

## Digital Editions

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## *Guide to Rural Scotland*

# NORTH EAST SCOTLAND



WHERE TO GO | WHAT TO SEE | WHAT TO DO  
WHERE TO STAY | WHERE TO EAT | WHERE TO BUY

Fully illustrated with detailed directions and maps

## LOCATOR MAP



## Towns and Villages

Please click on any of the towns and villages listed below for information on that location.

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## North East Scotland

High mountains, wooded glens, cityscapes, beaches, rich farmland, towering cliffs and moorland - North East Scotland has the lot. And yet it is relatively unknown by those outside Scotland, apart from the city of Aberdeen and along Deeside. The beaches are quiet and uncrowded, the country lanes are a joy to drive in, and there is history and heritage aplenty.

And always in the background are the Grampians, which reach their highest peaks here. Queen Victoria popularised Deeside, a glen that goes deep into the heart of the mountains, and it has remained firmly on the tourist trail ever since. But, as with many parts of Scotland, the tourist traps swarm with people, while other places, equally as interesting and picturesque, are bypassed.

To go off the beaten track in the North East is to be rewarded with some wonderful discoveries. Nowhere else in Europe is there such a concentration of historic castles - around 1000 at the last count. The local tourist board has organised a Castle Trail, with a leaflet that explains their history and how you get to them. And then there are the distilleries. The industry is centred mainly on Banffshire and Moray, where the streams are swift flowing and the water pure. It's amazing that two distilleries a mile or so apart can make whiskies that are totally different in character. The local tourist board has laid out a Whisky Trail and, like the Castle Trail there's a leaflet to guide you as you explore it.

The inland villages are quiet and peaceful, and the market towns, such as Inverurie, Forres and Huntly, are packed with history and charm. The coastline is as dramatic as anywhere in Britain. Yet another trail, the

Coastal Trail, takes you on a tour from St Cyrus in the south to Findhorn in the west.

For all its crowds (especially in late summer when the Queen is there), Deeside should not be missed. This long glen follows the Dee up into the heart of the Grampians with Braemar, at its heart, being officially Britain's coldest place (though summer days can be balmy and long). Balmoral, Crathie, Aboyne, the names are familiar to us all through news programmes, and yet the reality of seeing them makes you realise why Queen Victoria, and subsequent monarchs, fell in love with Royal Deeside in the first place.

Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city and Europe's oil capital. The name, which means at the mouth of the Dee and the Don, sums up its location exactly, as the two rivers enter the North Sea here. The oil industry has brought money to the city, and it has also brought a cosmopolitan lifestyle that includes smart restaurants, boutiques, nightclubs and stylish pubs.

The other city in the region is Elgin, at one time one of the most important places in Scotland. It has lost some of that importance now, but not any of its charm. It is still a busy place, and is the shopping and administrative centre for a large fertile area called the Laigh of Moray.



Leith Hall, Huntly



## Aberdeen

-  Cathedral Church of St Machar's
-  Brig o' Balgownie  Bridge of Dee
-  Thomas Blake Glover  Church of St Nicholas
-  Mercat Cross  Provost Skene's House
-  Aberdeen Maritime Museum
-  King's College  King's College Centre
-  Marischal College  Aberdeen Art Gallery
-  Blairs Museum  Gordon Highlanders Museum
-  Stratosphere

With a population of about 220,000, Aberdeen is Scotland's third largest city. Its nickname is the Granite City because of the predominant building material, which has created a stylish and attractive place that seems to glisten in the sun. It prides itself on being Scotland's most prosperous city, due to the oil fields that lie beneath the North Sea. For this reason it is also known as the Oil Capital of Europe, and the docks and harbours, which were once full of fishing boats, now pulse with supply ships ferrying men and machines out to the oil rigs. It also has the ferry terminal for the Shetland ferry.

But Aberdeen has two more nicknames -



Provost Skene's House, Aberdeen

Scotland's Garden City and the Flower of Scotland. Both derive from the many gardens and colourful open spaces that can be visited. The city has won awards for its floral displays (including many Britain in Bloom awards), with Johnston Gardens, Hazelhead Park, Union Terrace Gardens, Duthie Park and the Cruickshank Botanic Gardens offering particularly fine examples. In 2003, Aberdeen took silver in the Nations in Bloom competition, beaten only by Seattle, USA, and Quanzhou, China.

It is also a centre of learning, administration, shopping and business. But it has never been scarred by industry in the way that some Scottish central belt towns have. It has managed to remain above such things, and its quality of life is among the best in Britain.

And for all its bustle and modern office blocks, it is an ancient city, having been granted a charter as a royal burgh in 1175. Even then it was an important and busy port, trading with the Baltic States as well as the Netherlands and France. During the Wars of Independence it was sacked three times by the English, and finally razed to the ground by Edward III in 1337. One unexpected visitor to Aberdeen was William Shakespeare who, with his troupe of actors, was sent by Elizabeth I in 1601 to perform before the court of James VI.

There are two Aberdeens - the original one, and Old Aberdeen, which was at one time a separate burgh. Perversely, Old Aberdeen was only granted its charter in 1489, and is a captivating area of old, elegant buildings and quiet cobbled streets.

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The buildings you see throughout the city nowadays however, are mainly Georgian, Victorian and later, with some older buildings among them to add historical depth. The **Cathedral Church of St Machar's** in Old Aberdeen was founded in about 1131, and is dedicated to a saint who was the son of Fiachna, an Irish prince. He was also a companion of St Columba, and came over from Ireland with him to found the monastery on Iona. Legend states that Columba sent Machar to convert the Picts in the area, and had a vision from God to build a church at a point where a river bends in the shape of a bishop's crosier just before it enters the sea. As the Don bends in this way, he established his

church here in about 580AD. It's a fascinating tale, but probably untrue, as a bishop's crosier in those days was not curved, but straight.

St Machar's as we see it today dates from the 14th century and later. The choir has completely disappeared, and what you see now was the nave of the original cathedral with the ruins of the two transepts, which are in the care of Historic Scotland. In 1688, the central tower collapsed, leaving a rather truncated building with a beautiful west front with two towers. Perhaps its most famous bishop was William Elphinstone, Chancellor of Scotland and producer of the first book of liturgy in the country, the *Aberdeen Breviary*. Its heraldic ceiling is magnificent,

### Aberdeen Maritime Museum

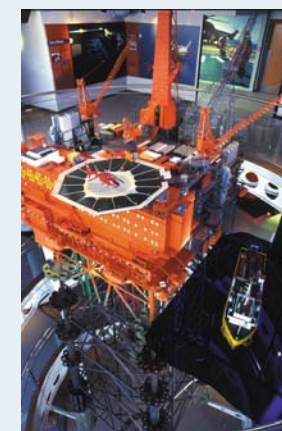
*Aberdeen Maritime Museum,  
Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY  
Tel: 01224 337700 Fax: 01224 213066  
e-mail: [jobne@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:jobne@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
website: [www.aagm.co.uk](http://www.aagm.co.uk)*

Situated on the historic Shiprow and incorporating Provost Ross's House - built in 1593 - **Aberdeen Maritime Museum** tells the story of the city's long relationship with the Sea. This award-winning museum houses a unique collection covering shipbuilding, fast sailing ships, fishing and port history, and is the only place in the UK where you can see displays on the North Sea oil industry.

The exhibitions include fine ship's portraits, fishing equipment, information on the 3,000 ships built in the port and the world's largest oil platform model which stand nine metres tall.

Aberdeen Maritime Museum also offers a spectacular viewpoint over the busy harbour filled with powerful offshore supply vessels and modern cargo and passenger ships. There is an exciting programme of special exhibitions and a vibrant education programme. Aberdeen Maritime Museum is fully accessible to visitors with disabilities.

Excellent café and shop complete the range of services. Admission is free and the museum is open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12noon-3pm.



the work of Bishop Gavin Dunbar, who succeeded Elphinstone in 1518. Dunbar also erected the two west towers.

The **Brig o' Balgownie** over the Don, near the cathedral, dates from the early 14th century, and has a single, pointed arch. It is said to have been built using money given by Robert the Bruce, and is reckoned to be the finest single arch structure in Scotland. Aberdeen's other old bridge, to the south of the city, is the **Bridge of Dee**, built by Bishop Dunbar in the early 1500s.

At Bridge of Don is Glover House, the family home of **Thomas Blake Glover**, the Scotsman who, it is said, inspired Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly*. Born in Fraserburgh in 1838, his family moved to Bridge of Don in 1851, when he was 13 years old. When he left school, he began working for a trading company and got a taste for overseas travel.

When he first went to Japan aged 21, he was entering a feudal society that had been closed to the west for over 300 years. However, within one year he was selling Scottish-built warships and arms to Japanese rebels during the country's civil war. At the same time he sent young Japanese men to Britain to be educated.

Glover was called the Scottish Samurai, and helped found the Mitsubishi shipyards, the first step Japan took to becoming a great manufacturing power. He also helped found the famous Kirin Brewery, and his picture still appears on Kirin labels to this day. A grateful government presented Glover with the Order of the Rising Sun, Japan's greatest honour. He later built himself a house at Nagasaki, and married a Japanese woman called Tsuru, who invariably wore kimonos decorated with butterfly motifs. When Puccini came across a short story and

subsequent play based on this relationship, it sowed the seeds for *Madame Butterfly*.

The **Church of St Nicholas** stands in St Nicholas Street. The first mention of a church on the site is a Papal Bull dated 1157. Of the original church only the transepts and the crypt survive. Its carillon of 48 bells is the largest of any church in Britain. There are six entrances to the kirkyard, the grandest being the granite colonnade in Union Street, designed in 1830 by John Smith, Aberdeen's city architect. Beneath what was the East Kirk is St Mary's Chapel, built by Lady Elizabeth Gordon. When she died in 1438 she was buried within it.

Union Street, Aberdeen's main thoroughfare, is more than a mile long, and thronged with shops. It was laid out in the early 1800s to celebrate the union of Britain and Ireland. At one end, in Castle Street, is the city's 17th-century **Mercat Cross**, standing close to where Aberdeen's long gone medieval castle stood.

**Provost Skene's House**, off St Nicholas Street, dates from about 1545, and is named after a former lord provost of the city, Sir George Skene, who bought it in 1669. It is a tall, solid building of turrets and chimneys, and has wonderful painted ceilings and period furniture, as well as displays on modern history. Provost Ross's House is in Shiprow, said to be Aberdeen's oldest street still in use. The house was built in 1593, but is named after its most famous owner, John Ross, lord provost of Aberdeen in the 18th century. It now houses the **Aberdeen Maritime Museum** (see panel opposite), with exhibits and displays on Aberdeen's maritime history, plus a re-created helicopter ride out to an offshore oilrig.

Aberdeen University was founded by

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Bishop Elphinstone in 1494 under a Papal Bull from Pope Alexander IV. **King's College** stands in Old Aberdeen, and its chapel, built in 1505, forms one side of a quadrangle in the middle of which is a 20th-century monument to its founder. The chapel's crown steeple, built in honour of James VI, was blown down in a storm in 1633, and there were dark mutterings all over Aberdeen that witchcraft was involved. The following year work started on rebuilding it.

**Marischal College**, another university, was founded in 1593, 99 years after King's College, which meant that the city had two universities - exactly the same number as the whole of England at that time, as locals gleefully point out. It was founded by George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal of Scotland, as a Protestant alternative to the Catholic-leaning King's College. The present imposing granite building in Broad Street dates from the 19th century, and is the second largest granite building in the world. In 1860, the two universities united to form Aberdeen University.

The **Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum** are at Schoolhill, near Robert Gordon's College. Apart from a fine collection of paintings and sculpture by such artists as Degas, Reynolds, and Epstein, it houses displays on Aberdeen's history, including finds made at various archaeological digs throughout the city.

The **Gordon Highlanders Museum** on Viewfield Road tells the story of what Sir Winston Churchill called 'the finest regiment in the world'. There is an audiovisual theatre, gardens, a children's handling area, a shop and a café. One of Aberdeen's newest attractions is **Stratosphere** in The Tramsheds in Constitution Street, a hands-on science centre where children can explore all aspects of science, and watch a show that explains things like colour and bubbles.

At one time there were well over 100 quarries in the city mining granite. Rubislaw Quarry, near the Gordon Highlanders Museum, was one of the biggest. It was still being worked right up until 1971, when it was about 465 feet deep and 900 feet across. Now it has been filled with water to a depth of 180 feet and fenced off. During 230 years of quarrying, it is said to have produced more than six million tonnes of granite, not just for Aberdeen, but for places like London, Russia and Japan.

In King Street is the Aberdeen and North East Scotland Family History Society, which has a wide range of reference material for family and genealogical research. At Blairs, on South Deeside Road, there was once a catholic seminary, which closed in 1986. The **Blairs Museum** now holds the Scottish Catholic Heritage Collection, and is open to the public. There are objects connected with the Stuart line (including Mary Stuart and Charles Edward Stuart) on display, as well as a collection of rich vestments, church plate and paintings.

