

Scotland's
Castle Trail

aberdeen-grampian.com



MAP INSIDE



Scotland's Castle Trail



Crathes Castle

A favourite for families to explore with its links to Robert the Bruce and famous gardens.

Fyvie Castle

Discover the ghosts, legends and folklore from Fyvie's 800-year history.

Castle Fraser

Venture through the castle with its round tower and Great Hall then enjoy the tearoom's delights.



Welcome to Aberdeenshire, the home of Scotland's only Castle Trail. The trail consists of 14 of the world's most unique castles, from the rugged splendour of Kildrummy Castle and the romantic ruins of Huntly Castle to restored family castles such as Crathes and Fyvie.

To follow the trail use this leaflet or simply follow the distinctive white on brown signs and blue castle logo which will lead you through the very heart of the region and take you on a journey through history where secret passages, haunted rooms and dungeons form the stuff of ghost stories.

When you're here make sure you make the most of your time by popping into a VisitScotland Information Centre and pick up a copy of the Aberdeen City and Shire

What to See & Do guide. Our friendly information experts can also offer advice on all things local as well as sharing their wider knowledge of Scotland. They'll tell you everything you need to know to enjoy a great family day out, from local Visitor Attractions and picturesque walks to the best places to stop and recharge your batteries with a spot of lunch or light refreshments.

To help you explore this region more fully this leaflet also includes a selection of other things to see and do within close proximity to the castle trail including golf courses, distilleries and places to stay, eat and drink. Look out for the Featured Location map markers.

So go on, immerse yourself in our unique culture and breathe, encounter and enjoy the best of Scotland!



Kildrummy Castle

13th century castle, majestically set in the wilds of Strathdon.

Huntly Castle

Remarkable ruin with impressive architecture and an eventful history.

Balvenie Castle

The formidable stronghold of the great lords who ruled over this part of north-east Scotland.



Scotland's Castle Trail

Use the 14 numbered Castle Trail entries below to help you navigate your way round the trail.

Each castle is highlighted on the map with white distance markers indicating the distance between each property in miles and the driving time in minutes.

The map can also be used to locate each of the businesses featured in this leaflet so look out for the black Featured Location map markers.

Use the Trail and Map key to help you identify specific features within each property.

01



01 Balvenie Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 01340 820121

At Dufftown off the A941, AB55 4DH
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Balvenie Castle is one of the oldest stone castles in Scotland and has a formidable curtain wall. Originally the seat of the powerful Comyn Earls of Buchan it later became the home of John Stewart, Earl of Atholl. The Stewarts changed the formidable medieval stronghold into a pleasant Renaissance residence.

Open: Summer only.

Entry: Adult £3.70, Child £2.20,
Concession £3.00.



02



02 Castle Fraser, Garden and Estate

★★★★ Castle | T: 0844 4932164

Off A944, 16m west of Aberdeen. AB51 7LD
www.nts.org.uk

One of the grandest Castles of Mar, this magnificent building contains an evocative Great Hall, fine furniture and paintings. Enjoy the beautiful secluded walled garden, extensive woodland walks with fine views of the castle and children's adventure playground.

Open: Apr to Jun, Thu-Sun 12-5pm. Jul and Aug, daily 11am-5pm. Sep and Oct, Thu-Sun 12-5pm. (Last admin 45 mins before closing).

Entry: Adult £8.50, Family £21, 1 Parent £16, Concession £5.50, Car park pay & display £2.



03



03 Corgarff Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 01975 651460

8m W of Strathdon on the A939, AB36 8YP
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

In a striking moorland setting, Corgarff's medieval tower house, built in the mid-16th century, is surrounded by a distinctive 18th-century star shaped perimeter wall. See the reconstructed barrack rooms and feel the atmosphere of barrack life at the castle in 1750, when redcoats from Pulteney's 13th Foot were stationed here.

Open: All year, Oct to Mar open weekends only.

Entry: Adult £4.70, Child £2.80,
Concession £3.80.



