

SCOTLAND'S CASTLE TRAIL

Explore Aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire is bursting with rich history, stunning scenery, abundant local wildlife, a mouth-watering natural larder and a buzzing cultural scene. Come and see for yourself!

More than 4000 years of human activity has shaped Aberdeenshire's landscape making it one of the best places to learn about Scotland's fascinating past. Follow **The Stone Circle Trail** to learn more about Aberdeenshire's Bronze Age inhabitants, or visit wonderful carved stones on **The Pictish Stone Trail**. Finally discover Queen Victoria and Prince Alberts favourite spots along the **Victorian Heritage Trail**.



After you've explored our history and heritage, enjoy a day out at a number of beautiful beaches along the 165-mile

Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail. From summit to sea, witness some breathtaking scenery and incredible wildlife. Enjoy the great outdoors and test your golfing skills on 57 links and parkland courses, walk in the Cairngorms National Park or try out some spectacular mountain biking. And at the end of the day, get a real taste of Aberdeenshire's delicious produce and the warming Secret Malts of Aberdeenshire.

Find out more about Aberdeenshire at www.visitscotland.com/aberdeenshire



Scotland's Castle Country

Aberdeenshire is known as 'Scotland's Castle Country'. With an impressive count of over 300 castles, stately mansions and ruins scattered across the landscape, there are more castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK.

Use the map provided in this handy guide to explore the 19 magnificent sites along Scotland's Castle Trail – the only one of its kind in the country. Discover the dark, dramatic and often gruesome stories that bring the rich heritage of these historic fortresses to life. Jump in the car and follow the distinctive brown and white Castle Trail road-signs, which will lead you through Aberdeenshire discovering fine art, regal gardens, royal residences, Hollywood movie locations and much more.

Check out each of the entries in this leaflet for other things to see and do near to each castle. There are great options if you're planning to spend more time near a specific castle and there are some outstanding attractions suggested that you won't want to miss.

Find out more about Scotland's Castle Trail at www.visitscotland.com/castletrail

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Photography: National Trust for Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland,

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VisitScotland Information Centre

(part of Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail)

National Trust for Scotland Property

Historic Scotland Property

Privately Run Property

- Open All Year

Castle Trail Destination

- Seasonal

The Castle Trail

Primary Road

A Road

B Road

Minor road

Alternative route



Kildrummy Castle

Possibly built or adapted by the invading English King Edward I, the great castle of Kildrummy was the stronghold of the Earls of Mar. Although ruined, it remains a good example of a 13th century castle with many fine features. It was from Kildrummy Castle that John Erskine, Earl of Mar launched the Jacobite Rising of 1715. Mar's shortcomings as a general were largely to blame for the rising's failure.



Getting here

10 miles south

west of Alford

01975 571331

Alford Heritage Centre

On the A97

listoric Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/kildrummycastle

pen summer onli 5 Mar to 30 Sep .30am-5.30om

Child £2.70

Concession £3.60 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

Glenbuchat Castle Grampian Transport Museum



Corgarff Castle

An isolated tower house in Strathdon, now part of the Cairngorms National Park, that was a residence of the high status Forbes family. After Culloden in 1746, it was converted to become a Redcoat garrison fortress, largely to suppress Jacobite activity. Adaptations and additions include the distinctive star-shaped perimeter wall. The reconstructed barrack rooms offer a window into military life in the late 1700's.



Getting here

eight miles wes

01975 651460

On the A939

of Strathdon

AB36 8YP

Istoric Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/corgarffcastle

Entry charge

Adult £5.50

Child E3.30

Concession £4.40

set up on arrival)

Free to Historic Scotland

members (membership can be

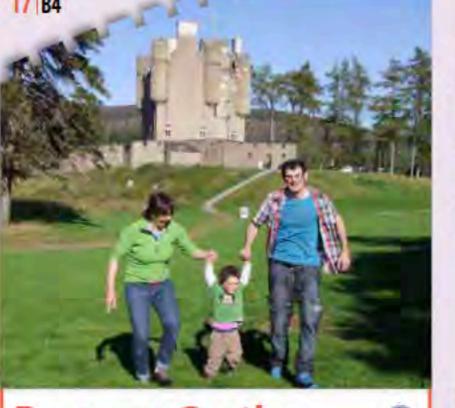
pen summer only 5 Mar to 30 Sep).30am-5.30om

Nearby attractions

Doune of Invernochty Motte & Balley AB36 8UR

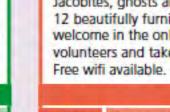
The Lost Gallery

Tomnaverle Stone Circle (Stone Circle Trail)



Braemar Castle

Visit this fairytale castle in Royal Deeside and the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. Built by the Earl of Mar in 1628, the castle was also used as an 18th century garrison and was home to the Chiefs of Clan Farguharson. Learn about Jacobites, ghosts and see soldiers' graffiti in 12 beautifully furnished rooms. Expect a warm welcome in the only castle in Scotland run by local volunteers and take a guided or an audio tour.