On the north bank of the Dee, where it enters the North Sea, is an area called Footdee, or, as it is known by Aberdonians, Fittie. This is where Aberdeen's original fishing community lived, in rows of cottages that have now been renovated and smartened up.

## Around Aberdeen

### STONEHAVEN

*16 miles S of Aberdeen off the A90*

- Mercat Cross Steeple Tolbooth Museum
- Dunnottar Castle Fireball Festival

Stonehaven was once the county town of Kincardineshire. It is a fishing community, though the industry has gone into decline. Near



## GLENCAIRN B&B

9 Dunnottar Avenue, Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2SD

Tel: 01569 762612

e-mail: [mosangster@hotmail.com](mailto:mosangster@hotmail.com)

website: [www.theglencairn.co.uk](http://www.theglencairn.co.uk)

Located in the heart of Stonehaven, just 500 yards from the beach. **Glencairn** offers 3-star bed & breakfast accommodation in a pleasant and relaxing atmosphere. Guests receive a warm welcome from owner Maryann Sangster who has been welcoming visitors here and extending traditional Scottish hospitality since 2003'.

In Glencairn's dining room, which has a superb fireplace feature, you can enjoy your choice of a full hearty Scottish, Continental or vegetarian breakfast. The accommodation comprises 3 attractively furnished and decorated en suite rooms, plus another with its own private bathroom. All rooms have recently been refurbished to a high standard, have full central heating and are equipped with colour TV.

Stonehaven itself is a pretty little town with many local attractions including the magnificent Dunnottar Castle which can be reached from Glencairn on foot. A few minutes walk away there is the very picturesque harbour, and an open air heated swimming pool is nearby. The area is suitable for golfers, walkers, cyclists and birdwatchers, and during the summer months there are Boat Trips available along the coast to Catterline and the Fowlsheugh Bird Sanctuary.



the harbour stands the 18th-century **Mercat Cross**, and the **Steeple**, from where James VII was proclaimed king in 1715 after landing at the town's harbour. The Tolbooth was built in the late 16th century, and is the town's oldest building. It stands on the north side of the harbour, and was formerly a storehouse belonging to the Earl Marischal of Scotland, who lived in nearby Dunnottar Castle. Now it is the **Tolbooth Museum**, with displays and exhibits about the town's history and its fishing fleet.

Two miles south of the town is **Dunnottar Castle**. It is magnificently sited, as it stands on a promontory 160 feet above the sea and is guarded on three sides by the North Sea and on the fourth by St Ninian's Den, a steep ravine. It dates from the 13th century and later, and has seen some gruesome episodes in Scotland's history. In 1297, William Wallace

torched it, burning to death every English soldier within its walls. In 1652, Cromwell's troops laid siege to it to capture Scotland's Crown Jewels. However, they were foiled by the wife of the minister of Kinneff Church, who smuggled them out under the very noses of the troops.

In 1685, 167 Covenanters were imprisoned in an underground cellar. Those that tried to escape were killed, while most of those that remained succumbed to disease and starvation. Those that survived were sent to the colonies.

Each year at Hogmanay the traditional **Fireball Festival** is held in Stonehaven. It takes place in the 'Auld Toon' area of the town, with up to 60 men parading at midnight while swinging huge fireballs on the end of stout wires. The origins are rooted in paganism, with the light from the balls supposedly

## Stonehaven - Dunnottar Woods - Dunnottar Castle

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7.2 kilometres)

**Typical time:** 110 mins

**Height gain:** 75 metres

**Map:** Explorer 396

**Walk:** [www.walkingworld.com](http://www.walkingworld.com) ID:864

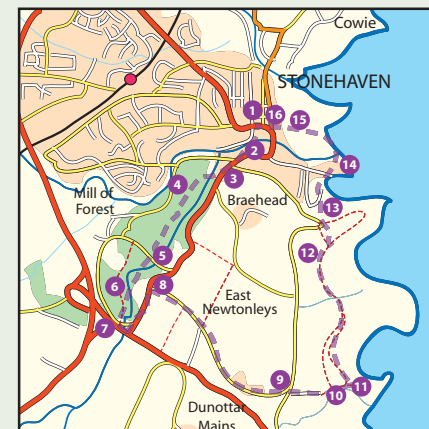
**Contributor:** Ian Cordiner

### ACCESS INFORMATION:

Stonehaven, 15 miles south of Aberdeen, is served by frequent rail and bus services. It can be reached from the south by the A90 and A92.

### DESCRIPTION:

This walk starts in the town centre where there is a car park. It soon leaves the streets and leads through the quiet deciduous Dunnottar Woods in which there is an old building known as the Shell House, because the interior is picturesquely decorated with seashells. Continuing past the high walls of what is now a garden centre, it crosses a small road to proceed once more through deciduous woodland. On the way through the woods it passes the ruins of a stone structure known as Lady Kennedy's Bath.



After leaving this section, the walk follows quiet roads before reaching Dunnottar Castle. From here there is a cliff path that leads back to Stonehaven, but because of erosion this part may not be accessible and it may be necessary to follow a pavement back to the town.

The route gives spectacular views over the town and its harbour. A steep path leads down to the harbour area where hotels, shops and toilets are found. Also in this part of town is one of the oldest buildings in Stonehaven, the Tolbooth, now a museum.

Finally, the walk continues along a boardwalk by the seashore and leads back to the town centre.

### FEATURES:

Sea, pub, toilets, museum, castle, great views, food shop, public transport, nature trail, woodland, ancient monument.

### WALK DIRECTIONS

- 1 | The walk starts at the south corner of the square in the town centre. Leave the square by going south along Barclay Street. At the end of Barclay Street, turn right. Cross to the south side of the street, then cross this pedestrian bridge.
- 2 | Immediately over the bridge, take the path to the right. Turn right here.
- 3 | At this junction, turn left. Continue to the far corner between the houses to enter the woodland. Follow the route to the right as you pass through this gate.
- 4 | At the steps, keep left and follow the sign to Glasslaw Gate. Bear left here. You are going to take the route to the right, but first stop at this building. It is called the Shell House and has its interior decorated with seashells. It was in fact, once an ice house. Follow the track to the right until you come to the tarred road.
- 5 | Continue straight across the road here and continue to follow the woodland path. At the first Y-junction bear left. Cross the bridge, then turn right. Continue past this bridge until you reach a similar one further on.
- 6 | From the next bridge you look down into a stone structure known as Lady Kennedy's Bath.

After a short incline turn left and follow the main track until you reach the Glasslaw car park.

**7** | At the exit of the car park keep left. At the main road turn left.

**8** | Continue along the pavement until you reach a junction, where you turn right. The walk now continues along a tarred country lane and eventually reaches the coast.

**19** | When you reach the main road at Mains of Dunnottar Farm, turn right. Continue south for about 100m. Immediately to the south of a small lodge there is a small car park for Dunnottar Castle. Enter the castle grounds via a gate in the corner of the car park.

**10** | At this point the route leads to the right of the castle. If you keep left, there is a path that is a cliff path back to Stonehaven. There may, however, be a problem here. Due to coastal erosion, this part may be closed as repairs to the path may be in progress.

**11** | There is an entrance fee to visit the castle itself. This castle was the hidingplace for the Scottish Regalia (crown jewels) in 1652. More recently, the castle was used in the filming of *Hamlet*, starring Mel Gibson. If the coastal path is closed, retrace your steps to Waymark 9 and follow the pavement back to Stonehaven.

attracting the sun, ensuring its return after the dark days of winter. Today, the whole ceremony lasts about half an hour, but the past it could last for up to an hour or more.

## INVERBERVIE

*25 miles S of Aberdeen on the A92*

 Mercat Cross  Kinneff Church

Though no bigger than a village, Inverbervie is in fact a royal burgh, having been granted its charter in 1341 by David II who, along with his queen, was shipwrecked off the coast as he returned from imprisonment in France, and was 'kindly received' by the people of the village. John Coutts, whose son Thomas

**12** | On the skyline you will see Stonehaven's war memorial. If you were able to take the cliff path, you will be able to reach the war memorial quite easily. When you leave the memorial site, turn left.

**13** | Across from the 'Welcome to Stonehaven' sign and where the road narrows, look out for a narrow path leading to the right. Follow this steep path down towards the harbour. When you reach this narrow lane follow it to the end, where it comes out at the harbour. There are popular pubs and food sources along the seafront. Continue along the seafront, keeping right past the white building.

**14** | The building on the left is the oldest in Stonehaven. A former tolbooth (jail), it is now a small museum. Continue past this and take the road to the left, past a toilet block and into a car park. Continue through the car park until you come to a boardwalk, which skirts the water and leads back to the town centre.

**15** | When you reach the end of the boardwalk, turn left to get to the town square. On the other hand, you could continue along the path ahead, which eventually leads to an open-air swimming pool, passing amusements and sports facilities on the way. Turning left leads up to the town centre.

**16** | Cross the main road back to the car park in the square.

Coutts founded the famous bank, was born here in 1699. Hallgreen Castle (private) stands close to the sea and has associations with the Dunnet family. The village's **Mercat Cross** dates from 1737.

Three miles north, at Kinneff, is **Kinneff Church**, built in 1738. The previous church on the site, built in about 1242, has a unique place in Scotland's history. In 1651, the Scottish Crown Jewels were used at the coronation of Charles II at Scone, then hidden in Dunnottar Castle so that Parliamentary troops could not find them. But when their whereabouts became known to Cromwell, they were smuggled out by the wife

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of Kinneff's minister, and placed within the church. There they lay for 10 years, beneath the floor. Every three months the minister and his wife dug them up, cleaned them and aired them before a fire. With the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, they were taken to Edinburgh Castle. Though no longer used for worship, the church is still open to the public and under the care of the Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust.

## ARBUTHNOTT

*23 miles S of Aberdeen on the B967*

 Arbuthnott Collegiate Church

 Lewis Grassie Gibbon  Arbuthnott House

 Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre

The village of Arbuthnott lies in what is called The Mearns. **Arbuthnott Collegiate Church** is dedicated to St Ternan, a Pictish saint. The choir was consecrated in 1242, with the rest of

the church following later. It was here that James Sibbald, priest of Arbuthnott, wrote the *Arbuthnott Missal* in 1491. It laid out the form of service to be used at masses celebrated within the church, and can now be seen in Paisley Museum. The Arbuthnott Aisle contains the tomb of Hugo le Blond of Arbuthnott, whose effigy can be seen above it. Another tomb is of a later period, and is of James Arbuthnott.

The ashes of James Leslie Mitchell the author, otherwise known as **Lewis Grassie Gibbon**, lie within the kirkyard, where there is a memorial to him. He was born in The Mearns and, when he had settled in Welwyn Garden City near London, wrote dark brooding novels about Mearns farm life, far removed from the couthy stories about simple Scottish country folk that had been published before. The **Lewis Grassie Gibbon Centre**, next to the parish hall, traces the life and

## MUFFINS COFFEE SHOP

*63 High Street, Laurencekirk,*

*Aberdeenshire AB30 1BH*

*Tel: 01561 377636*

*e-mail: [muffins63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:muffins63@hotmail.co.uk)*

Good wholesome and appetising fare is the order of the day at **Muffins Coffee Shop** in Laurencekirk's High Street. Everything on the menu is cooked on the premises using top quality local produce. Naturally, there's a Muffin of the Day along with various dishes such as paninis, wholesome filled baguettes, home-made soup and baked potatoes. There's also a good selection of espresso based coffees, speciality teas, fresh smoothies and milk shakes made to order. Owner Lauren Smith took over here in 2007 and has seen the shop grow in popularity. There are 35 seats as well as some comfy sofas where customers can settle down with a grand coffee latte perhaps, and a newspaper.

Muffins is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and from 10am to 4pm on Saturday. There's good disabled access throughout and a disabled toilet. Children are welcome.







works of a man who became one of the most important British writers of the 20th century.

The area has other literary associations. Robert Burns's father was born here before setting up home in Ayrshire, and in the kirkyard of the church at Glenbervie, four miles to the northwest, is the grave of Burns's great grandfather, James Burnes (the 'e' in the name was dropped after Burns's father moved to Ayrshire).

**Arbuthnott House**, home to the Arbuthnott family for 800 years, dates mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries, and is open to the public on certain days of the year. The gardens, including a formal 17th-century walled garden, are open all year round.

## MARYCULTER

*6 miles SW of Aberdeen on the B9077*

Drum Castle Storybook Glen

The land surrounding Maryculter was granted to the Knights Templar by William the Lion in the 12th century. The order of monastic soldiers established a church and preceptory, dedicating it to St Mary. Pope Clement V suppressed the order in 1312, and at trials held at Holyrood Abbey in Edinburgh in 1319, the last Preceptor of the house at Maryculter was given as William de Middleton of the 'tempill house of Culther'. The lands formerly owned by the Knights Templar were then granted to the Knights of the Order of St John. On the

opposite bank of the Dee a church had been established and dedicated to St Peter, and this parish became known as Peterculter. It now lies within the City of Aberdeen, while Maryculter is in Kincardineshire.

