



GolfAberdeenshire Scotland



2018 Guide

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Trump International Golf Links, Scotland
Menie Estate, Balmedie, Aberdeenshire AB23 8YE

Golf season: April 1 to October 31, 2018



TRUMP
ABERDEEN
SCOTLAND

Paul Lawrie OBE,
Former Open champion and
Ryder Cup player.



Foreword

Welcome to the 2018 Guide

Aberdeen City and Shire has always been a great location for golfers. The region's connection with the game goes all the way back to the very roots of the sport, with records showing golf being played on Aberdeen Links during the 18th century.

It is great to see one of the sport's most prestigious championships being hosted in the north-east for the first time, with The Amateur Championship being played at Royal Aberdeen in June 2018. Having hosted the Scottish Open and Walker Cup superbly well a few years ago I am looking forward to such a wonderful venue holding what is such a historic competition. With The Open back on the east coast, just a few miles further south at Carnoustie, (another favourite venue of mine) then we look forward to welcoming even more visitors than ever before to the north-east.

The profile of this area amongst the wider golfing population across the globe

has really grown in the last few years. The hosting of tour events such as the Scottish Open and my own Match Play event at Murcar, as well as the arrival of the Trump International Golf Links course has really helped showcase what is on offer to visitors. Add to that a huge range of great courses set in one of the most beautiful parts of the world, and we have a lot to be proud of.

Regardless of where I am playing in the world, it is always such a great feeling to come back home to Aberdeen. I count myself lucky to live amongst one of the finest natural environments, with fantastic food such as Aberdeen Angus beef, fresh fish from Peterhead, Europe's biggest white fish port, or even a wee dram from one of the many malt whisky distilleries within easy reach of us.

Wherever you travel from, I am sure you will receive a very warm welcome in the north-east of Scotland. Please come, play some golf and experience the uniqueness that will make your visit to this part of the world truly unforgettable.



Golf Packages

Stay in our award-winning hotel and choose from a selection of golf packages.

- > **GOLFER'S GETAWAY** – £125 per person
One night B&B and one round of golf at our own exclusive 18-hole course.
- > **GOURMET GOLF** – £175 per person
One night dinner bed and breakfast including a bottle of house champagne in your room on arrival. One round of golf at our own exclusive 18-hole course.
- > **CLUB CLASS GOLF** – £395 per person
Two nights B&B & 3 rounds of golf one each at Meldrum House, Cruden Bay and Murcar Links.
* golf can be arranged at Trump International and Royal Aberdeen, subject to availability and supplements

NEW FOR 2018

- > **HEAD PRO NEIL MARR'S 3-DAY GOLF SCHOOLS** – from £330 per person
See website for full details.

Offers are made subject to availability and are based on 2 people sharing a twin or double room.
Ranked in the Top 100 Scottish Golf Courses by GolfWorld magazine.

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Contents

	Page
Foreword by Paul Lawrie.....	1
Pro Tip with Richie Ramsay.....	3
48 hours in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire.....	5
Central.....	6
Royal Deeside.....	7
Coastal.....	8
Country.....	9
Q&A with Greig Hutcheon.....	14
What to see and do.....	15
2018 Amateur Championship at Royal Aberdeen.....	18
Aboyne to Host R&A Event.....	21
Tour 18 North-east Style.....	23-26
Where to Play.....	30-31
Course Directory.....	32-39
And Finally... ..	44



Interview Page 14
Q&A with PGA Tour Pro,
Greig Hutcheon



Tour 18 Page 23 - 26
Favourite 18 holes in the area chosen by
local Golf Pros



**48 hours in Aberdeen
and Aberdeenshire** Page 5
Where to stay and places to eat

Images

Front cover

Top - Trump International

Middle - Royal Aberdeen

Bottom - Cruden Bay

This page

Top - 6th hole at Cruden Bay

One of the finest links courses anywhere



Founded in 1780 and 6th oldest club in the world
One of the world's top ranked pure links courses
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Hosts of the R&A Amateur Championship in June 2018
Visitors welcome by prior booking

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Pro tip with Richie Ramsay

Aberdonian Richie Ramsay plays on the PGA European Tour. He finished in the top 10 in the British Masters in 2017 and made history, when he became the first British golfer in more than a century to win the US Amateur Championship. Here's his top tip for getting the most out of your irons...

2017 was a very consistent year with my tee to green game high in the statistics. My iron play was especially strong and as a Tour Pro, I obviously practice with the irons a lot. When I am on the range I will play a game where I split my practice into balls of 10 then three 'free balls'.

I work on a technique with 10 balls then put it into game situation with the three balls after. Using the 'freeballs' I pick a target, get a shot and focus

on hitting that. For example, right side of the flag on a green with water right of the flag. I picture a small fade from the middle of the green just left of the flag.

This will make your practice worthwhile, enhance focus, shows strengths and weaknesses. To make it better, why not challenge a friend or try and join a league at a driving range. It is a simple concept and pays dividends in the long run. There's nothing to lose.

YOUR NEW 19TH

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You don't need a long drive to reach your new 19th hole. Malmaison is in the heart of Aberdeen, with an above par 79 rooms to choose from, complete with huge beds and power showers. The finest greens in Scotland served in our stylish Brasserie (accompanied by the juiciest steaks). Claret by the jug load. A relaxing spa to soothe away the memory of any nasty hooks and slices. Oh, and a whisky snug so you can spend quality time mastering your short game.

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48 Hours in Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

You've come to the ultimate home of golf where you can expect the very best. To make the most of your time on and off the greens, feast your eyes on our magnificent guide to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. We've got the best courses, the coolest hotels and fantastic food - Scottish fare doesn't get better than this.