Loch Mulck

AB35 5SU

Walks & Reserve

Nearby attractions

Concession £7 Family ticket £18 to 3 children) Pre-school

Adult E8

Entry charge

01339 741219 (2 Adults and up children free

www.braemarcastle.co.uk

Getting here

east of Braemar

On the A93

AB35 5XR

Mar Lodge Estate Kindrochit Castle (National Trust for Scotland) AB35 5YL

Munro of Lochnagar is the renowned Scottish home of the Royal Family and nestles elegantly in stunning Royal Deeside countryside. In her Journals, Queen Victoria described Balmoral as "my dear paradise in the Highlands". Enjoy gardens, the castle ballroom, coffee and gift shop together with special exhibitions and audio handset tour.

Balmoral Castle

www.balmoralcastie.com

Entry charge

Adult £11.50

(5-16 years)

Family £28.50

to 4 children)

(2 adults and up

Seniors/Students £10.50

Crathle Kirk

AB35 5UL

Nearby attractions

Royal Lochnagar Distillery (Secret Malts) AB35 5TB

AB35 5QW

Knock Castle, Ballater

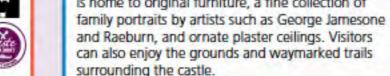


Getting here

Balmoral Estate

AB35 5TN

Balmoral Castle in the shadows of the mighty



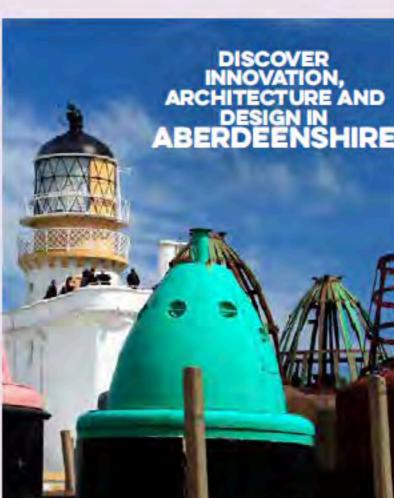
National Trust for Scotland

30 Mar to 30 Jun, Jul to 31 Aug. aily 11am-4.45pm 1 Sep to 29 Sep, Fri-Tue 11am-4.45pm

Nearby attractions

The Butterworth Gallery AB34 5DP

Glen Tanar, NNR AB34 5EU



Aberdeenshire during 2016!

VISITSCOTLAND.COM

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www.nts.org.uk/cralglevarcastle

Entry charge

Adult £12.50

amily £29.50

Concession £9.00

Free to National

Trust for Scotland

membership can be

set up on arrival)