Four miles west of the village is **Drum Castle** (National Trust for Scotland), built in the late 13th century, probably by the wonderfully named Richard Cemantarius, king's master mason and provost of Aberdeen. In 1323, it was given to William de Irwyn by Robert the Bruce, and the Irvines lived in it from that date right up until 1975. It was enlarged in 1619 by the creation of a grand Jacobean mansion and later by some Victorian additions.

**Storybook Glen**, also in Maryculter, and is a 28-acre children's park where fairy tale and nursery rhyme characters can be found.

## FETTERCAIRN

*27 miles SW of Aberdeen on the B974*

Mercat Cross Fettercairn Arch Fasque

On the edge of the fertile Howe of the Mearns, Fettercairn is an attractive village with, at its heart, the **Mercat Cross** of 1670. In 1861, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited the village and the **Fettercairn Arch** commemorates the event.

The B974 north to Strachar and Banchory on Royal Deeside has many fine views. Close to the road, about a mile north of the town, is

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**Fasque**, home of William Gladstone, prime minister in the late 19th century. It was built in 1829 by his father, Sir John Gladstone, son of a Leith corn merchant, and has a deer park. It is open for groups of more than 12 by prior arrangement.

Fettercairn Distillery sits to the northwest, and has guided tours (with a free dram at the end) and a visitor centre.

## GARLOGIE

*10 miles W of Aberdeen on the B9119*

Garlogie Mill Power House Museum  
 Cullrelie Stone Circle Loch of Skene  
 Barmekin of Echt

The **Garlogie Mill Power House Museum** has a rare beam engine - the only one to have survived intact in its location - which used to power this wauk mill, which finished off

woven cloth. The mill is open to the public, and there are displays giving information about its history and machinery.

The **Cullrelie Stone Circle**, close to the village just off the B9125, dates from the Bronze Age, and consists of eight stones placed in a 33-foot diameter circle. The shallow **Loch of Skene**, to the north of the village, is a special protection area and supports an important colony of Icelandic greylag geese. Three miles to the west of the village, near Echt, is the **Barmekin of Echt**, an ancient fortified hill settlement.

## BANCHORY

*17 miles W of Aberdeen on the A93*

Banchory Museum Crathes Castle

This attractive little 19th-century burgh stands at the point where the River Freugh enters the Dee, and is often called the 'Gateway to Royal Deeside'. It once stood on the Deeside railway line that closed in 1966, and there are now plans to reopen a section between the town and Crathes, three miles to the east. In Bridge Street is the **Banchory Museum**, which has collections featuring tartans, royal commemorative china and the natural history of the area. The Scottish musician and composer James Scott Skinner, the Strathspey King, was born at Arbeadie, just outside the town, in 1843, and a further display in the museum is dedicated to his life. He now lies buried in Allenvale Cemetery in Aberdeen.

Three miles east of the town is **Crathes Castle** (National Trust for Scotland), which dates from the 16th century. Some of the rooms retain their original painted ceilings, which were only rediscovered in 1877. The first castle was built by the Burnetts of Ley who were granted the lands of Ley by Robert the Bruce in 1323. The ancient Horn of Lays

hangs in the Great Hall. It is made of ivory and encrusted with jewels, and was presented to the Burnetts by Bruce at the time of the land grant. The family's coat-of-arms includes the horn. On the main stairway there is a 'trip stair', which tripped up attackers who didn't know about it.

Watch out also for the castle's ghost - the Green Lady. The house remained with the family until 1951, when Sir James Burnett presented it to the National Trust for Scotland. Eight themed gardens have been laid out within the old walled garden, separated by yew hedges. There is also a shop and restaurant.

### KINCARDINE O'NEILL

23 miles W of Aberdeen on the A93

#### Kirk of St Mary

This little village, with its Irish sounding name, claims to be the oldest village on Deeside. It is in fact a small burgh, having been granted its charter in 1511. It was here, in 1220, that the first bridge was constructed across the Dee beyond Aberdeen, so it became an important place. The ruins of the **Kirk of St Mary** date from the 14th century. It may have been the chapel for a hospital that stood here before the Reformation. It was in use up until 1862 when a new church was built. St Mary's was thatched up until 1733, when someone shot at a pigeon perching in its roof and it caught fire.



Crathes Castle Rope Bridge, Banchory

### ALFORD

26 miles W of Aberdeen on the A944

#### Grampian Transport Museum

#### Alford Valley Railway Craigievar Castle

#### Haughton House Country Park

Alford (pronounced Afford locally, with the accent on the first syllable) is a pleasant village within a fertile area known as the Howe of Alford. The **Grampian Transport Museum** has displays and working exhibits about transport in the Grampian area. Major exhibits include the world's oldest Sentinel Steam Wagon from 1914, a giant Mack Snowplow, and a Jaguar XKR used in the James Bond film, *Die Another Day*. Visitors can even clamber aboard some of the exhibits. Each year the Eco Marathon takes place at the museum, where vehicles have to travel as far as possible on a set amount of fuel. The current record, established in 2008, is 6603 miles per gallon of petrol.

The **Alford Valley Railway** is a two-mile long narrow gauge passenger railway with steam and diesel locomotives that runs

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between the Transport Museum and **Haughton House Country Park**, where there are woodland walks, a wildflower garden and a caravan park.

Four miles south of Alford, on the A980, is one of Aberdeenshire's finest castles, **Craigievar Castle** (National Trust for Scotland). With its many turrets and small windows, it looks like something from a fairy tale. It was built by William Forbes, who bought the land in 1610 and completed the castle in 1626. It has a fine collection of 17th- and 18th-century furniture, as well as family portraits. William Forbes was also known as Danzig Willie, and was a rich Aberdeen merchant who traded with the Baltic countries. The castle is currently closed for major reharling work, but is scheduled to re-open some time in 2009.

### LUMPHANAN

24 miles W of Aberdeen on the A980

#### Peel Ring of Lumphanan

Lumphanan was founded when the Deeside railway was constructed, and was the highest point on the line. The **Peel Ring of Lumphanan** (Historic Scotland) is a huge motte and bailey where a castle built by the Durward family once stood.

### ABOYNE

27 miles W of Aberdeen off the A93

#### Aboyne Highland Games

#### Aboyne and Deeside Festival Glen Tanar

#### Culsh Earth House Tomnaverie Stone Circle

This small Royal Deeside town is famous for the **Aboyne Highland Games**, held in August each year. The village prospered with the coming of the railway in the 19th century, and is now a quiet settlement, popular with

tourists. It is also the home of the **Aboyne and Deeside Festival**, held in July and August, which features music, drama and art. There is a lovely, but in places difficult, walk up **Glen Tanar**, two miles west of Aboyne.

Five miles north of the town, and two miles northeast of Tarland, is the **Culsh Earth House**, a souterrain, or underground chamber, which is over 2000 years old. It is a long, doglegged tunnel, which was probably not used as a house, but as a store for foodstuffs. A torch is needed to explore it. The **Tomnaverie Stone Circle** (Historic Scotland) is a mile to the southwest, and dates to about 1600BC.

### BALLATER

34 miles W of Aberdeen on the A93

#### The Old Royal Station

#### Muir of Dinnet Nature Reserve Glen Muick

Set among the spectacular scenery of Royal Deeside, Ballater is surrounded by wooded hills of birch and pine, and makes an excellent base for exploring an area of outstanding beauty. It is a comparatively modern settlement and, like Aboyne, owes its growth to the coming of the railways in the 19th century. In fact, this was as far as the Deeside line came, as Prince Albert stopped a proposed extension as far as Braemar. The **Old Royal Station** has been restored to how it would have looked like in Victorian times, when used by the Royal Family. The **Muir of Dinnet Nature Reserve** lies between Ballater and Aboyne, and covers 2000 acres around Lochs Kinord and Davan.

There is plenty of good walking country around the village, and **Glen Muick**, to the south of Ballater, has a narrow road that you can drive up towards Loch Muick (the road ends before the loch is reached, so you have to



## CAMBUS O'MAY HOTEL

Ballater, Aberdeenshire AB35 5SE  
Tel: 013397 55428 Fax: 013397 55428  
e-mail: [mckechnie@cambusomay.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:mckechnie@cambusomay.freeserve.co.uk)  
website: [www.cambusomayhotel.co.uk](http://www.cambusomayhotel.co.uk)

Situated four miles east of the picturesque Deeside Village of Ballater, the **Cambus O'May Hotel** provides a haven of peace and tranquillity, yet affords direct access to the A93 Aberdeen to Perth road. Set in sixteen acres of attractive wooded grounds the hotel overlooks the River Dee and the hills beyond. The hotel, which has been owned and run by the McKechnie family for over quarter of a century, provides warm and friendly service with cuisine and comfort to match. Great emphasis is placed on the personal attention shown to guests, which allows them to enjoy a memorable and relaxing stay.

Originally a Victorian hunting lodge built in 1874 this Country House has been carefully modernised to provide 12 tastefully furnished bedrooms, all different and in keeping with the ambience of the building. All rooms have en-suite facilities, colour television, hair dryer and individually controlled heating. The elegant residents lounge with comfortable seating and open fire overlooks the front gardens and the valley beyond. It is here that guests may relax, enjoy a chat with friends, perhaps take afternoon tea or finish off their meal with coffee, mints and liqueurs. The small dining room which has panoramic views across the Dee Valley is the ideal place to enjoy the excellent cuisine offered from the table d'hôte menu which changes daily. The hotel welcomes families, the large grounds offering children scope to explore in safety.



## HM SHERIDAN

11 Bridge Street,  
Ballater AB35 5QP  
Tel: 013397 55218  
Fax: 013397 56042  
e-mail: [info@hmsheridan.co.uk](mailto:info@hmsheridan.co.uk)

Within this business there is a huge range of products made on site making the shop very unique as so many businesses buy in ready prepared products now. The aim is to keep the business successful by giving customers the best of quality with local farm beef, Aberdeenshire lamb and pork. Venison, pheasant, pigeon, partridge, rabbits, hares and mallard duck come from local estates. Pies are made daily - the pastry is also made on the premises - from your everyday steak pie to venison and cranberry pie. Gammons, beef, pork and meat roll are all cooked to perfection for beautiful sliced meat. A mail order service is available delivering fresh goods on a next day delivery throughout the UK.

New products introduced have been ready meals; either to be microwaved or re-heated in the oven. These range from mince, tattie and meallie to fish pie or Lasagne. There are a large range of sausages - over 40 different varieties - including beef and horseradish, pork and leek, lamb and rosemary, and venison. The burgers are not far behind, with varieties such as pork and apple, chicken, spicey lamb burger, venison burger or smoked salmon fishcakes. Coleslaw, carrot and cheese salad and tattie salad are all made on site. And let's not forget the fabulous Haggis, Black Pudding, Meallie Pudding, Fruit Pudding. A new service being provided is the hire of spit roasts or barbecues with or without a butcher cooking.

And last but not least Granny Munro's Dumpling you have to taste it to believe it!!!



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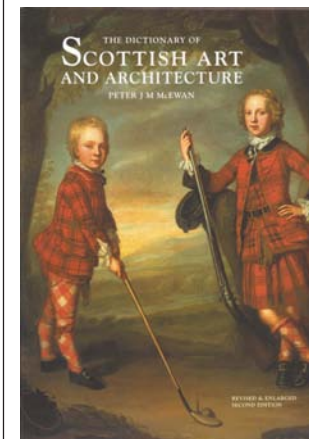


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## MCEWAN GALLERY

Ballater (Royal Deeside) on A939, Aberdeenshire AB35 5UB  
Tel: 013397 55429 Fax: 013397 55995  
e-mail: [dot@mcewangallery.com](mailto:dot@mcewangallery.com)

The McEwan Gallery, a family business, specialising in quality paintings of the last three centuries, was founded over forty years ago. Although dealing primarily in works by Scottish artists, including contemporary examples, the Gallery also carries a small selection of English and Dutch works. With a lifetime of experience in the art world, Peter, Dorothy and Rhod welcome you to browse through their collection at leisure. Peter wrote the definitive *Dictionary of Scottish Art & Architecture*, available from the Gallery, and produces a quarterly catalogue of antiquarian books.



Valuations for insurance and probate are undertaken as well as providing a restoration service. We pride ourselves on offering London quality at provincial prices.

Samples of our changing stock can be seen on our website [www.mcewangallery.com](http://www.mcewangallery.com). Enquiries are always welcome. There is parking space beside the imposing house, originally built in 1902 by the Swiss artist Rodolphe Christen.