04 Craigievar Castle

★★★ Castle | T: 0844 4932174

On A980, 6m south of Alford. AB33 8JF
www.nts.org.uk

This fairytale castle, a fine example of Scottish baronial architecture, seems to have grown naturally out of the rolling hills. The great tower stands just as it did when completed in 1626. Visitors can also enjoy the grounds and waymarked trails.

Open: Apr to Jun, Fri-Tue 12-5.30pm. Jul and Aug, daily 12-5.30pm. Sep, Fri-Tue 12-5.30pm. (Last admin 45 mins before closing). Visits are by guided tour only.

Entry: Adult £10.50, Concession £7.50, 1 Parent £20, Family £26, Pay & display £2.



04



05



06



05 Crathes Castle, Garden and Estate

★★★★ Visitor Attraction | T: 0844 4932166

On A93, 3m east of Banchory. AB31 5QJ
www.nts.org.uk

This 16th-century castle will provide a memorable experience with its intriguing round towers and overhanging turrets. The gardens feature great yew hedges and a colourful double herbaceous border. The wider estate offers 6 separate trails to enjoy.

Open: Apr and May, Sat-Thu 10.30am-4.30pm.

Jun to Aug, daily 10.30am-5.00pm.

Sep and Oct, Sat-Thu 10.30am-4.30pm.

Nov and Dec, weekends 10.30am-3.45pm. (Last admin 45 mins before closing).

Entry: Adult £10.50, Family £26, 1 Parent £20, Concession £7.50, Car park pay & display £2.



06 Delgatie Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 01888 563479

Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 5TD
joan@delgatiecastle.com www.delgatiecastle.com

Best Visitor Experience award winner. Dating from 1030, the castle is steeped in Scottish history yet still has the atmosphere of a lived in home. It has some of the finest painted ceilings in Scotland. Award winning restaurant/coffee shop.

Open: 8th Jan to 20th Dec, daily 10am-5pm.

Out of hours tours by arrangement.

Entry: Adult £6, Child & Concession £4, Family ticket £16.





 
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07 Drum Castle, Garden and Estate

★★★★ Castle | T: 0844 4932161

Off A93, 10m west of Aberdeen, AB31 5EY
www.nts.org.uk

The late 13th-century tower, fine adjoining Jacobean mansion house and the additions of Victorian lairds make Drum unique. Superb furniture and paintings, Garden of Historic Roses and woodland trails.

Open: 11am-5pm (last entry 4pm).

Easter weekend Fri-Mon. May and Jun, Thu-Mon. Jul and Aug, daily. Sep, Thu-Mon. Garden: Open daily from Good Friday 10am-6pm.

Entry: Adult £8.50, Family £21, 1 Parent £16, Concession £5.50, Car park pay & display £2.



08 Duff House

★★★★★ Historic House | T: 01261 818181

Banff, Aberdeenshire AB45 3SX
www.duffhouse.org.uk

One of Scotland's finest architectural masterpieces designed by William Adam and built in the 18th century as a seat for the Earls Fife. The house now contains works on loan from The National Galleries of Scotland.

Open: All year, 1st Apr to 31st Oct, 11am-5pm. 1st Nov to 31st Mar, Thu-Sun, 11am-4pm.

Entry: Adult £6.50, Concession £5.40.



07



08



09 Fyvie Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 0844 4932182

Off A947, 25m north west of Aberdeen, AB53 8JS
www.nts.org.uk

Fyvie's charm ranges from its 13th-century origins to its opulent Edwardian interiors. View the superb collection of arms, armour and paintings, stroll around the loch or visit the racquets court and bowling alley.

Open: 1 April to 30 June, Sat-Tue 12-5pm.

Jul and Aug, daily 11am-5pm. Sept and Oct, Sat-Tue 12-5pm. (Last admission 4.15pm).

Garden and grounds open all year daily.

Entry: Adult £10.50, Family £26, 1 Parent £20, Concession £7.50.



10 Haddo House

★★★★★ Historic House | T: 0844 4932179

Off B999, 19m north of Aberdeen, AB41 7EQ
www.nts.org.uk

This elegant mansion house boasts sumptuous Victorian interiors beneath a crisp Georgian exterior. Noted for fine furniture and paintings, Haddo also has a terraced garden and country park with lakes, walks and monuments.

