



ABERDEENSHIRE

SAMPLE ITINERARY

Day One

Dinner and overnight stay at The Chester Hotel

Set in the heart of Aberdeen's fashionable west end The Chester Hotel has 71 luxurious bedrooms and suites. Fine dining is available in our stylish 2 Rosette restaurant our bar offers sophisticated cocktails along and great food. Luxurious touches come as standard at The Chester Hotel in Aberdeen. Upmarket, stylish and very west end. The 71 bedrooms are all designed in their own signature, contemporary style.

Chester Hotel

55-63 Queens Road,
Aberdeen,
Aberdeen City,
AB15 4YP

contact: Stephen Gow
T: +44 1224 327777
E: stephen@chester-hotel.com
W: <https://www.chester-hotel.com/>



09:30 Kincardine Castle tour

Superb Victorian castle in Royal Deeside. Accommodation, private dining, meetings, weddings, conferences. Wonderful grand family home and 3,000-acre estate on a hillside overlooking Royal Deeside and the hills of the Cairngorms National Park. Magnificent gardens, super views. World-class hospitality from the Laird, his wife and their team including full-time chef, with delicious food and superb wines. Fabulous art, furniture, treasures, music and stories. Learn at first-hand from the Laird the challenges of managing a Scottish Estate. Meeting facilities and, for the active, lots to do in the big outdoors locally. Just 35 minutes from Aberdeen Airport.

Kincardine Castle,

Kincardine O'Neil,
Aboyne,
AB34 5AE

Contact: Alasdair Ross
T: +44 1339 84225
E: enquiries@kincardinecastle.com
W: <https://www.kincardinecastle.com>

11:00 Depart

12:00 Braemar Highland Centre

The Braemar Highland Games Centre explores a living tradition, the Highland games, focusing on the world-famous Braemar Gathering. The picturesque village of Braemar, situated in the heart of Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park, is home to the world-famous Braemar Gathering - and now the Braemar Highland Games Centre. Housed in the stunning Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion, the new centre offers a fascinating exhibition exploring the history of

the games in Braemar, as well as an elegant cafe and quality gift shop. Walking through the doors into the gallery space, visitors will see photographs and trophies from games past, before entering the spectacular octagonal exhibition room.

Braemar Highland Centre

Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion,
Broombank Terrace,
Braemar,
Aberdeenshire,
AB35 5YZ

Contact: Louise Kelly
T: +44 13397 49220
E: info@highlandgamescentre.org
W: <https://www.highlandgamescentre.org/>



12:45 Depart

13:15 Arrive Rothesay Rooms for lunch

Nestled beside the rugged contours of the Craighendarroch Hills, the Rothesay Rooms in Ballater is at the heart of a vibrant and welcoming community. It is a collaborative project between local groups and the outreach programme of HRH The Duke of Rothesay's charity, The Great Steward of Scotland's Dumfries House Trust, in the wake of disastrous floods. In December 2015 Storm Frank battered Scotland and the River Dee, which flows through some of the most scenic parts of the country, burst its banks and decimated local homes and businesses in Ballater.

Rothesay Rooms

3 Netherley Place,
Ballater,
AB35 5QE

Contact: Carolina Cochrane
T: 01339 753816
E: bookings@rothesay-rooms.co.uk
W: <https://rothesay-rooms.co.uk/about-us>

14:45 Depart Rothesay Rooms

15:30 Aberdeenshire Highland Beef Farm

Highland Beef Farm in the heart of Deeside, Aberdeenshire. Highland Cattle herd outdoors all year round in Aberdeenshire. Visitors can join Grace, the owner of the farm, for an intimate tour around the farm, where Grace will personally welcome you for a unique experience to see the working farm, meet the iconic Highland Cattle in the heart of the Scottish Countryside, meet them up close and photograph them followed by refreshments and the chance to taste some of their delicious beef.

