



Fettercairn

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 filmed in Aberdeen city centre in November 2018.

Dunnottar Castle

[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 its creepier side.

Lunch at the Tolbooth Seafood Restaurant

Taste some amazing seafood at [The Tolbooth](#) where the fish is supplied fresh from the nets of local fishermen. Add stunning views across the picturesque Stonehaven harbour and culinary expertise into the mix, you'll soon discover why this restaurant features in the 2019 Michelin Guide.

Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum

Located on the harbour front is the [Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum](#). The museum is thought to have been originally founded by George Keith as a storehouse during the construction of Dunnottar Castle. Step back in time as you look through historic artefacts including the original cell door, the Inverbervie stocks and the punishment device known as 'The Crank'.



Crathes Castle

Standing against a backdrop of rolling hills and set within its own glorious gardens, [Crathes Castle](#) is every inch the classic Scottish tower house. Surrounding the castle are numerous trails giving you the perfect opportunity to explore the castle grounds.

Explore walking trails and there's a cafe onsite to grab a bite to eat.



The Royal Deeside Railway

If you truly want to experience royalty in Aberdeenshire, the [Royal Deeside Railway](#) is not to be missed. This visitor experience once formed part of the Deeside railway line which took members of the Royal Family from Aberdeen to Ballater for their summer holidays at Balmoral Castle.

Learn of the history behind this ancient steam railway which served generations of the Royal Family from 1866 to 1966.



Lunch at Buchanan Bistro

After touring Crathes and The Deeside Railway, [Buchanan Bistro](#) makes a perfect stop for lunch. Welcoming you in with organic, ethical and wholesome food all prepared in-house and relax in a casual setting while taking in wonderful views of the beautiful countryside.



FOLD

Next door to Buchanan Bistro is [FOLD](#), a retail space which presents the best in contemporary Scottish craft and design from established and emerging independent designer-makers. Shop consciously curated collections, participate in workshops and learn the story behind the making of the products, and the people who make them.



Stay: Sweetheart Cottage

Stargaze from the warmth of an outdoor hot tube at The Love Nest at [Sweetheart Cottage](#).

Explore the grounds and you'll discover the 300 year old Poldullie Bridge which featured in the 2019 blockbuster Mary Queen of Scots starring Margot Robbie and Saoirse Ronan.



Glen Tanar Estate

Set on the eastern edge of Scotland's spectacular [Cairngorms National Park](#), the [Glen Tanar Estate](#) spans 25,000 acres of breathtaking Highland scenery. From rugged heather moorland to towering Caledonian pine forests to the majestic River Dee, its unique surroundings is what makes Glen Tanar a popular destination for exploring the best of natural Scotland.

With such beauty, 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.



Explore Ballater

[Ballater](#) is located in the Cairngorms National Park, making it one of the region's top visitor spots. The picturesque Victorian village is a popular destination in itself with cosy B&Bs, restaurants and great links to outdoor adventure.

Ballater is known as 'Royal Warrant' town due to the amount of awards to local businesses by members of the Royal Family for the high standard of products and service.



Afternoon tea at The Carriage

Once the Royal Station of Ballater, the [The Carriage](#) was originally the final stop of the Deeside Railway where the Royal Family would alight to spend their summer holidays at Balmoral Castle.

In 2015, the station was ravaged by fire and has since been transformed by Prince Charles' charity work in to a fascinating visitor experience.



Braemar Highland Games Centre

Visit the [Braemar Highland Games Centre](#) to explore the world-famous Braemar Gathering and its long-standing royal connections. Housed in The Duke of Rothesay Highland Games Pavilion, it was unveiled by Her Majesty The Queen in September 2018 and opened to the public on 15 March 2019.

The building is named in honour of Prince Charles, Duke of Rothesay, a keen supporter of the project through his charity, The Prince's Foundation.



Suggested stay: The Fife Arms

Described as "Scotland's hottest hotel" by the Financial Times, all eyes have been on [The Fife Arms](#) since re-opening in December 2018 following a multimillion pound three-year redevelopment.

Each of the 46 guest rooms have been individually decorated in keeping with its specific theme and you can admire an original Picasso and watercolour by Queen Victoria amongst the hundreds of other art pieces to fill this hotel.

Art surrounds you in its Clunie Dining Room with an intriguing mural by Argentinian Artist Guillermo Kuitca which took several weeks to complete.

Outwith the hotel there's plenty see around the village of [Braemar](#). The Great North of Scotland Railway is just a minutes walk away from the hotel and was built when it was planned that the Royal Deeside Railway would end in Braemar however at the request of Queen Victoria it was decided the line would end in Ballater. Today this building is now a home.

Robert Lewis Stevenson spent summer of 1881 in Braemar where he penned the first 16 chapters of *Treasure Island* and the cottage where he stayed still stands today.

Braemar Castle stands just outside the village and is a popular destination for visitors all year around. Built in 1628, Braemar Castle originally stood as the hunting lodge of the Earl of Mar, but was set on fire by the Black Colonel in 1689 and even used as a garrison for Hanoverian soldiers after their Jacobite defeat. With 400 years of history you can't deny that Braemar Castle is a history buff's dream.