Open: Apr to Jun, Fri-Mon. July and Aug, daily. Sep to 24 Oct, Fri-Mon. Guided tours at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm. Only guided tours available. To book call the property or book in person in the NTS shop.

Entry: Adult £8.50, Family £21, 1 Parent £16, Concession £5.50.



11 Huntly Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 01466 793191

In Huntly off the A96, AB54 4SH
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Huntly Castle is majestically sited where the rivers Bogie and Deveron join, on the outskirts of the pretty market town of Huntly. Remarkable for its splendid architecture, Huntly Castle served as a baronial residence for five centuries. Many impressive features include fine heraldic sculpture and inscribed stone friezes. The earliest stronghold on the site sheltered Robert the Bruce in the 14th century.

Open: All year, Nov to Mar closed Thu and Fri.

Entry: Adult £4.70, Child £2.80,
Concession £3.80.



12 Kildrummy Castle

★★★★ Castle | T: 01975 571331

10m SW of Alford on the A97, AB33 8RA
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

The great castle of Kildrummy was the stronghold of the earls of Mar and it dominated the landscape around Strathdon. Although ruined, it remains a good example of a 13th-century castle with many fine features including its hall and chapel.

Open: Summer only.

Entry: Adult £3.70, Child £2.20,
Concession £3.00.



10



11



12



13 Spynie Palace

★★★★ Historic Attraction | T: 01343 546358

2m N of Elgin off the A941, IV30 5QG
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

Spynie Palace was the residence of the bishops of Moray for five centuries. The mighty tower house was the one of the largest in Scotland and is in beautiful surroundings.

Open: All year, Oct to Mar open weekends only.

Entry: Adult £3.70, Child £2.20, Concession
£3.00. Joint ticket with Elgin Cathedral
available, Adult £6.20, Child £3.70, Con-
cession £5.00.



14 Tolquhon Castle

★★★★ Historic Attraction | T: 01651 851286

15m N Aberdeen on the A920, AB41 7LP
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
























Noted for its highly ornamented gatehouse, Tolquhon is one of the most picturesque of the castles in the Grampian countryside.

Open: All year, Oct to Mar open weekends only.

Entry: Adult £3.70, Child £2.20,
Concession £3.00.



Trail and Map Key

-  Historic furniture
-  Art collection
-  Garden
-  Walks around the property
-  Events
-  Guided tours
-  Ranger service
-  Shop/Plant sales
-  Picnic area
-  Parking
-  Tearoom
-  Restaurant
-  VisitScotland Information Centre - Open all year
-  VisitScotland Information Centre - Seasonal
-  Information Point in Partnership with VisitScotland
-  Castle Trail Destination
-  Featured Location
-  Tourist Route and Distance Markers
-  Distance in miles / Driving time in minutes
(Measured between the white distance markers. Please note: Driving times have been calculated using an average speed of 35 miles per hour.)
-  Primary Route
-  A Road
-  Secondary B Road
-  Airport

13



14



Family memberships are available from each of the properties or by visiting:
www.nts.org.uk
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

VisitScotland Information Centres

To get the most out of your visit and the best out of Scotland call into a VisitScotland Information Centre. Find us in:



- **Aberdeen** – 23 Union Street, AB11 5BP
- **Alford** – Old Station Yard, AB43 8FD
- **Ballater** – The Old Royal Station, Station Square, AB35 5RB
- **Banchory** – Bridge Street, AB31 5SX
- **Banff** – Collie Lodge, AB45 1AU
- **Braemar** – Unit 3, The Mews, Mar Road, AB35 5YL
- **Dufftown** – The Clock Tower, The Square, AB55 4AD
- **Elgin** – Elgin Library, IV30 1HS
- **Fraserburgh** – 3 Saltoun Square, AB43 9DA
- **Huntly** – 9A The Square, AB54 8BR
- **Inverurie** – 18 High Street, AB51 3XQ
- **Stonehaven** – 66 Allardice Street, AB39 2AA

To check opening times log onto visitscotland.com/wheretofindus.

Other Castles and Gardens

in Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is known as Scotland's Castle Country and rightly so, with some 350 castles and a myriad of gardens to choose from. In fact many of Scotland's best gardens are to be found keeping one another company in this part of the world.

