

Castles and Gardens

Explore part of Aberdeenshire's famous castle trail in this 2-day itinerary.

Itinerary

For information, contact:

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Crathes Castle

Two Days

Length of trip



Two nights'

Overnight accommodation



Group & FIT friendly



Today's highlights

1 Dunnottar Castle

Explore the ruins of this impregnable fortress on the cliff top that overlooks the town of Stonehaven. Immerse yourself in the history of the castle and learn the stories of the prisoners and famous escapee, William Wallace.

 [Dunnottar Castle](#)



2 Crathes Castle

Enjoy a guided tour of this 16th century baronial castle and hear stories about the Burnett family who built and lived in the castle for over 350 years. Explore the 595-acre estate and enjoy the fairytale like turrets, gargoyles and landscape that makes this castle special.

 [Crathes Castle](#)



3 Drum Castle

Dating from the 13th century, Drum Castle is one of Scotland's oldest tower houses. You can experience over 700 years of history. The historic Garden of Roses, has an enormous array of rare and exotic roses and you can enjoy a guided tour with the head gardener.

 [Drum Castle](#)



Beauty Spots and Fun Facts



Falls of Feugh

Just a 10 minute drive from Crathes Castle, enjoy the majestic Falls of Feugh, where salmon leap upstream in the running waters of the River Dee.

DID YOU KNOW?

Mary Queen of Scots stayed at Dunnottar Castle twice and the Scottish Crown Jewels found safe haven there in the 17th-century War of Three Nations.

Dunnottar Castle and Craigievar Castle are both said to have inspired castles for Walt Disney movies.

Bennachie

On Day Two, the breathtaking range of hills will be visible from almost all of the attractions.

If you have time, walk to Mithertap and enjoy the views for miles around.

Today's highlights

1 Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming life

Tour this stunning 17th century walled garden which is split over three levels. The gardeners will teach you about the history of the plants and 200+ fruit trees. A chance to taste the local produce and enjoy the museum of farming life make for a unique experience.

[Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming life](#)



2 Fyvie Castle

This 800-year-old fortress is not only a fine example of Scottish Baronial Architecture but is also a great spot to learn about the future of sustainable gardening with hints and tips to make the most of a produce garden alongside a tour of the stunning castle.

[Fyvie Castle](#)



3 Castle Fraser, Garden and Estate

Unveil the secrets that the Fraser family kept hidden for over 400 years. This 15th century castle is full of quirky features such as trap doors and secret staircases. Venture to the top of the round tower for panoramic views of the stunning Aberdeenshire landscape.

[Castle Fraser, Garden and Estate](#)



4 Haddo House

Explore the terraced gardens and expansive grounds with an opportunity to spot wildlife in bird holes or on a woodland walk. Tour the historic house with an impressive art collection and hear about the rich history, with feminism, war and royal connections.

[Haddo House](#)



Accommodation options



Hotels

Douneside House 5-star country house with 13 bedrooms and a range of apartments and cottages. It is an ideal retreat for clients who appreciate fresh air and fine food.

Meldrum House Country Hotel & Golf Club 13th century manor house that prides itself on hospitality. Enjoy stunning views and unique dining experiences.

B&Bs

Leslie Castle Suitable for FIT and small groups up to 12, clients can enjoy a genuine castle experience in large ensuite bedrooms with stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

Aikenshill House Enjoy an award winning, premium B&B in the North-East. These modern properties are surrounded by highland coo's and just a stones throw away from Trump International Scotland.

Self Catering

Lickleyhead Castle Stay at this 16th century, traditional castle with 8 rooms sleeping up to 16 comfortably - can sleep 18. You can rent the castle self-catering or fully catered.

NTS castle properties The NTS castles such as Drum, Crathes and Fyvie all have self-catering accommodation in the castle grounds and can accommodate various sizes.