

HISTORY, HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Aberdeenshire, Moray Speyside, the Highlands and the Outer Hebrides



Q Fyvie Castle, Turriff, Aberdeenshire



Q Highland Folk Museum, Newtonmore



Q Harris Tweed, Outer Hebrides



Q Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival

Discover Scotland's rich history, heritage and archaeology. From the remains of our earliest settlements going back thousands of years, through the turbulent times of the Middle Ages and on to the Scottish Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, every area of Scotland has its own tale to share with visitors.

In Aberdeenshire you'll find beautiful Royal Deeside, a favourite holiday spot for the Royal Family since the days of Queen Victoria. Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the Royal Family, is just one of the castles on Scotland's Castle Trail. There are more castles per acre of land in this area than anywhere else in the UK, and the Castle Trail helps you to explore 18 of the most famous and dramatic.

The neighbouring county of Morayshire is steeped in history. There are stunning religious properties to explore and the area has links to Scots king Macbeth, immortalised centuries later in the play by William Shakespeare. This is also the home of the Speyside Malt Whisky Trail, which produces some of the worlds' best loved single malt whiskies.

The Scottish Highlands are famous for dramatic landscapes and dramatic events which shaped Scotland's history, such as the famous Jacobite rebellion highlighted in the early Outlander books by author Diana Gabaldon, now a hit international TV series. The area's fascinating folk museums recount the cruelty of the Highland Clearances which saw many Highlanders forced off their farmland, many travelling to other corners of the world to seek their fortunes.

Each breathtaking island of the Outer Hebrides has its own unique character. Here you'll find ancient standing stones and structures which give fascinating insights into how our Hebridean ancestors must have lived years ago.

EVENTS

APRIL/MAY

Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival
www.spiritofspeyside.com

MAY TO SEPTEMBER

Braemar Gathering / Highland Games
www.braemargathering.org

JUNE

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival
www.stbfportsoy.com

JULY

Eilean Dorcha Festival
www.edf.scot

SEPTEMBER

Blas Festival
www.blas-festival.comk

DAY 1 - ABERDEENSHIRE



Scotland's Castle Trail – with over 300 castles, stately homes and ruins dotting its landscape, Aberdeenshire is unsurprisingly known as 'Scotland's Castle Country'. The Castle Trail lets you discover 18 of Aberdeenshire's most famous and dramatic castles, each with a fascinating history and its own tale to tell.

ebooks.visitscotland.com/scotlands-castle-trail



Aberdeen Maritime Museum – the fascinating exhibition at Aberdeen Maritime Museum enables visitors to explore the unique history of Aberdeen through its relationship with the sea. Discover the centuries old traditions of the local fishing industry and how life in 'The Granite City' changed with the advent of North Sea oil and gas exploration.

T: 01224 337700
E: info@aagm.co.uk
www.aagm.co.uk



Gordon Highlanders Museum – situated in the fashionable west end of Aberdeen, in the former home of leading Scottish artist Sir George Reid, the Gordon Highlanders Museum tells the 200 year story of one of the best known military regiments in the world. Discover the prominent role it played in the defeat of Napoleon at the 1815 Battle of Waterloo.

T: 01224 311200
E: museum@gordonhighlanders.com
www.gordonhighlanders.com



Crathie Church – lying in the heart of lovely Royal Deeside, this site has been a place of worship since the 6th century. Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of the present church in 1893, beginning the tradition of the Royal Family worshipping here during visits to Balmoral Estate.

T: 01339 742208
braemarandcrathieparish.org.uk/crathie-kirk

DAY 2 - HIGHLANDS



Culloden Battlefield – standing on Culloden Battlefield, with stunning views over the Moray Firth, you get a real sense of what it must have been like to take part in the last pitched battle on British soil. Today, up-to-the-minute technology transports you into Bonnie Prince Charlie's army as he staged his fateful attempt to gain the crown of Scotland.