Outwith the boundaries of the Castle Trail you'll find every type of castle and garden is represented. Brighten your life with stunning gardens like Ballindalloch and Leith Hall. The National Trust for Scotland's Pitmedden Garden

is a 'must see' with its beautifully arranged formal garden that includes around 40,000 colourful bedding plants and woodland walks, herb and wildlife gardens.

Balmoral Castle by Ballater is well known as the Royal family's favourite summer retreat. Dunnottar Castle by Stonehaven is one of the most magnificent and haunting ruins in Scotland and Braemar Castle, now run by the community of Braemar, has 12 fully furnished rooms on show.

A11 Balmoral Castle



★★★★★ Visitor Attraction | T: 01337 742534

Balmoral Castle, Scottish home to the royal family – gardens, grounds, castle ballroom and exhibitions. Coffee and gift shop.

Balmoral Estate, Ballater AB35 5TB
info@balmoralcastle.com
www.balmoralcastle.com

Open: 7 days a week, 1st Apr to 31st July.

Entry: Adult £8.50, Child £4.50,
Seniors £7.50, Family £22.50.



Silver



A12 Dunnottar Castle



★★★ Castle | T: 01569 762173

One of the most magnificent and most haunting ruins in Scotland. Follow in the steps of Mary Queen of Scots, The Marquis of Montrose and William Wallace.

Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2TL
info@duncheestates.co.uk
www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk

Open: Good Friday to 17 Oct, daily 9am-6pm.
18 Oct to Good Friday 2011,
Friday-Monday, 10.30am until sunset.

Entry: Adult £5.00, Child £1.00.

Explore Aberdeenshire

A land of unique heritage and stunning contrasts, Aberdeen City and Shire offers everything from vibrant city life, sparkling granite architecture and a host of shops and restaurants, to romantic hideaways, relaxing breaks and a mass of outdoor opportunities.

Explore breathtaking Aberdeenshire and choose from striking castles to beautiful stately homes or enchanting stone circles. Known as 'Scotland's Natural Larder', Aberdeenshire has a fantastic reputation

for fresh, mouth-watering produce. Be sure to sample our finest flavours during your stay, visiting the region's eateries, farm shops and range of outdoor farmers' markets.

With outdoor opportunities aplenty, make a splash with watersports on the beautiful coastline, on lochs or rivers; in addition to hill walking, climbing and mountain bike trails through the region's hills and forests. Golfers are spoiled for choice with over 50 courses from links to parklands, all set within stunning scenery. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely walk with friends and family through Aberdeenshire's forest trails, or along miles of sandy beach and rugged coast.



Don't miss: The Braemar Gathering, held annually in Braemar on the first Saturday in September – a colourful mix of traditional Highland Games. Also Braemar Castle Seat of Clan Farquharson – check opening times with the VisitScotland Information Centre.

The Braemar Gathering

Held annually in September at Braemar.

The Brig O'Dee & The River Dee

Magnificent views to the hills beyond.

Braemar Castle

A 17th century home of the Earl of Mar.



A1 Castle Tours



T(M): 07525 865348

Located in the heart of Scotland's Castle and Whisky Country, we offer exciting full day sight-seeing tours amidst stunning Highland scenery. Tours depart from Aberdeen, Huntly and Elgin and start from £28 per person.

Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4SH
info@castle-tours.co.uk
www.castle-tours.co.uk

A2 The Glendronach Distillery



T: 01466 730202

From its hillside home in the Scottish Highlands, the Glendronach Distillery has been creating the finest richly sherried malts for nearly 200 years.

Forgue by Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 6DB
info@glendronachdistillery.co.uk
www.glendronachdistillery.co.uk

Open: Jan to Dec.

Guided tours 10am-4.30pm (7 days).

Entry: £3.00.

A3 Grampian Transport Museum Trust



★★★★ Museum | T: 01975 562292

Popular museum of land travel and transport. Vehicle exhibits include steam, cars, motorcycles and horse drawn. New exhibitions every year: for 2010 'The Coaching Era', 'Motor Spirit' and 'Cars for the Future'. Outdoor events and activities on road circuit and specially developed site most weekends.

