Aberdeen is in the North East of Scotland and is the country’s third largest city.

Around 220,000 people now inhabit Aberdeen and enjoy its dramatic granite architecture that glistens on sunny days. In mid to late June it never gets really dark, with the sun setting after ten pm and rising at around 4am. Golf is played until 11pm by many.

The city is set between the Rivers Dee and Don, both of which provide for wonderful walks and scenery. The modern name Aberdeen literally means between the Dee and Don.

Aberdeen has a long, spectacular beach between the two rivers which turns into high sand dunes north of the Don stretching as far as Fraserburgh and to the south of the Dee are steep rocky cliff faces and deep inlets making for spectacular scenery and great rock-climbing.

The earliest charter for the city was granted by William the Lion in 1179. In 1319, the Great Charter of Robert the Bruce transformed Aberdeen into a property-owning and financially independent community and formed the basis for the city's Common Good Fund which still benefits Aberdonians.

Traditionally, Aberdeen was home to fishing, textile mills, shipbuilding and paper making. These industries have been largely replaced but their impact on the city is still very evident.

In modern times, Aberdeen has driven the north east to the very top of the UK’s economic growth tables with high technology developments in the electronics design and development industry, food, life sciences and, obviously, the oil industry, powering an economic boom.

Aberdeen has won Britain in Bloom more than any other city, has Britain’s oldest business, the harbour, which is one of the UK’s busiest, the oldest city archive, fabulous parks, dolphins, boutique hotels and trendy bars.
Aberdeenshire is the area which surrounds the city, where visitors can embrace Europe’s longest whisky trail and castle trail, as well as the area’s rich golf offering.

The area is a well-known wildlife paradise and is home to dolphins, seals, puffins and many more interesting wildlife.

With 30 golf courses within 30 minutes of the city, the whisky and castle trails and excellent walking and nature all around, Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire make for a perfect weekend break destination.

**Local Attractions**

**Union Square Shopping Centre**

Union Square Shopping Centre is situated in the centre of Aberdeen and is the largest shopping centre in the city, offering over 50 stylish shops for you to explore including Apple, Hotel Chocolat, Joules, Zara and PURE Spa. The Centre boasts a large range of stylish restaurants to grab food such as Frankie and Bennys, Handmade Burger Co, Las Iguanas, Nandos, Prezzo, TGI Friday’s, Wagamama, Yo Sushi and many more. Cineworld at Union Square is Aberdeen’s largest cinema housing 10 screens, a bar and a concession counter.

[https://www.unionsquareaberdeen.com/](https://www.unionsquareaberdeen.com/)

**His Majesty’s Theatre**

His Majesty’s Theatre is one of only two so named in the world. It’s an opulent, awe-inspiring Frank Matcham designed theatre, a national treasure, with a breath-taking auditorium described by Billy Connolly as “like playing a gig inside a wedding cake!”


**Lemon Tree**

The Lemon Tree’s artistic programme celebrates the new, up and coming, experimental and alternative in music, theatre, dance, performance art, comedy, spoken word and creative learning. The Lemon Tree offers an excellent chance to gather your friends together and
enjoy a night you’ll be talking about for weeks to come. Look at what’s on and plan your social life now! The Lounge can hold 550 at standing gigs and just under 300 seated and the Studio has a capacity of 166 seated


**Traditional music sessions in Aberdeen**

- Every Monday: The Blue Lamp, Aberdeen (9pm onwards)
- Every Tuesday: Foodstory Cafe, Aberdeen (approx. 8pm-10.30pm)
- Every Wednesday: The Cove Bay Hotel, Cove, Aberdeen (9pm onwards)
- Every Thursday: Old Blackfriars, Aberdeen (9pm onwards)
- Every Friday: Foodstory Cafe, Aberdeen (approx. 8pm-10.30pm)
- Every Sunday: The Prince of Wales, Aberdeen (9pm onwards)

[https://aberdeentrad.com/](https://aberdeentrad.com/)

**Guided Tours**


- Royal Deeside and Balmoral Castle Private Tour from Aberdeen (Duration: 1 Day - 7 hours 30min approx.)
- Speyside Private Whisky Tour from Aberdeen (Duration: 1 Day - 8 hours approx.)
- Private Whisky and Castle Tour from Aberdeen (Duration: 1 Day - 8 hours approx.)
- Loch Ness and Inverness Private Tour from Aberdeen (Duration: 1 Day - 12 hours approx.)

