

# CRUISE ABERDEENSHIRE

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VisitAberdeenshire





**Cruise Aberdeenshire is a working alliance  
between key partners who are committed to  
providing a unique experience for cruise guests.**

For more information contact:  
[cruise@portofaberdeen.co.uk](mailto:cruise@portofaberdeen.co.uk) | [info@visitabdn.com](mailto:info@visitabdn.com)





# Port of Aberdeen

Located in the heart of the city, Port of Aberdeen has welcomed international and domestic cruise lines and guests to the port for many years, serving as a gateway to all that the majestic North-east – and beyond - has to offer.

Preparations are underway for the opening of the new South Harbour which will further increase the port's capacity for cruise calls from 2023, thus enabling many more guests to enjoy all that the Granite City and surrounding Shire have to offer.

## North Harbour

Port of Aberdeen's North Harbour offers city based berthing for ships up to 165m LOA with water depths up to 9m CD making it perfect for smaller ships.

Within just a square mile, there are a myriad of useful services and transport links, including a

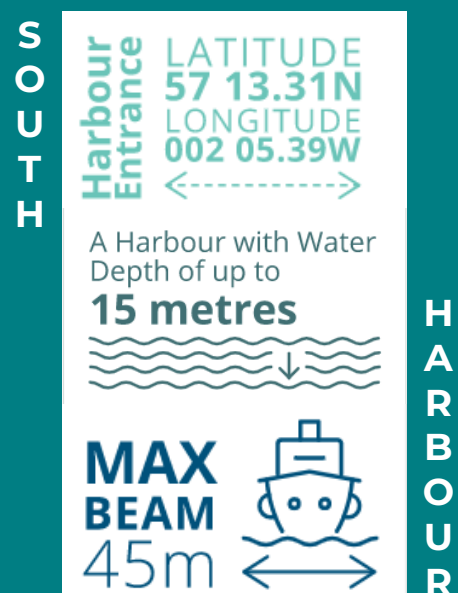
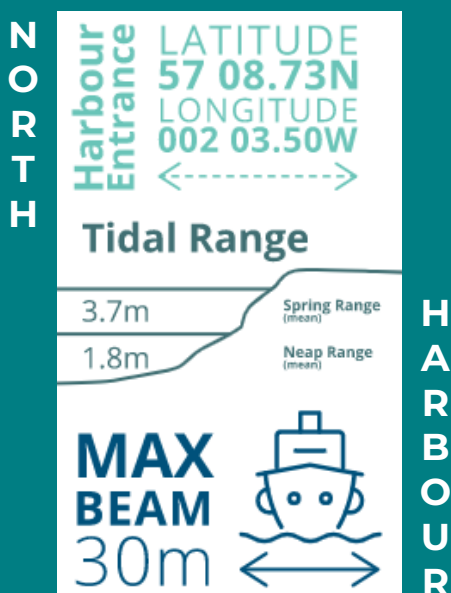
revamped railway station, bus station, and ready access to the city's international airport. There are shopping centres, bars and restaurants, and access to medical services.

Added to this, arrival at North Harbour can be a wildlife spotter's delight with dolphins, seals, otters, ducks and swans all frequently part of the welcome committee for cruise ship visitors.

## South Harbour

From 2023, following a £400 million port expansion project, the Port of Aberdeen will offer greatly expanded facilities accommodating cruise ships in excess of 200m LOA with alongside berthing.

Aberdeen South Harbour has been designed with no access restrictions and water depth of up to 10.5m CD supporting berthing opportunities for the majority of the world's cruise ship fleet.



# Destination

## Aberdeen

It doesn't take long for visitors to be captivated by Aberdeen. This friendly, compact city-on-the-sea has it all, from unspoiled sandy beaches and a profound maritime heritage to cutting-edge culture and quaint cobbled streets. Much of Aberdeen's impressive architecture is built of silvery-grey granite, hewn from nearby quarries, so when the sun shines and Aberdeen sparkles, it's easy to see why it is nicknamed the Silver City.

It's a city of contrasts with old world charm and bustling modern shopping centres, lush green parks and open spaces, and a mile of inviting golden beach where you may even spy dolphins at play, all within easy reach.

The recently revamped Aberdeen Art Gallery – named as Scotland's building of the year – offers panoramic views of the city and houses an art collection spanning 700 years. Nearby is the city's oldest building, Provost Skene's House and the Maritime Museum, charting Aberdeen's rich seafaring past and more recently, its reputation as the oil and gas capital of Europe.

Follow the cobbled streets of Old Aberdeen to the huge twin spires of the 15th century St Machar's Cathedral and the University of Aberdeen which dates back to 1495. To see another side of the city's historic roots, meander through the quirky old fishing quarter of Footdee which was designed by the same architect behind Balmoral, John Smith.