## GLEN LUI HOTEL

14 Invercauld Road,  
Ballater, AB35 5PP  
Telephone: 013397 55402  
e-mail: [infos@glen-lui-hotel.co.uk](mailto:infos@glen-lui-hotel.co.uk)  
website: [www.glen-lui-hotel.co.uk](http://www.glen-lui-hotel.co.uk)

The Glen Lui is quietly located within two acres of private wooded grounds offering the most spectacular panoramic views over Ballater's golf course, towards the Cairngorm mountains and famous Lochnagar. This family run business is a perfect place for relaxing in the heart of this Royal Deeside setting. The seasons spring to life before your eyes with deer, red squirrel and an abundance of bird life to watch.

While outdoor activities are numerous the other option of course is relaxing on the terrace or in one of the lounges with a 'dram' in front of an open fire. The Castle Trail and Malt Whisky Trail are situated nearby and Balmoral Castle and Royal Lochnagar Distillery are only 10 miles away. For the more adventurous there is pony trekking, fishing, shooting, gliding and of course golfing, all amongst our breathtaking scenery.

We carry a good choice of Single Malt Whiskies in the bar and we offer an extensive menu to suit all tastes and our chefs use locally sourced high quality fresh produce to prepare the dishes. We are happy to cater for larger parties and functions, and also have conference facilities for our business clientele. Weddings of up to 30 people can be accommodated and we have a Wedding License should you wish to be married at the hotel.




walk part of the way), in the shadow of Lochnagar, which, notwithstanding its name, is a mountain rising to a height of 3786 feet. It gave its name to Prince Charles's book, *The Old Man of Lochnagar*. The drive is a particularly fine one, and takes you past Birkhall (not open to the public), which was bought by Edward VII before he became king. It was the Deeside home of the late Queen Mother.

## BALMORAL

42 miles W of Aberdeen off the A93

 Balmoral  Crathie Kirk  John Brown

 Victorian Heritage Trail



Balmoral, the Queen's private home in Scotland, was purchased by Prince Albert in 1852. Four years previously, Queen Victoria had visited the area and fallen in love with it. Though the castle as you see it today only dates from that time, a castle has stood here for centuries. The grounds are closed when the Royal Family is in residence. The present castle is in Scots Baronial style, and built from local granite.



A quarter of a mile east of the castle is the small **Crathie Kirk**, where the Royal Family worship while at Balmoral. It dates from 1895 and overlooks the remains of the original 14th-century kirk. Many of the fittings and furnishings have been donated over the years by members of the Royal Family. **John Brown**, Queen Victoria's controversial ghillie, lies in the adjoining cemetery. The Royal Lochnagar Distillery, established in 1845, is near the kirk, and has a visitors centre. It was given a Royal Warrant by Queen Victoria in 1864.

A **Victorian Heritage Trail** has been laid out (with distinctive brown signs) that traces the footsteps of Queen Victoria, not just on Deeside, but throughout the area, and a leaflet is available from most tourist offices.

## BRAEMAR

50 miles W of Aberdeen on the A93

 Braemar Highland Games  Braemar Castle

 Mar Lodge Estate  Glenshee

This little village high in the Cairngorms is officially Britain's coldest place. Between 1941 and 1970 its average temperature was only 6.4 degrees Celsius. On two occasions, in 1895 and 1982, it experienced the lowest temperature ever officially recorded in Britain - minus 28.2 degrees Celsius.

It sits at an altitude of 1100 feet, and is famous for the **Braemar Highland Games**, held every September, which is attended by the Royal Family. **Braemar Castle** is the seat of the Farquharsons of Invercauld, and was built in 1628 by the Earl of Mar on the site of an older castle. It was used as a base by Hanoverian troops during the 1745 Rebellion. In the drawing room can be seen the world's largest Cairngorm (a semi-precious stone) weighting 52 pounds. And in the morning room display is a collection of Native American items from the great Lakes area of Canada. They were sent back to this country by two members of the family who went there seeking their fortunes.

The 72,598-acre **Mar Lodge Estate** (National Trust for Scotland) lies five miles west of Braemar on a minor road, and is part of the Cairngorms National Park, which came into being in September 2003. The estate has been described as the most important nature conservation landscape in Britain, and contains four out of its five highest mountains. In medieval times, when the estate was owned by the Earls of Mar, it was one of Scotland's most important hunting estates. It displays many of the features normally associated with Highland landscapes, and has a wealth of wildlife, plants, trees and

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## CALLATER LODGE GUEST HOUSE

9 Glenshee Road, Braemar, Aberdeenshire AB35 5YQ

Tel: 01339 741275

e-mail: [info@hotel-braemar.co.uk](mailto:info@hotel-braemar.co.uk)

website: [www.callaterlodge.co.uk](http://www.callaterlodge.co.uk)

**Callater Lodge Guest House** is a traditional stone-built Victorian villa dating from 1861. The guest house offers six guest rooms each with its own bathroom with shower; two rooms also have bath tubs. All bedrooms have the following: colour television, tea and coffee making facilities, thermostatically controlled heating, hair dryer, bathrobe, luggage rack and complementary quality toiletries. A choice of cooked breakfast, or a continental style breakfast, is served in the large airy dining room. There is also a comfortable residents' lounge with a Victorian fireplace available for guests use throughout the day, where you can enjoy a drink at the end of a hard day sightseeing, walking etc. There is also a large garden for guests to enjoy during the summer months, home to several red squirrels and numerous birds.

Braemar is a pretty village on Royal Deeside, situated within the Cairngorm National Park, surrounded by superb hills and stunning scenery. The village is close to Balmoral Castle, the Glenshee Ski Centre and many other attractions. Callater Lodge is about 400 metres from the village centre and is an ideal base for walking, cycling, climbing, touring, golf and other activities. Packed lunches are available on request and there is a snack menu available from 5pm until 8pm daily. For guests, returning from the hills or ski slopes, there is a drying room available to hang up wet clothing and boots. There is also a secure shed available for those requiring storage (bicycles, golf clubs, skis etc).




archaeological sites. The estate is open daily, and the Lodge itself has special open days that are well advertised.

To the south of Braemar, on the A93, is one of Scotland's most popular winter sports areas, **Glenshee**. The snowfields stretch over three valleys and four Munros, with about 25 miles of marked pistes as well as off-piste skiing.

## KINTORE

10 miles NW of Aberdeen off the A96

 Kintore Tolbooth  Kintore Parish Church

 Battle of Mons Graupius



Kintore is a small picturesque royal burgh four miles southeast of Inverurie. **Kintore Tolbooth** dates from 1747, when the Earl of Kintore was the provost. **Kintore Parish Church** was built in 1819, and incorporated into the west staircase is a piece of the



sacrament house of the pre-Reformation Kirk of Kinkell.



To the west of the town stood a Roman Camp known as Devona. The slopes of Bennachie, also to the west, is one of the likely locations for the **Battle of Mons Graupius**, fought in 84AD and no doubt Devona played a major part. It was fought between a confederation of Caledonian tribes and the army of Agricola, with no clear victor emerging.

## INVERURIE

15 miles NW of Aberdeen city centre off the A96

 Battle of Harlaw  Carnegie Inverurie Museum

 Bennachie Visitors Centre  Castle Fraser

 Easter Aquhorthies Stone Circle  Kinkell Church

The royal burgh of Inverurie sits where the River Urie meets the Don. A legend tells of



how a Roman soldier who came to this area exclaimed 'urbi in rure!' (a city in the countryside) when he first saw the settlement. The town adopted the words as its motto and it is inscribed on the coat of arms of the burgh. However, in reality, the town's name has a more prosaic meaning - the mouth of the Urie. Mary Stuart visited the town in 1562, and stayed in the royal castle, which once stood where the mound known as the Bass is situated. The **Battle of Harlaw** was fought near the town in 1411, and a monument now marks the spot. A Lowland army fought a Highland army under Donald, Lord of the Isles, and while the result was an honourable draw, it did stop the Highlanders from moving into the Aberdeenshire lowlands and controlling them. It was one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on Scottish soil, which earned it the nickname of Red Harlaw.

In 1805, the Aberdeenshire Canal was opened, linking Inverurie with Aberdeen. Designed by John Rennie, it was never a great success, and in 1845 it was sold to the Great North of Scotland Railway Company, who drained it and used part of its route to carry their railway line. Port Elphinstone, to the south east of the town, recalls the canal, and part of its channel can still be seen there. It was the only canal in Britain to be closed down every winter in case of ice and snow. Within the **Carnegie Inverurie Museum** in the Square is a small display dedicated to the canal, as well as displays on local history.

To the west of the town is the area's best-known hill, Bennachie. Though not particularly high (1600 feet) it has a distinctive conical shape and is sometimes called Aberdeenshire's Mount Fuji, as it can be seen from all round the area. Near the Chapel of Garrioch is the **Bennachie Visitors Centre**, where the natural and social history of the hill

is explained. Also nearby is the **Easter Aquhorthies Stone Circle**, well-signposted from the A96.

Two miles south of the town are the ruins of the 16th-century **Kinkell Church**, which has a particularly fine sacrament house. The ornate grave slab of Gilbert de Greenlaw, who was killed at the Battle of Harlaw, can also be seen. **Castle Fraser** (National Trust for Scotland) lies six miles southwest of the town, near the village of Craigeearn. Work started on it in 1575 by Michael Fraser, the sixth laird, and was finished in 1636. It has a traditional Z plan, and contains many Fraser portraits, fine carpets, linen and curtains.

## OLDMELDRUM


*15 miles NW of Aberdeen on the A920*

Built mostly in an attractive grey stone, Oldmeldrum has a large open square at its heart, which is dominated by grand Town Hall built in 1877. Around this square, there's a number of family-run shops, including an unusual petrol station. Just downhill from the square is Morris's Hotel, which has a sign stating that it opened in 1673, as well as plaques commemorating some of the famous people who have stayed there.

On the north side of Oldmeldrum is Glen Garioch distillery. Built in the same grey stone as much of the rest of the town, the distillery has a four-storey malt barn, two pagodas, a still house and a visitor centre. The distillery, pronounced Glen Geery can trace its origins back to 1797.

## MONYMUSK

*17 miles W of Aberdeen off the B993*

 **Parish Church of St Mary**

Monymusk was once the site of an Augustinian priory, founded in 1170 by the

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## RAINBOW FABRICS & NEEDLECRAFTS

*Urquhart Road, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire AB51 0EX*

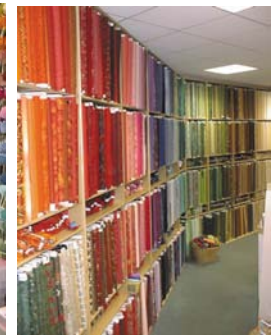
*Tel: 01651 873280*

*e-mail: [probins@rainbow-fabrics.co.uk](mailto:probins@rainbow-fabrics.co.uk)*

*website: [www.rainbow-fabrics.co.uk](http://www.rainbow-fabrics.co.uk)*

Pat Robins has had a lifelong interest in needlework and in 2000 she decided to convert a hobby into a new career. Her customers and friends describe Rainbow as an Aladdin's Cave because of its extensive stock that includes more than 2000 patchwork fabrics from most of the major manufacturers. Also in stock are threads, including specialist threads for machinery and hand embroidery; books and patterns; beads; needlecraft and embroidery kits and supplies for both traditional and contemporary techniques; and fibres and yarns for felting, knitting, crochet and embellishing. You'll also find an excellent range of haberdashery, fabric paints, tools and textile art supplies. The shop is open from 10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

Rainbow Fabrics also hosts a wide range of classes and workshops run by Meldrum Craft Workshops. These cater for a wide range of abilities from City & Guilds courses to taster sessions for absolute beginners.



Earl of Mar. The Monymusk Reliquary, in which was kept a bone of St Columba, was one of its treasures. It dates from the 8th century, and is a small wooden box covered in silver and bronze and decorated in semi-precious stones. It was paraded before Bruce's troops at the Battle of Bannockburn, and is now in the Museum of Scotland.

The **Parish Church of St Mary**, which formed part of the priory, dates from the early years of the 12th century. In 1929, it was restored to its original condition, and it is now one of the finest parish churches in Scotland. Inside it is the Monymusk Stone, on which are carved Pictish symbols.

## OYNE

*21 miles NW of Aberdeen on the B9002*

 **Archaeolink Prehistory Park**


More than 7000 ancient sites have been identified in Aberdeenshire, from Pictish

carvings to stone circles, and these form the basis for the **Archaeolink Prehistory Park**, which bridges the gap between ancient history and modern times by way of exhibits and hands-on displays, both indoor and out. It has some of the finest collections of ancient remains in Europe.

## FYVIE

*23 miles NW of Aberdeen city centre off the A947*

 **Fyvie Castle**  **Parish Church**

 **Cosmo Gordon Lang**






The oldest part of **Fyvie Castle** (National Trust for Scotland) dates from the 13th century, and was once a royal stronghold. There are 17th-century panelling and plaster ceilings, as well as a portrait collection that includes works by Raeburn, Romney and Gainsborough. One of the legends attached to the castle is that its five towers were built by

the five great families in the northeast who owned it - the Gordons, the Leiths, the Meldrums, the Prestons and the Setons. Both Robert the Bruce and his descendant Charles I stayed here.