[http://www.hiddenaberdeen.co.uk/Tours/page59/index.php](http://www.hiddenaberdeen.co.uk/Tours/page59/index.php)

- Blood & Granite: The Murder History Tour
- Burkers & Body-Snatchers: Murky Medical Doings in Aberdeen
  - Old Aberdeen II: Ghosts & Ghoul of the Aultoun
  - Terror Tales of Torry: Crime & Horror Tour
  - Lost Cinemas of Union Street
- Forgotten Fittie - from the Kirkton to the Fisher Squares
- Lost Lochlands: George Street and its hinterland
  - Siren City: Aberdeen’s Blitz Experience
  - Castlegate - Medieval City
- Medieval & Prehistoric Origins Tour
  - The Old King’s Highway
  - Tales of Old Torry
- Old Aberdeen: the Aultoun’s Architectural Secrets
Do it Yourself ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS GUIDES

**Aberdeen by Bus & on Foot**

What better way to find a city's hidden gems than strolling through it, hopping on a bus to get from place to place. Starting in Old Aberdeen, explore the architecture of the city, its gardens, its bridges, its gorgeous beach, and its heritage in the form of its own little fishing village.

*Aberdeen Hidden Gems by Bus & on Foot*

**Aberdeenshire Castle Trail**

With more castles per acre than anywhere else in the UK, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are proud to be able to offer Scotland's only Castle Trail. Visit 17 of the region's most striking castles and stately homes, learn more about Aberdeenshire's history, admire the defensive architecture, the fine art, the armour and travel back in time. See how many you can bag in a day!

*Download the Castle Trail here*

**Castles of Deeside**

Crathes Castle and Drum Castle are easily accessible by public transport. Whilst you're in the area, why not visit The Royal Deeside Railway, the gallery at the Milton Brasserie, and, for the more adventurous, the GoApe High-Wire Course can be found at Crathes Castle Estate.

*Castles of Deeside by Public Transport Itinerary*

**Dunnottar Castle & Stonehaven**

In the quaint fishing village of Stonehaven, the ruins of Dunnottar Castle sit dramatically on the cliffs South of Aberdeen. If you visit in the Summer, you can even visit Stonehaven's Open Air Pool. At any time of year, a visit to the award-winning Bay Fish & Chip Shop and Aunty Betty's Ice Cream Shop are not to be missed.

*Dunnottar Castle & Stonehaven by Public Transport Itinerary*

**Distilleries & Castles**

Start your day at Scotland's most easterly distillery, Glen Garioch in Oldmeldrum, enjoy a wee dram before moving onto Fyvie Castle, a 13th century castle that boasts a large collection of arms, armour and paintings, including works by Gainsborough and one of the largest private collections of Raeburn’s in the world.

*Distilleries & Castles by Public Transport Itinerary*  
Glen Garioch and Crathes Castle.
**Aberdeen Sculpture Trail**  
Take a stroll along Aberdeen's Sculpture Trail and discover the diverse range of sculptures that covers the traditional, like the William Wallace statue, and the more contemporary like the Moon Table.  
[Sculture Trail booklet](#)  

**Aberdeen Granite Trail**  
Aberdeen, also known as the Granite city has Granite buildings in abundance from the most majestic in style to the everyday tenement. Go on a journey through Aberdeen's granite history, from quarry to construction, showing many notable buildings and statues throughout the city centre. Long enough to fill your afternoon, the trail covers the area from Broad Street to Rosemount and guiding you past many magnificent buildings, such as Mariscal College and Archibald Simpson's Infirmary amongst many others.  
[Download the printable Granite Trail leaflet here](#)  

**Aberdeen March Stones**  
The March Stone Aberdeen trail, which tells the tale of how Aberdeen gained its city boundaries, takes you on a discovery of the two city boundaries - inner and outer. Whilst the inner boundary marks where the edge of the crofts circling the medieval Royal Burgh of Aberdeen reached, and the outer one marks the Freedom Lands (which later became the Royal Burgh of Aberdeen) and covers a much larger area.  
[Download and print the March Stones leaflet here](#)  

**Maritime Trail**  
Although Aberdeen's harbour is best known for its links with the offshore oil and gas industry today, the first written reference to shipping in Aberdeen dates from 1136, and Aberdeen's history is built upon this Maritime background.  
[Maritime Trail, Aberdeen](#)  

**Plaques - People and Places, Aberdeen**  
The people that have shaped Aberdeen, some making outstanding achievements in their field, and the streets, buildings or events of particular historical importance, are commemorated all around Aberdeen in a series of plaques. Trail followers can make their way around them in order or pick out those of particular interest to them from the alphabetical list.  
[People and Places, Aberdeen Trail Guide](#)
Old & New Aberdeen
Contrasting the old with the new is the order of the day. One of the most unique areas in Aberdeen is the hidden gem that makes up Old Aberdeen. From 1489 to 1891, it was a completely separate town from Aberdeen and, to this day, retains a wonderful sense of history.

