

# Aberdeenshire with NTS-LMC



Crathes Castle

## Arranged by Travel Editions Group Travel

**4 - 9 June 2025 – 6 days from \*£1,285pp**

This delightful tour offers a wonderful variety of sights in this beautiful area of Scotland. Starting with a one-night city stay in Aberdeen, we then move on to Inverurie for four nights. With castles, stately homes and gardens, plus an historic woolmill, museums, and a whisky tasting, this tour will give you a real flavour of Aberdeenshire.



Strathisla Distillery



Kings College Chapel, Aberdeen University

To book please call us on 020 7251 0045 (alternatively you can complete a booking form and return to us).

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

For further information please contact: Travel Editions Group Limited, 3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB on Tel: 020 7251 0045

\*Based on 20 passengers. Initial deposit of £250 due by 15th January 2025.





Fyvie Castle

## Itinerary

### Day 1 Arrival.

Arrive independently from 15.00 at Mercure Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen. This evening we will enjoy a welcome drink and dinner at the hotel.

### Day 2 Old Aberdeen and City Centre.

We spend today exploring Old Aberdeen, as the name suggests, one of the oldest parts of the city and a separate town from 1499 to 1891. The stunning architecture showcases a range of eras ranging from medieval to Georgian and Victorian buildings. We start our tour at Kings College Chapel, the oldest building of Kings College and the symbolic centre of the University of Aberdeen. After lunch (own expense) we visit Aberdeen Art Gallery which is home to one of the finest collections in Scotland spanning 700 years, and the Maritime Museum to follow the story of Aberdeen's maritime heritage. Later we drive to Thainstone House Hotel, a beautiful 18th century country house with rolling countryside views.

### Day 3 Fyvie Castle, Pitmedden Garden and ice cream.

This morning we drive to Mackies of Scotland and their farm in Westertown, where their famous dairy ice cream is made. Our tour includes a walk through the arboretum and the opportunity to buy an



Aberdeen Art Gallery

ice-cream, if it's not too early in the day for you! Next we visit the magnificent fortress of Fyvie Castle, with its Baronial architecture and Walled Garden. The fine collection is spread across five towers and includes antiquities, armour, and a stunning collection of art. This afternoon we visit Pitmedden Garden, a re-created Scottish Renaissance garden dating from 1685, with parterres edged by almost 6 miles of hedging and sculptures, flower borders, a herb garden and Museum of Farming Life.

### Day 4 Leith Hall, Knockando Woolmill and whisky tasting.

17th century Leith Hall was donated to the NTS by the Leith-Hay family who lived there from 1650 until just after World War II. Our guided tour this morning follows the family's changing taste over the centuries, including some quirky items, and a military exhibition. In the grounds, the Rock Garden is the Trust's highest altitude garden, at 600 feet above sea level, offering spectacular views. Next stop is Spey Valley and 230-year-old working woolmill Knockando. We wind the day up with a visit to the oldest distillery in Speyside, Strathisla Distillery with its beautiful riverside setting. Here we take a guided tour, finishing with whisky-tasting.

### Day 5 Crathes Castle and Stonehaven.

Alexander Burnett built Crathes Castle in the 16th century, a classic Scottish tower with an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and painted ceilings. The glorious gardens include a historic walled garden with yew hedges planted as early as 1702, and the recently-redesigned Rose Garden.

Our final visit is to the pretty harbour town of Stonehaven, busy with sailing boats. On the quayside, the Tolbooth Museum has a fascinating history as a former courthouse and jail. After passing the dramatic ruins of Dunnottar Castle, we return to the hotel for our final group dinner.

### Day 6 Departure.

Departure from the hotel with drop-offs at the airport and railway station for onward travel home.

**Please note:** Running order of visits may be subject to change.

## Where you stay

### Mercure Caledonian Hotel

Four-star Mercure Caledonian Hotel is centrally located in the heart of Aberdeen, close to St Mary's Cathedral and His Majesty's Theatre, and within a short walk of most of the main sights. The hotel has a cafe bar and restaurant, and comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities

### Thainstone House Hotel

Situated in over 40 acres of gardens and woodland, Thainstone House Hotel is an impressive 18th century building. Facilities include spa, fitness centre, swimming pool, bar and restaurant, plus spacious bedrooms with modern amenities.



Leith Hall

## Included in the price

- One night's accommodation on half board basis at the Mercure Caledonian Hotel, Aberdeen, based on shared occupancy of a twin/double room
- Four nights' accommodation on half board basis at the Thainstone House Hotel, Inverurie, based on shared occupancy of a twin/double room
- Coach for five days from Aberdeen and throughout the tour
- Full touring itinerary as detailed
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Tour manager throughout

## Not included

- Double for sole occupancy supplement £360
- Travel insurance
- Entrances not mentioned in the itinerary