Opening times All year, daily 11am-5:30pm n-Tue 11am-4.45pm

This fairytale castle, a fine example of Scottish

out of the rolling hills. The great tower stands

just as it did when completed in 1626. The castle

is home to original furniture, a fine collection of

baronial architecture, seems to have grown naturally

six miles south of Alford AB33 BJF 01339 883635

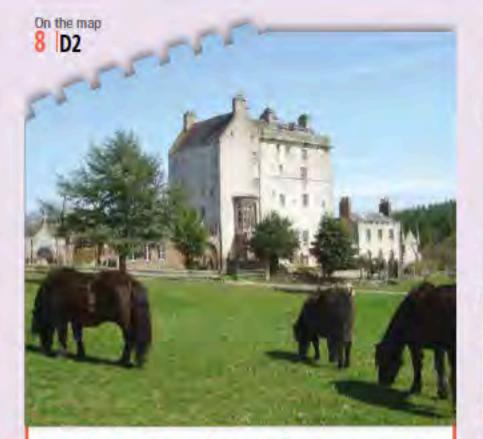
On A980,

Getting here

Uncover all that Aberdeenshire has to offer. Drop into one of our VisitScotland Information Centres and get the best advice on everything there is to see and do. Get top travel tips, tickets for events, tours and activities, book the perfect accommodation and even pick up that special Scottish souvenir. Whatever you need, our friendly experts are here to help you make the most of your time in Aberdeenshire. Aberdeen - 01224 269180 Ballater - 01339 755306 From textiles to technology, architecture to Banff - 01261 812419 fashion, the Year of Innovation, Architecture Braemar - 01339 741600 and Design 2016 shines the spotlight on Fraserburgh - 01346 518315 Scotland's greatest assets, icons and hidden Huntly - 01466 792255 gems. We invite you to discover awe-inspiring Stonehaven - 01569 762806 design and breath-taking built heritage along Scotland's Castle Trail and across Crathes Castle visitscotland.com/iad2016 Join the conversation #IAD2016

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Furnished castle Castle ruins Historic furniture Art collection Garden Walks around the property W Events Garden Walks around the property W Events Of Garden Security Shop/plant sales Art collection Garden Security Shop/plant sales Art collection For specific details of what they have, go to www.visitscotland.com



Delgatie Castle

Best Visitor Experience award-winner. Dating from 1030, Delgatie Castle is steeped in Scottish history vet still has the atmosphere of a lived-in home. The castle boasts a Mary, Queen of Scots bed chamber, Victorian clothes, fine furniture and some of the most exquisite painted ceilings in Scotland. Home baking and lunches are served in the award-winning Laird's Kitchen. There is also self-catering accommodation available in the castle.



Getting here

Approx two

Telephone

miles north of



Concession £5 (2 adults and

Turriff turn off A947 AB53 5TD 01888 563479 2 children)

Nearby attractions

Cullykhan Bay/ Hill Fort

(Stone Circle Trail)

Strichen Stone Circle Aden Country Park

E1

Kinnaird Head

Kinnaird Head Castle, which now forms part of the Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, was built by the Frasers of Philorth in 1570. Looks down on the bustling harbour of Fraserburgh while the adjoining Wine Tower sits perched dramatically over the crashing tides. Come and visit Scotland's most unique castle structure, with a Stevenson Lighthouse Tower built through its heart. Discover Kinnaird Head's fascinating history from castle, to lighthouse, to museum. Afterwards relax in Stevenson's Tearoom taking in some stunning views.

Entry charge

Concession £5

Adult £7

Child £3

Family £16

Tickets give access to

Castle and Lighthouse

as well as the Museum

of Scottish Lighthouses

r, 1pm, 2pm, 3pr

Nearby attractions

Fraserburgh Heritage Centre | Fraserburgh Golf Course

Willows Animal Sanctuary

Getting here

Kinnaird Head,

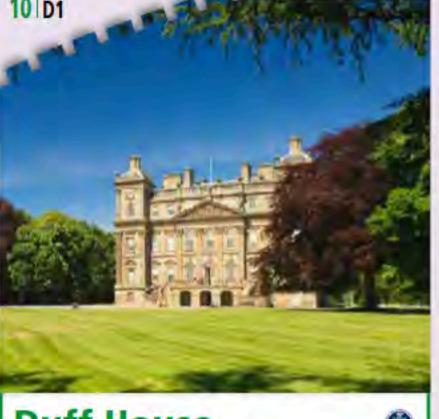
Stevenson Road,

Fraserburgh,

Off the A98

AB43 9DU

01346 511022



Duff House

One of the finest houses built in Scotland, Duff House is a magnificent Georgian mansion designed by William Adam. Standing in extensive parkland, today it houses a beautiful collection of paintings and furniture on loan from the National Galleries of Scotland. There is a shop on-site offering special and unusual gifts and a tea room providing delicious food and drink. Visitors can take a stroll along the banks of the River Deveron to the south of the house or along the Banffshire coast to the north.

www.duffhouse.org.uk

Facilities Opening times Entry charge 5 Marto 31 Oct Daily 11am-Spm

Adult £7.10 Child E4.30 Concession £5.70 Free to Historic Scotland members membership can be set up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

Macduff Marine Aquarlum AB44 1SL

Istoric Scotland

Glenglassaugh Distillery Andlater Castle & Coastal View AB45 2UD

Getting here

Aberdeenshire

01261 818181

ABS4 3SX

Banff

Huntly Castle

Huntly Castle is majestically sited where the rivers Bogie and Deveron join. Renowned for its splendid architecture, Huntly Castle served as a baronial residence for five centuries. The palace block, erected between the 16th and 17th centuries, has an impressive L-plan tower house and defensive earthworks from the civil war. 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.

