

Welcome to Aberdeen: Things to see and do



What to Do in Aberdeen and shire

The VisitAberdeenshire website is a helpful guide for finding things to do in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. It offers information on top attractions like castles, coastal walks, distilleries, and scenic trails. You can explore themed routes, view interactive maps, and find practical details such as visitor centers and public facilities.

The site also shares seasonal highlights, local events, and travel tips to help plan your trip. Whether you're interested in nature, history, or local culture, VisitAberdeenshire makes it easy to discover and enjoy the region.

Find out more about what to do in the city [here](#).

Find out more about what to do in the countryside [here](#).

Find out more about what to do on the coast [here](#).



Getting Around

Exploring Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire is easy and enjoyable thanks to excellent transport links, allowing visitors to move around comfortably and make the most of their time in the region.

- **Walking** - in Aberdeen city, everything is within easy reach, and Aberdeenshire offers countless scenic walks through countryside, forest and coast
- **Bus** - getting around Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire by bus is simple, affordable, and convenient. First Bus operates frequent services across the city, connecting shopping areas, attractions, and neighbourhoods. For travel beyond the city, Stagecoach runs reliable routes linking Aberdeen with towns and villages throughout Aberdeenshire
- **The Aberdeen Adventurer** - discover the best of Aberdeen City with the Aberdeen Adventurer, the ultimate hop-on, hop-off tour bus experience. Running from April to September, this convenient sightseeing bus takes you to the city's top attractions
- **Train** - Aberdeen Railway Station offers excellent local, regional, and national connections
- **Taxis** - Taxis, private hire vehicles and ride-hailing apps like Uber operate throughout the city and surrounding areas. Taxi ranks can be found at Union Square, Aberdeen Railway Station and Aberdeen International Airport
 - Rainbow City 01224 878787
 - Aberdeen Taxis 01224 200200
- **Please note** that coaches are available for badge holders to and from their hotel to the conference center.
- Find more information [here](#).

Itineraries

Our suggested itineraries take you on hand-picked journeys through Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Stroll along stunning coastal paths, explore historic castles, discover city sights, follow whisky trails and uncover hidden gems. Each itinerary is designed to help you make the most of your time, see the highlights, uncover local secrets and experience the real north-east of Scotland.

All itineraries are available [here](#).



Things to do

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire offer an incredible blend of adventure, flavour, culture, heritage and natural beauty. Whether you're exploring dramatic coastlines, world-class golf courses or the rich tastes of our food and drink scene, you'll find experiences that stay with you long after your visit.

Discover all things to do [here](#).

What's on

There is always something to do in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.

Discover the latest events across the region [here](#).



Accessibility

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are for everyone. From historic castles and museums to coastal villages and countryside trails, the region offers a wide range of accessible attractions, accommodation, and experiences designed to be enjoyed by all visitors.

Find more information about accessibility and options [here](#).



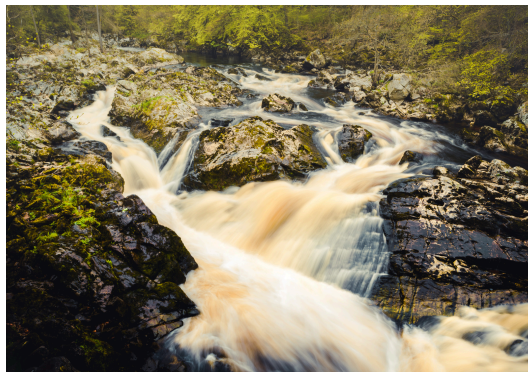
Sustainability

Aberdeen is committed to sustainability and leading the way in environmental innovation, embracing clean technology and green transport.

The city's museums and cultural venues have been recognised with Green Tourism awards for reducing energy use and operating responsibly.

Local projects also promote renewable energy, recycling and smart city solutions that make living and visiting here greener and more enjoyable for everyone.

Find more information [here](#).



Delegate offers

We offer range of exclusive offers for conference delegates.

From discounted accommodation to savings on food, drink, shopping, and local experiences, these deals are designed to help you enjoy the city for less.

Please note: Delegates must show their conference pass to redeem in-person offers, unless otherwise stated.

All offers are available [here](#).



Group Activities

There are plenty bookable products across food and drink, castles and gardens, cultural venues, and outdoor adventure. You'll find dedicated sections for accommodation, transport providers and guiding services to help you plan and build itineraries with ease.

Discover all experiences [here](#).

Tours

From scenic adventures and cultural explorations to bespoke guided experiences, tours offer flexible, commissionable options that enrich itineraries and create unforgettable travel experiences.

Explore tours [here](#).



Tour Guides

Discover experienced, trade-ready tour guides who bring Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire to life through expert knowledge, professionalism, and exceptional service. From walking tours and city storytelling to countryside exploration and specialist thematic experiences, our guiding partners offer reliable, bookable support for FIT, groups, and bespoke programmes.

Explore all tour guides [here](#).

Highlighted recommendation:

- **Balgownie Geoscience** offers geotours to learn more about Scotland's geological terranes, find out more [here](#).
- **Macdui Bike Adventures** offers tours led by a former geologist, exploring landscapes and history of the north east of Scotland, find out more [here](#).

Tour Guide Offer

Rabbie's Small Group Tours offer 15% off all 1-day tours departing from Aberdeen. To receive the discount code, please contact businesssevents@visitabdn.com



Bars with Interesting & Historical Architecture

Ma Cameron's

Ma Cameron's is one of Aberdeen's oldest pubs, dating back around 300 years, with its front room originally part of a coaching inn. It's known for cask ales, a rooftop beer garden, and a historic interior full of nooks and crannies.

