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With its vast mountainous landscapes and outstanding coastlines, quaint fishing villages and fairytale castles, this part of Scotland has inspired world-famous story tellers and filmmakers. We've pulled together a two day itinerary to help you make the most of your 'stage and screen' trip to Aberdeenshire:



Portsoy - Whisky Galore! (2016)

[Portsoy](#) is a popular village thanks to its vibrant [trademark boat festival](#) and picturesque 17th century harbour, but that's not all. In 2016, Whisky Galore! was filmed on location in Portsoy. The film tells the true story of an incident that took place on the island of Eriskay when the SS Politician ran aground with a cargo including 28,000 cases of malt whisky starring James Cosmo and Eddie Izzard.



Pennan - Whisky Galore! (2016) & Local Hero (1983)

Whisky Galore! also filmed along the coastline in [Pennan](#) too and 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.



Slains Castle - The Crown (2016 -) & Dracula (1897)

No trip to Aberdeenshire would be complete for fans of the Netflix show The Crown without a trip to [Slains Castle](#) on the coast of [Cruden Bay](#). In Season 1, Slains Castle stood in for Castle Mey when the Queen Mother goes to Scotland. The castle is famous for many reasons, partly because it was a place where celebrities were entertained on numerous occasions in the 19th century, most notable being Bram Stoker. It is believed that the castle was the inspiration for the setting of his novel, Dracula (1897).



Dunnottar Castle - Hamlet (1990), Brave (2012) & Victor Frankenstein (2015)

[Dunnottar Castle](#) is one of North-east Scotland's most iconic locations so it's only natural that filmmakers can't resist its cinematic appeal. The castle inspired Zeffirelli's adaptation of the Shakespeare classic Hamlet (1990) starring Oscar winner, Mel Gibson during which it doubled as 16th century Denmark. Most of the scenes on the battlements of Elsinore Castle were also filmed in Aberdeenshire, near the village of Muchalls where they built a large set. When the Disney Pixar's animators behind the Oscar-winning Brave visited Dunnottar Castle they were so mesmerised by it that they altered their original plans for Merida's family castle, DunBroch, to be moved from a loch in the Highlands to an outpost by the sea. The castle also appeared in the 2015 adaptation of Victor Frankenstein starring Daniel Radcliffe and James McAvoy and showed off it's creepier side.



Gourdon - For Those in Peril (2013)

The ancient fishing village of [Gourdon](#) is one of Aberdeenshire's most attractive settlements with its 1820 working harbour and fascinating coastal walks. In 2013, the village starred in the BAFTA Nominated film, For Those in Peril starring George Mackay as a young misfit who becomes the lone survivor of a strange fishing accident that claimed the lives of five men including his older brother.



Fettercairn - Sunset Song (2015)

[Fettercairn](#) is a small village in Aberdeenshire near [Laurencekirk](#) with origins dating back over a thousand years. *Sunset Song*, based on the novel of the same name by Lewis Grassic Gibbon, features the village as the backdrop for the scene where Chris and Ewan meet amidst a flock of sheep running through the village. The film also showcased the Invercauld Estate, Glenmuick Estate, Birsemore Loch and Glen Tanar Estate.

Fun fact: Peter Mullan who plays John Guthrie in the film is an Aberdonian - he was born in [Peterhead](#). Other notable films he has appeared in are *Braveheart*, *Trainspotting* and *Sunshine on Leith*. His latest film *Marionette* was recently filming in Aberdeen city centre in November 2018.



Glen Tanar - Sunset Song (2015)

Set on the eastern edge of Scotland's spectacular [Cairngorms National Park](#), the [Glen Tanar Estate](#) spans 25,000 acres of breathtaking Highland scenery. It's no surprise that the big screen came calling. In *Sunset Song*, the old school house at Glen Tanar is where Chris studies with dreams of being a teacher.



Mar Lodge - The Dark Knight Rises (2012)

[Mar Lodge Estate NNR](#) is Britain's largest nature reserve and a wildlife wonderland right in the heart of the [Cairngorms National Park](#). The dramatic landscape acts as the backdrop to *The Dark Knight Rises* when Tom Hardy's Bane hijacks the plane in the action packed opening scene. Visitors will marvel at the beauty of the 29,000 hectare estate which is also home to [Britain's second highest mountain](#) - but thankfully it will be a much more tranquil visit than those who travel with Bane.



Strathdon - Mary, Queen of Scots (2018)

The latest blockbuster to be filmed in Aberdeenshire is *Mary, Queen of Scots* starring Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie and David Tennant. The scene where the highland cows block the bridge and the ambush takes place was filmed at Poldullie Bridge in [Strathdon](#). During filming the fields at Bellabeg housed giant make-up tents, a canteen and horse stables. Strathdon offers majestic scenery and is also where the [Lonach Highland Gathering and Games](#) are held.



Cluny Castle - The Queen (2006)

Another spot popular with filmmakers and photographers is [Cluny Castle](#), a visually stunning castle in [Inverurie](#). The location doubled as [Balmoral Castle](#) in *The Queen* starring Helen Mirren who won an Oscar for her performance in the film.



Castle Fraser - The Queen (2006)

[Cluny Castle](#) wasn't the only Aberdeenshire castle that *The Queen* was happy to shine a light on. The nearby [Castle Fraser](#) was also used for filming. Castle Fraser is one of Scotland's largest tower houses and part of the National Trust for Scotland. The castle is open from Spring to Autumn with regular tours.



For more inspiration on film famous places to visit in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire click [here](#).