Images
Top - Aberdeen skyline
Second top, right - The Marcliffe
Second top, left - Atholl Hotel
Third top, right - Chester Hotel
Bottom left - Banff and Buchan seafood
Bottom centre - Macdonald Norwood Hall

This is a small sample, for alternative eating places head to www.visitabdn.com

Aberdeen City

The historic game of golf is a Scottish invention and the good people of Aberdeen have been playing it, very successfully we might add, for hundreds of years. Aberdeen is home to the sixth oldest golf club in the world (Royal Aberdeen), and has played host to many great golfing tournaments. Take advantage of the fact that Aberdeen is only 60 miles from Carnoustie, host of The Open for 2018, and the perfect place to stay thanks to great road and rail links.

It's a vibrant, cosmopolitan city with a busy, historic harbour at its heart. People come from all over the world to soak up the city's architecture, museums, designer shops, restaurants and pubs, and you don't have to look far to find something to suit your taste. Here are some top picks for where to stay, play and eat in Aberdeen.

Stay

Malmaison Hotel is a vibrant gem amidst Scotland's Granite City. Just a stone's throw from the city centre, the hotel boasts 79 rooms and suites. Each with unique décor and fantastic facilities to accommodate your stay including a spa, sublime food and more.

The Marcliffe Hotel & Spa is a privately owned five-star luxury hotel. With 40 suites and picturesque grounds, it's the perfect accommodation to enjoy that little bit more of luxury close to the centre.

Moxy, Aberdeen is an eclectic, funky yet affordable boutique hotel. It's a brand that opened its very first UK hotel in Aberdeen before branching out across the UK and globally. Located at Aberdeen International Airport it's in a great location for many golf courses.

Macdonald Norwood Hall has welcoming log fires, wooded grounds and secluded gardens. It offers stunning views of the countryside from the comfort of their luxurious and peaceful guest rooms.

Skene House offers 189 apartments spread over three sites in the city centre. Their one, two and three-bedroom apartments come complete with lounge and fully equipped kitchen. 24-hour reception and concierge facilities can help assist with your golfing plan.



Eat

Coffee & bacon roll stop

Inversnecky Café is a bit of an institution in Aberdeen. It's been a mainstay along the beach front for many a year and serves a cracking coffee and bacon roll.

Foodstory Café is an independent coffee shop serving artisan coffees and mainly veggie food but alongside a great bacon roll.

Foodie stop

Atholl Hotel has an extensive menu with something to suit everyone, including a selection of vegetarian dishes, lighter and healthier options and daily specials.

Chester Hotel on Queen's Road is a 19th century listed building with chic design and award-winning chef. Vibrant, fine-dining with a theatre kitchen and some of the best food on offer.

Dunavon House Hotel features local produce in their daily mouth-watering dishes. Great steaks, a range of burgers, fish and much more. Winner of North-east Bar Food Award 2017 and Lamb Chef of the Year.

Moonfish Café is in the Merchant Quarter of Aberdeen and has a former Professional Masterchef finalist, Brian McLeish producing its stunning food. It's a cosy, chic bistro offering stylish, modern, eclectic cuisine made with local produce and a great gin list.

Courses

• Auchmill • Balnagask • Craibstone • Deeside, Blairs • Deeside, Haughton • Hazlehead Pines • Hazlehead, 9 Hole
• King's Links • MacKenzie Championship • Murcar Links • Paul Lawrie • Royal Aberdeen • Trump International • Westhill

Images: Top - Moonfish Café Middle - Malmaison Hotel

Royal Deeside

Where in Scotland can you have dinner in a restaurant owned by Prince Charles, the eldest child of Queen Elizabeth and heir to the British throne? The Duke of Rothesay recently opened his restaurant in Royal Deeside, and it's already been tipped for a Michelin star. The area is renowned for its iconic castles, stately homes and historic ruins, and the Queen's holiday home at Balmoral has been a residence here for our royal family since 1852.

There are many wonderful places to eat, stay and drink around Royal Deeside and south of Aberdeen, with a myriad of golf courses located alongside the majestic river Dee which flows through beautiful Highland scenery. You don't have to venture too far from the city to enjoy views, star quality golf courses and top-notch Scottish hospitality.

Stay

Tor-na-coille is a privately-owned country house hotel in the village of Banchory. Recently refurbished it's set in the ideal location for several golf courses in the area.

Maryculter House Hotel is steeped in history dating back to the Order of the Knights Templar. With original features, it sits on the banks of the River Dee overlooking Peterculter golf course.

Dalriada Lodges recently launched five-star self-catering lodges in a spectacular setting next to Stonehaven Golf Club, with views out to sea. A south-facing deck is the perfect spot for watching some spectacular sunrises and sunsets.

Eat

Coffee & bacon roll stop

Black Faced Sheep Coffee Shop & Restaurant in Aboyne is a hidden gem. One street back from the main road, make the stop for some great homemade soups, breads, platters and cakes.

Foodie stop

Banchory Lodge is a hotel with an award-winning restaurant in the most stunning location on the banks of the River Dee. It's got a laid-back feel and gorgeous interiors with views to die for. A speciality is its sharing platters and some of the best steaks around.



Prince Charles's own restaurant, **The Rothesay Rooms** only opened in 2016. Tipped for a Michelin Star, this is fine dining in the heart of Ballater.

The Boat Inn, Aboyne has a great reputation and is now serving hearty cooked breakfasts as well as soups, scones and homebaked pies to eat in or take away.