Highland Beef Farm

Lochton of Leys,
Banchory,
Aberdeenshire,
AB31 5QB

Contact: Grace Noble
T: 00447585007594
E: grace@aberdeenshirehighlandbeef.com
W: <https://aberdeenshirehighlandbeef.com/>



16:30 Depart

17:30 Arrive Station Hotel for overnight stay

Victorian style city centre hotel offering 120 bedrooms, bar and restaurant and several conference suites. The hotel which mixes the traditional nature of the building with some contemporary touches. Located right in the centre of Aberdeen beside the railways and bus stations and 30 minutes away from Aberdeen International Airport and next to two main shopping centres.

Station Hotel

78 Guild Street,
Aberdeen,
Grampian,
AB11 6GN

Contact: Elaine Lyons
T: 0044 01224 587214
E: elaine.lyons@shnl.co.uk
W: <https://www.stationhotelaberdeen.com/>



19:00 Dinner at Tippling House

Founded in 2012, the subterranean venue charms with an Italo-style décor, cosy booths and tweed fabric. Our bartenders are passionate and knowledgeable, our waiting staff friendly and attentive. We have put a lot of thought into our product selection and food menu, using local suppliers and produce where possible. Our delicious bar snacks are available until the early hours, where you can feast on fashionable nibbles and warming nightcaps. We over-think every detail of our drinks list; the single cask and independently bottled whiskies, the contemporary gin list and the wines sourced from forgotten grapes and unsung regions. To ensure everyone experiences the same enjoyment, we have a few simple house rules. Nothing too out of the ordinary, just common etiquette...

Tippling House

4 Belmont street,
Aberdeen
Ab10 1je

Contact: Adrian Gomes
E: gomes@10dollarshake.com

W: <https://www.thetipplinghouse.com/>

Porter's Gin tour

With a passion for creating better drinks, they turned the basement of a bar in Aberdeen, into one of the UK's most innovative micro-distilleries. They built their own vacuum still, which distils botanicals at low temperatures, retaining their fresh, natural flavour. While working closely with the UK's most respected gin distillers, they perfected the art of cold distilling botanicals. This respect for tradition while innovating results in exceptionally well balanced, refined, high quality gin recipes that bring together the best of classic and contemporary botanical distilling.

Porter's Gin

Orchid Aberdeen
51 Langstane place
Aberdeen,
ab11 6en

Contact: Martin Farmer
E: martin@portersgin.co.uk
W: <https://portersgin.co.uk/>

Day Two

09:00 Leave for Peterhead Prison Museum

10:00 Arrive at Peterhead Prison Museum

The Museum is dedicated to the staff that worked in Peterhead Prison between 1888- 2013. Set within the granite prison walls you will experience how life was as an officer serving at Peterhead. Walk through time from 1888 when it first opened its doors to 2013 when it closed and witness how life was for staff serving in this prison. Hear some staff members speak of their experiences as you make your way through the halls, reception, shower block, court room segregation wing, silent cell and hospital. Sense the tension of daily work within the red granite buildings and try to imagine how it would have felt working in this environment daily. You will share the staff's experiences while standing at key locations within the 6-acre site and leave knowing you have just visited Scotland's toughest jail.

Peterhead Prison Museum

Admiralty Gateway,
South Road,
Peterhead,
Aberdeenshire,
AB42 2ZX



Contact: Alexander Geddes
T: 44 01779 482200
E: alexander.geddes@admiraltygateway.com
W: <https://peterheadprisonmuseum.com/>

10:45 Travel to DogTap Brewdog

11:45 Arrive at DogTap Brewdog

Located on a green field site in Ellon, north of Aberdeen, is our state-of-the-art brewery. One of the most technologically advanced in the world, from here we strive constantly to challenge people's preconceptions about what beer is and how it can taste. Ellon is also home to our Overworks Brewery - dedicated to sour beer - and the DogTap tap room, serving up the freshest beer straight from the brewery. With ten taps, the onsite bar opened in 2014, and sits in the shadow of the giant external fermenters, separated from the brew kit by a single glass door.