## Visiting the Granite City? Keep this information handy!

### Aberdeen Seafarers Centre

M: 07551 978343

E: [steve@seafarercentre.org](mailto:steve@seafarercentre.org)

41 Regent Quay, Aberdeen,  
AB11 5BE

### Western Union Locations

#### The Money Shop

132 Union Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1JJ

#### Eurochange

Bon Accord Shopping Centre,  
St Nicholas Street, Aberdeen,  
AB10 1HW

### Shopping

#### Union Square

Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 5RG

#### Co-op

204 Union Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1QS

#### Sainsbury's Local

54 Guild Street, AB11 6NB

#### Bargain Buys

112 Union Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6BH

#### Moneygram

Post Office, 33 Castle Street, Aberdeen,  
AB11 5BB



## Aberdeenshire

Beyond Aberdeen, expect rugged coastline stretching 165 miles north and south, breathtaking mountain scenery, meandering rivers, crystal clear lochs and ancient forests, steeped in history and heritage and providing endless scope for outdoor adventures.

The region offers glorious seascapes, quaint fishing villages and sandy coves along with picturesque havens to explore such as Portsoy to the north and Stonehaven to the south.



With more castles per acre than any other county in the country, it's no wonder that Aberdeenshire is nicknamed "castle country" with such a variety to visit – from the dramatic cliff top Dunnottar, spectacular ruins like Slains and the fairy tale turrets of Crathes.

To the west of the city, Royal Deeside feels like a deep dive into the glens and ancient forests where the River Dee meets the Cairngorms National Park. For those interested in the area's royal connections, Balmoral Castle, the Queen's summer residence, is open to the public from April to July.





# Sustainable Tourism

## Green Tourism

There are a range of businesses across the region actively working to become more sustainable and the Green Tourism Award recognises their commitment. Below are examples of some of the business who have achieved the accreditation.

### Green Tourism Gold Award

Balmoral Castle  
Glen Tanar Visitor  
Centre  
Muir of Dinnet  
National Nature  
Reserve  
Royal Lochnagar  
Distillery Visitor  
Centre  
VisitScotland Ballater  
iCentre  
Forvie National Nature  
Reserve  
Dunnottar Castle  
Pitmedden Garden

### Green Tourism Silver Award

Aberlour Distillery  
Buchanan Bistro Cafe  
and Restaurant  
Castle Fraser  
Corgarff Castle  
Craigievar Castle  
Crathes Castle  
Drum Castle  
Fyvie Castle  
Glen Tanar Estate  
Haddo House  
Maryculter House  
Hotel

### Green Tourism Bronze Award

The Glenlivet Distillery  
Village Hotel  
Aberdeen



## **Sustainable Transport**

First Bus – world's first hydrogen double decker buses with services running from Old Aberdeen to Peterculter on Service 19, and connections across the city on services 17 & 18 with stops including Duthie Park, Marischal Square and Dyce.

Stagecoach bus - new fully electric buses have been launched on the 727-city centre to Airport route via P&J Live.

## **Active Travel**

A key route is the Deeside Way which is suitable for walking and cycling. The route runs from Duthie Park in the city all the way to Ballater, with stunning views over the River Dee and with the Cairngorm Mountains as a backdrop.

There are lots of things to see and do including visiting the towns, castles, and a range of cafes and restaurants along the way.

Walking tours Aberdeen – Explore Aberdeen by Foot

- Aberdeen City Council has produced a series of trail guides to help you explore the beautiful and historic city of Aberdeen. Check out the GoABZ app for more.
- Aberdeen Walking Tours by Scot Free Tours.

## **Sustainable Shops in Aberdeen**

- Refilosophy, Rosemary Planet, Rosemount Market, Nature's Larder – these stores stock locally grown produce, gifts and eco-conscious lifestyle products.

## **Eco Cafes / Restaurants in Aberdeen**

- Greyhope Bay, Foodstory, Bonobo Cafe, Biocafe

## **Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

There are a number of Nature Reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest around the region.

These are great places for wildlife and have a wealth of connections to Scotland's past. Sites include: Donmouth Nature Reserve, Forvie National Nature Reserve, Fowlseugh, and Muir of Dinnet National Nature Reserve.





## Half Day Excursions

From the Port of Aberdeen visitors can enjoy a range of half day or full day excursions into the city of Aberdeen or beyond to the stunning surrounding countryside.

### Aberdeen City Walking Tour

Start your tour at the magnificent Marischal College in the heart of the city centre. Make your way to the quirky fishing village of Footdee. Take in the Victorian splendour of the Duthie Park Winter Gardens or stroll the beach esplanade.

There's the option to tailor your tour with a maritime theme including a visit to the Maritime Museum or with arts in mind, include the recently revamped Art Gallery.