The **Parish Church** dates from the 19th century, and has a fine laird's pew and wine glass pulpit. **Cosmo Gordon Lang** was born in Fyvie Old Manse in 186. He became Archbishop of York in 1908 and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1928.

## HUNTLY

33 miles NW of Aberdeen on the A96

-  Huntly Castle  Standing Stones of Strathbogie
-  Brander Museum  George MacDonald
-  Leith Hall

Huntly is an old burgh, which was granted its charter in 1488. It sits in an area called Strathbogie, and is famous for the ruins of **Huntly Castle** (Historic Scotland). It was originally called Strathbogie Castle, and was built by the Earl of Fife in the late 12th century. While in the area in the early 1300s, Robert the Bruce took ill, and spent some time in the castle, as the then earl, David, was one of his supporters. However, the earl



Leith Hall, Huntly

changed sides and joined the English just before Bannockburn, and subsequently forfeited the lands of Strathbogie.

They were subsequently given to Sir Adam Gordon of Huntly who lived in the Scottish Borders. He moved north to claim them in 1376. In the 16th century, the name of the castle was changed to Huntly, and in the early 1550s it was rebuilt by George, 4th Earl of Huntly.

During the Reformation, the Gordons of Huntly were one of the most important Catholic families in Scotland, and fought on the side of Mary Stuart. James VI, her son, had the castle demolished when the 6th Earl, George, was implicated in an uprising against him. George fled to France, but returned, made his peace with James, and had the castle rebuilt. During the turbulent Covenanting times, the castle changed hands many times until it finally fell into the hands of the Covenanters in the early 17th century.

From about the early 18th century, the castle fell into decay. But even today you can see just how stately and comfortable the place must have been in its heyday. It entertained many famous people, including Mary of

Guise, mother of Mary Stuart, and Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the English throne.

In the town square is a statue to the 4th Duke of Richmond, and beneath it are the **Standing Stones of Strathbogie**, or as they are known in Huntly, the Stannin Steens o Strathbogie. At one time they formed part of a stone circle.

The **Brander Museum** in

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the Square has collections dealing with local history, arms and armour, and the works of local author **George MacDonald**, who died in 1905. His most popular stories were of fantasy and fairies, with a strong religious message. He rejected the Calvinist view, still held by some people in the Church of Scotland at the time, that art was self-indulgent and iconoclastic. Instead, he argued that God could be understood through art and imagination.

Six miles south of Huntly, on the B9002 near Kennethmont, is **Leith Hall** (National Trust for Scotland). It was the home of the Leith (later Leith-Hay) family from 1650 onwards, and contains many of their possessions. The family had a tradition of military service and its most famous member, Andrew Hay, fought for Charles Edward Stuart.








Not far from here is Rhynie, known for its Celtic sites, Pictish stone circles, vitrified forts and castles. The village is situated on crossroads from which there is easy access to the distilleries, Deeside, Aberdeen and the coast. The local hill, Tap O'Noth, is a favourite spot for hang-gliders, while mountain bikers and anglers are also well catered for.



Forbes Tomb, Ellon

## ELLON

15 miles N of Aberdeen on the A920

-  Parish Church  Formartine Buchan Way
-  Moot Hill Monument  Pitmedden Garden
-  Museum of Farming Life  Tolquhon Castle
-  Haddo House

Situated within an area known as the Formartine, Ellon is a small burgh or barony, which was granted its charter in 1707. It was one of the places burned down during what became known as the Harrying of Buchan in 1308 soon after Robert the Bruce defeated John Comyn, Earl of Buchan at Old Meldrum.

The town sits on the River Ythan, with a **Parish Church** that dates from 1777. It's hard to imagine nowadays that this little town, five miles from the coast, was once a port with a small steamer that took goods up and down the river. It is also one of the stops on the **Formartine Buchan Way**, based on disused railway tracks from Dyce, just outside of Aberdeen, to Fraserburgh. The **Moot Hill Monument** stands on Moot Hill, from where justice was dispensed by the Earls of Buchan in the 13th and early 14th centuries.

Five miles west of the town, on the A920 is the **Pitmedden Garden** (National Trust for Scotland - see panel opposite). The centrepiece is the Great Garden, laid out by Sir Alexander Seton, 1st Baronet of Pitmedden, in 1675. In the 1950s, the rest of the garden was re-created using elaborate floral designs. Four parterres were created, three of them being inspired by designs possibly used at the Palace of Holyrood in Edinburgh, and



## Pitmedden Garden

Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB41 7PD

Tel: 01651 842352

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

The heart of this property is the formal walled garden originally laid out in 1675 by Sir Alexander Seton. In the 1950s, the Trust set about re-creating the gardens following designs dating from the 17th century. Today, Pitmedden features over 5 miles of box hedging arranged in intricate patterns to form six parterres. Each parterre is filled with some 40,000 plants bursting with colour in the summer months.

Extensive herbaceous borders provide an abundance of colour and texture throughout the season and the spectacular lupin border is not to be missed. Honeysuckle, jasmine and roses create a succession of fragrances, while fountains, topiary, sundials, and a fascinating herb garden add to the sense of discovery around the walled garden. There are over 80 varieties of apple trees offer a spectacular show of blossom and scent in spring. On the last Sunday in September the garden holds harvest celebrations with dancing and music, and visitors can buy fruits harvested from the gardens.

The adjacent Museum of Farming Life boasts an extensive collection of domestic and agricultural artefacts of a bygone era. For the more adventurous, the woodland walk extends for a mile and a half round the estate and takes in ponds, rhododendrons, a lime kiln and a nature hut with information about the wider estate. The picnic area is an ideal spot to stop for lunch, and visitors can even enjoy a game of boules on the petanque piste.



the fourth based on Sir Alexander's coat of arms. There is also a visitor centre and a **Museum of Farming Life**, which has a collection of old farming implements once used in this largely farming area.

Near the gardens are the substantial ruins of **Tolquhon Castle**, built by William Forbes, 7th Lord of Tolquhon in the 1580s. In 1589 James VI visited the house, and both his and the Forbes' coats of arms were carved over the doorway. William Forbes and his wife Elizabeth were buried in an elaborately carved tomb in the south aisle of the parish church at Tarves. The church has since been demolished, but the

Forbes Tomb survives to this day.

**Haddo House** (National Trust for Scotland), one of the grandest stately homes in Aberdeenshire, lies six miles northwest of Ellon. It was designed by William Adam for the 2nd Earl of Aberdeen in the early 1730s, and restored in the 1880s. It is noted for its Victorian interiors within an elegant Georgian shell, and features furniture, paintings and objets d'art. It also has a terraced garden with rose beds and a fountain. In the grounds is Kelly Lake, one of the few natural (as opposed to man-made) sheets of water called 'lake' rather than 'loch' in Scotland.

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

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## Elgin

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| St Giles Church                    | Muckle Cross    |
| Thunderton Hotel                   | Elgin Museum    |
| Moray Motor Museum                 | Elgin Cathedral |
| Bishop's Palace                    | Old Mills       |
| Greyfriars Monastery               | Spynie Palace   |
| Johnston's Cashmere Visitor Centre |                 |

Situated in the fertile Laigh of Moray, Elgin is a charming city with the ruins of what was one of the finest cathedrals in Scotland. Before the local government reforms in the mid-1970s, there were only six towns - or cities - in Scotland that were allowed to have lord provosts, and Elgin was one of them.

The city's layout is still essentially that of the medieval burgh, with a High Street that goes from where the royal castle once stood on Lady Hill to the cathedral. It widens in the middle into a market place called the Plainstanes, and close to it stands **St Giles Church**. It is in neoclassical style, and was built in 1828 to replace a medieval building. In the square at its east end is the **Muckle Cross**, a Victorian rebuilding of a medieval one. On Lady Hill is a monument to the 5th Duke of

Richmond, dating from 1839, with the statue added 16 years later. At the far east end of the High Street is another cross. It marks the spot where Alaxander MacDonald of the Isles did penance for despoiling the cathedral. It also marks the western limit of the sanctuary area of the cathedral.

Just off the High Street is the **Thunderton Hotel**, housed in what was a grand medieval town house. It was once the royal residence of the town, where the monarch stayed when he visited. It was surrounded by orchards, gardens and a bowling green. In 1746, Charles Edward Stuart stayed here while on his way to Culloden.

Three 17th-century arcaded merchants' houses are to be found in the High Street, one of which at one time housed the bank of William Duff, a member of the family that went on to become substantial landowners in the area. The award-winning **Elgin Museum** is also in the High Street, and has many important collections, including natural history, archaeology, and the social history of the area. Another museum worth visiting is the **Moray Motor Museum** in Bridge Street, with its collection of old cars and motorcycles from 1904 to the 1960s.

The centrepiece of the collection is a 1928 Rolls-Royce Phantom I.

Work was started on **Elgin Cathedral**, or to give it its proper name, the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, in about 1224. It was one of Scotland's grandest churches, and could compare to the great cathedrals of Europe. There had been three

Elgin Cathedral, Elgin



stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

## THE STEADING

Greenfields, Lhanbryde, Elgin, Moray IV30 8LN  
Tel: 01343 842633

Mobiles: 07795 236623 or 07798 725845

Hilary Anderson and Maggie Brown, partners in the Steading Café, have backgrounds in education and training, but realised their shared passion for good home cooked food and rural life when they established the café and country store in June 2008. Building on the success of Hilary's previous business, The Whole Horse Tack Shop in Keith, and utilising their culinary skills and rural knowledge, they have since added a deli counter and an outside catering service, and provide a range of rural-themed courses and holiday breaks too.

## THE CAFÉ:

The café is situated in a relaxed rural setting and places its emphasis on ethically sourced products, using local producers and fair trade goods wherever possible. Eggs are free range, meat is free range/outdoor reared and many ingredients are organic. Bread is freshly baked each morning and different freshly cooked special dishes are offered each day with vegetarian and vegan options always available. A mouth-watering array of Steading Café home baking is on offer and the Café is already well known for its excellent coffee and teas. Food is freshly cooked to order and, although it takes a little extra time, customer feedback confirms that the results are worth waiting for.

## THE DELI & COUNTRY STORE:

Under their own Bothy Bakehouse label, the Steading Café's deli counter offers home produced breads, baking, chutneys and salad dressings for sale, in addition to seasonal quality produce from local artisan producers. Paintings and crafts from local artists are for sale, and countrywear, clothing and gifts complete the range.

## COURSES AND ACTIVITY BREAKS:

From 2 hour courses to mid-week or weekend breaks, Hilary and Maggie share their passion for good food and their keen interest in rural skills through cookery classes and a range of other rural-themed leisure and personal development courses. Maggie's husband, Angus, passes on the secret of his Steading bread, shortbread and cloutie dumpling in the introductory rural cookery class, and other course options include natural horsemanship, animal care, rural crafts and painting and drawing. Breaks can be tailored to suit particular interests. Refreshments are included and accommodation and evening meals can be arranged where required.



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## ROOM TO BLOOM

28 Thunderton Place, Elgin, Moray IV30 1BG

Tel: 01343 548677

e-mail: [roomtobloom@fsmail.net](mailto:roomtobloom@fsmail.net)



Kevin Shand became a florist in 2000 and opened his own shop, **Room to Bloom**, on Valentine's Day the following year. Those premises, in an old sea captain's house, measured about 8ft square. Successful trading meant that he and his 4 staff moved to the present, larger shop. Kevin now offers top quality fresh flowers for all occasions and will create tailor-made wedding packages as well as beautiful floral tributes for any occasion. Room to Bloom also stocks silk flowers, chocolates, cards, balloons and candles.

cathedrals in the dioceses before this one, at Birnie, Spynie and Kinneder, but the locations had all been unsuitable. By the end of the 13th century, building work was complete, but in 1390 the Wolf of Badenoch set fire to it after a violent quarrel with the Bishop of Moray, who had ordered him to give up his mistress and return to his wife.

The fire did a lot of damage, and work on repairing it continued right up until the Reformation in 1560. After the Reformation, the cathedral became a quarry for the people of the town. In 1807, a keeper of the ruins was appointed, and from then on what was left was cared for and preserved. The east gate to the cathedral precincts, known as the Panns Port, still stands.

To the northwest of the cathedral are the ruins of the so-called **Bishop's Palace**. It had nothing to do with the bishop, but was instead the manse of the cathedral's preceptor, who looked after the sacred music. It was one of about 20 such manses around the cathedral that housed the cathedral staff. And to the northeast of the cathedral is the Brewery Bridge, built in 1798 and so called because a brewery stood close by until 1913.

Off Greyfriars Street stands the restored

**Greyfriars Monastery**, now reckoned to give the best idea of what a medieval Scottish friary looked like. It was built in 1479, then, in the late 19th century, was restored by John Kinross, who built new walls on the foundations of the old ones.

