



### Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse and the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses

Built for the Fraser family in the 1500s, Kinnaird Head was altered in 1787 to contain the first lighthouse built by the Northern Lighthouse Board. The lantern is still in working order and the lighthouse remains much as its last crew left it. Your clients can take a short walk to The Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, discover the secrets of Scotland's lighthouses, the great story of the Northern Lighthouse Board, the engineers who built the lights and the keepers who tended them.

Stevenson Road  
Fraserburgh, AB43 9DU

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Kinnaird Head Castle Lighthouse and Down on the Farm is 6.8 miles/11km.*



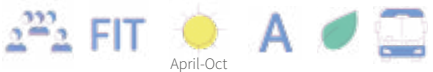
### Haddo House

Cared for by the National Trust for Scotland, Haddo House was designed in 1732 by William Adam. The house underwent an opulent remodelling in the 1880s and now combines elegant Georgian style with luxurious Victorian interiors. Your clients can step inside and listen to the stories of the Gordon family while admiring the exquisite period furniture and paintings. Then, they can head outside to discover the delightful terrace garden, with its lavish herbaceous border and geometric flower beds.

Ellon  
Aberdeenshire, AB41 7EQ

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Haddo House and Forvie National Nature Reserve is 14.2 miles/22.9km.*

### Forvie National Nature Reserve

Forvie National Nature Reserve is free to visit and one of Scotland's most dramatic stretches of coast, with the biggest sand dunes in Britain. It is renowned for its coastal walks and abundance of bird life. Near the fishing village of Collieston, this is a stunning expanse of nature and scenery. Care for the environment is central to this Nature Reserve which is open all year and extends to the visitor centre which is open between April and September.

Forvie  
Collieston  
Ellon, AB41 8RU

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Forvie National Nature Reserve and Pitmedden Garden is 12.5 miles/20.1km.*

### Pitmedden Garden

Owned and managed by the National Trust for Scotland, Pitmedden Garden really is a delight for the senses, with environmentally friendly policies employed throughout. Here your clients can view over 200 fruit trees, around 30,000 annual bedding plants that make up the colourful parterres and relax among the sweet scents of honeysuckle and jasmine. On-site, they can also visit the Museum of Farming Life, as well as a welcoming tearoom. A must-see nature attraction as one of Scotland's most diverse gardens.

Pitmedden  
Ellon, AB41 7PD

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Pitmedden Garden and Huntly Castle is 28.7 miles/46.1km.*



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

# ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE - 4 DAY ITINERARY

02

## Huntly Castle

Huntly Castle is a striking ruined 12th century castle, managed by Historic Environment Scotland. The castle was the ancestral home of the Clan Gordon. French-inspired heraldic sculpture and inscribed stone friezes were fitting for the home of the Earls of Huntly, now a noble ruin. The castle has a storied past including numerous royal visits, battles and executions. Your clients will discover a well-preserved and fascinating castle in a historic market town in the beautiful green heart of the Aberdeenshire countryside.

Castle Avenue  
Huntly, AB54 4SH

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Huntly Castle and Royal Lochnagar Distillery is 44.7 miles/71.9km.*

## Royal Lochnagar Distillery

Royal Lochnagar Distillery is situated on the south side of the River Dee close to Balmoral Castle and sits at the foot of the Cairngorm mountains. Age old traditions and craftsmanship produce one of Scotland's most exclusive whiskies. Originally called New Lochnagar, it was renamed following the royal visit. Your clients will discover the distillery which combines the traditional pagoda kiln heads and modern techniques like the open mash tun. Your clients can also visit the visitor centre and appreciate their malt whisky after a tour of the distillery.