Exploring Old & New Aberdeen Itinerary
Heritage Trail Old Aberdeen

Coastal Wildlife
Discover the abundance of wildlife that the area has to offer, visit one of Scotland's best-loved nature reserves, the ruins that are said to be the inspiration for Bram Stoker's Dracula, through some of the most beautiful scenery the North East of Scotland has to offer, and to an award-winning aquarium and lighthouse museum.

Coastal Wildlife guide.
Coastal Trail.

North Sea Trail
Part of a network of coastal paths in countries that border the North Sea, Aberdeen's section of the trail is around 20 kilometres, or 12 miles, long and takes up to 7 hours to walk. Suitable for a range of abilities, the network of paths explores Aberdeen's enduring relationship with the sea. An easy stroll from the city centre and easily accessible by short bus ride. One of the highlights is seeing the Common Seals sunbathing just up from the road bridge at the River Don. Another is the sight of a dolphin leaping near the mouth of the harbour.

North Sea Trail leaflet

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire prides itself on having an endless list of attractions and activities not only for visitors to the city but also to its residents. These are just a handful of the many attractions and activities that you can discover.

Activities and Attractions Guide
The ‘Granite City’, as it is often known, is arguably Scotland's forgotten city; the country's central belt stars of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Dundee attract the most visitors, but Aberdeen is an interesting and hugely enjoyable city.

A large student population helps the nightlife immeasurably, while the Aberdeenshire coastline is marked by some monumental golf courses. Royal Aberdeen, Murcar Links and Cruden Bay are names that should be enough to whet the appetite - these plus a few more lie in wait for a fantastic Aberdeen golf tour.

**Golf Nearby**

**NEWMACHER GOLF CLUB 4 MILES**

Newmachar is home to two 18-hole golf courses as well as a spacious driving range and a short-game practice area. Newmachar Golf Club is located on the outskirts of Aberdeen, only 5 miles from the international airport and the village of Dyce.

Phone: +44 1651 863 002

- Clubhouse and Golf Shop
- Clubhouse Restaurant
- Driving range and Putting green
- Swailend:
  18 holes, 6,388 yards. Par for course: 72
  Designed by Dave Thomas
- Hawkshill:
  18 holes, 6,730 yards. Par for course: 72
  Designed by Dave Thomas

**CRAIBSTONE GOLF CLUB 2.8 MILES**

Craibstone Golf Course is an 18-hole course on the edge of Aberdeen.

Phone: +44 1224 716 777

- Clubhouse and Golf Shop
- Clubhouse Restaurant
- Rentals and Lessons
- Driving range and Putting green
- Craibstone:
  18 holes, 5,808 yards. Par for course: 69

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MOXY ABERDEEN AIRPORT
Argyll way, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 0AF, Scotland
T: 01224 545095   w: moxyhotels.com
Family & Children's Activities

- **SATROSPHERE 6.6 MILES**
  - Phone: +44 01224 4640340
  - 179 Constitution St, Aberdeen AB24 5TU
  - A hands-on experience that makes science come alive.
  - [www.aberdeensciencecentre.org](http://www.aberdeensciencecentre.org)

- **LOCHTER OUTDOOR ACTIVITY CENTRE 18.4 MILES**
  - Phone: +44 01224 732941
  - Distance from the hotel: 15.6 miles
  - Old Meldrum, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 0DZ
  - [www.lochter.co.uk](http://www.lochter.co.uk)
  - Something for all the family including off road driving, clay pigeon shooting, Segway, archery, fishing, golf, raft building and many more.

- **STORYBOOK GLEN 12.3 MILES**
  - A magical world full of your favorite characters from nursery rhymes and fairytale
  - South Deeside Road, Aberdeen AB12 5FT
  - Phone: +44 01224 732941

- **CODONAS AMUSEMENT PARK – ABERDEEN BEACH**
  - Distance from the hotel: 7.1 miles
  - Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen AB24 5ED
  - Tel: 01224 595 910
  - [www.codonas.com](http://www.codonas.com)
  - Indoor and outdoor family entertainment complex
  - dodgems, motion rides, casino, bowling, golf, bar and restaurants

- **TRANSITION EXTREME**
  - A world-class extreme sports centre and award-winning social enterprise down at Aberdeen Beach, offering Climbing, Skate park and High Ropes Course all in one center!
  - +44 (0) 1224 626279
  - Transition Extreme Sports Ltd, Links Road, Aberdeen, AB24 5NN, Aberdeen City, UK
  - [www.transition-extreme.com](http://www.transition-extreme.com)
MOXY ABERDEEN AIRPORT
Argyll way, Dyce, Aberdeen, AB21 0AF, Scotland
T: 01224 545095  w: moxyhotels.com