Scotland’s Castle Country

Abderdeenshire is known as ‘Scotland’s Castle Country’, with an impressive tally of 300 castles, stately mansions and ruins scattered across the landscape. There are many castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK.

Castle Fraser

An atmospheric baronial castle dating back to the 12-13th century. One of the greatest Castles of the magnificent building offers a excursion down the Life and times of the Fraser Family, stunning state apartments and grand State Dining Rooms. Opened by the National Trust for Scotland, you can explore the castle's rich history and the town of Huntly.

Dunnottar Castle

A 14th century fortress standing on the clifftop and is one of the most famous castles in Scotland. The castle has been a rallying point for Scottish resistance for over 700 years and is considered to be one of the most significant sites in Scotland.

Crathes Castle

The house was built in 1765 and while it has changed over the years, it still retains many of the original features from the time it was built. The castle is now owned by Historic Scotland and is open to the public for visits.

Delgatie Castle

This 15th century castle is located on the banks of the River Dee and is one of the oldest castles in Scotland. It was once home to the Clan Gordon and is now open to the public for visits.

Drum Castle

Drum Castle is the home of the Macdonald family and is one of the most impressive castles in Scotland. It is home to the Macdonalds for over 600 years and is now open to the public for visits.

Fyvie Castle

Fyvie Castle is a magnificent castle located on the outskirts of the town of Fyvie in Aberdeenshire, Scotland. It is a large and impressive castle with a number of beautiful rooms and exhibits on the history of the castle.

Scotland’s Castle Trail

Explore Aberdeenshire

Abderdeenshire is a land of brilliant moments just waiting for you to touch, taste and explore. The region is rich in Scotland’s Treasures including rich history, magnificent scenery, abundant wildlife, a bountiful landscape and a vibrant cultural scene.

More than 2,000 years of history has left its mark on Aberdeenshire’s landscape and the region is one of the best in the UK to be seen. From exploring the fantastic range of Scotland’s early settlements to discovering unique castles and enjoying the rich cultural heritage, Aberdeenshire is a treasure trove of history just waiting to be discovered.

GlenDronach Distillery

Balmoral Castle, Ballater

www.visitscotland.com/castletrail

www.visitscotland.com/aberdeenshire

Aberdeenshire Coastal Trail

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Huntly Castle

Huntly Castle is a spectacular site where the remains of the Bishop’s Palace are nestled amongst the ruins of the castle. A former residence of the Bishops of Aberdeen and a powerful stronghold that witnessed the battles of the Wars of the Roses.

Nearby attractions
- Spynie Palace
- Balvenie Castle
- Leith Hall, Garden & Estate
- Corgarff Castle

Spynie Palace

Spynie Palace is for many the highlight of Moray. Known as the Palace of the Bishops of Moray, it is rich in history and heritage. The palace’s grandeur and magnificence make it a must-see for any visitor.

Nearby attractions
- Huntly Castle
- Balvenie Castle
- Leith Hall, Garden & Estate
- Corgarff Castle

Balvenie Castle

Balvenie Castle stands on a hill overlooking the River Dee. It is renowned for its fine architecture and lavish interior, which includes beautiful plaster ceilings. Visitors can also enjoy the grounds with special exhibitions and audio handset tour.

Nearby attractions
- Huntly Castle
- Spynie Palace
- Leith Hall, Garden & Estate
- Corgarff Castle

Leith Hall, Garden & Estate

Leith Hall is a magnificent house set in an estate of 300 acres. The estate has a rich history, stretching back to the 13th century. Visitors can explore the historic house and gardens, and take a guided tour to learn about the estate’s heritage.

Nearby attractions
- Huntly Castle
- Spynie Palace
- Balvenie Castle
- Corgarff Castle

Corgarff Castle

Corgarff Castle is a tower house with a history dating back to the 15th century. It is a fine example of Scottish Baronial architecture and is now a popular tourist destination. Visitors can explore the castle’s historic rooms and enjoy the scenic views.

Nearby attractions
- Huntly Castle
- Spynie Palace
- Balvenie Castle
- Leith Hall, Garden & Estate

Kildrummy Castle

Kildrummy Castle is an impressive ruin located on a hill above the River Gairn. It is one of the most prominent castles in the area and offers magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

Nearby attractions
- Braemar Castle
- Balmoral Castle

Braemar Castle

Braemar Castle is a magnificent castle located on a hillside above the town of Braemar. It is a fine example of Scottish Baronial architecture and is now a popular tourist destination. Visitors can explore the castle’s historic rooms and enjoy the scenic views.

Nearby attractions
- Kildrummy Castle
- Balmoral Castle
- Cragievar Castle

Cragievar Castle

Cragievar Castle is a fine example of Scottish Baronial architecture and is located in the beautiful countryside of Moray. It is known for its striking red sandstone exterior and is now a popular tourist destination.

Nearby attractions
- Braemar Castle
- Balmoral Castle
- Kildrummy Castle

UNIVERSAL ACCESS

- Assisted wheelchair access
- Unassisted wheelchair access
- Access for visitors with mobility difficulties

Getting here

- By car: Follow the A939 from Inverness to Balmoral.
- By coach: Travel to Ballater and continue by road to Balmoral.

Facilities

- Free on-site parking
- Tearoom
- Gift shop
- Guided tours available

Entry charge

- Historic Scotland
- Free to Historic Scotland members
- Concession £7
- Child £3.30
- Adult £5.50
- £10 family ticket

**Highland Wildlife Park**

A great day out for all the family, featuring a range of animals and attractions. Visit www.highlandwildlifepark.com for more information.

Guided tours only

- 1 Sep to 29 Sep, Fri-Tue
- 30 Mar to 30 Jun, Fri-Tue

**The Castle Trail**

- 10am - 4pm
- 2 Apr to 1 Nov

**Garden & Grounds**

- 10am - 4pm
- 2 Apr to 1 Nov

**Opening times**

- Thurs-Sun 11am-5pm

**Opening times**

- Fri-Tue 10am-4pm
- 2 Apr to 1 Nov

**Getting here**

- Off the A96
- On the B9002

**Nearby attractions**

- Knock Castle, Ballater
- Royal Lochnagar Distillery
- Glenmorangie Distillery
- Glenfiddich Distillery
- Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie

**Glenmorangie Distillery**

- 9.30am-5.30pm
- 1 Apr to 30 Sep

**Glenfiddich Distillery**

- 9.30am-5.30pm
- 1 Apr to 30 Sep

**Bow Fiddle Rock, Portknockie**

- 9.30am-5.30pm
- 1 Apr to 30 Sep

**Culloden in 1746**, it was converted to become the residence of the high status Forbes family. After the battle of Culloden in 1746, the castle was occupied by the Highwaymen and was later abandoned.

**Corgarff Castle**

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Nearby attractions
- Braemar Castle
- Balmoral Castle
- Kildrummy Castle

**Balmoral Castle**

Balmoral Castle is the home of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. It is a magnificent example of Scottish Baronial architecture and is now a popular tourist destination. Visitors can explore the castle’s historic rooms and enjoy the scenic views.

Nearby attractions
- Kildrummy Castle
- Braemar Castle
- Cragievar Castle