Courses

• Aboyne • Auchenblae • Ballater • Balmoral • Banchory • Braemar • Inchmarlo
• Lumphanan • Peterculter • Portlethen • Stonehaven • Tarland • Torphins

Coastal

Venture outwards to the stunning coast of Aberdeenshire to discover a plethora of Scotland's best golf courses set between golden sandy beaches and craggy cliffs. It's a golfing paradise where you can test yourself on some of the best links courses in the country. There are plenty of spectacular sights too, with magnificent castles, grand country houses and historic harbours. One course, Duff House Royal, even boasts glimpses of the Moray Firth with its famous dolphins. The Banffshire coast is described by National Geographic as one of the world's outstanding coastlines.

The area offers a tantalising array of eateries, with tasty treats from the land and sea. Bacon rolls, Cullen Skink and Sunday roasts are served in toasty coffee shops, country inns and seafront cafes. Sometimes you just can't beat good old-fashioned fish 'n' chips, especially after a windswept day on a golf course beside the sea.

Stay

Buchan Braes Hotel is Peterhead's only four star hotel. It boasts 44 luxurious bedrooms and three suites. It's also famed for its great food and is the ideal place to stay when visiting the area.

Saplinbrae House Hotel resonates with history and charm, with quirks and local art decorated within the hotel. The nine bedrooms and self-catering lodges are ideal for that group golfing getaway.



Eat

Coffee & bacon roll stop

Formartine's in Ellon is the perfect stop for breakfast and a coffee. It features a food hall with local produce from its estate as well as gifts and art.

Seafront Coffee Shop in Macduff is down by the harbour and the perfect stop for a bacon roll.

Foodie stop

Cock and Bull picked up the 2017 Regional Award for Best Informal Eating Experience and also features in the Michelin Pub Guide. There's a choice of places to eat inside including a great conservatory where there is always a buzz.

Kilmarnock Arms Hotel is situated in the village of Cruden Bay. It's the perfect base for a golf stop offering the finest Scottish cuisine using fresh local ingredients.

Rockpool Café in Cullen, has a real fresh, contemporary and sea-side feel. Everything is served in a unique and quirky style, which adds to the experience. They offer a wide selection of food from breakfasts, soups, trademark Cullen Skink, lunches, children's meals and a wide selection of delicious home bakes.



Courses

• Cruden Bay, Main • Cruden Bay, St Olaf • Cullen Bay • Duff House Royal • Fraserburgh
• Inverallochy • Newburgh-On-Ythan • Peterhead • Rosehearty • Stonehaven

Country

Home to some of the world's top golfing venues, the landscape of Scotland is hard to beat. In the heart of Aberdeenshire, Inverurie is a great centre for hunting, shooting and fishing. The town is surrounded by rolling countryside and features its very own rocky mountain to climb, the beautiful Bennachie standing at 528 metres high.

Many of Scotland's most famous products are made in this lovely part of the world, such as shortbread and tartan, and the whisky trail is the ultimate Scotch experience. There are at least eight distilleries in Aberdeenshire producing the 'water of life', and the hit 2017 movie Whisky Galore, a remake of the 1949 Ealing Comedy, was filmed on location in the region. If you're looking for delicious Scottish fare served up by a 'Kilted Chef', you're in the right place.



Stay

Meldrum House Country Hotel & Golf Club is an award-winning four star hotel with an 18-hole private members' golf course open to hotel residents. Set in 240 acres of glorious Aberdeenshire countryside, they have 51 bedrooms offering luxury accommodation and food. With a world-class golfing academy, this is the perfect golfing retreat.

Pittodrie House Hotel is perfect for country adventures - roam the marvellous Aberdeenshire landscapes and marvel in the glorious scenery. With a fantastic two AA Rosette rated Mither Tap Restaurant, where you'll find the finest of fare in a remarkable Scottish countryside setting.

Eat

Coffee & bacon roll stop

Deans of Huntly Bistro is famous for their shortbread but don't rule them out as the perfect place for a cup of tea in their large spacious restaurant.

Forest Café at The Treehouse in Midmar is a wonderful home store with a really great café serving breakfast daily from 10am.

Foodie stop

Fife Arms, Turriff can be found in the square in the centre of the village. A gorgeous modern contemporary restaurant using great local food producers and an outdoor eating space in the summer.

Eat on the Green is a former post office in the small country village of Udny, offering refined modern Scottish cuisine. Opened by 'The Kilted Chef' Craig Wilson in 2004, it has secured numerous accolades for it's a high quality fine-dining and has welcomed many celebrities and high-profile dignitaries.

Fennel Restaurant in Inverurie is a licensed bar and restaurant serving light lunches as well as a full evening à la carte dinner with some fabulous local Donald Russell steaks. The main first floor restaurant is upstairs with a gallery space downstairs, with its leather sofas, coffee tables and informal seating.



Courses

• Alford • Huntly • Inch • Inverurie • Kemnay • Kintore • Longside
• McDonald Ellon • Meldrum House • Newmachar • Oldmeldrum • Royal Tarlair • Turriff



THE
MARCLIFFE
HOTEL, SPA AND RESTAURANT

2018

Dear Golfer

As a fellow golfer of over fifty years, having been a member of Royal Aberdeen for forty four years, Cruden Bay for forty eight years as well as several other Clubs, I am delighted you have chosen to stay at my hotel in Aberdeen. Among our first class facilities we are proud to bring to your attention our wonderful Golfing Memorabilia/Pool Room situated in the basement of the hotel. We also boast a treatment Spa, offering a range of massages and our Golfers Hydrotherapy Bath. Our gym is located on the ground floor next to the Spa.

We are obviously a golfers hotel as you will see over 60 Graham Baxter artists proofs of the World Golf Courses on our corridor walls.

A very slick artificial grass putting green is located at the front of the hotel. Take your drinks out there before Dinner!

For Scottish Beef (aged a minimum of 35 days) and cut to suit, any weight, along with fish, lobster and seafood, you need go no further than the Conservatory Restaurant with an extensive wine list of over 400 bins, including a page dedicated to wines produced by golfers for golfers, plus over 100 Single Malt Whiskies. Copies of our menus are in your room and on our website.

