

ABERDEENSHIRE COASTAL TRAIL

Discover one of the world's finest coasts



Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Fraserburgh



St Cyrus National Nature Reserve



Duff House, near Banff



Pennan

Much of Aberdeenshire's coast is rated as one of the most scenic in the world by *National Geographic* magazine with 165 miles of glistening coastal scenery just waiting to be discovered.

This three day itinerary provides just some ideas for planning a visit to this incredible part of Scotland. You'll discover a fine collection of fascinating visitor attractions; captivating history; beautiful nature reserves abundant in wildlife; dramatic clifftop walks, charming coves and expansive beaches as well as delightful towns and villages and world-class golf courses.

Begin this trip on the Banffshire coast – 'Scotland's Dolphin Coast', with a tour of Glenglassaugh Distillery near Sandend. Then head east to the town of Portsoy and discover the intriguing

stories of its fishing and smuggling past and it's historic 17th century harbour at the Salmon Bothy. Continue further east to Banff and admire the stunning Georgian architecture of Duff House – an outstation of the National Galleries of Scotland.

On day two, head for the busy fishing town of Fraserburgh. This is the UK's largest shellfish port. Uncover over 400 years of history at Fraserburgh Heritage Centre. Right next door, take a tour of the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses.

Day three starts at either Torry Battery on the south-side of Aberdeen Harbour or at Footdee on the north side. Built in 1860, Torry Battery defended the entrance to the harbour, but today is one of the best places along the coast to spot resident bottlenose dolphins. If you opt to head for Footdee instead, this also provides great access to Aberdeen Esplanade, amusement park and the Beach Ballroom. Travel down the coast to Stonehaven and a visit to the iconic clifftop fortress of Dunnottar Castle, which survived a Cromwell siege, protected the Scottish crown jewels, was the setting for Mel Gibson's Hollywood movie *Hamlet* and narrowly missed out on becoming the eighth wonder of the world.

Look out for the Coastal Trail road signs which are white on brown with a blue anchor logo. Follow the Coastal Trail and visit harbours, lighthouses, and stunning seaside villages along the way, looking out for the clifftops, coves and beaches. Take to the water on a wildlife boat trip for a chance to see dolphins, porpoises and even whales.

EVENTS

MAY/JUNE

Haal Music Festival, Portsoy
bothyfolk.org

JUNE

Scottish Traditional Boat Festival, Portsoy
www.stbfportsoy.org

JULY

Stonehaven Folk Festival, Stonehaven
www.stonehavenfolkfestival.co.uk

AUGUST

Johnshaven Fish Festival, Johnshaven Harbour
www.johnshaven.com

DECEMBER

Stonehaven Fireballs, High Street, Stonehaven
www.stonehavenfireball.co.uk

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DAY 1 - THE BANFFSHIRE COAST – SCOTLAND'S DOLPHIN COAST



1
Glenglassaugh Distillery – situated at the east end of beautiful Sandend Bay, was founded in 1875 by Colonel James Moir. Discover the fine flavours of one of the Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire and go on a behind-the-scenes tour. You can even hand-fill your own bottle of Glenglassaugh whisky and take it away with you!
T: 0131 335 5135
E: info@glenglassaugh.com
www.glenglassaugh.com



2
Portsoy Salmon Bothy – uncover Aberdeenshire's fascinating fishing traditions at the Salmon Bothy museum housed in a charming limewashed building, which dates back over 180 years. You'll find a range of exhibits in the former ice chamber. By prior appointment you can also trace your family tree with trained genealogists and discover your connections to the area. Advance group booking required.
T: 01261 842951
E: contact@salmonbothy.org
www.salmonbothy.org



3
Duff House – is one of Scotland's architectural masterpieces, designed by William Adam. The house is now one of 19 sites along Scotland's Castle Trail. Admire the collection of artworks, some of which are from the National Galleries of Scotland, before exploring the parkland grounds. Stroll along the banks of the River Deveron to the south of the house, or play golf at Duff House Royal Golf Club. Coach parking on site.
T: 0131 668 8831
E: trade@hes.scot
www.historicenvironment.scot



