

Day trips from Aberdeen

Discover Scotland's top attractions



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Enjoy the best of Scotland



Ideal for groups and FITs on short breaks and touring holidays

Surprise and inspire your clients by taking them on a journey of discovery around some of Scotland's most magnificent castles, stately homes and gardens – the majority of which feature as must-see visits on Scotland's famous Castle Trail.

As one of the UK's largest conservation charities, we manage many of Scotland's favourite heritage attractions, including world-famous gardens, historic battle sites, castles, palaces and stately homes. Many are 4- and 5-star visitor attractions with multi-lingual interpretation, tax-free shopping and group-friendly cafés.



DRUM CASTLE



CRAIGHERRIS CASTLE



CRAIGHERRIS CASTLE



LEITH HALL



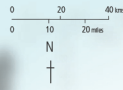
CASTLE FRASER



PITMEDDEN GARDEN



HADDO HOUSE



FYVIE CASTLE



HOUSE OF DUN





DRUM CASTLE

Drumoak, by Banchory AB31 5EY

11 miles/18km from Aberdeen city centre

A treasure chest of wonders

Gifted by King Robert the Bruce in 1323, this stronghold is unique among Scottish castles, combining the oldest intact square tower in Scotland, a Jacobean mansion house and Victorian extensions. From the battlements enjoy magnificent views of the Old Wood of Drum, a remnant of the ancient Royal Forest and Park of Drum and home to a variety of endangered species and rare lichens. The Garden of Historic Roses is a kaleidoscope of colour throughout spring and summer, heavy with the scent of blooms from around the world.



CRATHES CASTLE

Banchory AB31 5QJ

16 miles/26km from Aberdeen city centre

One of Europe's finest walled gardens

See the ancient Horn of Leys, a gift from King Robert the Bruce in 1323, in this magical 16th-century turreted castle with extraordinary interiors, painted ceilings and even a resident ghost – the Green Lady. The castle provides the perfect backdrop to one of Europe's finest walled gardens. Developed over 300 years, the garden is divided into eight themed spaces, from the famous June Borders to the Red, Golden and Rose gardens. Highlights include the topiary yew hedges, which date from the early 1700s, and the Davidia involucreta (handkerchief tree). Crathes also holds one of just two National Collections in the world of the rare Malmaison carnation. The estate is home to Go Ape! – North-East Scotland's only high wire treetop adventure course: www.goape.co.uk



CRAIGIEVAR CASTLE

Alford AB33 8JF

28 miles/44km from Aberdeen city centre

Walt Disney's inspiration

Largely unaltered since it was completed in c1627, this fairytale Scottish castle with iconic towers and turrets is said to have inspired the trademark Walt Disney castle. Having been occupied by the same family for 350 years, Craigievar is rich in family portraits, including masterpieces by Sir Henry Raeburn. There is also a fine collection of beautiful baroque furniture, including the 'Craigievar table'; original Jacobean woodwork; and intricately decorated plaster ceilings. Outside, explore the Victorian kitchen garden, Scottish glen garden and woodland trails.



LEITH HALL

Huntly AB54 4NQ

36 miles/58km from Aberdeen city centre

Spookily charming!

Built over three centuries, this delightful Scottish laird's residence is brimming with curiosities from around the world. The ghost of John Leith, who was murdered in 1763, reputedly still walks the hallways and the story has been featured on the TV programme *Most Haunted*. The gardens boast dazzling zigzag herbaceous and catmint borders – some of the longest of their kind in Scotland.





CASTLE FRASER

Sauchen, Inverurie AB51 7LD

16 miles/26km from Aberdeen city centre

Scotland's largest and most intricate Z-plan castle

Dating from 1575 and one of the grandest Castles of Mar, Castle Fraser is filled with quirky features, including hidden trapdoors, secret staircases and spy holes. Discover the Laird's Lug and Charles Mackenzie Fraser's wooden leg. Explore the Round Tower, Great Hall, Library and the Worked Room, named after its needlework bedhangings, curtains and seat furniture. The enchanting 18th-century walled garden boasts medicinal, culinary and island borders, while the woodland garden is rich in rhododendrons, azaleas and water features.



PITMEDDEN GARDEN

Ellon AB41 7PD

21 miles/34km from Aberdeen city centre

One of Britain's top historic gardens

Dating from 1675, Pitmedden is renowned as one of the UK's most famous historic gardens. The inspirational Great Garden has over 5 miles of intricate box hedging, forming six parterres filled with more than 40,000 bedding plants. There are also extensive herbaceous borders, fragrant with honeysuckle, jasmine and roses, as well as fountains, sundials, topiary, a herb garden and 85 varieties of apple tree.



HADDO HOUSE

Methlick, Ellon AB41 7EQ

25 miles/40km from Aberdeen city centre

Walk in the footsteps of Queen Victoria

Designed by William Adam in 1732, the present house combines crisp Georgian architecture with sumptuous late Victorian interiors. Throughout the house and grounds, family portraits, paintings, sculptures and memorabilia give a fascinating insight to the Gordon family who lived here continuously for over 400 years. The terraced garden is a must-see, with its geometric flower beds, herbaceous borders and commemorative trees planted by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. A magnificent avenue of lime trees leads to the country park with its lakes, monuments and walks.



FYVIE CASTLE

Fyvie, Turriff AB53 8JS

27 miles/43km from Aberdeen city centre

The largest private collection of Raeburns in the world

Discover 800 years of myths and legends at this extraordinary Scottish Baronial fortress, famed for its world-famous art collections, lavish interiors, intricate ceilings and acclaimed collections of arms and armour. The walled garden contains the most comprehensive collection of Scottish cultivated fruits in the country, including over 50 varieties of Scottish apple. Other highlights include the restored 1903 squash racquets court and bowling alley, the American Garden and the lochside walks.





HOUSE OF DUN

Montrose DD10 9LQ

41 miles/67km from Aberdeen city centre

Inspired by the Château d'Issy near Paris

Designed by William Adam, this atmospheric Georgian country house is shrouded in tales of ghostly encounters. Boasting grand public rooms with elaborate plasterwork, the house is home to the Hutchison and Stirling Collections, comprising some of the finest paintings and furniture in Trust ownership. The fabulous Victorian gardens, featuring 150-year-old giant redwoods and beautiful rose borders, offer wonderful views of the Montrose Basin and its internationally important nature reserve for migratory wading birds and wildfowl.



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All distances are approximate

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*Excludes all island properties. Front cover main image: Crathes Castle; top right: Haddo House