We have drying facilities for your golf gear and a chauffeur driven limousine service is available for hire at short notice, should you want to sample some of Scotland's spectacular scenery, history and distilleries, golfers rates on request.

This was the host hotel for the 2 teams in the 2011 Walker Cup; Speith, Cantlay, English, Henley and Uihlein from the US. We were also the host hotel for the British Senior Open in 2005 and 2014 for the Scottish Open at Royal Aberdeen. Nicklaus, Watson, Player, O'Meara, Poulter, Jiménez, Mickelson, Fowler and many others have all stayed with us over the years.

If I have one piece of advice for you when you are tackling the great links courses of the North East, it would be "keep it slow and low"!

Best Wishes,

J. Stewart Spence

J. Stewart Spence MBE (Handicap 8)

Club champion Royal Aberdeen 1989
Member of Royal Aberdeen Golf Club, Cruden Bay Golf Club, Deeside Golf Club and Ballater Golf Club
Honorary Life Member of Trump International
Owner, The Marcliffe Hotel, Restaurant & Spa



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Whatever your reasons for visiting the North East of Scotland, Buchan Braes Hotel makes the perfect place for a leisurely or business stay.

Modern. Stylish. Relaxing. 4-star AA rated, Buchan Braes Hotel is also ideal as a meeting or conference venue or as a modern banqueting suite for your ultimate wedding day.

Or you may simply want to dine in our AA Rosette Grill Room serving seasonal local produce cooked and presented by our award winning chefs.

The hotel offers a choice of 44 luxurious bedrooms and 3 suites with free WiFi throughout.

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Bringing Luxury to the Buchan Coast



Q&A

with

Greig Hutcheon

Aberdonian Greig Hutcheon sealed the winning point for the GB & Ireland team against the US in the PGA Cup last year at Foxhills Club. Six-times winner of the Tartan Tour Order of Merit title and twice winner of the Northern Open and the Scottish PGA Championship, we find out more about the player in our Q&A...



What was it like to sink the winning putt at the PGA Cup?

Absolutely incredible. Best moment of my career and I will treasure it forever.

Did you know the significance of the putt before you played it?

Yes, I had a feeling as the crowds had grown and the Captain and Vice Captain of both teams had started to follow my match.

When did you start playing golf and who introduced you to the game?

I started playing golf when I was six or seven years old with the local golf pro at Banchory Golf Club - Douglas Smart.

Favourite club in your bag and why?

My putter because it is the scoring club. In a round of golf you can hit lots of great shots but if the putter doesn't work, you won't score well.

How do you prepare for a round?

I normally have a one hour warm up session before I play. I start with chipping and wedging, working through mid and long irons to then finally hitting woods. Then I work back down through the bag finishing with putting before I go to the first tee.

Do you set goals for the season?

Yes, always, although very rarely will the goals be – "I want to win this or that". My goals will be to achieve specific targets within the game of golf i.e. to putt better or drive the ball straighter, concentrating on fundamentals will hopefully bring results.

Who is your golfing hero?

Ben Hogan.

What's the funniest thing that has ever happened to you in a golf round?

My caddy walked off the course half way through a round while I was having a particularly bad hole and losing my temper. I had to caddy for myself for the remainder of the game. When I came off at the 18th hole my caddy informed me he needed a lift home and there was a bill for me to square up at the bar.

After a game of golf, what do you do to relax?

Relaxation time for me after a round of golf is a nice meal and a few drinks with family or friends.

Do you play any other sport and how good are you?

I have good hand to eye co-ordination so I can play a few sports pretty reasonably.

What course in the world is on your bucket list that you haven't played yet?

Pebble Beach.

Dream Foursome?

Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

Favourite course to play in Aberdeen City and Shire and why?

Royal Aberdeen. It's a great old fashioned links and I made the cut here in The Scottish Open.

Best piece of advice anyone gave you?

It's never over until the ball is in the hole at the 18th.

Rapid fire

- 1 Hitting a long drive or sinking a long putt? **Long putt**
- 2 Around the green – in the sand or in the rough? **Rough**
- 3 Favourite golfer from Justin Rose, Andrew Johnston (Beef) or Rory McIlroy? **Rose**
- 4 Lay up or gamble? **Gamble**
- 5 After a game – steak or fish and chips? **Steak**



What to see and do

Balmoral Castle

Ballater

www.visitabdn.com/listing/balmoral-castle

Balmoral Castle has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family since it was purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852, having been first leased in 1848.

Enjoy access to the formal and vegetable gardens, the wildlife, Balmoral and audio visual exhibitions together with the largest room in the Castle, the Ballroom. Please note that all other rooms within the Castle are not available to the public as these are Her Majesty The Queen's private rooms.

It is recommended that you set aside at least one and a half hours for your visit to Balmoral. This will give you time to visit the grounds, gardens, exhibitions, gift shop and the coffee shop.

Glen Garioch Distillery

Oldmeldrum AB51 OES

www.visitabdn.com/what-to-do/whisky/world-famous-distilleries/view/glen-garioch-distillery

A magical place to be. It's true what they say - you can never fully enjoy a dram of Glen Garioch until you have seen how and where it's made.

One of the oldest operating distilleries in Scotland - and its most easterly - Glen Garioch (pronounced Geery in the ancient Doric dialect still spoken in these parts) has been making its mighty malt in the quaint and historic market town of Oldmeldrum, near Aberdeen in North-east Scotland, ever since 1797.

Discover The Legends of The Garioch, an inspirational half day experience that focuses on their unique location, eventful past and the legends who helped influence Glen Garioch as it is today.

