

# MORAY SPEYSIDE ITINERARY - 3 DAY ITINERARY



01

## Speyside Wildlife

A wildlife tour operator based within the heart of Scotland in the Cairngorms National Park. Along with expert logistical knowledge of the areas they travel to, their guiding team knows the wildlife species that your clients are likely to see and crucially, where and when to find them. Along with guided days out, wildlife photography and evening mammals watching hides, Speyside Wildlife can offer bespoke itineraries throughout Scotland.

Wester Camerorie  
Ballieward  
Grantown on Spey  
Cairngorms National Park, PH26 3PR

[www.speysidewildlife.co.uk](http://www.speysidewildlife.co.uk)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Speyside Wildlife and Logie Estate is 35 miles/56.3km.*

## Logie Estate

A beautiful estate in Findhorn Valley near the town of Forres. Logie Estate is a multi-faceted business involving farming, forestry, housing, commercial premises, tourism and recreation. This includes a steading shop, visitor centre, gardens and café. The estate also offers exciting salmon fishing on the river Findhorn with its spectacular gorge scenery. The estate is committed to renewable energy and sustainable practices. Ideal option for FITs and groups of all sizes, depending on the preferred activities.

Forres, IV36 2QN

[www.logie.co.uk](http://www.logie.co.uk)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Logie Estate and Brodie Castle is 8.2 miles/13.2km.*



## Brodie Castle

This 16th-century castle was the ancestral home of the Brodie clan for over 400 years. Inside, your clients can discover its impressive art collections, including Dutch Old Masters to modern watercolours, decorative ceilings and fine furniture. The castle also boasts an impressive library containing over 6,000 volumes. Outside, visitors can enjoy the beautifully landscaped gardens and natural trail. Nearby is a small hill known as 'Macbeth's Hillock' where the Shakespearean hero is said to have encountered the Three Witches.

Brodie  
Forres, IV36 2TE

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Brodie Castle and Dallas Dhu Distillery is 5.7 miles/9.3km.*



## Dallas Dhu Distillery

A unique attraction, Dallas Dhu Distillery is now a disused historic whisky distillery in Forres. Dallas Dhu means "Black Water Valley" in Gaelic and its stunning buildings give a great insight into historical whisky distilling. The picturesque Dallas Dhu Distillery originally made malt whisky for the popular Roderick Dhu blend. Your clients can step back in time to see and learn about the practice and techniques of 19th century whisky distillers. Free audio guide and audio-visual presentation are also available.

Mannachie Rd  
Forres, IV36 2RR

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Dallas Dhu Distillery and Pluscarden Abbey is 9 miles/14.5km.*

The details provided above are subject to change from time to time. We suggest contacting establishments directly for up to date information.



Groups  
8-12  
people



Groups  
up to 24  
people



All groups  
all sizes



Free  
independent  
travellers



Languages  
spoken



Seasonal Opening  
(as noted)  
Winter by  
appointment



Open all year



Accessible  
access



Green Tourism  
Business  
scheme



Coach  
parking  
available

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02



## Spynie Palace

Located near the historic town of Elgin, Spynie Palace has been the residence of the bishops of Moray for 500 years. Your clients can enter the largest surviving medieval bishop's house in Scotland where Royalty travelling in the area sometimes stayed. The surrounding Spynie countryside has stunning views and beautiful wildlife. Your clients can also walk to the site of the old cathedral and see the final resting place of James Ramsay MacDonald, Labour's first Prime Minister.

Near Elgin, IV30 5QG

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Spynie Palace and Elgin Cathedral is 2.8 miles/4.5km.*

## Elgin Cathedral

Nicknamed "The Lantern of the North", Elgin Cathedral is one of the most beautiful historic ruins in Scotland. Elgin Cathedral has a rich history - it was badly fire damaged in 1390 following an attack by Alexander Stewart, who was also known as the 'Wolf of Badenoch'. The top of the tower has an open viewing platform with great views over Elgin. Your clients can enjoy the cathedral's carved stones in a new exhibition in the cathedral towers.

King St  
Elgin, IV30 1HU

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Elgin Cathedral and Johnstons of Elgin is 0.4 mile/600m.*

## Johnstons of Elgin

A unique five-star visitor centre located in an original 220-year-old mill on the banks of the River Lossie in Elgin. One of the world's leaders in luxury cashmere and woollens, your clients can take a guided tour around the mill to discover outstanding quality in the making. Browse the ranges in the Millshop before heading to The Courtyard for homewares and fabrics. There is also a Taste Our Best Awarded Coffee Shop to enjoy breakfast, lunches and afternoon teas.



