

Arts & Culture

3 Day Itinerary



Day 1

We'll start with a short drive over the Aberdeen bypass into the west of Aberdeen to visit the stunning [P&J Live](#) events venue. It is the largest event complex in the North of Scotland, boasting world-class conference and exhibition facilities for organisers and delegates across the globe, all sustainably powered by local, renewable energy sources. It's worth checking for upcoming events so you can take in a show while staying at Dalriada.

Then travel back into the city to the recently renovated [Aberdeen Art Gallery](#), which has sculptures, photographs and some fantastic pieces from Scottish artists as well as those of international acclaim.

There are also visiting exhibitions from time to time, not to mention collections of decorative arts, textiles and crafts. If you have time, be sure to visit the roof terrace where you'll get stunning views of the city.

You'll also get a real feel for the city by going on a street art walking tour to view the pieces that are left behind as a legacy of the award winning and internationally acclaimed [Nuart festival](#).

There are huge murals taking up vast swathes of wall as well as tiny installations that are less obvious – but finding them is so much fun! There are organised tours in the spring and summer, but you can guide yourself around the trail with a map that can be downloaded [here](#).

Aberdeen has some great film and theatre venues, and the jewel in the crown is the impressive [His Majesty's Theatre](#) in the city centre. It's worth checking with [Aberdeen Performing Arts](#) to see what shows are coming up at HMT and other venues across the city, and the historic venue also runs behind the scenes tours which give an insight into its history and day-to-day operations.



P&J Live



Nuart Aberdeen



His Majesty's Theatre



Day 2

Take a break from city life and head to the country – to Royal Deeside to be precise. And, for something a little different, head towards the [Fife Arms Hotel](#) in Braemar. You might wonder what a hotel has to offer an art lover, but step inside the doors and you will soon find out! More than 14,000 pieces including antiques and specially commissioned artworks have been arranged in every room, corridor, and corner of the luxury hotel.

In the reception you'll see a Steinway piano that was creatively reimagined by contemporary artist Mark Bradford, while Pablo Picasso's Mousquetaire Assis hangs in the drawing room.



The Fife Arms Hotel

Move onto Alford and you'll find the [Grampian Transport Museum](#) which boasts an impressive range of transport exhibits, from travelling chariots of the 1800's to some of the fastest cars ever made. Open April - October, there is something to do for all ages. Junior driving school has been a big hit with the youngster generation. There have a lovely tea room and a gift shop for some souvenirs.



Grampian Transport Museum

In this stunning part of the region you'll also find a number of small, independent galleries that are under the radar.

In Ballater, you'll find [Larks Gallery](#) - a collection of contemporary art, much of which is produced by locally based artists.

In Banchory, you'll find [Milton Art Gallery](#) which showcases a permanent, but changing, collection of original paintings, alongside an impressive range of sculpture, ceramics, jewellery, prints, bronzes and glass work.



Junior Driving School



Day 3

We're heading south to Dundee – a city that's fast becoming a cultural hub for Scotland. Also known as the City of Discovery, it is home to [V&A Dundee](#) – our nation's first design museum and a sister venture of the famous London institution. It's free to enter and has an extensive permanent collection as well as numerous touring exhibitions. The design of the waterfront building is well worth travelling for the photo opportunity alone!

[Dundee Contemporary Arts](#) visit brings together art and film under one roof. The city centre building has two galleries that always have something interesting to see – as well as a gallery focused on print, photography and digital work – and while the cinema programme has more of a nod to arthouse, you'll also find the occasional Hollywood blockbuster.

And no visit to Dundee would be complete without exploring its comic culture. Some of the world's most famous comic strip characters, including Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids and Desperate Dan were created in the city thanks to publisher DC Thomson. Head into the city centre and the aptly named Bash Lane to grab selfies with life-size sculptures of famous characters.

Driving back North towards Dalriada, experience the scenic coastal road A92 and stop at Arbroath. [Arbroath Heritage Trail](#) will take you on a 90 minute journey discovering the fascinating history of this coastal town. Taking in the famous 12th century [Abbey](#) and [Signal Tower Museum](#) which are located close to the harbour and the world's oldest working sea-washed lighthouse [Bell Rock](#).