Balmedie Country Park

Balmedie, AB23 8YG

www.visitabdn.com/listing/balmedie-country-park

This Park has a long stretch of beautiful sandy beach behind which are sand dunes, great and small, to explore. A total of 1700 metres of boardwalk assist visitor access through the dunes. At the back of the beach is a substantial area of sand dunes, where the principal vegetation is marram grass, but also contains a range of other plants at home in this type of environment. On the landward side of the dunes is an area of stable grassland, where the car parks and picnic benches are situated.

Aberdeen Maritime Museum

Aberdeen, AB11 5BY

www.visitabdn.com/what-to-do/museums-and-galleries/view/aberdeen-maritime-museum

Aberdeen Maritime Museum tells the story of the city's long relationship with the sea. This award-winning museum is located on the historic Shiprow and incorporates Provost Ross's House, which was built in 1593. The Maritime Museum houses a unique collection covering shipbuilding, fast sailing ships, fishing and port history. It is also the only place in the UK where you can see displays on the North Sea oil and gas industry. Aberdeen Maritime Museum offers visitors a spectacular viewpoint over the busy harbour.



Union Square

Aberdeen, AB11 5RG

www.visitabdn.com/what-to-do/aberdeen/shopping/view/union-square

Union Square brings stylish shopping to the heart of the city with fabulous fashion and lifestyle stores to explore including Apple, Marks & Spencer, Joules, BOSS, Zara, Hollister and MAC. There's plenty of choice at Union Square with a fabulous selection of vibrant cafés, restaurants and places to grab a snack. And if you love film, you'll love Aberdeen's largest cinema - our 10-screen Cineworld, on the upper mall.

DogWalk Brewery Tours

Ellon, AB41 8BX

www.visitabdn.com/what-to-do/food-drink/experiences/view/dogwalk-brewery-tours
Book at: www.dogwalk.acuityscheduling.com

BrewDog's brand new brewery tour with a chance to see BrewDog from the inside out. Wander through the company's headquarters, their new 30,000 litre brewhouse, the incredible Lone Wolf Distillery, their 'old' 10,000 litre brewhouse & the mesmerizing packaging lines. Of course, drinking delicious BrewDog beer along the way.

Tours are £15/person and depart at 4 pm or 6 pm Monday thru Friday and at 12 pm, 2 pm & 4 pm Saturday and Sunday.

For more information go to www.visitabdn.com

Images

Top - Balmoral Castle

Bottom - Glen Garioch



Saplinbrae offers the best of relaxed country hospitality in a lovely location. Enjoy great food, our fantastic wine list, walks around the lake and some wonderful golf!

45 minutes from Aberdeen airport, 30 minutes to Cruden Bay and just a stone's throw from our local courses of Fraserburgh and Peterhead

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www.saplinbrae.co.uk



THERE'S A LOT GOING ON
AT LOCHTER...

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Lochter Activity Centre is only 30 minutes from Aberdeen City Centre and 15 minutes from Aberdeen Airport.

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The Modern Art of Traditional

The Atholl Hotel is the perfect place to stay and enjoy classic Scottish cuisine during your stay in the North East. Only five minutes from the city centre, plenty of parking and easy access to many of the area's best golf courses. With 34 bedrms, all en-suite, this Visit Scotland 4-star hotel offers the choice of two functions sits, complimentary Wi-Fi access and a delicious new seasonal menu.



54 Kings Gate, Aberdeen | Tel: 01224 323505 | www.atholl-aberdeen.co.uk | email: info@atholl-aberdeen.co.uk

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SCOTLAND

Our experience makes yours

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2018 Amateur Championship at Royal Aberdeen

For the first time in its long history one of golf's most prestigious tournaments is coming to the North-east in 2018. The Amateur Championship is being played at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club on June 18th to the 23rd, with neighbouring Murcar Golf Club also featuring in the qualifying rounds.

Ronnie MacAskill, Director of Golf at Royal Aberdeen Golf Club says "We are thrilled to be hosting such an important competition. With the world's leading amateur golfers playing and the winner qualifying for The Masters in Augusta it is a big event. We hope that the region comes out in numbers and supports the Championship."

Amongst the list of past champions are 2017 Masters winner Sergio Garcia and 2013 PGA Champion Matteo Manassero. The 2017 36-hole final at St Georges Meon Valley coming back from four holes down with five to play to win against Australia's Dylan Perry.



The Championship was first contested in 1885 and it is fitting that it is to be played on the Balgownie links. Royal Aberdeen were one of 24 clubs to subscribe towards the cost of the trophy in its first year 143 years ago.

Ronnie continues "We are proud of the fact that Royal Aberdeen is the sixth oldest club in the world. Going back to 1780, the club has always encouraged the best players and the best events to come to Aberdeen. In the 19th century we hosted challenge matches with the likes of Old Tom Morris and Willie Park and then exhibition matches in the early part of the 20th century with golfing legends such as Walter Hagen and Densmore Shute".

The Balgownie course has received glowing praise in the last few years, appearing high in the rankings of the various golf media lists of top UK and World courses. It hosted a highly successful Scottish Open

in 2014, won by Justin Rose, following a memorable Walker Cup hosted in 2011.

Ronnie says "Although immensely proud of our heritage we remain committed to continuously developing the course, keeping it up to date with the modern game. Much of the credit for the magnificent course condition belongs to Robert Paterson, one of the best links course managers in the world. Having served his time in Dornoch, his arrival here has brought the course truly to the forefront as one of the worlds' top golfing venues. The Club in recent years has also employed one of the best 'links' architects in Dr Martin Hawtree to re-work several holes, as part of a programme of developing new green complexes. The course is an important part of the overall golf offer in the North-east. The region is now on a par with some of the more well known golfing areas in the country."