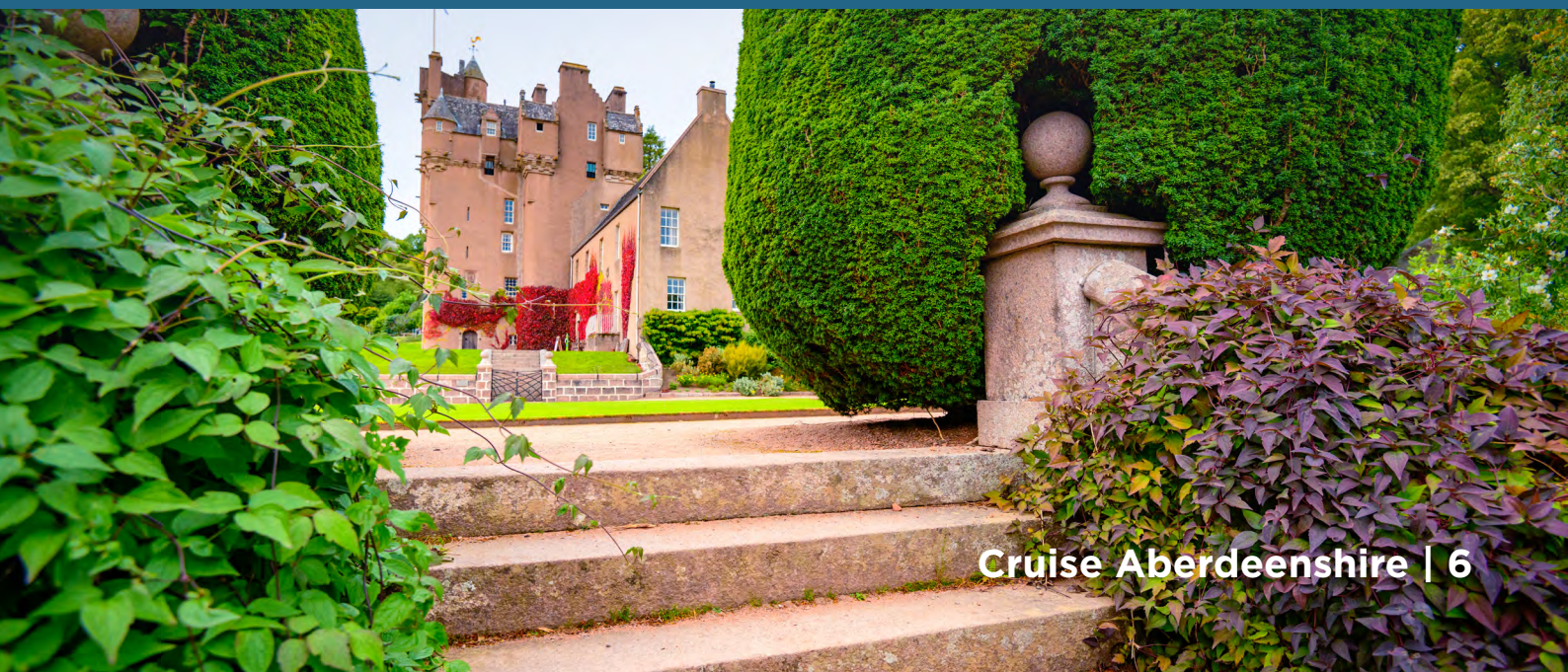
Alternatively, go walkabout through historic Old Aberdeen, with its late medieval village atmosphere and cobbled streets taking in King's College Chapel and St Machar's Cathedral.

### Castle & Coast

Visit Dunnottar Castle, a spectacular cliff top ruin where the Scottish crown jewels were once hidden. This can be easily combined with the seaside town of Stonehaven for a visit to the harbour, beach walk, shopping and traditional fish and chips.

### Castle & Highland Cattle

Spend a half day exploring 16th century Crathes Castle and its extensive formal gardens, nature trails and nearby craft village and steam train. Or visit the castle only, spend free time in the nearby town of Banchory and enjoy a farm visit to meet highland cattle at Aberdeenshire Highland Beef.





## Full Day Excursions

### Royal Deeside

Starting at Balmoral Castle, holiday home of the Royal family, it is possible to include two or three additional excursions such as Crathie Kirk, Royal Lochnagar Malt Whisky Distillery, World Highland Games Centre, Braemar Castle, shopping in Ballater or sport/outdoor activities on scenic Deeside estates.

### Castle, Garden, & Whisky

Visit the stunning Castle Fraser, the recreated 16th century formal garden at Pitmedden, and carry on to Glen Garioch Malt Whisky Distillery. There are options for enhanced tours featuring local food specialities and rare whiskies.

### Prisoners & Pale Ales

Visit the once notorious Peterhead Prison Museum, and then afterwards call in at the home of BrewDog craft beer in Ellon for a brewery tour. This excursion can be extended to include the Banffshire coast and a visit to Duff House (National Galleries of Scotland), and Portsoy with its 17th century harbour.



**For more inspiration on your visit to the North-east, head to [visitabdn.com](http://visitabdn.com)**

