



Duff House



Slains Castle



The Smiddy



Pennan



Portsoy



Forvie Sands

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Duff House

Fine examples of Georgian architecture have attracted visitors to this area for centuries. [Duff House](#), a grand mansion built in 1740 by William Adam is not to be missed. Now home to a permanent collection of art from the National Galleries of Scotland, during its lifetime it has been everything from a hotel to a prisoner of war camp.

Explore Portsoy

[Portsoy](#) is renowned for its marble (polished red and green serpentine) which has been used in mansions and castles all over the world; including the Palace of Versailles.

The new Portsoy harbour was built in 1825 to accommodate the growing fishing trade and although only a few small boats now work out of the harbour, the town is still kept in equal stock of world-class seafood. Discover more about the history of fishing, boatbuilding and local people at the The Salmon Bothy museum.

Portsoy is a popular village thanks to its vibrant trademark festival The Scottish Traditional Boat Festival taking place every June. The town was also used as a filming location for *Whisky Galore!* (2017) providing the setting of the main village on the Isle of Today.

Portsoy Ice Cream

Treat yourself to a towering cone of cream from [Portsoy Ice Cream](#), an award-winning homemade family run ice cream shop in the picturesque harbour village of Portsoy.

In 2018 Portsoy Ice Cream shop launched a new vegan, dairy free ice cream.

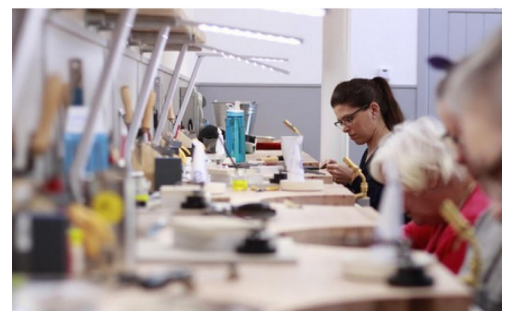
This shop has become the place to head on an afternoon in North-east Scotland with over 100 flavours to choose; you'll certainly be spoilt for choice here.

The Smiddy

[The Smiddy](#) is an inclusive workshop and try to run classes for all. There will be classes from complete beginners through to professional classes for Silversmiths and Jewellers. Whether you want to make a silver ring, enamel a pair of earrings, learn to cast in silver or block lessons in Jewellery or Silversmithing, try something new at The Smiddy.

Dinner and overnight stay at The Knowes Hotel

[The Knowes Hotel and Restaurant](#) overlooks the rooftops of Macduff and Banff and onto the coast. This hotel is a three minute walk from central Macduff and five minutes from Macduff Marine Aquarium. Macduff is now the only place in the United Kingdom where deep-water fishing boats are still built.



Pennan

The coastline in [Pennan](#) was used in the remake of Whisky Galore! but this wasn't the first time Pennan has shot to fame. Local Hero starring Burt Lancaster and Peter Capaldi, tells the story of an American oil executive who is sent to a remote Scottish village to acquire the village to convert it into a refinery. The film was filmed in Pennan and Banff and the red phonebox is one of the most famous in the world and can still be found in Pennan.



Museum of Scottish Lighthouses

Ever heard of a full-size lighthouse built right through the middle of a 16th century castle? Seeing is believing at this truly unique castle. [Kinnaird Head Lighthouse](#) was the very first lighthouse to be built on mainland Scotland in 1787.

The [museum](#) tells the story of skill, courage, technical genius and brilliant organisation that saved lives.



Lunch at Saplinbrae Hotel

[Saplinbrae Hotel](#) showcases the best in relaxed country living, where quality of service and commitment to excellence is consistent.

The hotel kitchen offers relaxed dining, using the best ingredients sourced from Aberdeenshire and Scotland. Provenance is very important too and Saplinbrae offers beef and lamb from its own farm. The fish used in its dishes is sourced from one of Europe's largest white fish ports in Peterhead and the vegetables from nearby local farms.



Suggested stay: Meldrum House Country Hotel

Relax in the serene surroundings at [Meldrum House](#), a four-star country house hotel set in 240 acres of glorious Aberdeenshire countryside. An award-winning hotel, most notable as the winner of the prestigious title of Britain's Best Boutique Hotel 2018.

Dine for dinner in the two Red Rosette dining room which features a new casual dining experience called Pineapple. The new menu illustrates the wealth of flavours of North-east Scotland through its locally sourced (and delicious) menu.

Make sure to have a dram in the award-winning Cave Bar which dates back 800 years, serving over 120 whiskies and local gins. The bar won Whisky Hotel Bar of the Year at Whisky Magazine's World Whisky Awards in March 2019.





BrewDog

[BrewDog](#) is leading the craft beer revolution and Aberdeenshire is where the global producer's story started.

Explore the history of the brand's epic story since starting up in 2007 on a brewery tour that will take you through the brewing process and get an inside look at the latest additions to the BrewDog family, Five Hundred Cuts Spiced Rum, Transistor Whisky and Lone Wolf gin.

Following your tour, grab some lunch in the onsite DogTap bar where you can drink beer straight from the brewery. A table has been booked for you.

Just a few weeks ago, BrewDog opened its first Scottish mini hotel in Aberdeen. BrewDog Kennels, is located above the brand's Castlegate bar, offering beer enthusiasts the option to combine amazing craft beer with a memorable hotel experience when visiting the city.



Lunch at The Kilmarnock Arms

Steeped in history in the heart of Cruden Bay is the [Kilmarnock Arms Hotel](#). In the late 1800s this small but perfectly formed 19 bedroom hotel was a regular vacation spot for Bram Stoker while he wrote Dracula (1897). You can even see the guestbook with Stoker's signature, just ask at reception.

The Kilmarnock Arms prides itself on locally sourced fayre with a modern twist and has been awarded the Taste Our Best accreditation by VisitScotland.



Slains Castle

After lunch visit [Slains Castle](#) on the coast of Cruden Bay where Bram Stoker took inspiration for the look of Dracula's sinister in his novel Dracula (1897).

Many years after, Slains Castle doubled as Castle Mey in season one of the Netflix hit The Crown when the Queen Mother goes to Scotland.



Newburgh Beach / Forvie Sands

With some of the largest sand dunes in Britain, [Forvie](#) is one of Scotland's most dramatic stretches of coast. The mud flats of the Ythan Estuary provide a fast food refuelling stop for many passing birds and the mouth of the estuary is a year-round haul out for seals who chill-out on the beach bay.

The wind and the tide are in charge here, and it's a great place to blow the cobwebs away with the chance of seeing some spectacular wildlife.