4
Macduff Aquarium – learn about the marine life of the Moray Firth, from its rocky shores to the depths of the sea floor. Come face-to-face with intriguing sea creatures such as octopus and conger eel, or hold starfish and crabs at the touch pool. The aquarium is home to a living kelp reef, the only one of its kind in the UK. Coach parking on site, contact for group rates and behind-the-scenes tours.
T: 01261 833369
E: macduff.aquarium@aberdeenshire.gov.uk
www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk

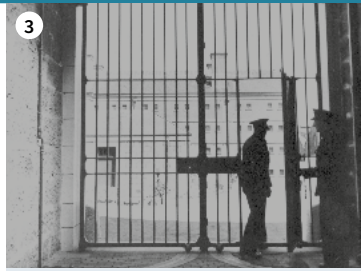
DAY 2 - FRASERBURGH



1
Fraserburgh Heritage Centre – discover 400 years of history, which gives a great insight into the story and people of Fraserburgh, through 23 unique displays. Learn about Thomas Blake Glover, one of the founders of modern Japan, and see some remarkable garments by iconic 1960s fashion designer Bill Gibb. Two weeks advance booking for groups required. Free coach parking on site.
T: 01346 513802
E: heritage@fraserburghheritage.com
www.fraserburghheritage.com



2
Museum of Scottish Lighthouses – take a guided tour of Kinnaird Head, the only lighthouse in the world built in a castle. See the fascinating exhibitions, including a wonderful collection of glass lighthouse lenses. Learn about the lives of those who watched over Scotland's coastline for over 200 years. Enjoy refreshments in the Lighthouse Café and enjoy views over the Moray Firth – you might even spot some marine wildlife. Advance booking advisable.
T: 01346 511022
E: manager@lighthousemuseum.org.uk
www.lighthousemuseum.org.uk



3
Peterhead Prison Museum – walk through time from 1888, when Peterhead Prison first opened its doors, to 2013 when it was closed to inmates and witness how life was for staff serving in this prison. Set within the granite prison walls you will experience life behind bars, see the main halls and silent cell. Guided tours are only available with advance booking Wednesday to Sunday (subject to availability). Coach parking on site.
T: 01779 482200
E: heritage.hub@admiraltygateway.com
www.peterheadprisonmuseum.com



4
Forvie National Nature Reserve & the Ythan Estuary – walk through sand dunes, explore the heather moorlands, clifftops and a nearby secluded beach – there's even the ruins of a half-buried 12th century church. On the Ythan Estuary, birdlife is plentiful; waders and waterfowl feast in the mud in winter and in summer you'll see a thousand breeding eider ducks. You'll also see common and grey seals basking.
T: 01358 751330
E: nnr@snh.gov.uk
www.nature.scot

DAY 3 - ABERDEEN AND THE MEARNS



1
Aberdeen Maritime Museum – Aberdeen Maritime Museum tells the story of the city's long relationship with the sea and houses a unique collection covering shipbuilding, fast sailing ships, fishing and port history. It is the only place in the UK where you can see displays on the North Sea oil and gas industry. The museum offers visitors a spectacular viewpoint over the busy harbour.
T: 01224 337700
E: info@aagm.co.uk
www.aagm.co.uk



2
Torry Battery – for many, the star attraction of Aberdeen's harbour is its pod of bottlenose dolphins, and Torry Battery is an excellent viewpoint - make sure you bring your camera! Take a stroll to this former fortified artillery battery dating back to 1860, which was last used defensively in WWII. Standing nearby at the entrance of the River Dee is Girdleness Lighthouse which was designed by Robert Stevenson and built in 1833.



3
Stonehaven Harbour & Tolbooth Museum Stonehaven's pretty working harbour, busy with sailing yachts and fishing boats, provides the perfect subject for budding photographers. Visit the Tolbooth Museum, housed in the oldest building in the town which historically, served as a prison. Make a splash at Stonehaven's outdoor swimming pool. Enjoy awarding-winning fish and chips from The Bay and ice cream from Auntie Betty's and Giulianotti's ice cream shops.
www.visitscotland.com



4
Dunnottar Castle – coastal castles don't get much more romantic and dramatic. Perched 160ft high above the North Sea, this fortress has a long and enthralling history. It was besieged by Oliver Cromwell, has housed the Scottish Crown Jewels and also been graced by visits from Scottish icons William Wallace and Mary Queen of Scots. If you're lucky, you might even see dolphins from the ramparts. Free of charge coach parking space for pre-booked groups.
T: 01569 766320
www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk/tour-groups

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