for eight months and saved the Scottish Crown Jewels which now take pride of place in Edinburgh Castle.

**Admission charge**

Open all year

Tel: 01330 860223

[www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk](http://www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk)



## 25 Aberdeen Torry Battery

Undoubtedly Aberdeenshire's most popular urban dolphin watching spot is at the Torry battery. This once defensive outpost has also served the community as emergency housing over the years and has been a training ground for volunteer forces. Nowadays only ruins remain of the Battery, but an interpretation panel at the entrance tells the history. Today the Battery and its surrounding area is also important for wildlife. Many common and rare birds can be spotted here on their autumn and winter migrations and dolphins and other sea mammals are regularly spotted sharing the mouth of the busy, commercial harbour with the marine traffic that goes past day and night.

**Admission free**



## Itinerary 1

### – Make the most of the coast (north)

Visit this area of coastline to enjoy massive sea views, dramatic cliffs, glorious sandy beaches and an abundance of wildlife. You may be lucky enough to see a puffin or spot some dolphins. Take in one of the many coastal villages each with their own maritime history and heritage. Many of them still have traditional fishing fleets in use today and are influenced by their history of sailing, boat building and fishing.

#### To Forvie National Nature Reserve (1)

From Aberdeen follow the coast road north along the A90. After 10 miles take the right hand turn onto the A975 to Newburgh. Once through the village and over the estuary on the bridge, there is parking immediately on the right for Waterside, or continue on and take the turning for the B9003 to Collieston and the Forvie Centre.

#### To the Bullers of Buchan (2)

Back on the A975, turn right. Travel through the village of Cruden Bay and round the sharp right bend back on to the open road. Continue along the A975 past Slains Castle on the clifftop (the inspiration for the Count Dracula stories) and the small car park and on to the next car park on the right, signposted for Bullers of Buchan. Leave your car here (there's no space in the village), walk down the track to the cliff edge and turn left in front of the cottages.

#### To Fraserburgh Lighthouse Museum & Heritage Centre (5)

Continue north along the A90 to Fraserburgh. The Lighthouse Museum is well signposted from the town centre.

#### To Macduff Marine Aquarium (7)

You can get to Macduff from Fraserburgh two ways. On the scenic coastal road, or inland, through countryside and agricultural land. As you leave Fraserburgh heading west, you can either continue straight on the A98 taking the inland road signposted to Inverness for 24 miles, or turn right, following the signs for the West Coastal Trail through Pennan and Rosehearty for 22 miles. Pennan is famous for its appearance in the film 'Local Hero' and you can visit the famous telephone box there. Continue into Macduff on the A98 until turning right down Market Street, following the sign for the Macduff Marine Aquarium.

#### To Banff (Duff House) (8)

Leave Macduff and drive over the 7 arched bridge over the River Deveron towards Banff. Shortly after the bridge there's a brown sign for Duff House Country House Gallery to the left.

#### Return to Aberdeen

Turn right onto the A98 and back over the 7 arched bridge. At the end of the bridge, turn immediately right following the sign for Turrif and Aberdeen along the A947.

## Itinerary 2

### – Travel through time

Travel through the undulating scenery of north west Aberdeenshire – famed for its ancient stone circles, standing stones and hillforts and more recent castles. This rich human history dating back several thousands of years is scattered across the agricultural landscape of today. As you explore, imagine being one of the early inhabitants living off the land, using these features for burials, rituals and protection and wonder about those that have trodden before.

#### To Fyvie Castle (11)

Head North out of Aberdeen on the A90. At the round-about (just after the big B&Q) exit left onto the B999, signposted to Tarves. Follow for 10 miles. As you come into Pitmeddan, turn left onto the B9000, signposted to Oldmeldrum, which soon becomes the A920. Follow this for 5 miles, turning right at the T junction, then continuing onto the A947, signposted to Banff. Follow for 8 miles, turning right onto the B9005 to Fyvie. Take the first left past the war memorial following the signs for the Castle.

#### To Bin Forest (12)

From Fyvie head back out of the village the way you came. At the T-junction with the A947 turn left and after one third of a mile take the right hand turn (signposted Cross of Jackson). Follow this road for 7 miles passing through the village of Cross of Jackson. At the T-junction turn right onto the A920. After 6 miles turn right again onto the A96 following signs for Huntly. Continue past Huntly for about 3 miles and the Forest is on your right.

#### To Dunnideer Hill (13)

Turn left, back towards Huntly. Stay on the A96 and at the roundabout, take the third exit onto the A97 south. Go along here for 4.5 miles, through Culdrain and Whitelumbs. It's another half a mile to the left hand turn onto the B9002. Follow this road alongside the railway line for 8.5 miles. At Insch rail station turn left along Commercial Road to the centre of Insch. This road becomes Commerce Street. At the post office, turn left along Western Road and about 1 mile along stop in the layby to visit the Fort (signposted footpath).

#### To Easter Aquhorthies (14)

Head back into Insch, turn left at rail station back onto the B9002. Follow B9002 for about 5 miles, then turn right onto the A96 (Aberdeen direction). At the Blackhall Roundabout on the outskirts of Inverurie, turn right (signposted for Burnhervie). Continue straight ahead at next roundabout and continue slowly up hill passing a forestry car park on the left until you reach a smaller car park on the left also.

#### Return to Aberdeen

Return to the A96 and follow signs back to Aberdeen.