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Aboyne to host prestigious R&A Coronation Foursomes

In August, Aboyne Golf Club is set to host the R&A Area Finals of the 2018 Coronation Foursomes.

Established in 1953, the Coronation Foursomes is the leading event for women's club golfers in Great Britain and Ireland. Some 25,500 lady golfers entered the competition last year from almost 1,250 clubs. Following a series of local qualifiers, it is anticipated up to 100 pairs will descend on Aboyne, Royal Deeside from all over Scotland for the Area Final competition on 2nd August 2018. They will compete in 18 holes of Foursomes Stableford with the winning pair progressing through to the Grand Final at St Andrews in September.



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Tour 18 North-East Style

Tour 18 in Houston is renowned for replicating holes from some of the greatest golf courses in America and putting them together on one course. So, here is our version of Tour 18 but for Aberdeenshire. Picked by Golf Pros from around the region, where they choose their favourite hole on any course but not their own.

Read on and find some of the best golfing holes in the area...

1 2nd at Braemar Golf Club – 369 yds. Par 4 Chosen by Gary Forbes, PGA Golf Professional at Murcar Links Golf Club

With the tee shot running parallel to the River Clunie tight on the right, it is a bit intimidating. Even after hitting the fairway, the second is to an elevated green 40 to 50 feet up. There is nothing but the green to stop the ball as everything falls off front, side, and back to the slopes that drop below.

www.braemargolfclub.co.uk

2 7th at Duff House Royal – 451 yds. Par 4 Chosen by Greg McBain, Head PGA Professional at Newmachar Golf Club

A fantastic par 4 that requires a great drive and an even better second shot. One of the toughest in the North-east.

www.duffhouseroyal.com



3 5th at Murcar Links Golf Club – 176 yds. Par 3 Chosen by Lee Vannet, Professional Craibstone Golf Club

This is a classic Par 3. Beautifully designed with nowhere to miss, you just have to hit the green. From the back tee it plays anywhere from an 8 iron to a 3 iron depending on the conditions. It is guarded on the right by a natural mound with fabulous greenside bunkers. If you tug your tee shot left, your ball will fall 30 feet down the gully and a difficult pitch lays ahead. Hit the green and walk off with a par.

www.murcarlinks.com

Images Top - 2nd green at Braemar, Bottom - Duff House Royal



4 12th at Banchory Golf Club – 183 yds. Par 3
Chosen by Greig Hutcheon, PGA Professional at Paul Lawrie Golf Centre, Inchmarlo

The first hole I'd choose is the 12th at Banchory a great par 3 185 yards, heavily guarded in an alcove of trees, plus a sloping green with a burn running completely across the front of the green!

www.banchorygolfclub.co.uk

5 2nd at Duff House Royal – 451 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Neil Marr, Head Golf Professional, Meldrum House Golf Club

The 7th is a great hole with a lot of trouble down the left in the form of the Deveron river. I have taught many players from Duff House who fear this tee shot. I like the challenge of getting the ball on the fairway for the second shot as it makes the 2nd shot a bit easier than playing it from a bailed out shot to the 15th fairway! The green itself is a typical Alister MacKenzie raised green. Very difficult to try and hit with a long second. Really challenging.

www.duffhouseroyal.com

6 10th at Newmachar Golf Club – 356 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Michele Thomson, Ladies European Tour Professional at Meldrum Golf Club

Testing hole, risk and reward, water front of green. Very Tricky.

www.newmachargolfclub.co.uk

7 5th at Cruden Bay Golf Club – 463 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Andrew Hooper, PGA Professional at Newburgh-on-Ythan

The views from the elevated tee are spectacular and it's an inviting drive. Longer hitters will have to be accurate as the fairway pinches in around the 250-yard mark. From a good drive, a long second shot will still be required to a semi-blind green protected by some nasty pot bunkers. A fall off area to the left of the green, and banks of thick grass await. The very long green has a steep fall into its narrow back portion, which makes a back-hole location particularly tough.

www.crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk

8 7th at Stonehaven Golf Club – 159 yds. Par 3
Chosen by David Ross, Head Professional at Royal Aberdeen

A short hole by today's standards but that does not detract. You are exposed to the wind and elements of the North-east. So make sure you don't under club or your ball will likely meet a prickly end as it tries to reach the green which is over a large gully covered in gorse. A teeing area with views of the North Sea and Dunnottar Castle in the distance is situated next to where the original clubhouse was built. It requires the golfer to think carefully about club selection. The green is a small target surrounded by four bunkers but if a well struck shot gets there then a putt for birdie is often rewarded.

www.stonehavengolfclub.com

9 8th at Royal Aberdeen – 147 yds. Par 3
Chosen by Jonas Hedburg, PGA Golf Operations Manager at Trump International

A fantastic links-style short par 3. The bunkers are the obvious hazard. However, the wind factor can play mind games. The previous 6 holes are played in the opposite direction, and into a prevailing westerly. Club and shot selection will test all your skills.

www.royalaberdeengolf.com



Images

Top - 8th green at Royal Aberdeen, Bottom - Cruden Bay



10 18th at Trump International – 586 yds. Par 5
Chosen by Neil Murray, PGA Professional at Cruden Bay Golf Club

It's a stunning finishing hole. One that makes you think about your shots all the way down to the green to avoid the many bunkers that are on the way.

www.trumpgolfscotland.com

11 2nd at Newmachar Golf Club – 543 yds. Par 5
Chosen by Chris Robb, Tour Professional at Meldrum House Golf Club

Really nice par 5 that requires a good drive to be in position to go for the green in two. Tree lined the whole way which provides lovely definition to the hole. It's a good distance so it's reachable for the longer hitter if they get a good drive away but the green is no hand out with bunkers protecting it.