Address: Little Belmont St, AB10 1JG



Old Blackfriars

Old Blackfriars is a historic pub in Aberdeen's Merchant Quarter on Castle Street, set in a building dating back to the 17th century with low-beamed ceilings, stained glass and pews that lend an atmospheric feel. The cobbled pedestrian area outside once saw public executions and civic upheaval, giving the pub's location rich layers of city history to reflect on as you enjoy real ales and pub food.

Address: 52 Castlegate, AB11 5BB



Triplekirks

Triple Kirks is a popular pub in central Aberdeen, set in part of the historic Triple Kirks building, built in 1843 to house three churches under one spire. The striking spire remains, while the ground floor is now a lively bar.

Address: Schoolhill, AB10 1JT



St. Machar Bar

St. Machar Bar is a traditional pub in the historic Old Aberdeen area, housed in an 18th-century listed building on High Street and established as a drinking spot around 1904. It's become known for its extensive whisky selection and real ales, and is popular with university students, locals and visitors exploring the old campus quarter.

Areas around St. Machar Bar sit on gently sloping glacial deposits, which influenced early settlement patterns and where buildings and streets could be safely constructed.

Address: 97 High St, AB24 3EN



The Grill

The Grill on Union Street is one of Aberdeen's oldest pubs, originally opened as a restaurant in 1870 and remodelled into a pub with its distinctive mahogany-panelled interior and ornate plasterwork in 1926. It's famous for its historic atmosphere, large selection of whiskies and ales, and long-standing place in the city's social scene, with the historic interior listed by CAMRA and a reputation as a classic whisky bar.

The Grill includes locally quarried granite and sandstone in walls or features.

Address: 213 Union St, AB11 6BA



The Archibald Simpson

The Archibald Simpson is a pub in Aberdeen's Castlegate area, named after the city's celebrated 19th-century architect Archibald Simpson, who also designed the building it occupies, the former North of Scotland Bank on Castle Street.

The grand granite structure with its Corinthian columns and classical details reflects Simpson's influence on Aberdeen's neoclassical architectural character.

Address: 5 Castle St, AB11 5BQ



Brewdog

BrewDog Castlegate is located in Aberdeen's historic Athenaeum building and offers views across Castlegate toward the Town House and Marischal College, two of the city's most notable architectural landmarks.

Address: 5-9 Union St, AB11 5BU



Soul

Soul is an award-winning bar and restaurant in Aberdeen's city centre, set inside the converted Langstane Kirk, a 19th-century B-listed church that still shows off its stained-glass windows and architectural character.

Address: 333 Union St, AB11 6BS

Slains

Slains is a distinctive pub and bar set inside a converted 19th-century church (formerly West St Nicholas Kirk) with a gothic-inspired atmosphere.

Address: 14 - 18 Belmont Street,
AB10 1JE

Under the Hammer

Under The Hammer is a basement pub on North Silver Street, named for its location beside the long-running John Milne Auctioneers, one of Aberdeen's oldest auction houses dating back to the late 19th century.

Address: 11 N Silver St, AB10 1RJ

Krakatoa

Krakatoa is a long-standing rock bar, set within a Victorian-era building. It's often described as haunted, with staff and visitors reporting unexplained noises and sightings over the years.

Address: 2 Trinity Quay, AB11 5AA



City of Aberdeen Distillery

City of Aberdeen Distillery is located inside a historic railway arch (Arch 10), bringing distilling back to the city center after decades. It offers small-batch gin distilling, tours, tastings and a gin school experience in a unique industrial-heritage space beneath the railway.

Address: Arch 10 Palmerston Rd, AB11 5RE

Shiprow

Shiprow is one of Aberdeen's oldest streets, first mentioned in records in 1281 and originally serving as a key route between the harbour and the Castlegate area. Today it's a mix of historic sites like Provost Ross's House and the Aberdeen Maritime Museum, alongside a growing food and drink quarter known as Shiprow Village featuring independent bars.



Budget friendly activities

Free attractions

- [Aberdeen Art Gallery](#)
- [Aberdeen Maritime Museum](#)
- [Cruickshank Botanic Garden](#)
- [Provost Skene's House Museum](#) - oldest townhouse in Aberdeen
- [University of Aberdeen Zoology Museum](#)
- [Aberdeen Beach](#)
- Aberdeen is a very green city, so you can explore one of the cities many [parks](#)
- Aberdeen beach and old fishing village Footdee, "[Fittie](#)"
- City walking tour with [Scot Free tours](#)
- Explore the vibrant [art scene](#) with the [Nuart Aberdeen map](#)

As free attractions, the above tours and museums are welcome to donations to allow them to continue to be accessible to all.



Budget friendly

- Enjoy the cities large selection of independent [coffee shops](#) and low budget friendly [restaurants](#)
- Take in Aberdeen's nightlife in the cities [Bars & Pubs](#)
- Train Ride to beach-side town, [Stonehaven](#), to try the famous 'deep-fried Mars bar'



Getting Around

- Aberdeen is a compact city, once you are in the city centre - most attractions are within walking distance or a short bus ride away.
- Student tickets are available on both Stagecoach and First Bus bus services for reduced cost travel across the city and Aberdeenshire (T&C's Apply).



Events

Pint of Science

Pint of Science is a grassroots, non-profit organisation that runs an annual science festival designed to bring real scientific research out of the lab and into public, informal spaces like pubs, bars, cafés, and community venues. There are events, which might be of interest.

Find out more [here](#).

GESGB

The Geoscience Energy Society of Great Britain (GESGB) is a UK-based professional and charitable organisation that brings geoscientists together to network, share knowledge and inspire collaboration. It hosts a range of flagship events, some of which take place in Aberdeen.

Find out more [here](#).

Cinema Event

There will be a cinema event, which is currently being planned. Further details will be announced once confirmed.

Contacts



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Aberdeen
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