At the west end of the high street is the imposing façade of Dr Gray's Hospital, the town's main infirmary. It was founded by Dr Alexander Gray, who amassed a fortune in India, and was built between 1816 and 1819.

**Johnston's Cashmere Visitor Centre** is at Newmill. There are tours round the mill, an exhibition and audiovisual devices that explain the making of the luxury material. There is also a shop where Johnston products can be bought, as well as a coffee shop.

The **Old Mills** is the last remaining meal mill on the River Lossie. Its history goes back to the 13th century, when it was owned by Pluscarden Abbey.

North of the city are the impressive ruins of **Spynie Palace** (Historic Scotland), the home of the bishops of Moray. The palace stands on the shores of tiny Loch Spynie, and dates from the 14th century and later. David's Tower, the main part of the building, dates from the 16th century.



## Around Elgin

### DUFFUS

5 miles NW of Elgin on the B9012

Church of St Peter Duffus Castle

The ruins of the **Church of St Peter** (Historic Scotland) stand near the village. Though mainly 18th century, it incorporates work that is much older. Opposite the porch is the medieval Parish Cross.

Close by are the ruins of **Duffus Castle**, founded in the 12th century by Freskin, Lord of Strabrock, who later took the title and name of Lord of Duffus and Freskin or Moravia. He is the ancestor of the great Moravia, (later Moray, or Murray), family, which has played such a prominent part in Scotland's history. The castle would originally have been a wooden tower surrounded by a wooden palisade, which not only encompassed the castle on top of its motte, or hill, but a bailey as well, where a small settlement would have flourished. The castle as we see it today dates from the 14th century onwards, and still has the finest motte and bailey of any castle in the north of Scotland.

Gordonstoun School, attended by both Prince Philip and Prince Charles, is close to Duffus, and is housed in an 18th-century mansion. It was founded by the German educationalist Dr Kurt Hahn in 1934.

### LOSSIEMOUTH

5 miles N of Elgin on the A941

Lossiemouth Fisheries & Community Museum  
 James Ramsay Macdonald

This holiday resort sits at the mouth of the River Lossie, and was established as a small port for the city of Elgin in the 18th century

after Elgin's original port at Spynie was cut off from the sea as the River Lossie silted up. There are fine sandy beaches, and the **Lossiemouth Fisheries and Community Museum**, in a former net mending loft at Pitgaveny Quay, traces the history of the town and its fishing industry. There is also a reconstruction of the study used by **James Ramsay Macdonald**, Britain's first Labour prime minister, who was born illegitimate in a small cottage in the town in 1866.

### FOCHABERS

8 miles E of Elgin on the A96

Fochabers Folk Museum Bellie Church  
 Milne's High School

Fochabers dates from 1776, when the then Duke of Gordon decided that he didn't like the dilapidated huddle of cottages that was old Fochabers within his parkland. He therefore built a new village further north with a large spacious square. The architect was John Baxter, an Edinburgh man who had already worked on Gordon Castle. Within the former Pringle Church in the High Street is the **Fochabers Folk Museum**, and in the square is the elegant, porticoed **Bellie Church**. Its rather quaint name comes from the Gaelic beul-aith, meaning the mouth of the ford.

The imposing **Milne's High School** dates from 1844, and was built using money gifted by a native of the town who made his fortune in New Orleans.

West of the village centre and overlooking the Spey is Baxter's Highland Village, home to one of the best-known food firms in Scotland. It all started in 1868, when George Baxter, who worked for the Duke of Gordon, opened a small grocery shop in Fochabers. This is one of the most fertile areas in Britain, famed for its fruit, vegetables and cattle, and soon

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George's wife was making jams and preserves in the back shop. Now the factory and associated shops, restaurants and kids' play areas are tourist attractions in their own right.

### BUCKIE

13 miles E of Elgin on the A990

Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum  
 Buckie Drifter Fordyce Joiner's Workshop  
 Peter Anson Gallery Deskford Church  
 St Mary's Church Findlater Castle

Buckie is a major fishing port, based in Cluny Harbour. In the **Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum** in Clunie Place and the **Buckie Drifter** in Freuchny Road are displays that tell the story of the fishing industry on the Morayshire coast. The **Peter Anson Gallery** is within the town's library, and has a collection of paintings by the maritime artist Peter Anson.

Four miles west of the town is the mouth of the River Spey. It is half a mile wide, though no great port sits here. The village of Kingston dates from 1784 and was founded by Ralph Dodworth and William Osbourne. They came from Kingston-upon-Hull in Yorkshire and named the village after their home town. It was near here that Charles II alighted after a trip from Holland on June 23 1650. His ship grounded in shallow water, and he had to be taken ashore piggyback style on the back of a villager.

The small fishing communities round about, such as Findochty and Portnockie, are very attractive, and well worth visiting. Five miles southwest of the town are the ruins of **Deskford Church**, within the village of the same name. It is noted for its ornately carved sacrament house. The 16th-century **St Mary's Church** stands in the small fishing

village of Cullen, to the north of Deskford, and was formerly collegiate. Cullen, a former fishing village, gives its name to one of Scotland's best known dishes - Cullen skink, a fish soup enriched with potatoes, onion and cream. The word skink comes from the Gaelic word for essence.

One of the most dramatically situated castles in the area is **Findlater Castle**, which sits on a small promontory jutting into the sea. It was built by the Ogilvie family and the ruins you see now date from the 15th century. Care should be taken when approaching or exploring it. The name comes from the Norse fyn, meaning white and leitr meaning cliff, as the cliffs in this part of the country are studded with quartz.

In the village of Fordyce, southeast of Cullen, is the **Fordyce Joiner's Workshop and Visitor Centre** in Church Street, dedicated to the skills and tools of carpentry in northeast Scotland. Fordyce Castle was built in 1592 by Sir Thomas Menzies of Durn, a provost of Aberdeen. It is an L-plan tower, and is not open to the public.

### CRAIGELLACHIE

12 miles S of Elgin off the A95

Craigellachie Bridge Speyside Cooperage  
 Ballindalloch Castle

The **Craigellachie Bridge** dates from 1814, and is Scotland's oldest iron bridge. It was designed by Thomas Telford, and has one single graceful arch spanning the Spey. The village sits in the heart of the Malt Whisky Trail, and most of the distilleries organise tours round the premises, with a tasting at the end. The **Speyside Cooperage**, on the Dufftown road, has a visitor centre where you can learn about the skills involved in making and repairing whisky casks.

Craigellachie Distillery lies within the village, as does the Macallan Distillery, and four miles north is the Glen Grant Distillery. The Glenfarclas Distillery is seven miles southwest, near **Ballindalloch Castle**. The castle dates from the 16th century, and is the home of the McPherson-Grant family who have lived there continuously since it was built. It is open to the public during the summer months. About four miles south of Ballindalloch is the Glenlivet Distillery, which again has organised tours.

A couple of miles southwest is the village of Aberlour, where the Aberlour Distillery has a visitor centre.

## DUFFTOWN

16 miles S of Elgin on the A941

Clock Tower McPherson of Kingussie

Mortlach Church Balvenie Castle

Founded in 1817 by James Duff, the 4th Earl



Tolbooth Clock Tower, Dufftown

## FLORAL OCCASIONS

15 Fife Street, Dufftown, Moray AB55 4AL  
Tel: 01340 820567

For everything to do with flowers and floral displays, you should head for **Floral Occasions** in the whisky town of Dufftown. Established in 2002, the shop is owned and personally managed by Margaret Brown, a knowledgeable lady who is happy to discuss your requirements and advise.

Located next to the town square so that you can't miss it, the shop's colourful displays include an excellent variety of flowers, including roses, lilies, orchids and flowering plants, silk flowers, baskets and vases. You'll also find a host of products to do with floral displays, chocolates, balloons, teddies and candles.

*If you're in Morayshire, make sure you call in!*



historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna

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original building still survive. In the graveyard is an old Pictish cross, and inside the church is the Elephant Stone, again with Pictish associations. An old story tells of how Malcolm II extended the church in thanks for his victory over the Vikings in 1010. **Balvenie Castle** (Historic Scotland), lies a mile north, and was once home to the Comyns and later the Stewarts and the Douglasses. In the 13th century it was visited by Edward I of England, and Mary Stuart spend two nights here in 1562.

The Keith and Dufftown Railway connects Dufftown to the market town of Keith, 11 miles away. It was reopened in 2000/2001 by a group of enthusiasts, and runs services between the two towns.

The 18-hole Dufftown Golf Club boasts the highest hole in the UK. Besides golf, the town caters for all types of outdoor activities

including walking, fishing, shooting and cycling.

## KEITH

15 miles SE of Elgin on the A96

Packhorse Bridge Milton Tower

Scottish Tartans Museum

Keith is divided into two communities, separated by the River Isla. The old Keith was founded in the 12th century on the west bank of the river as a market centre for the selling of cattle. The newer, and larger, Keith was laid out in 1755 by the Earl of Findlater on the east bank.

The town is home to the Glenisla Distillery, which is open to the public. The old **Packhorse Bridge** dates from 1609, though the town's oldest building is **Milton Tower**, dating from 1480. It was a stronghold of the Ogilvie family, whose most famous member

## GOWANBRAE GUEST HOUSE

19 Church Street, Dufftown, Banffshire AB55 4AR

Tel: 01340 821344

e-mail: [bedbreakfast@gowanbrae-dufftown.co.uk](mailto:bedbreakfast@gowanbrae-dufftown.co.uk)

website: [www.gowanbrae-dufftown.co.uk](http://www.gowanbrae-dufftown.co.uk)

**Gowanbrae Guest House** is a handsome Victorian property with spacious rooms, tastefully modernized and decorated. Guests are assured of a warm welcome and every effort is made to make your stay comfortable and enjoyable. There is a comfortably furnished lounge where you can relax and enjoy a selection of videos, DVDs, CDs and board games. In the morning, a hearty Scottish breakfast is served in the cosy dining room and a packed lunch service is also offered. Special diets are catered for and children are welcome. From the ground floor, an impressive Victorian staircase leads to the first and second floor bedrooms. There is one double room and also three family rooms. Every room is en-suite with TV, tea/coffee-making facilities, hairdryer and central heating. Guests are provided with their own key and are free to come and go as they please.

Dufftown itself is a small country town located midway between Aberdeen and Inverness, and is ideally located for touring the North East of Scotland. The mountains are about half an hour's drive away and the coast is the same.



stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks



was John Ogilvie. Raised a Protestant, he later converted to Roman Catholicism on the Continent, and was sent back to Scotland to promote the faith, posing as a horse dealer and soldier called John Watson. He was eventually hanged in Glasgow in 1615, and was made a saint in 1976. There is a **Scottish Tartans Museum** in Keith's Institute Hall. The town is the eastern terminus of the Keith and Dufftown Railway.

## TOMINTOUL

27 miles S of Elgin on the A939

Tomintoul Museum Corgarff Castle

Tomintoul dates from 1775, when the 4th Duke of Gordon decided to lay out a new village in the aftermath of the Jacobite Uprising. It is situated at a height of 1160 feet and is said to be the highest village in the Highlands (but not in Scotland). The A939 southwest to Cockbridge is called The Lecht, and is notorious for being blocked by snow in winter. The ski area of the same name lies six miles from Tomintoul. The small **Tomintoul Museum**, in the village square, has displays on local history and wildlife.

At Cockbridge, **Corgarff Castle** (Historic Scotland), is a tower house set within a curious star-shaped walled enclosure. It was built in about 1550 by John Forbes of Towie. There was a long running feud between the Forbes and the Gordons. During a siege of the castle in 1571, John Forbes's wife Margaret held out against a force led by Adam Gordon. Eventually, the castle was burned down, killing everyone in it, including Margaret.

## PLUSCARDEN

6 miles SW of Elgin on a minor road

Pluscarden Priory

**Pluscarden Priory** was founded in 1230 by

Alexander II and settled firstly by the Valliscaulian and then the Benedictine monks. In the 19th century, the Bute family acquired the ruined buildings, and in 1943 presented them to the monks of Prinknash in England, who took up residence in 1948. This means that it is the only medieval abbey in Britain still used for its original purpose. At first it was a priory, but became an abbey in its own right in 1974. It is open to the public, and has a small gift shop.

## FORRES

12 miles W of Elgin on the A96

Sueno's Stone The Falconer Museum  
 Nelson Tower Brodie Castle  
 Culbin Sands Findhorn Heritage Centre  
 Dallas Dhu Distillery

This small royal burgh, which was granted its charter in the 13th century, was once one of the most important places in Scotland, and is mentioned in Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. The ground plan of the medieval settlement still forms the basis of the town today, though it is much more open and green than it was then, thanks to some large areas of parkland.