www.newmachargolfclub.co.uk

12 7th at Fraserburgh Golf Club – 165 yds. Par 3
Chosen by Greig Hutcheon, PGA Professional at Paul Lawrie Golf Centre, Inchmarlo

Only 145 yards but guarded by two pot bunkers and a sloping green. Playing from an elevated tee it's a bonnie wee par 3 if you hit the green!

www.fraserburghgolfclub.org



13 13th at Cullen Bay Golf Course – 152 yds. Par3
Chosen by Gavin Still, Assistant Professional at Duff House Royal

You must hit a blind shot, so you need to use your imagination which I find enjoyable. The green slopes back to front but the way you hit it is on its side. It's a fun challenge. Imagination can come in handy.

www.cullenlinksgolf.co.uk

Images

Top - 13th at Cullen

Bottom - 7th green at Fraserburgh



14 9th hole at Fraserburgh GC – 458 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Jonas Hedberg, Golf Operations Manager, Trump International Golf Links

A strong tight par 4 played into a prevailing wind from an elevated tee with great views of the sea. To stand a realistic chance of achieving a par on this hole, an accurate and long drive is required. This hole demands excellent ball striking skills.

www.fraserburghgolfclub.org

15 7th at Deeside Golf Course – 443 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Paul Girvan, Director of Golf/PGA Professional at The Kings Links Golf Centre

A truly challenging left to right dog-leg with a large 2 tier green. At just under 500 yds, this par 4 hole is a real test to the players long game. With the prevailing wind into the players face, most members walk off this hole quite happy when signing for a bogey 5.

www.deesidegolfclub.com

16 12th at Newmachar Golf Club – 425 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Jonas Hedberg, PGA Golf Operations Manager at Trump International

Scottish inland golf at its best. A deceptively difficult and beautiful tree lined hole. A premium on both distance and accuracy. However, positioning on the fairway off the tee is a must. The green is protected by two bunkers. If you are short there is a run off area to the right.

www.newmachargolfclub.co.uk

17 17th at Royal Aberdeen – 175 yds. Par 3
Chosen by Greg McBain, Head PGA Professional at Newmachar Golf Club

Very demanding Par 3 that you can hit nearly every club in your bag to. Walk off with a 3 and run to the next tee.

www.royalaberdeengolf.com



18 15th at Aboyne Golf Club – 339 yds. Par 4
Chosen by Gary Forbes, PGA Golf Professional at Murcar Links Golf Club

A relatively new hole on the golf course set in the trees. A dog-leg round a pond to the right requires a pin point position tee shot with an iron or a hybrid. You need to be firing uphill to the green where there are more trees surrounding to the left and a steep bank behind to the right. It's a hole with a nice setting. Short in length but if your concentration isn't correct you can get into a little trouble. Not a long hole but a favourite.

www.aboynegolfclub.co.uk

Images

Top - 15th hole at Aboyne, Bottom - 17th green at Royal Aberdeen



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Aboyne has won many plaudits as one of the best manicured, varied and challenging inland courses in Scotland always maintained in pristine condition. The ultimate course of two halves, parkland and heathland, it challenges golfers of all abilities particularly the back nine featuring the unique 'Rigg & Furrows' topography based on historic medieval farmland. Surrounded by heather capped mountains and sprawling pine forests, Aboyne is a captivating setting renowned as one of the most beautiful golfing venues in Scotland.

Full Pro shop, practice facilities, and bar and restaurant with panoramic views from the clubhouse. The warmest of welcomes awaits the golfing visitor.

Chosen by the R&A to host the LGU Coronation Foursomes Finals in 2018. Host of ScottishGolf Junior Open Qualifier 2017. Proud host of 2016 Scottish Women's County Finals.

Holes: 18 Par: 68 SSS: 69 Length: 6,003 yards (5,489m) Architect: Archie Simpson



BALLATER

Ballater Golf Club nestles in one of the most beautiful parts of Royal Deeside.

Lying in a circle of hills, and with several holes close to the River Dee, the course offers a round with glorious views.

Telephone: 013397 55567
 email: sec@ballatergolfclub.co.uk
 Facebook: [/ballatergolfclub](https://www.facebook.com/ballatergolfclub)
 PGA Professional - Bill Yule 013397 55658

www.ballatergolfclub.co.uk

Founded in 1892 as a nine-hole golf course, it was extended to 18 holes in 1905. To celebrate the course's extension and the creation of a new pavilion, a match was staged the following year between well known golfers James Braid and Harry Vardon.

A mixture of parkland and heathland. Ballater is a slightly undulating, medium length course. The ancient river terraces give the course a distinctive style and make for interesting play. For sheer scenic splendour the 414-yard, par 4, 11th hole takes some beating.

Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 69 Length: 6,059 yards (5,540m)

Architect: Local designers with input from Dr. Alistair MacKenzie





BRAEMAR

Situated at the foot of the majestic Grampian Mountains, 1,200 feet above sea level, Braemar Golf Club has the distinction of being the highest 18-hole golf course in Britain.

Telephone: 01339 741618
 email: info@braemargolfclub.co.uk
 Facebook: @BraemarGolfClub
 Twitter: @BraemarGolfClub
www.braemargolfclub.co.uk

Split in two by the River Clunie, this par 65, 4,935-yard course is tough for length as water plays a large part in 12 of the 18 holes.

The second hole is the signature hole. At 369 yards it sounds short, but the fairway lies between heavy rough and the River Clunie. The second shot is to a large elevated green making the hole play much longer than it looks. Despite its altitude the greens are of a high standard and the course is very popular with holidaymakers and golfing societies.