## Itinerary 3

### – In the valleys of the Dee and the Don

Get straight into the heart of Royal Deeside along the beautiful wooded valley of the famous River Dee and into the more intimate landscape of Donside. With a view of the magnificent Cairngorm mountains but also bounded by the Mounth mountains to the south, these valuable east-west routes have played an important strategic role in the past. An area rich with iconic wildlife, punctuated by picturesque villages that offer a perfect base to explore the rolling hills and forests.

#### To Burn o'Vat Visitor Centre (15)

From Aberdeen, head out along the A93 through Banchory and Aboyne on to the village of Dinnet. From the village it's about another 1.5 miles to the right hand turn-off on to the B9119 for the Burn o'Vat Visitor Centre.

#### To Corgarff Castle (17)

Return to the A93 and turn right for Ballater. Go through the village and after 1.5 miles turn right onto the A939, signposted Tomintoul. After 11 miles take a left turn for the short detour to Corgarff Castle (signposted 3 miles).

#### To Alford Transport Museum (18)

From the castle turn right onto A939 which after 2.5 miles becomes A944. Follow this road for 25 miles to Alford (museum is signposted). In Alford take third road to your left signposted for car parking and Grampian transport museum.

#### To Aberdeen

Continue back along the A944 to Aberdeen.

## Itinerary 4

### – Make the most of the coast (south)

Start by heading inland which takes you to the fairytale castle of Crathes, near Banchory, complete with spires and turrets. The route then escapes to the heather moors with fabulous views over agricultural lands of the Howe of Mearns and meets the coast at St Cyrus. From here the return journey to Aberdeen gives glimpses of the sea with several lovely villages along the way on cliff tops or nestling at the water's edge. Heading back into Aberdeen you can finish your day with some dolphin spotting at the mouth of the harbour!

#### To Crathes Castle (19)

Head out of Aberdeen on the tree-lined B9077. At the junction with the A957, turn right (signposted Banchory), go over the River Dee and into Crathes. From there, follow the brown signs to the castle.

#### To the Falls of Feugh (20)

From Crathes Castle return to the A93 and turn right for Banchory. At the traffic lights at the start of the High Street, turn left following the brown tourist sign to the Falls of Feugh, 3/4 of a mile where you'll find parking on the right. Walk back to the footbridge over the river.

#### To the Cairn o'Mount viewpoint (21)

Cross back over the bridge and turn left back on to the B974. At Strachan, take the left turn signposted to Fettercairn which keeps you on the B974. This leads you out into open countryside and the road starts to climb. Approximately 8 miles south of Strachan you'll reach the Cairn o'Mount car park and viewpoint.

#### To St Cyrus Visitor Centre (22)

Continue to the village of Fettercairn where, once through the Square, you'll follow signs for Laurencekirk and the B9120. In Laurencekirk turn left along the High Street and then right into Alma Place (not signposted, RBS on your right). At the junction with the A90, go straight across following signs for St Cyrus 7 miles. At the A92 junction, turn right (signposted to Dundee and St Cyrus). Continue through St Cyrus village; after half a mile turn right down a road signposted 'unsuitable for long vehicles'. Follow this down and round the sharp bend under the railway and on to the St Cyrus Visitor Centre.

(Alternatively you can leave the car in St Cyrus village and walk down to the end of Beach Road past the primary school and church. A steep path leads down to the Reserve.)

#### To Dunnottar Castle (24)

Head north along the A92. Before you reach Stonehaven, follow the brown tourist sign for Dunnottar Castle 1 mile. Park in the car park on the left.

#### To Aberdeen Torry Battery (25)

It's worth having a look at Stonehaven with its historic harbour and art deco open air swimming pool, then head back towards Aberdeen along the A90. Follow signs for Aberdeen Harbour, turning left onto the A956. After just under 2 miles follow signs for Altens Industrial Estate and head towards the sea along Hareness Road. Turn left at end of Hareness Road. Follow the road round alongside the sea for 2.5 miles until you reach the big car park between the two white lighthouses. Stop here, enjoy the view and look out for wildlife. 530 yards along is the car park for Aberdeen Torry Battery.



There are many other sites to discover in the area. Find out more at the local visitor information centres which are situated at:

<b>Aberdeen</b>	(all year round)	Tel: 01224 288828
<b>Ballater</b>	(all year round)	Tel: 01339 755306
<b>Banff</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01261 812419
<b>Fraserburgh</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01346 518315
<b>Inverurie</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01467 625800
<b>Alford</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01975 562052
<b>Banchory</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01330 822000
<b>Huntly</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01466 792255
<b>Stonehaven</b>	(seasonal)	Tel: 01569 762806

There are a great number of cycle routes in the area and many attractions can also be reached by public transport. Find out more at the local Visitor Information Centres.

### Know the Code before you go...

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly! Find out more at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

**National Nature Reserves** are magical places where you can experience the incredible sights and sounds of Scotland's natural world. Located throughout Scotland, National Nature Reserves are open to everyone to visit and enjoy. Find out more at [www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)

**Scottish Natural Heritage** is the government agency looking after all of Scotland's nature and landscapes, across all of Scotland, for everyone. Find out more at [www.snh.org.uk](http://www.snh.org.uk)



Scotland's **Protected Places**

Explore and discover some of Scotland's natural and historic protected places.

[www.scotlandspreservedplaces.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspreservedplaces.gov.uk)

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