Crathie  
Ballater  
Aberdeenshire, AB35 5TB

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Royal Lochnagar Distillery and Balmoral Castle is 1 mile /1.5km.*



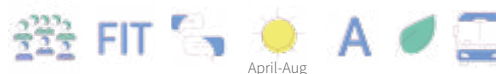
## Balmoral Castle

Balmoral Castle has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852 and much loved by Queen Elizabeth to this day. The Castle is an example of Scots Baronial architecture and is classified by Historic Environment Scotland as a category A listed building. The grounds, exhibitions and Ballroom are open to visitors seasonally in the Spring/ Summer and closed when the Royal family are in residence. A stunning stately home and castle.

Ballater  
Aberdeenshire, AB35 5TB

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Balmoral Castle and Mar Lodge Estate is 13.1 miles/21km.*

## Mar Lodge Estate National Nature Reserve

Mar Lodge Estate is Britain's largest nature reserve and is located in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Your clients can follow in Queen Victoria's footsteps and visit Linn of Dee or walk through Glen Lui to Derry Lodge, enjoy ranger led estate walks with the opportunity to spot iconic Scottish wildlife, including red deer, red squirrels, golden eagles and black grouse. Traditional field sports are available, including day stalking red deer, fishing for salmon or sea trout, red grouse shooting and clay pigeon shooting.

Braemar  
Aberdeenshire, AB35 5YJ

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



*Distance between Mar Lodge Estate and Glen Tanar is 31.4 miles/50.5km.*



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Languages  
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(as noted)  
Winter by  
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Green Tourism  
Business  
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Coach  
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# ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE - 4 DAY ITINERARY

03

## Glen Tanar

Glen Tanar lies in the spectacular setting of Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park and it is ideal for visitors who enjoy the great outdoors. It is a multi-purpose Scottish estate and an ideal base for exploring its stunning surroundings. Your clients can choose from a range of activities including wildlife photography, mountain biking and horse riding, as well as deer stalking and grouse shooting. Eco-friendly accommodation is also available on-site. Glen Tanar also has extensive facilities for functions and events.

Glen Tanar  
Aboyne, AB34 5EU

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Glen Tanar and Craigevar Castle is 13.8 miles/22km.

## Craigevar Castle

This stunning pink fairy-tale castle, set amid the rolling hills of Royal Deeside, is said to have been the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella Castle. There is no artificial light in the upper floors, which as well as conserving energy, allows visitors on a guided tour to view the many artefacts in natural light, just as the original owner intended. A unique experience will allow your clients to visit Craigevar Castle after dark and climb to the secret rooftop terrace.

Craigevar  
Alford, AB33 8JF

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Craigevar Castle and Aberdeenshire Highland Beef Farm is 15 miles/24km.



## Aberdeenshire Highland Beef Farm

Aberdeenshire Highland Cattle has been run by Grace Noble since 2012. Your clients can visit the working farm and have the chance to photograph the cattle, learn about their history and sample some Premium Aberdeenshire Highland Beef! They offer group tours, excursions and packages where your clients can taste local produce and local craft beer. Aberdeenshire Highland Cattle offer complete transparency throughout the farming process, rearing the cattle and producing the beef to the highest ethical and environmental standards.

Lochton of Leys  
Banchory, AB31 5QB

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Aberdeenshire Highland Beef and Crathes Castle is 2.5 miles/4km.



## Crathes Castle

Crathes Castle is a magnificent 16th-century castle, with its intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and painted ceilings. Your clients can wander through the historic walled garden, admire the iconic yew hedges, planted as early as 1702 and meet Jamie Burnett, the Laird of Crathes and chief of the Burnett clan, who lived in the castle until the 1966 fire. Your clients can enjoy a private tour accompanied by the laird and an afternoon team with him in an opulent setting.

Banchory  
Aberdeenshire, AB31 5QJ

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Crathes Castle and Dunnottar Castle is 16.7 miles/26.8km.

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# ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE - 4 DAY ITINERARY

04

## Dunnottar Castle

One of Scotland's most photographed castles, Dunnottar is a romantic, evocative ruin with a dramatic cliff top setting. It was once the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in the land. An important part of the work at Dunnottar is the management of its unique surrounding natural environment. Dunnottar Castle will provide your clients with an unforgettable experience and the opportunity to discover an impregnable fortress that holds many rich secrets of Scotland's colourful past.