11 C2

listoric Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/huntivcastle

pening times 5 Mar to 30 Sep .30am-5.30pm Oct to 31 Mar

Adult E5.50 Child £3.30 Concession E4.40 Free to Historic Scotland members

(membership can be

set up on arrival)

Entry charge

Nearby attractions

Tap O'Noth Hill Fort

AB54 4Q5

GlenDronach Distillery (Secret Malts) AB54 6DB

(Secret Malts) AB54 7LI

Getting here

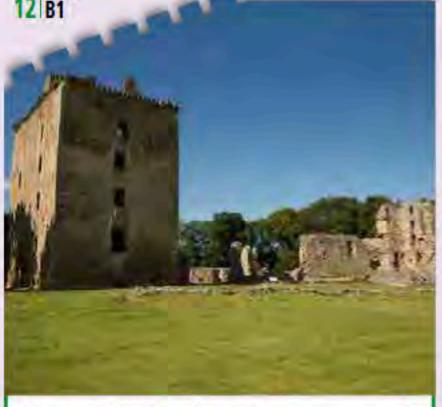
Off the A96

in Huntly

ABS4 4SH

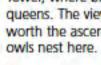
01466 793191

Knockdu Distillery



Spynie Palace

For nearly 500 years, the Bishops of Moray relaxed in this majestic building a short distance from their cathedral at Elgin. It even had its own bowling green and, according to one account, a tennis court. Today, you can climb David's Tower, where bishops once entertained kings and queens. The views over Moray Speyside are well worth the ascent. Look out for the wildlife - barn



www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/spynlepalace

Entry charge 5 Mar to 30 Sep 30am-5.30om

Child £5.30 Concession £7.00 Joint ticket with Elgin Cathedra Adult £7.20 | Child £4.40 | Concession £5.80 Free to Historic Scotland members (membership can be set up on amival)

Nearby attractions

Elgin Cathedral Glen Moray Distillery Elgin IV30

Bow Fiddle Rock. from Portknockie

Getting here

Off the A941

two miles nort

Telephone

01343 546358

IV30 5QG



Balvenie Castle

Defended by a magnificent curtain wall and an iron vett. Balvenie was a stronghold of the powerful Black Comvns, rivals to Robert the Bruce in the early 1300s. It ultimately became the Renaissance. residence of the Earls of Atholl, who built the Atholl Lodging with its grand circular tower. In September 1562 the 4th Earl of Atholl John Stewart played host to Mary, Queen of Scots, and probably gave over the master suite to her.



distoric Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/balveniecastle

Entry charge

Adult E4.50

Child E2:70

Open summer only Mar to 30 Sep 30am-5.30pm

Concession £3.60 Free to Historic Scotland

members (membership can be set up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

Ballindalloch Castle AB37 9AX

Auchindoun Castle AB55 4DR

Speyside Cooperage Visitor Centre AB38 9RS

Getting her

Off the A941

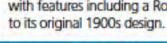
at Dufftown

AB55 4DH



Leith Hall, Garden & Estate

Leith Hall is a typical Scottish laird's residence brimming with family treasures and set in a scenic estate that overlooks some of Aberdeenshire's finest rolling countryside. A tour of Leith Hall gives you a real insight into the life of the Leith-Hay family over 10 generations. Discover the curious collections, including the 'boxing squirrels'. An exhibition tells the story of generations of military men and the part they played in battles through the decades. Enjoy a visit to the beautiful gardens with features including a Rock Garden which is being restored



National Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk/LeithHall

Facilities Opening times Entry charge Garden & Grounds: All year, daily 9:30am-sunset lall, Shop & Tearoon

Adult £10.50 5 Mar to 31 Oct. hu-Sun 11am-5pm iuided tours are available

Concession £7.50 Family £24.50 Free to National Trust for Scotland members membership can be se

south of Huntl 01464 831216 up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

AB54 6DB

1:15pm and 4:15 pm.

ast orders in tearoom at

Ardmore Distillery Dunnideer Hill (Secret Malts) Fort & Castle

AB52 60J

Touched by Scotland, Gallery & Restaurant AB52 60S

Getting here

On the B9002

seven miles

Furnished castle Castle ruins Art collection Garden Walks around the property Kestaurant