The 20-feet high **Sueno's Stone** (Historic Scotland) dates from the 9th or 10th century, and is the largest known stone with Pictish carvings in Scotland. One side shows a cross, while the other shows scenes of battle. One of the scenes might be the battle fought at Forres in 966AD where the Scottish king, Dubh, was killed. It is now floodlit, and under glass to protect it from the weather. **The Falconer Museum** in Tolbooth Street was founded in 1871, and highlights the history and heritage of the town and its surroundings. It was founded using money from a bequest from two brothers who left Forres for India. One was Alexander Falconer, a merchant in

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## LOGIE STEADING

Dunphail, Forres, Moray IV36 2QN

Tel: 01309 611275 Fax: 01309 611300

e-mail: [panny@logie.co.uk](mailto:panny@logie.co.uk) website: [www.logie.co.uk](http://www.logie.co.uk)

Located in the beautiful Findhorn Valley, 6 miles south of Forres, **Logie Steading** is an interesting complex of small businesses promoting Scottish craftsmanship and local produce throughout the year. They occupy sandstone farm buildings which were converted into workshops in 1992.

**The Art Gallery** - The Art Gallery specialises in contemporary Scottish art and exhibits a wide range of individual original work. Artists include oil painters, watercolourists, printmakers, jewellery craftsmen, ceramicists, sculptors and textile designers. Exhibitions change regularly. Tel: 01309 611 378 e-mail: [gallery@logie.co.uk](mailto:gallery@logie.co.uk)

**Giles Pearson Antiques & Country Furniture** - Giles and Margaret Pearson offer a range of superb antique country furniture, folk art pieces and general high quality objets d'art. They specialise in the restoration of cane and rush-seated chairs and customers can view work in progress in the shop.

Tel: 01309 611280 e-mail: [gilesperson@btinternet.com](mailto:gilesperson@btinternet.com)

**Logie Steading Bookshop** - A firm favourite of book-lovers from near and far, the Logie Steading Bookshop stocks more than 20,000 volumes which means that there is something to suit most tastes. Now in its tenth year, the bookshop is well-established as one of Scotland's leading Antiquarian and Secondhand Bookshops. Helen Trussell's staff will travel to advise, and to buy quality books and libraries.

Tel: 01309 611 373

e-mail: [logiesteadingbookshop@btinternet.com](mailto:logiesteadingbookshop@btinternet.com)

**Archie's Furniture and Gifts** - In Archie's Furniture and Gifts you'll find carefully sourced gifts for your friends or for your own house - interesting, timeless pieces which look as well amongst antiques as in modern surroundings. Tel: 01309 611722

**Diva Designs** - Diva Designs offers a selection of bags, scarves, jewellery and interior accessories designed and made by three talented textile designers using sumptuous silks, velvets, merino wool and Scottish tweeds. Creative course and workshops run throughout the year.

e-mail: [cawthra.hewitt@btinternet.com](mailto:cawthra.hewitt@btinternet.com)

**Farm and Garden Shop** - Open seasonally, the Farm and Garden Shop sells a wide range of unusual hardy perennials, herbs and shrubs; strong plants grown in Scotland for Scottish gardens. Friendly, knowledgeable staff can suggest suitable plants for your garden. Local produce includes the renowned Longhorn beef from the Logie herd.

Tel: 01309 611 222 e-mail: [farmandgarden@logie.co.uk](mailto:farmandgarden@logie.co.uk)

**The Café** - The Café is open daily at 10.30am for coffee with freshly made scones, followed by delicious home-made soups, salads, tarts and filled ciabattas for lunch to satisfy both vegetarians and meat-eaters. After a breathtaking riverside walk, come back for afternoon tea with a great range of irresistible cakes from which to choose. Everything is made on the premises with finest quality ingredients sourced locally wherever possible, and as much as possible is organic.

Tel: 01309 611733





## MURDOCH BROTHERS

10-12 High Street, Forres,  
Moray IV36 1DB  
Tel: 01309 672805  
Fax: 01309 676667  
e-mail:  
murdochbros@moraybroadband.co.uk



**Murdoch Brothers, Butchers** is a long-established traditional butcher's shop which was founded in 1916 by the grandfather of the present owners, Graham and Ronnie Murdoch, both of whom are Master Butchers and the father of Daniel Murdoch who was highly regarded for the judging of show cattle. Graham has worked in the business since 1970; Ronnie since 1985. They specialise in supplying locally produced beef, lamb, pork and game, and also sell their own pies, sausages, black puddings, burgers and home-cured bacon and gammon. The brothers have received a host of regional, national and international awards for their products, including being runner-up in the Scotch Pie World Championship.

A major refurbishment in 2006 has given the shop a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere. Traditional meets modern with the elegantly curved refrigerated displays offering a wide selection of fresh meats, sausages, pies and convenience products.

The brothers have also recently opened a new processing unit at the rear of the premises which has greatly increased their capacity to fulfil the growing demand for the award-winning produce from the Royal Burgh of Forres! If you are unable to visit the store, you need not miss out, the website offers online shopping and a nation wide delivery service is also available.

Calcutta, and the other was Hugh Falconer, a botanist and zoologist.

Dominating the town is the **Nelson Tower**, opened in 1812 in Grant Park to commemorate Nelson's victory at Trafalgar seven years before, the first such building to do so in Britain. If you're fit enough to climb its 96 steps, you'll get spectacular views over the surrounding countryside and the Moray Firth.

**Brodie Castle** lies four miles west of the town. It is a 16th-century tower house with later additions, which give it the look of a comfortable mansion. In about 1160, Malcolm IV gave the surrounding lands to the Brodies, and it was their family home until the late 20th century. It contains major collections of paintings, furniture and ceramics, and sits in 175 acres of ground. Within the grounds is Rodney's Stone, with Pictish carvings.

A couple of miles northeast of Forres is Kinloss, with an RAF base and the scant remains of an old abbey. It was founded in about 1150 by David I, and colonised by Cistercian monks from Melrose. It is said that the abbey David founded in thanks after getting lost in a dense forest. Two doves led him to an open space where shepherds were looking after their sheep. They gave him food and shelter and, as he slept, he had a dream in which he was told to build an abbey on the spot. Before the Reformation, it was one of the wealthiest and most powerful abbeys in Scotland.

On the coast north of Forres is perhaps Scotland's most unusual landscape, the **Culbin Sands**. In 1694 a storm blew great drifts of sand - some as high as 100 feet - over an area that had once been green and fertile, causing people to flee their homes. The drifts covered

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## SHERSTON HOUSE

Hillhead, Forres, Moray IV36 2QT  
Tel/Fax: 01309 671087

**Sherston House** is an impressive-looking property, built in Moray stone in 1930 by a local farmer. A notable feature of the house is the generous use of Oregon pine with its warm and welcoming colour. Most of the house's original fixtures and fittings have also survived.

This beautiful period house is the home of Hazel and Robbie Newlands who have been running the guest house since they retired from their farm in 1997. Their guests have the use of a comfortable sitting room and there's also a large well-tended garden with swings and picnic table. The 4-star accommodation comprises 3 tastefully decorated en suite rooms with all mod. cons. As well as 1 single room with a separate bathroom. A hearty breakfast is included in the tariff and evening meals are available by arrangement. If you prefer to eat out, there are several good eating places within easy reach. The house is just 2 miles from Forres with its historic Brodie Castle and only 8 miles from Elgin whose manifold attractions include the remarkable ruins of what was once one of the grandest cathedrals in Scotland.



cottages, fields, even a mansion house and orchard, and eventually created eight square miles of what became known as Scotland's Sahara. Occasionally, further storms would uncover the foundations of old cottages, which were then covered back up again by succeeding storms. The sands continued to shift and expand until the 1920s, when trees were planted to stabilise the area. Now it is a nature reserve.

At Findhorn, on the Moray Firth coast, is the Findhorn Foundation, one of the most successful centres in Britain for exploring alternative lifestyles and spiritual living. It was founded by Dorothy Maclean and Peter and Eileen Caddy in 1962 in a caravan park. The **Findhorn Heritage Centre and Museum** has displays on the history and heritage of the place. The village of Findhorn itself was once a busy port, trading with the Low Countries and Scandinavia. Now it is a sailing

and wildlife centre.

**Dallas Dhu Distillery** (Historic Scotland) sits to the south of Forres, and here you can learn about the making of whisky. It was built between 1898 and 1899 to produce a single malt for a firm of Glasgow blenders called Wright and Greig.

## Fraserburgh

- Kinaird Lighthouse Old Kirk
- Fraserburgh Heritage Centre Wine Tower
- Sandhaven Meal Mill Memsie Burial Cairn

Fraserburgh sits on the coastline just at that point where the Moray Firth becomes the North Sea. It is one of the main fishing ports in northeast Scotland, and the largest shellfish port in Europe. It was founded in the 16th century by Alexander Fraser, eighth laird of Philorth, who built the first harbour in



## THE OLD KIRK

*Dyke by Forres, Morayshire IV36 2TL*

*Tel/Fax: 01309 641414*

*e-mail: enquiries@oldkirk.co.uk*

*website: www.theoldkirk.co.uk*

Built in 1856 as the "East Kirk", this Presbyterian church remained in use until 1941. For the next 40 years it was used as a storage barn for potatoes before being converted into a striking residence in 1998 with many original features, such as the stained glass window, still in place.

**The Old Kirk** is now the home of Herby and Hilary McFarland who are originally from Northern Ireland. They came to the village to be close to their son and daughter-in-law after the birth of the couple's first baby. They moved into The Old Kirk in the spring of 2008 and began welcoming bed and breakfast guests in May of that year. Guests have the use of a spacious and comfortable lounge with a wood-burning stove and the accommodation comprises 3 attractively furnished and decorated rooms, two of which are en suite while the third has a private bathroom. One of the en suite rooms has a 4-poster bed and all bedrooms are equipped with a television, hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities.

The Old Kirk is just 3 miles from historic Forres, close to Brodie Castle and Cawdor Castle, and is also on the Malt Whiskey Trail.



1546. Between 1570 and 1571 he also built Fraserburgh Castle. A powerful lantern was added on top of it in 1787, and it became a lighthouse, known as **Kinnaird Lighthouse**, owned by Historic Scotland. It is now a museum dedicated to Scotland's lighthouses.

The **Old Kirk** in Saltoun Square isn't as old as its name would suggest. It was built in 1803 to replace the original church built by Alexander between 1570 and 1571. Beside it is the Fraser Burial Aisle.

One of Alexander's grander schemes was the founding of a university in the town, and he even went so far as to obtain James VI's permission to do so. The Scots Parliament gave it a grant, and the Rev Charles Ferme became its first principal. Unfortunately, the Rev Ferme was later arrested for attending a general assembly of the Church of Scotland in defiance of the king. The embryonic university subsequently collapsed, though one street in

the town, College Bounds, still commemorates the scheme.

The **Fraserburgh Heritage Centre** in Quaerry Road, has exhibits about the history of the town, including some haute couture dresses designed by the late fashion designer Bill Gibb, who hailed from Fraserburgh. The most unusual building in Fraserburgh is the **Wine Tower**, next to the lighthouse. It too was built by Alexander Fraser, possibly as a chapel. It has three floors, but no connecting stairways. The Tower probably got its name because it was the wine cellar of those who at one time lived in the nearby castle. Under the tower is a cave more than 100 feet long.

At Sandhead, to the west of the town, is the **Sandhaven Meal Mill**, dating from the 19th century. Guided tours and models show how oatmeal used to be ground. At Memsie, three miles south of Fraserburgh on the B9032, is the **Memsie Burial Cairn**, dating from about

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Kinnaird Lighthouse, Fraserburgh

is said that it was built on the site of a Celtic monastery founded by St Columba and his companion St Drostan in the 6th century.

## MINTLAW

*11 miles S of Fraserburgh on the B9030*

**Aberdeenshire Farming Museum**

In the village you'll find the 230-acre **Aberdeenshire Farming Museum** (free), which sits within Aden Country Park. The museum traces the history of farming in this fertile area of Aberdeenshire through three separate themes - the Aden Estate Story, the Weel Vrocht Grun (well worked ground) and the country park itself. Hareshowe Farm has been restored to what it would have been like in the 1950s.

## MAUD

*12 miles S of Fraserburgh on the B9029*

**Maud Railway Museum**

Maud grew up around a junction in the railway line that once connected Aberdeen to Fraserburgh and Peterhead. In the **Maud Railway Museum**, housed in the village's former station, you can relive the days of the Great North of Scotland Railway through exhibits, sound effects, photographs, artefacts and displays.

## TURRIFF

*20 miles SW of Fraserburgh on the A947*

**Turrieff Parish Church** **Delgatie Castle**

**Turra Coo**

Set on the River Deveron in the heart of the Buchan farmlands, Turrieff is an ancient burgh that was given its charter in 1512 by James IV. The Knights Templar once owned land in the

1500BC. At one time three stood here, but only one is now left.