Alford, Aberdeenshire AB33 8AE
info@gtm.org.uk www.gtm.org.uk

Open: 28th Mar to 31st Oct.

Entry: Adult £6.00, Senior Citizen £5.00,
Child £5.00, Family £15.00.



A4 Inchmarlo Resort & Golf Centre



★★★★ Self Catering | T: 01330 826424

Luxury self catering 2 or 3 bedroom accommodation set in the Heart of Royal Deeside 30 minutes from Aberdeen City Centre and airport. Can accommodate up to 6 people sharing. Ideally positioned to explore many visitor attractions.

Enjoy a round of golf on our 18 or 9 hole courses. Excellent restaurant open to the public 7 days a week.

Glassel Road, Banchory, Royal Deeside AB31 4BQ
reception@inchmarlo.com
www.inchmarlo.com

Open: All year.



the National Trust for Scotland

a place for everyone



The National Trust for Scotland is one of Scotland's leading conservation charities, with over 100 fascinating sites in its care.

Admission is free for members with a family membership from just £5 per month – ask about the benefits when you visit.

www.nts.org.uk

Family membership,
just £6.33 a month for
great value days out
all year round.

On holiday?

The Explorer Pass gives you access to our attractions across Scotland throughout your stay

– from just £22 for adults.

www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

HISTORIC SCOTLAND



A5 Castle Hotel



★★★ Country House Hotel | T: 01466 792696
| F: 01466 792641

It takes a special kind of passion to seek out the rare, beautiful and extraordinary, from the moment you step inside you will sense you have arrived at a very special place. The Castle Hotel combines country elegance with genuine warmth. Welcome!

Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4SH
info@castlehotel.uk.com
www.castlehotel.uk.com

Open: All year.

A6 Delgatie Castle Trust



★★★ Self Catering | T: 01888 563479

Holidays are about getting away to where you can forget the pressures of everyday living – about unwinding in fresh surroundings. Here in the peace and tranquillity of Delgatie Estate you will have your own country hideaway, with the forest on your doorstep.

Turriff, Aberdeenshire AB53 5TD
joan@delgatiecastle.com
www.delgatiecastle.com

Open: All year.

A7 Gordon Arms Hotel



★★ Small Hotel | T: 01466 792288

Comfortable, friendly and well used by locals and visitors. Under personal supervision of the resident proprietors David and Jennifer Sherriffs. Highlander Bunkhouse opening May 2010 – check the website or phone for details.

The Square, Huntly AB54 8AF
www.gordonarms.demon.co.uk
reception@gordonarms.demon.co.uk

Open: All year.

A9 The Ship Inn



★★ Inn | T: 01569 762617

The Ship Inn (est 1771), situated on the edge of Stonehaven's picturesque and historic harbour, is an ideal base to explore the Grampian region and Royal Deeside. Aberdeen – the Oil Capital of Europe – is only a 20 minute drive away.

5 Shorehead, Stonehaven AB39 2JY
enquiries@shipinnstonehaven.com
www.shipinnstonehaven.com

Open: All year.

A8 Park Inn Aberdeen



Awaiting Inspection | T: 0161 436 1931

Located in the city centre, the hotel is an ideal base for exploring the Grampian Whisky and Castle trails, the Royal Deeside and the surrounding fishing villages. The hotel will offer 184 bright and modern guest rooms, onsite car parking and an RBG Bar & Grill.

1 Justice Mill Lane, Aberdeen AB11 6EQ
www.aberdeen.parkinn.co.uk
info.aberdeen@rezidorparkinn.com

Open: Opening Summer 2010.

A10 Skene House HotelSuites



★★★ to ★★★★★ Serviced Apartments
T: 01224 659392

Skene House HotelSuites are in three central locations in Aberdeen. Each has a unique style, yet all provide a warm welcome, excellent service and superb accommodation. Choose a one, two or three bedroom suite with all the comfort and flexibility of home and the luxury and convenience of a hotel.

96 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen AB25 1NX
reservations@skene-house.co.uk
www.skene-house.co.uk

Open: All year.



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