Stonehaven, AB39 2TL

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Dunnottar Castle and Macdui Bike Adventures is 17.8 miles/28.6km.



## Macdui Bike Adventures

A unique and exciting activity provider that makes use of the great outdoors that Aberdeenshire has to offer. Macdui Bike Adventures will get your clients fully equipped for the trip as they provide visitors with bikes, equipment and a guide for off-road bike rides in Aberdeenshire and the Cairngorm National Park. They offer riding tuition from a qualified mountain bike guide and provide cycle adventures for every ability from experts to families and beginners. Bespoke tours are available all year round on request.

89 Beaconsfield Place  
Aberdeen, AB15 4AD

[www.macdui-bike-adventures.com](http://www.macdui-bike-adventures.com)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Macdui Bike Adventures and The Gordon Highlanders Museum is 0.9 miles/1.4km.

## The Gordon Highlanders Museum

The Museum is a 5-star Visit Scotland attraction and tells the compelling and dramatic 200-year story of the Gordon Highlanders from the Napoleonic Wars to the modern day, using spectacular displays, film and the passion and knowledge of our guides. Your clients can enjoy a wide range of experiences, including museum tours, a feel 'trench-life' for themselves with the museum's World War One replica trench, a display of 11 original Victoria Crosses and fine dining Regimental Dinners experience.

St Luke's  
Viewfield Road  
Aberdeen, AB15 7XH

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

[Link to Trade Website](#)



Distance between Dunnottar Castle and Aberdeen Art Gallery is 2 miles/3.2km

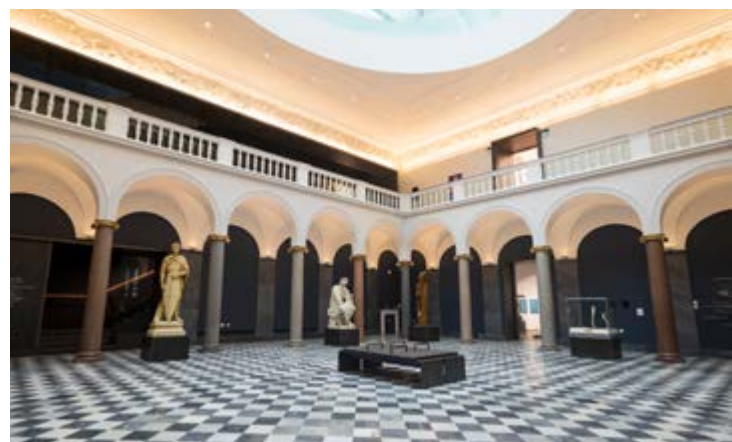
## Aberdeen Art Gallery

Aberdeen Art Gallery is home to one of the finest collections in the UK, with works by important Scottish artists, designers and makers as well as nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. From Brueghel to Borland and Landseer to Lambie, Aberdeen Art Gallery's collection spans over 700 years. A must-see on any Granite City itinerary, an exceptional experience awaits visitors. Your clients can enjoy world-class art in one of Aberdeen's finest buildings which blends historic and contemporary architecture to stunning effect.

Schoolhill  
Aberdeen, AB10 1FQ

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AAGM)

[Link to Trade Website](#)



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## FOOD AND DRINK

### Potarch Café and Restaurant

Potarch Café and Restaurant is located on Ballogie Estate in Royal Deeside. Close to both Banchory and Aboyne it is the perfect location to enjoy a morning coffee, lunch or afternoon tea.



### The Mains of Drum

The Mains of Drum is located within the Garden Centre. Being on the first floor, the views across the Dee Valley are stunning with many window seats available. Perfect for brunch, lunch and afternoon tea.



### Dean's Café/Bistro

Home of the famous Deans shortbread. After seeing the visitor centre, relax in the spacious café bistro with an extensive menu including breakfast, snacks, hot meals and home-bakes.