Newmill  
Elgin, IV30 4AF

[www.johnstonsofelgin.com](http://www.johnstonsofelgin.com)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Johnstons of Elgin and WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre is 12.9 miles/20.7km.*

## WDC - Scottish Dolphin Centre

This is a unique and educational attraction based in the fishing village of Spey Bay. The Moray Firth is home to a population of around 190 of the largest and most northerly bottlenose dolphins in the world. The area's wildlife also includes seabirds, otters, ospreys, seals, basking sharks and minke whales. At the Dolphin Centre your clients can enter for free and hear how the Conservation Charity works to protect whales and dolphins in Scotland, and across the globe.

Spey Bay  
Fochabers, IV32 7PJ

[www.dolphincentre.whales.org](http://www.dolphincentre.whales.org)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre and Gordon Castle Walled Garden is 5.8 miles/9.3km.*



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## Gordon Castle Walled Garden

A hidden gem situated between the River Spey and the Moray Coast, Gordon Castle's Walled Garden is one of Scotland's best kept secrets. At almost eight acres in size it is one of the oldest and largest kitchen gardens in Britain and has been lovingly restored to its former glory by designer Arne Maynard. Your clients can relax in the peaceful surroundings and see a dedicated team of gardeners at work. They can also try delicious freshly picked produce in their café.

Gordon Castle  
Fochabers, IV32 7PQ  
[www.gordoncastle.co.uk](http://www.gordoncastle.co.uk)  
[Link to Trade Website](#)



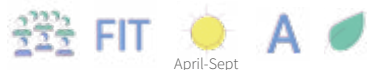
Distance between Gordon Castle and Balvenie Castle is 17.8 miles/28.6km.

## Balvenie Castle

Built in the 1200s as the seat of the powerful earls of Buchan, this heavily fortified stronghold became an elegant lodging in the 1500s. A wide ditch encircles this striking, curtain-walled castle. Once conquered by the legendary Robert the Bruce, your clients can now admire the unique blend of medieval and renaissance architecture. The Atholl Lodging within the castle is another fine example of Renaissance architecture, showing the layout of a noble residence and containing some fine details.



Castle Rd  
Dufftown, AB55 4GH  
[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)  
[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Balvenie Castle and Cardhu Distillery is 13.1 miles/21km.

## Cardhu Distillery

Founded by Helen Cumming in 1811 as an illicit distillery and licensed in 1824, Cardhu is the first distillery to be officially pioneered by a woman. Your clients can discover the history of Cardhu on a guided tour, browse the gift shop or relax with a dram of the famous single malt. It is produced in limited quantities by a deliberately slow distillation process and matured for 12 years in specially selected oak casks. Your clients will enjoy Cardhu's exceptionally smooth and mellow character.

Knockando,  
Aberlour,  
Moray, AB38 7RY

[www.malts.com](http://www.malts.com)  
[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Cardhu Distillery and Glenlivet Estate is 21.5 miles/34.5km.

## Glenlivet Estate

Glenlivet is a stunning and versatile destination managed by Crown Estates Scotland. The Estate includes a visitor centre, a range of educational services, an extensive network of walking trails and a dedicated mountain bike centre. The hills, woodlands and clear mountain waters of the Estate are bursting with wildlife. Years of sensitive, non-intensive farming and careful management have resulted in the protection of several special habitats and provided a safe refuge for some amazing wildlife. The estate also features the famous Glenlivet whisky distillery.

The Crown Estate  
Main Street  
Tomintoul, AB37 9EX

[www.glenlivetestate.co.uk](http://www.glenlivetestate.co.uk)  
[Link to Trade Website](#)



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## FOOD & DRINK SUGGESTIONS

### Walled Garden Café at Gordon Castle

Delightful and delicious seasonal Scottish dishes are prepared with care and plenty of flair using the finest local ingredients. They serve coffee, homemade lunch and afternoon tea.



### Dean's Café and Bistro

This spacious cafe bistro serves an extensive menu including breakfast, snacks, hot meals and home-bakes. The Bistro combines a spacious downstairs eating area and relaxing upstairs gallery with a view into the factory.



### Red Roof Coffee at Knockando Wool Mill

Offered in a relaxed and friendly environment in Aberlour, Red Roof Coffee specialises in premium coffee freshly brewed, light lunches of soup and sandwiches as well as fresh home bakes.



### Brodie Countryfare

A unique highland country department store with family restaurant on site. Each dish is freshly prepared on the premises using only the finest ingredients from the rich natural larder of the North East of Scotland.



