

# INNOVATION, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Aberdeenshire, Moray Speyside, the Highlands and the Outer Hebrides



Q Harris Tweed Bag



Q Speyside Whisky Festival



Q Dunrobin Castle Gardens



Q Dunvegan Castle

Find historic and contemporary contributions to Innovation, Architecture and Design in Aberdeenshire, Moray Speyside, the Highlands and the Outer Hebrides. Discover the beauty and importance of our built heritage, modern landmarks and innovative design, as well as the people behind some of Scotland's greatest creations.

Aberdeen is a striking Scottish city with its impressive granite architecture sparring in all weathers. Aberdeenshire is home to Scotland's only dedicated Castle Trail. [Discover the dramatic stories of 17 of Scotland's most famous castles and stately homes.](#)

The rugged and unspoiled landscapes of the Highlands of Scotland have resulted in some of the nation's most major engineering achievements in the field of transport as well as some of the most splendid castles amid magnificent surroundings. On a visit to this area, you'll soon see that artists and craft makers have long since taken inspiration for the remarkable land and seascapes to be found in this year.

A trip to the Outer Hebrides reveals the unique nature and character of these magical islands, from the medieval castle of Kisimul Castle, stronghold of the Clan Macneil on the Island of Barra to the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse, designed by David Stevenson on the Isle of Lewis. Uncover the secrets of ancient standing stones or discover the modern renaissance of Harris Tweed in today's fashion.

## EVENTS

### FEBRUARY

Hebridean Dark Skies Festival  
[www.lanntair.com/darkskies](http://www.lanntair.com/darkskies)

### MAY

Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival  
[www.spiritofspeyside.com](http://www.spiritofspeyside.com)

### OCTOBER

Braemar Creative Arts Festival  
[www.braemarcreativearts.co.uk](http://www.braemarcreativearts.co.uk)

### OCTOBER

Torrif Mountain and Sea Festival  
[www.mountainandseafestival.co.uk](http://www.mountainandseafestival.co.uk)

## DAY 1 - ABERDEENSHIRE AND MORAY SPEYSIDE



**1**  
**Gordon Castle Walled Garden, Fochabers** – Currently being lovingly restored to its former glory this is one of Britain's largest and oldest walled kitchen garden. Enjoy a great day out with rare plants and espaliered trees giving the keen gardener plenty to admire. Enjoy fresh ingredients on your plate in the café or discover unique beauty products, premium food and award winning gin at the shop.  
**T: 01343 612312**  
**E: info@gordoncastlescotland.com**  
**www.gordoncastle.co.uk**



**2**  
**Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, Fraserburgh** – the most famous family member, but the Stevenson family were lighthouse engineers to the world. Discover their story along with the social history and technological advances behind the lighthouses which have guarded Scotland's coastline and the men who were responsible for them.  
**T: 01346 511022**  
**E: manager@lighthousemuseum.org.uk**  
**www.lighthousemuseum.org**



**3**  
**Duff House, Banff** – designed by Scottish architect William Adam and is considered to be an Adam masterpiece. Used first as a family home and then as a private Sanatorium from 1913 to 1923, the house now houses a collection of fine furniture and a wide range of paintings on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland.  
**T: 0131 6688600**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**



**4**  
**Speyside Cooperage, Craigellachie** – set amid rolling hills near the Banffshire town of this is the only working cooperage in the UK where you can experience the ancient art of coopering. Although shipped across the world, many of the casks made here 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**

## DAY 2 - THE HIGHLANDS



**1**  
**Armadale Castle, Gardens and Museum of the Isles, Skye** – Welcome to our magnificent Highland estate, the spiritual home of Clan Donald, on the magical island of Skye. Explore the historic gardens and woodland trails around the romantic ruins of Armadale Castle. Discover 1500 years of Highland history in our award-winning Museum of the Isles.  
**T: 01471 844305**  
**E: office@armadalecastle.com**  
**www.armadalecastle.com**



**2**  
**Inverewe Garden and Estate, Poolewe** – a lush, sub-tropical-style, oasis perched on a peninsula at the edge of Loch Ewe amid the rugged landscape of Wester Ross, Inverewe was created out of bare rock and a few scrub willows in 1862 by Osgood Mackenzie. It's full of colourful, exotic plants from around the world and is widely regarded as one of the most beautiful gardens in Scotland.  
**T: 0131 458 0204**  
**E: traveltrade@nts.org.uk**  
**www.nts.org.uk**