### The Stack Restaurant and Bar

A relaxed restaurant that derives its name from the sea stacks located on the beautiful surrounding coastline. Situated in the coastal village of Muchalls, just off the A90, and 10 minutes from Aberdeen.

### Clavis Whisky Bar at Trump MacLeod House & Lodge

Clavis Whisky Bar features an extensive selection of over 200 Scottish and international malt whiskies. Located in Balmedie, the venue is open to the public every Friday and Saturday evening and is available for private hire and events.

### The Cow Shed Restaurant

With an eye-catching wine cellar and part open kitchen, the Cow Shed offers seasonal, modern Scottish food for lunch and dinner. Everything is homemade, from the bread you start your meal with, to the chocolates you finish with.

### The Ivy Lodge

This outdoor pop up bar offers a heated terrace in Aberdeen City Centre. The Ivy Lodge serves beers, cocktails and handmade delicious pizzas with delicious toppings to suit every taste.

### 10 Dollar Shake

Located in the cultural district of Aberdeen, The Tipping House is a subterranean late-night tavern serving boutique spirits, hand-crafted cocktails, fine Scottish ales and inspired casual dining.

### Howies Aberdeen

Just a short walk from the main shopping district, this Aberdeen restaurant is perfect for groups. There is space for up to 120 diners. Two separate private dining rooms and a large courtyard create a relaxed and stylish atmosphere.

### The Fife Arms

The Fife Arms offers four different bars and restaurants including The Clunie Dining Room with a focus on wood-fire cooking, the Flying Stag the hotel's much-loved traditional public bar, an elegant Drawing Room serving afternoon tea and Elsa's, a chic art-deco cocktail bar.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Meldrum House Country Hotel and Golf Course

Meldrum House is a 13th century baronial country house set in 240 acres of stunning Aberdeenshire countryside. There are now 51 bedrooms in total, with accommodation perfect for groups, families and golfers.



### Maryculter House

A 4-star hotel nestled on the banks of the River Dee on the outskirts of Aberdeen. It has 40 bedrooms and dates to the 13th century with period elements still present in the hotel today.



### Aberdeen Youth Hostel

The recently refurbished Aberdeen Youth Hostel is in a quiet residential area on the west side of the Granite City, within walking distance of the city centre and its many attractions. RentaHostels is also available.



### Braemar Youth Hostel

An impressive former shooting lodge, Braemar Youth Hostel sits in extensive grounds in the heart of Cairngorms National Park and is a great base for exploring Royal Deeside. RentaHostels is also available.



### Aberdeen Altens Hotel

A 4-star hotel with 216 rooms, all designed with your comfort and enjoyment in mind. It is only 3 miles away from Aberdeen city centre and 1 mile away from the coast.



### Village Hotel Aberdeen

This modern hotel is in good proximity to the city centre and to explore the rest of Aberdeenshire. There's everything you need under one roof, with a spa, restaurant and bar and Village Gym.



### Candacraig

Nestled in the Scottish Highlands and part of the Cairngorms National park, Candacraig is an inspiring, exclusive retreat. This breath-taking 12-bedroom baronial mansion is a remarkable setting for a celebration or a reunion.

### Woodlands Glencoe

Woodlands Glencoe offer luxury hot tub accommodation whilst also nurturing the land in a sustainable and considerate way. Their accommodation let's guests enjoy magical woodland escapes. They also host a range of superbly fun activities.

### Kincardine Castle

Kincardine Castle offers exclusive-use accommodation for groups of six or more, private dining, meetings and weddings. This superb Victorian castle in Royal Deeside has 16 comfortable en-suite bedrooms.

### Mar Lodge Bunkhouse - National Trust for Scotland

Part of a former stable block, Mar Lodge Estate Bunkhouse offers excellent 3-star accommodation in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. There are 4 bedrooms which sleep up to 12 people.

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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>