T: 0131 458 0204
E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk
www.nts.org.uk



Fort George – Fort George is one of the most outstanding fortifications in Europe. Taking 21 years to complete, it was built in the wake of the Battle of Culloden (1746) as an impregnable base for King George II's army. Today, it still serves the needs of the modern British Army.

T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.scot



Folk museums – the Highland Clearances are among the most significant and tragic events in Scotland's history. Thousands of Highlanders were forced off the lands where they made their living. Find out more at the [Strathnaver Museum](#), Thurso; [Timespan](#), Helmsdale; the [Highland Folk Museum](#), Newtonmore and the [Skye Museum of Island Life](#).



Glencoe – as well as being scenically beautiful, Glencoe is also steeped in history. This was reputedly the home of the great Celtic warrior Fingal, a hero of Gaelic mythology. It was also the site of the infamous massacre of Glencoe during the days of fierce rivalry between many Scottish clans. Experience its unique atmosphere.

T: 0131 458 0204
E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk
www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/glencoe

DAY 3 - MORAY SPEYSIDE



Speyside Whisky Trail – Speyside is home to Scotland's renowned Malt Whisky Trail, running through one of the country's best-known whisky regions. Discover the secrets behind the art of creating some of Scotland's best loved malts, and find out how the stunning Speyside landscapes affect the flavour and character of the malts distilled here.

T: 01340 881750
E: hello@spey.scot
www.maltwhiskytrail.com



Elgin Cathedral – one of Scotland's most ambitious and beautiful medieval buildings. Dating back to 1224, it was the principal church of the bishops of Moray and is central to the history of the region. It's particularly notable for the wonderful 13th century west front and the stone bishop in the nave which resembles a giant chess piece.

T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.scot



Speyside Cooperage – this fascinating attraction, set amid the rolling Speyside hills, is the only working cooperage in the UK. See how the finest casks are made from oak using traditional methods and tools. Although shipped across the world, many of the casks remain in Scotland, providing a vital ingredient in Scotland's whisky making process.

T: 01340 871108
E: enquiries@speysidecooperage.co.uk
www.speysidecooperage.co.uk



Brodie Castle – the ancient seat of Clan Brodie. Initially erected as a 16th century tower house, it's now a grand Scots Baronial-style mansion. The castle is also located near a small hill known locally as 'Macbeth's Hillock' where the Shakespearean hero is said to have encountered the Weird Sisters.

T: 0131 458 0204
E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk
www.nts.org.uk

DAY 4 - OUTER HEBRIDES



Calanais Standing Stones – located in the west coast of Lewis, the 5,000 year old Calanais Standing Stones are famous throughout the world. It is believed that this incredible stone circle was created by our Stone Age ancestors up to 5,000 years ago as some kind of astronomical observatory.

T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.scot



Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, Lewis – with self catering accommodation available all year and a seasonal living history museum, Gearrannan Blackhouse Village gives visitors a taste of what life was like in a traditional Hebridean blackhouse. There's also a programme of onsite weaving demonstrations.

T: 01851 643416
E: info@gearrannan.com
www.gearrannan.com



Kisimul Castle, Barra – is known as the 'Castle in the Sea' due to its spectacular location on a rock within Castle Bay. The only significant surviving medieval castle in the Western Isles, it's the seat of the of Clan Macneil. Take the short boat trip following the footsteps of the clan's chiefs and enjoy the panoramic views.

T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.scot



Dun Carloway Broch, Lewis – is one of the best-preserved examples of a broch – a type of fortification found only in Scotland. There are well over 500 of them across the country, dating from the Iron Age around 2,300 years ago. The adjacent visitor centre provides a fascinating insight into Iron Age life on the Isle of Lewis.

T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.sco

Please note some attractions have seasonal opening hours. Please check opening times with the attraction.

For more ideas and contacts go to www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com or email traveltrade@visitscotland.com