DogTap Brewdog

Balmacassie Dr
Ellon
AB41 8QR, UK

Contact: Gary Fay

T: 0131 228 2305

E: gary.fay@brewdog.com

W: <https://www.brewdog.com/uk/locations/brewery/ellon>

14:15 Travel to Fyvie Castle

15:00 Arrive at Fyvie Castle

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland. A magnificent fortress in the heart of Aberdeenshire, Fyvie Castle's 800-year history is rich in legends, folklore and even ghost stories. Discover the amazing collection of antiquities, armour and lavish oil paintings. Stroll around the picturesque loch or visit the restored glass-roofed racquets court and icehouse. Visit, and lose yourself in the glory of Fyvie's landscape and the richness of its past. Ghosts, legends and folklore are all woven into the tapestry of Fyvie's 800-year-old history. But stories aside, we do know William the Lion was at Fyvie around 1214 and later Robert the Bruce and Charles I were among its royal guests. Art lovers will appreciate the rich portrait collection, including one of the largest private collections of Raeburns in the world. There's an equally impressive collection of fine furniture, tapestries, arms and armour throughout. Outside, the 18th-century walled garden has been redeveloped as a garden of Scottish fruits and vegetables. Fyvie Loch is a picturesque landscape feature which supports large numbers of wildfowl.

Fyvie Castle

Turriff,
Aberdeenshire,
AB53 8JS

Contact: Peter Stewart

T: +44 131 458 0204

E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk



16:00 Travel to Glen Garioch Distillery

16:15 Arrive at Glen Garioch Distillery

Established in 1797, Glen Garioch, is Scotland's most easterly distillery and is situated in the historic old town of Oldmeldrum near Aberdeen. This small granite distillery takes its name from the valley of the Garioch, traditionally the finest growing barley area of Scotland. For over 200 years, Glen Garioch Distillery has been handcrafting a beautiful range of single malt scotch whiskies which have won highly acclaimed awards at international competitions across the world.

Glen Garioch Distillery

Distillery Road,
Oldmeldrum,
Inverurie,
Aberdeenshire,
AB51 0ES

Contact: Pom Nijs
T: +44 (1651) 873450
E: pom.nijs@beamsuntory.com
W: <https://www.glengarioch.com/>



16:15 Travel to Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Course

17:15 Arrive at Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Course

Meldrum House is an award-winning baronial country house hotel set in 240 acres of stunning countryside. It was awarded a Scottish Thistle for 'Most Hospitable Hotel' in March 2019, Scotland's most prestigious hospitality award, it identifies the desire to give guests the most hospitable experience whilst staying at our hotel. A multi-million-pound development was completed in June 2016 and a new wing was added as well as a ballroom which can take up to 200 people. There are several options of rooms at Meldrum House - all are luxurious and stylish with sumptuous Scottish interior design and decadent bathrooms. There are now 51 bedrooms in total, with bedrooms in the main house and the converted Stables. There is extra accommodation in the Chain Lodge Gatehouse which is perfect for groups.

Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Course

Oldmeldrum,
Inverurie,
Aberdeenshire,
AB51 0AE

T: +44 1651 872294
E: enquiries@meldrumhouse.co.uk
W: <http://meldrumhouse.com/>



Day Three

09:00 Leave for “The Green” mini Nuart Walking Tour

10:00 Arrive “The Green” mini Nuart Walking Tour

Nuart Aberdeen welcomes an international cast of highly acclaimed street artists to the city every April. Using walls and streets as their canvas these talented street artists make their mark around

the city centre producing works which range from super-sized murals to smaller hidden artworks. Tours depart from The Green taking a route of approximately 1 mile, lasting around 90 minutes and run come rain or shine.

Contact: Kate Timperley
T: +44 (1651) 872294
E: kate.timperley@aberdeeninspired.com
W: 01224 642 751

11:15 Leave for Dunnottar Castle

12:15 Arrive to Dunnottar Castle

A romantic, evocative and historically significant ruined Castle perched on a giant conglomerate on the edge of the North-Sea. Once seen - never forgotten. Visit Dunnottar Castle for an unforgettable experience and discover the importance of Dunnottar – an impregnable fortress that holds many rich secrets of Scotland’s colourful past. The dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in the land. William Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots, the Marquis of Montrose and the future King Charles II have graced the Castle with their presence. Most famously though, it was at Dunnottar Castle that a small garrison held out against the might of Cromwell’s army for eight months and saved the Scottish Crown Jewels, the ‘Honours of Scotland’, from destruction.