(Secret Malts)

AB45 25Q



Dunnottar Castle

The romantic and evocative ruins of Dunnottar Castle. perched on its commanding clifftop position on the edge of the North Sea is one of the most outstanding landmarks in Scotland. This historically significant fortress has withstood a siege (protecting the Scottish crown jewels) from Oliver Cromwell, played host to kings and gueens and was used for the recent Hollywood movie Victor Frankenstein. It also narrowly missed out on becoming the eighth wonder of the world. Come and experience Scotland's most striking

www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk



coastal fortifications from the inside.

Getting here Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire AB39 2TL Season Pass £18 Telephone Family Ticket £17 01569 762173

(2 adults and epending on weather, plea all first

Nearby attractions

Tollbooth Museum Grassic Gibbon Centre AB39 2JU

Fettercaim Distillery (Secret Malts) AB30 1YB



Crathes Castle

Turrets and towers, winding staircases, ornate painted ceilings and ancient sculpted yew trees combine to make a visit to Crathes Castle a great day out for the whole family.

An enchanting 16th century tower house, Crathes is surrounded by large formal gardens, woodland walks and rolling Scottish countryside.

Look out for Go Ape!™, discover the children's adventure playground and top off your visit with some home-baked treats in the café.

National Trust for Scotland	www.nts.org.uk/CrathesCast
The second secon	The second secon

典型片	Opening times Grounds & Estate: All year, daily Castle: 9 Jan to 24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-3.45pm 25 Mar to 31 Oct, open daily 10.30am-5pm 1 Nov to 23 Dec*, Sat & Sun 11.00am-3.45pm	Entry charg Adult £12.50 Family £29.50 Concession £
	Garden: 5 Jan to 24 Mar, daily 11 am-4pm 25 Mar-31 Oct, open daily 10:30am-5pm 1 Nov-23 Dec, open daily 11 am-4pm * Castle, shop & cate also open daily 27-31 Dec	Free to National Trust for Scotlan members (membership ca be set up on am

Nearby attractions

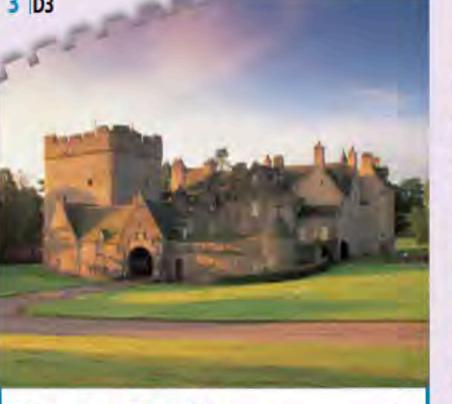
Royal Deeside Rallway Banchory Museum

AB31 55X

Peel of Lumphanan Motte

On the A93,

three miles



Drum Castle

Drum Castle, home of the Irvine family for over 650 years, dates back to the 13th century and contains a superb collection of furniture and paintings.

Outside, discover the Garden of Historic Roses, three waymarked walks and the Old Wood of Drum. Children can also enjoy the adventure playground.

In 2016, the castle, in partnership with Aberdeen Art Gallery, is hosting 'Northern Lights' an exhibition celebrating the beauty of light in Scottish art.

lational Trust for Scotland

rounds: All year, daily Adult £12.50 istle, Tearoom & Shop: Mar to 24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm Concession E9 5 Mar to 30 Jun, Thu-Mon 11am-4pm Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-4pm Sep to 29 Sep, Thu-Mon 11am-4pm Trust for Scotland Oct to 30 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-4pm

9 Mar to 31 Oct, daily 11 am-4:15pm | be set up on arrival)

arden of Historic Roses;

Nearby attractions

AB31 5QH

Cullerlie Stone Circle Milton Art Gallery Mains of Drum Garden Centre

www.nts.org.uk/DrumCastle

Getting here

10 miles west

of Aberdeen

Off the A93

Castle Fraser

An atmospheric baronial castle which dates back to the 15th century. One of the grandest Castles of Mar, this magnificent building contains an evocative great hall, fine furniture, paintings and a few spooky tales.

Discover the beautiful secluded walled garden and extensive woodland walks with picturesque views of the castle. Children can also enjoy exploring the 'Woodland Secrets' play area.