**3**  
**Raasay Distillery** – Visit this stunning Scottish island by the Isle of Skye and discover this unique craft distillery pioneering the first legal whisky distillery on the Isle of Raasay. Experience at first hand an exciting journey from revitalising an island landmark building, to harvesting the first Raasay barley for a generation, and handcrafting the first Isle of Raasay single malt in Scotch whisky history.  
**T: 01478 470178**  
**E: info@raasaydistillery.com**  
**www.raasaydistillery.com**



**4**  
**Castle & Gardens of Mey, Thurso** – Previously a Royal residence and The Queen Mother's Home in Caithness, the Castle of Mey has a long and fascinating history as the most northerly inhabited castle in Scotland. See for their own eyes how Her Majesty The Queen Mother spent her time at the castle. With attractions including tearoom, shop and animal centre and with generations of history to be told.  
**T: 01847851473**  
**E: enquiries@castleofmey.org.uk**  
**www.castleofmey.org.uk**

## DAY 3 - THE HIGHLANDS



**1**  
**Glenfinnan Monument and Viaduct, Lochaber** – made famous as part of the route to Hogwarts in the Harry Potter movies, the viaduct is an acclaimed feat of engineering. It's part of the West Highland Railway which runs from Fort William to Mallaig. In the summer, don't miss the vintage steam locomotive named 'The Jacobite' which hauls some of the trains.  
**T: 0131 458 0204.**  
**E: www.nts.org.uk**  
**www.nts.org.uk**



**2**  
**Caledonian Canal Visitor Centre, Fort Augustus** – constructed in the early 19th century by famous engineer Thomas Telford, the Caledonian Canal runs for over 60 miles, only one third of which is man-made. Visit this world-class visitor and destination hub with facilities, including a gift shop with locally sourced goods and a café serving homemade, Scottish produce.  
**T: 01463 725500**  
**E: enquiries@scottishcanals.co.uk**  
**www.scottishcanals.co.uk**



**3**  
**Dunrobin Castle, Sutherland** – with its French chateau-inspired design, conical spires, and enchanting gardens, Dunrobin can truly be described as a castle straight out of a fairy tale. Enjoy the sumptuous rooms, the beautiful garden and falconry display taking place in the summer.  
**T: 01408 633177**  
**E: info@dunrobincastle.co.uk**  
**www.dunrobincastle.co.uk**



**4**  
**Cawdor Castle** – Cawdor Castle dates from the late 14th century, having been built as a private fortress by the Thanes of Cawdor, made famous by William Shakespeare's play Macbeth and it is still home to the Cawdor family today. Explore what life was like explore the stunning gardens including a holly maze.  
**T: 01667 404 401**  
**E: info@cawdorcastle.com**  
**www.cawdorcastle.com**

## DAY 4 - OUTER HEBRIDES



**1**  
**An Lanntair, Stornoway** – An Lanntair is Gaelic for Lantern – an apt name for this contemporary modern arts space in Stornoway which shines a light on the arts and culture of the magical islands of the Outer Hebrides. There are up to six local and international exhibitions annually as well as events, live performances and a popular café  
**T: 01851 708480**  
**E: info@lanntair.com**  
**www.lanntair.com**



**2**  
**Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, Carloway** – unlike any other village you're likely to visit. Step back in time to experience the way of life in a typical crofting township of the last century. The traditional Hebridean Blackhouse was the abode for nearly everybody on the Outer Hebrides until well into the 20th century.  
**T: 01851 643416**  
**E: info@gearrannan.com**  
**www.gearrannan.com**



**3**  
**Harris Tweed, Isle of Harris** – here you'll find a colourful Aladdin's cave of Harris Tweed with beautiful designs from floor to ceiling. The company also owns the Harris Tweed Exhibition in nearby Drinshader where you can explore the history of Harris Tweed and watch a weaving demonstration by appointment.  
**T: 01851 702 269**  
**E: enquiries@harristweed.org**  
**www.harristweed.org**



**4**  
**Calanais Stones and Visitor Centre** – walk among the megaliths at one of Scotland's most magnificent and best-preserved Neolithic monuments. The stone circle was erected around 5,000 years ago, with the nearby chambered tomb created a few generations later. Soak up the atmosphere of this magical place and explore their story in the adjacent visitor centre.  
**T: 01851 621 422**  
**E: trade@hes.scot**  
**www.historicenvironment.scot**

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](http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com) or email [traveltrade@visitscotland.com](mailto:traveltrade@visitscotland.com)