### Weavers Restaurant at Johnston of Elgin

A series of exciting new menus feature delicious vegan dishes, light-bite options and a Portsoy-sourced catch of the day seafood platter. They serve breakfast, morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.



### Centre Café at WDC Scottish Dolphin Centre

The Centre café in Spey Bay serves a relaxing lunch or coffee and freshly baked cake. The café uses local suppliers where possible. Groups are welcome with advance booking.



### Square Roots

Run by a local couple, the emphasis is firmly on quality produce, freshly prepared and presented with care. Located in Keith, the café serves morning coffees, tasty bites, or leisurely meals.



### Windswept Brewing Company

Based in Lossiemouth, Windswept Brewing is a craft brewery producing an award-winning range of beers, hand-crafted for exceptional taste. Their tap room bar is the perfect place to relax.

### Hearth Restaurant at the Old Mill Inn

The Old Mill Inn is a country hotel and restaurant situated in Brodie, a historic village in the Scottish Highlands. The menus are tailored around the seasons using the finest in locally sourced produce.

### Hickory Restaurant

One of the best eateries in Nairn, showcasing the best of Scotland's local produce, in the stylish surroundings of leather, marble, velvet and wood.

## ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS

### Lodges at The Mains

A 5-star self-catering accommodation in Croy between Inverness and Nairn. Nestled into a stunning rural woodland setting, it is the ideal retreat for those looking for a slice of relaxation and tranquillity tailor-made for 2 people.



### The Laird's Wing at Brodie Castle

A 4-star self-catering accommodation in Forres. Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, The Laird's Wing can accommodate up to 14 guests and has been furnished to an extremely high standard.



### Nethybridge Hotel

A 3-star hotel with 70 rooms and numerous facilities. This traditional highland manor hotel is set amidst the scenic splendour of the Cairngorm mountains and close to Aviemore. Taste Our Best awards.



### Grant Arms Hotel

A 4-star hotel in Grantown-On-Spey, with 50 ensuite rooms making it ideal for groups. With a restaurant and bar on-site, the hotel is also known for its bird watching and wildlife events.



### Holiday Cottages at Gordon Castle Estate

Set in the heart of our Scottish sporting estate, each of their holiday cottages offers charm and character. The five cottages sleep between two and eight guests and are ideal for family getaways.

### Golf View Hotel & Spa

A 42-bedroom hotel that offers spectacular views over the Moray Firth to the Black Isle and has gardens leading down to the seashore.

### Banff Springs Hotel

A 4-star hotel with lush Interiors and great location in the scenic fishing town of Banff. The hotel's 36 bedrooms make it a great option for groups and FITs alike.

### Seafield Arms Hotel

A 4-star boutique hotel situated along the Moray coastline within close proximity to Aberdeen and Inverness airports. The hotel boasts 16 rooms, 3 suites and 3 self-catering cottages where the emphasis is on opulence and attention to detail.

### Blervie House

A 5-star guest house near Forres, just 30 minutes from Inverness. This stunning country home has 12 bedrooms as well as extensive grounds and facilities. Great option for golfers and walkers.

### Boath House

A Historic Georgian boutique 9 -bedroom hotel located in Nairn and set in 20 acres of award-winning gardens, lake and parkland. The restaurant is situated in the ancient walled garden and offers a selection of local, seasonal food.

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### **Taste Our Best**

One way to ensure that you'll enjoy great quality Scottish food and drink, prepared with care and delivered with passion, is to look for places that are part of Taste Our Best, our food and drink quality scheme.



### **Green Tourism Award**

Businesses that work in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way are graded: Bronze, Silver or Gold

## **VISITSCOTLAND'S WEBSITES**

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

Travel trade website	<a href="http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com">www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com</a>
Destination Education Programme	<a href="http://www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent">www.visitscotlandtraveltrade.com/scotsagent</a>
VisitScotland consumer site	<a href="http://www.visitscotland.com">www.visitscotland.com</a>

### **Information on travel trade websites:**

- 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	<a href="http://www.britrail.com">www.britrail.com</a>
News & Weather information	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather">www.bbc.co.uk/weather</a>
British Train information	<a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a>
Scottish Train information   Bus information	<a href="http://www.scotrail.co.uk">www.scotrail.co.uk</a>   <a href="http://www.citylink.co.uk">www.citylink.co.uk</a>
Historic Environment Scotland	<a href="http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk">www.historic-scotland.gov.uk</a>
National Trust for Scotland	<a href="http://www.nts.org.uk">www.nts.org.uk</a>
Scottish Tourist Guides Association	<a href="http://www.stga.co.uk">www.stga.co.uk</a>