Dunnottar Castle,
Stonehaven,
Aberdeenshire,
AB39 2TL

Contact: Jim Wands
T: +44 (1569) 762173
E: jim@dunnottarcastle.co.uk
W:<https://www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk/>



12:15 Leave for Tolbooth Seafood Restaurant

12:30 Arrive to Tolbooth Seafood Restaurant

A cosy, relaxed seafood restaurant, showcasing the best & freshest local ingredients. Located on the northern harbour wall in Stonehaven and enjoying stunning views across the picturesque harbour, sits one of Scotland’s best seafood restaurants. The Tolbooth is one of the most historic buildings in the town and successfully blends the rustic charm of whitewashed stonewalls with unpretentious décor and a colour scheme planned to give a distinct maritime feel. The Tolbooth provide some of the best seafood in the world, get a great deal of the fish and seafood direct from local fishermen, who land it daily. Chefs write daily specials based on what has been landed at the harbour that day and there is a wide and varied list of fantastic seafood coming in from the North Sea including halibut, sole, plaice, squid and squat lobster, not forgetting lobster, crab and langoustine.

Tolbooth Seafood Restaurant
Old Pier,
Stonehaven Harbour,

Stonehaven,
Aberdeenshire,
AB39 2JU



T: 0044 01569 762287

E: enquiries@tolbooth-restaurant.co.uk

W: <http://www.tolbooth-restaurant.co.uk/>

14:00 Depart Stonehaven



VisitScotland's Themed Years

Year of Scotland's Coasts and Waters 2020

In 2020, Scotland celebrates its Coasts and Waters with a year-long programme of events and activities which will shine a spotlight on these vital elements of our landscape.

From our beautiful natural features including coasts, lochs and rivers to our industrial heritage such as our canals, mills and the creation of our national drink – whisky, Scotland's Coasts and Waters have shaped our culture, our stories and our way of life.

So, whether you want to navigate your way around distant isles or canals, experience Scotland's maritime heritage at a visitor attraction, enjoy Scotland's abundant natural larder or discover Scotland's wildlife on a local boat trip - Scotland's coasts and waters are perfect for get-away-from-it-all adventures.

For more info www.visitscotland.com/ycw2020 and join the conversation using #YCW2020



Year of Scotland's Stories 2022

Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 will shine a spotlight on the richness of our stories, past and present; celebrating our literary Icons and heroes, diverse voices, stories that have leapt from page to screen and stage, the richness of our myths, legends and local tales - and the places that have inspired them.

The words of Robert Burns are known and celebrated across the world, as are works by Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, while stories by modern Scottish authors, such as JK Rowling's Harry Potter tales, are inspiring today's generation.

The story of real-life legends such as King Robert the Bruce, Sir William Wallace, Mary Queen of Scots have inspired poems, books and even Oscar winning movies.

Stories of magic, ghosts, witches, haunted castles and tales of mystical figures such as Kelpies abound, and there are the oral traditions handed down through generations in Scotland's many diverse communities. We invite visitors to join us in exploring the rich history of Scotland's stories in 2022, including a programme of events which will take place across the year



VisitScotland Websites

Our travel trade website offers the travel industry a one-stop-shop for **Scotland information, inspiration and tool kit**. The site is designed to assist tour operators and agents to sell destination Scotland more effectively to their clients.

Travel trade website www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com

Destination Education Programme www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent

VisitScotland consumer site www.visitscotland.com

Information on travel trade website

- Inspirational itineraries
- Downloadable e-brochures and maps
- Link to multimedia library for images and videos
- Online destination education programme
- Opt-in to receive our monthly travel trade e-newsletter.
- A comprehensive directory of Scottish companies who have committed to special rates, discounts and commissions exclusively available for the travel trade.

General websites

Britrail www.britrail.com

News & Weather information www.bbc.co.uk/weather

British Train information www.nationalrail.co.uk

Scottish Train information www.scotrail.co.uk

Bus information www.citylink.co.uk

Historic Environment Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

National Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk

Scottish Tourist Guides Association www.stga.co.uk