## Around Fraserburgh

### OLD DEER

*12 miles S of Fraserburgh on the B9030*

**Deer Abbey**

In a beautiful location on the banks of the River South Ugie, are the ruins of **Deer Abbey** (Historic Scotland), founded in 1219 by William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, for the Cistercian order of monks. Little remains of the abbey church, but the walls of some of the other buildings are fairly well preserved. It

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

*The Brae, New Deer, Turriff AB53 6TG*  
Tel: 01771 644366

Occupying a quaint wooden building in the centre of New Deer, **Food for Thought** was the joint brainchild of friends Jane Hodgson and Karen Woodhouse who have worked together since 2000. Both love good food and are enthusiastic cooks so they can confidently advise customers on culinary matters.

Their delicatessen sells a huge range of produce. There's a wide selection of Scottish and international cheeses, Highland beef, home-cured pork and free range chicken and eggs. Wherever possible they go to local producers for their stock, but from further afield they also sell olives, antipasti, nuts and wines. Naturally, there's a good choice of fresh fruit and vegetables, and the Veg in a Box delivery service is available throughout the Buchan area and parts of Aberdeen. Charcuterie, smoked fish, fresh bread, oils, vinegars, dried fruits, preserves - the list goes on and on and the range is continually expanding. Oh, and they also serve freshly made sandwiches and home-made soup.



The village of New Deer itself is a busy little place. It has its own bank, convenience stores, hairdresser, fish and chip shop, even a kilt shop and, of course, an outstanding deli in the form of Food for Thought.

area, and a Templar chapel stood here. **Turriff Parish Church** was built in 1794, and there are some good carvings on its belfry and walls from the previous kirk that stood on the site. In 1693, a Covenanting army controlled Turriff, but in May of the same year a force led by the Marquis of Huntly put them to flight, an event which became known as the Turriff Trot.

**Delgatie Castle**, close to the town, was founded in about 1050, though the castle as you see it today dates from the 16th century. It is the ancestral home of Clan Hay, and has been in the Hay family for just under 700 years. It belonged to the Earls of Buchan until after the battle of Bannockburn in 1314, when Robert the Bruce gave it to the Hays. In 1562, Mary Stuart stayed in the castle for three days after the Battle of Corrichie, which took place

to the west of Aberdeen. The Queen's troops easily defeated a force of men led by the 4th Earl of Huntly who was killed in the battle.

Turriff was the scene of a famous incident concerning the **Turra Coo** (Turriff Cow), which received widespread publicity throughout Britain. New National Insurance Acts were passed in 1911 and 1913, which required employers to pay 3d per week for each of their employees. The farmers of Aberdeenshire, in common with others all over Britain, did not want to pay, as they reckoned that farm workers had a healthy lifestyle and would not need much medical treatment. Curiously enough, the farm workers themselves supported the farmers on this issue.

One Turriff farmer in particular, Robert Paterson, refused to comply with the new regulations, so one of his cows was taken to

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be sold at auction to pay off his arrears. However, the auction, held in Turriff, turned into a fiasco, as the cow, which had slogans painted all over its body, took fright and bolted through the streets of the town. Meanwhile, the auctioneer was pelted with raw eggs and bags of soot. Three days later, the cow was taken to Aberdeen where it was sold for £7.

It was a hollow victory for the authorities, which had spent nearly £12 in recovering the sum. And they were further annoyed to hear that Paterson's neighbours had clubbed together and bought the cow so that it could be returned to him. So, while the authorities were out of pocket over the whole affair, it had not cost Robert Paterson a penny. There are now plans to erect a statue of the Turra Coo to commemorate the event.

Seven miles southwest of Turriff, along the B9024, is the Glendronach Distillery, situated on the banks of the Dronach Burn. Tours are available, and there is a visitor centre and shop.

## PENNAN

*9 miles W of Fraserburgh on the B9031*

Pennan is possibly the most spectacular of the little fishing villages on the northern coast of Aberdeenshire. It is strung out along the base of a high cliff, with many of the cottages having their gable ends to the sea for protection. It is a conservation village, and is famous as being the setting, in 1983, for the film *Local Hero*. The red telephone box, famously used in the film, was a prop. However, Pennan's real telephone box, about 15 yards away from where the prop stood, is still a favourite place for photographs.

## GAMRIES CANDLES

*Main Street, Garmond, Aberdeenshire AB53 5TQ*  
Tel: 01888 544170  
e-mail: [gammies.candles@btconnect.com](mailto:gammies.candles@btconnect.com)  
website: [www.gammiescandles.co.uk](http://www.gammiescandles.co.uk)

Deep in the heart of the North East of Scotland in the small idyllic village of Garmond just 6 miles from the town of Turriff, you will come across the unexpected gem of Gamries Candles. Established for over fifteen years, we make candles in many shapes and sizes, from practical to elegant and for all occasions. Visitors are welcome where you can watch the candles being made, peruse the large selection of hand made designer candles and even make your own candle to take home if you wish.



Gamries Candles has a reputation for quality products and you will be amazed at our very keen prices, your purchases will also be beautifully gift wrapped free of charge. Scottish design candles are available with Tartan, Thistles, Heather, Pipers and Castles for your holiday gifts, memories or keepsakes. We also print photographs of your loved ones onto candles, this process takes approximately 24 hours and will also be gift wrapped for you. Being the only candlemakers in the North East of Scotland you will experience a memorable visit to our very friendly workshop and gift shop. Open six days every week from 9.00am to 5.00pm closed Mondays. Well worth a visit.





**BANFF**

20 miles W of Fraserburgh on the A98

 Banff Museum  Duff House

 Macduff Marine Aquarium

A small fishing port close to the mouth of the River Deveron, Banff was once the county town of Banffshire. It is an ancient royal burgh, having been granted its charter in 1163 by Malcolm IV. The **Banff Museum** in the High Street is one of Scotland's oldest, having been founded in 1828. It has a nationally important collection of Banff silver.

**Duff House** (see panel below) is a unique country house art gallery run by a unique

partnership between Historic Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council, with a fine collections of paintings by such artists as Raeburn and El Greco, as well as tapestries and Chippendale furniture. The house was designed by William Adam and built between 1735 and 1740 for William Duff of Braco, who later became Earl of Fife. After a bitter wrangle with Adam, William Duff abandoned the house, and it was left to James, the 2nd Earl Fife, to complete the grand plan, including the grounds. Over the years it has had a chequered career, having been a hotel, a sanatorium, a prisoner-of-war

## Duff House Country Gallery

Banff, Banffshire AB45 3SX  
Tel: 01261 818181

Duff House was designed by William Adam and built between 1735-40 as the seat of the Earls Fife. A treasure house with an extraordinary history, it contains masterpieces from the National Galleries of Scotland. The outstanding collections consist of furniture, including chairs by Chippendale, tapestries and paintings by artists such as Sir Henry Raeburn and El Greco.

Story-tellers, musicians and artists are at home at Duff House. The House organises a regular artistic programme of exhibitions, music, theatre, dance and other live performances, some in conjunction with the Macduff Arts Centre.

Come and enjoy the popular tea-room with its range of fresh food and home baking. Visitors can also browse in our shop with its wide range of quality gifts and books.

Families are welcome as there are facilities for parents and small children, children's quizzes and an adventure playground to explore.

With extensive grounds and woodland walks by the river Deveron you will find a day is not enough. Other things to do and see in the area are the whisky and castle trails, scenic coastal routes and towns, or visit the Macduff Marine Aquarium and the Museum of Scottish Light Houses at Fraserburgh.

Call 01261 818181 to find out what we can offer your school, educational or community group.

Educational visits are free.



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camp, and the scene of an attempted murder, when a Countess of Fife tried to do away with her husband.

The small town of Macduff sits on the opposite shores of the small bay where the Deveron enters the Moray Firth. The lands were bought by the 1st Earl of Fife in 1733, and in 1783, the 2nd Earl founded the town as a burgh or barony. It contains the **Macduff Marine Aquarium** at High Shore, which has a central tank open to the sky surrounded by viewing areas so that you can see fish and marine mammals from all angles. This deep central exhibit, which displays a living kelp reef, is the only one of its kind in Britain, and divers hand-feed the fish on a regular basis. The aquarium has a wave-making machine, which adds to the experience of seeing underwater life in its true condition.

Six miles west of Banff, on the A98, is the attractive little fishing port of Portsoy, which is well worth visiting if only to soak in the atmosphere. Though its burgh charter dates from 1550, it was Patrick Ogilvie, Lord Boyne, who realised its potential and developed it as a port to export marble from the nearby quarries. Portsoy marble was used on Louis XIV's palace at Versailles.

**PETERHEAD**

16 miles SE of Fraserburgh on the A982

 Arbutnot Museum  Slains Castle

 Peterhead Maritime Heritage Museum

Peterhead is the largest town (as opposed to city) in Aberdeenshire, and one of the chief fishing ports in the northeast. It was founded by George Keith, the 5th Earl Marischal of

**GLENDAVENY TEDDY BEARS**

41 Broad Street, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire AB42 1JB

Tel: 01779 481608 Fax: 01779 838406

e-mail: [di.fairthfull@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:di.fairthfull@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

website: [www.glendaveny.co.uk](http://www.glendaveny.co.uk)

**Glendaveny Teddy Bears** forms part of an Aberdeenshire Council project to give adults with learning disabilities training opportunities in various crafts. The bears are traditionally crafted, based on an original design and made with loving care using the finest quality Mohair with board and pin jointing. Each bear has its own personality and they come in a variety of sizes, with a choice of more than 20 different Mohairs. Examples of the Glendaveny range of teddy bears can be seen on display and for sale in the shop at 41, Broad Street. Most of the teddy bears can be personalised with embroidered text on paw pads. Limited editions, as a matter of course, carry the limited number of the requested bear sewn on to a paw pad. The opening times for the shop are Mon - Fri 9am - 3.30pm.



The same council project also produces **Glendaveny Jams and Chutneys**, made in the traditional manner using home-grown and local sources of fruit. No artificial preservatives or flavours are employed. A third element of the project is **Glendaveny Garden Furniture** which produces high quality, substantial, hand-crafted pieces such as garden benches, love seats, tables, bird boxes and more. The opening times for the Day Service are Mon - Fri 9:00am - 4:00 pm. Tel: 01779 838301

## THE FLOWER SHOP

14, Thistle Street, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire AB42 1TD

Tel: 01779 474318

website: [www.theflowershop.org.uk](http://www.theflowershop.org.uk)

In 2003 Amy Buchan started work in the Flower Shop as a Saturday girl. Having found her passion for floristry, she left school at 17 and started work in the shop as a full-time trainee florist. She went on to gain her certificates to become a top florist, whilst also achieving the much sought after Interflora certificate. She also achieved first and second places in national competitions.

In 2008 at the age on 19 years Amy bought the business from the existing owner and started to build her own business. In 2009 after a complete shop renovation Amy now runs a very busy shop in the heart of Peterhead with her team of four florists, three delivery assistants and two part time florist assistants. The Flower Shop flowers come direct from the markets in Holland and the three deliveries a week ensure that the flowers that customers receive are as fresh as can be.

For weddings the team at the Flower Shop strive to make the brides day a beautiful occasion and as well as delivering the bridal party flowers to the brides home on time they can arrange for the church or wedding venue to be decorated to the brides requirements. The church flowers can be picked up and taken to the reception if required.

For funeral flowers a home visit can be arranged for the deceased's family, so that choosing a loved one's floral tributes can be done in privacy...

**NO JOB IS TOO BIG OR SMALL. All floral designs can be tailored to the customer's budget.**



Scotland in 1587, and is Scotland's most easterly burgh. In the mid-1980s, it was Europe's largest white fish port, landing 120,000 tonnes of fish in 1987 alone. Now that fishing has declined, it benefits from being one of the ports that services the offshore gas industry. The **Arbuthnot Museum** in St Peter Street tells the story of the town and its industries, and has a large collection of Inuit artefacts. It was given to the town of Peterhead in 1850 by Adam Arbuthnot, a local man who had acquired a huge collection of antiquities.

In South Road, in a purpose-built building, **Peterhead Maritime Heritage Museum** tells of the town's connections with the sea over the years. It traces its history, from its fishing fleet (which went as far as the Arctic in search of fish) to its whaling fleet (in its day,

the second largest in Britain), and finally, to the modern offshore gas and oil industries. The building was shaped to resemble a scaffy, a kind of fishing boat once used in the area.

A few miles south of the town, at Cruden Bay, are the ruins of **Slains Castle**, built by the 9th Earl of Errol in 1597. Perched on top of the cliffs looking out over the North Sea, the castle has been rebuilt and refurbished several times since then, and the ruins you see date from the early 19th century. Now there are plans to restore it yet again, this time as holiday flats. It has literary associations of an unusual kind. While staying at the nearby village of Cruden Bay in 1895, Bram Stoker began writing *Dracula*, and based the vampire's Transylvanian castle on Slains. In an early draft of the novel he even has the Count coming ashore at Slains rather than Whitby.

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