Visit the tearoom for home-baked cakes and take in the ambiance of the 19th century castle kitchen.

lational Trust for Scotland

www.nts.org.uk/CastleFraser

Entry charge

Adult £10.50

Getting here

16 miles west or

01330 833463

Off the A944

Opening times arden and Grounds: All year, daily astle Shop & Tearoom 5 Mar to 30 Jun, Wed-Sun 1 Jul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-5pm

Family £24.50 Concession E7.50 Free to National Trust for Scotland 1 Sep to 31 Oct, Wed-Sun Also open Scrittish Bank Holiday set up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

The Bishops Palace

Fetternear

AB51 5LY

Bennachie Visitor Centre & Hill Fort AB51 5HX

Easter Aguhorthies (Stone Circle Trail) AB51 5JL



Tolquhon Castle

Sitting within spacious grounds, Tolguhon has been described as one of the most beautiful castles in Scotland. Sir William Forbes, who adapted and expanded an existing tower house in the 1580's, intended its construction to be an impressive residence, although he incorporated plenty of gunloops to deter any hostile visitors. This is a great building to explore, including a secret compartment in the laird's quarters where he hid his valuables.

istoric Scotland www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/tolguhoncastle

9.30am-5.30pm Open summer only 25 Mar to 30 Sep

Getting here Entry charge Adult £4.50 Just off the B99 15 miles north Child £2.70 of Aberdeen Concession £3.60 Pitmedden and Free to Historic Scotland members AB41 7LP (membership can be set up on arrival)

Nearby attractions

(National Trust for Scotland) AB41 7PD

Prop of Ythsie walk & viewpoint AB41 7LT

Glen Garloch Distillery (Secret Malts) AB51 OES

01651 851286



Haddo House

Originally designed by Scottish architect William Adam in 1732, Haddo House is a magnificent example of an historic Scottish stately home. Home of the Gordon family for over 400 years, Haddo House retains a homely feel. The house also contains an impressive collection of period furniture, ceramics and art, including paintings by Sir Thomas Lawrence and James Giles. Discover the family's fascinating story over the centuries throughout the house and grounds, admire the amazing interiors

and then explore the garden and adjacent Country Park.

lational Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk/HaddoHouse

Facilities Opening times Garden and Grounds All year, daily, 9am-sunset.

amily £24.50 House: 25 Mar to 28 Mar Concession £7.50 76 Sep Sun & Mon Access by guided tour (11am, 1pm, 3pm) Trust for Scotland Pre-booking recommended. Shop & Tearoom -24 Mar, Sat & Sun 11am-5pm can be set up on 25 Mar to 2 Oct, Daily 11am-5pm 8 Oct to 26 Feb 2017, Sat & Sun 11am-5p

Nearby attractions

Formartine's Visitor Centre AB41 7NU

Ythan Estuary AB41 8RU

Slains Castle & clifftop walks, by Cruden Bay (care regulred) AB41 8RT

Off the B999

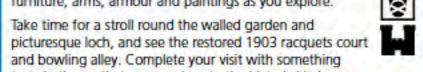
20 miles north

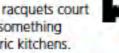
of Aberdeen



Fyvie Castle

Fyvie's history stretches back over 800 years. With medieval stones and the lavish Edwardian interiors, you can imagine what life must have been like for the families and their royal guests. Enjoy the superb collections of furniture, arms, armour and paintings as you explore.





National Trust for Scotland www.nts.org.uk/FyvieCastle

> Entry charge Garden and Grounds All year, daily 9am-sunset Castle, Shop & Tearoom: 5-28 Mar, 12noon-5pm Apr to 30 Jun, Sat-Wed 12noon-Spr lul to 31 Aug, daily 11am-5pm O Sep, Sat-Wed 12noon-Spra 1 Oct, Sat & Sun 12noon-Spm

dult £12.50 amily £29.50 oncession £9.0 Free to National Tru

Nearby attractions

et-Wed during school holidays

Last admission to the castle 4.15pm

Gight Castle & River Ythan

Loanhead of Daviot (Stone Circle Trail)

Deer Abbey AB42 4LP

Getting her

Furnished castle Castle ruins Historic furniture Art collection Garden Walks around the property Kestaurant Are Facilities for families. A This business has indicated that they have some accessible facilities. For specific details of what they have, go to www.visitscotland.com