Holes: 18 Par: 65 SSS: 64 Length: 4,935 yards (4,512m)
Architect: Bob Mearns



CRUDEN BAY

Originally designed by Old Tom Morris with help from Archie Simpson, Cruden Bay is a classic Scottish links course. Opened in 1899, its 18 holes are set against a backdrop of towering sand dunes and dramatic views of the North Sea.

www.crudenbaygolfclub.co.uk

Cruden Bay creates unique challenges demanding the skills of power, placement and fine judgement of the discerning golfer. This championship course makes a big impression and its 6,287 yards have attracted golfers from across the world who have been keen to take on the challenge of one of the world's top 100 courses.

It is one of Scotland's hidden gems, where every hole provides a test and its difficult not to completely enjoy a round of golf.



Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 72 Length: 6,287 yards (5,727m)
Architects: Old Tom Morris and Archie Simpson
1926 redesign by Tom Simpson and Herbert Fowler



FRASERBURGH

Founded in 1777, Fraserburgh Golf Club is one of the oldest clubs in the world. Redesigned in the 1920's by five-time Open Champion James Braid, Fraserburgh's 18-hole Corbie Course is an unspoilt, traditional Scottish links course.

www.fraserburghgolfclub.org

Set against the backdrop of the shimmering North Sea and substantial sand dunes that create an invigorating atmosphere reminiscent of how golf must have been more than a century ago, the 6,308-yard offers visitors a genuine slice of real Scottish golf history.

Wildly undulating fairways, sand hills, unpredictable winds, wonderful views and some truly spectacular holes make Fraserburgh a true adventure from the start to finish. In addition, the club also boasts the nine-hole Rosehill Course which is a splendid addition to its bigger links brother.

Corbie: Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 71 Length: 6,308 yards (5,768m)
Architect: James Braid



INSCH

The game of golf in Insch was first recorded before World War I, with the course being laid around Dunnydeer Hill. It was then moved to its present location around 1923.

Telephone: 01464 820363
 email: administrator@inschgolfclub.co.uk
 Facebook: /IGCInsch
 Twitter: @inschgolfclub
www.inschgolfclub.co.uk

Located in the heart of rural Aberdeenshire, nestling between the distinctive peaks of Bennachie and Dunnydeer, Insch is a parkland course requiring accurate approach play and testing putts on large undulating greens.

The course at present measures 5,371 yards with a par of 69 (SSS 67) and has matured to provide a very good test for all classes of golfers.

The modern clubhouse at Insch is probably the most friendly you will come across in the North-east. Built in 2003 it offers changing facilities and administration offices on the lower floor and a cosy bar, dining facilities and entertainment area upstairs.

The large floor to ceiling windows provide an unrivalled panorama across the old course and up to Dunnydeer. The view at sunset is stunning.

Holes: 18 Par: 69 SSS: 67 Length: 5,371 yards (4,911m)





INVERURIE

The Royal Burgh of Inverurie nestles in the heart of rural Aberdeenshire. It lives up to its motto: "Urbs in Rure" - Town in the Country.

Inverurie Golf Club
 Davah Wood, Inverurie AB51 5JB
 Telephone: 01467 624080
 email: admin@inveruriegolfclub.co.uk
www.inveruriegolfclub.co.uk

Inverurie Golf Club is a friendly members club. The clubhouse is attractively designed on two levels with a very pleasant outdoor veranda overlooking the first and eighteenth holes. We extend a warm welcome to visitors, corporate events and golf outings for whom a rewarding golfing experience and day-out is on offer.



The course, 5676 yards, par 69, features an initial gently undulating opening nine holes followed by a more testing and tight finish with broom, gorse and tree-lined mature woodland.

Holes: 18 Par: 69 SSS: 68 Length: 5,676 yards (5,190m)



MURCAR LINKS

Playing Murcar Links is a truly memorable and rewarding experience where each hole offers its own challenge.

Telephone: 01224 704354
 email: golf@murcarlinks.com
 Facebook: /MurcarLinks
 Twitter: @MurcarLinksGolf

www.murcarlinks.com

Murcar Links has undergone alterations over the years, which has stretched the layout to 6516 yards. Originally designed by Archie Simpson and revised by James Braid, it is located on a classic stretch of links land with massive sand dunes, undulating fairways, and is covered in whins and heather with some magnificent views across the North Sea.



There can be some wicked bounces off the crumpled fairways and there are burns and the odd blind shot to contend with. The signature hole is considered to be the seventh – a 423 yard par four which is ominously called Serpentine. From a high tee, the drive is over a twisting burn with a ravine on the right and heavy rough on the left with towering dunes everywhere.

Holes: 18 Par: 71 SSS: 73 Length: 6,516 yards (5,958m)
Architects: Archie Simpson, redesigned by James Braid



NEWBURGH-ON-YTHAN

Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club was founded in 1888 on the Udney links and is set against a dramatic backdrop of the Ythan Estuary, the North Sea and the ever-changing dunes of the Forvie National Nature Reserve. It is situated midway between Trump International Links and Cruden Bay Golf Club.

www.newburghgolfclub.co.uk

The course has enormous variety with every hole presenting a different challenge and great fun to play. The course was ranked as the number 32 fun course in Great Britain and Ireland by Golf World Magazine in 2013. A true hidden gem.

Welcoming to visitors, tee times are available throughout the week including Saturday mornings. The Club has a modern and spacious Clubhouse where a warm welcome awaits and golfers can relax and enjoy the spectacular views.



Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 72 Length: 6,423 yards (5,870m)

Architect: James McAndrew



NEWMACHAR

Located in rolling countryside on the outskirts of Aberdeen. Newmachar Golf Club is home to two exceptional 18-hole courses. Both courses were designed by Dave Thomas, with Hawkshill opening in 1990 and Swailend following seven years later.

www.newmachargolfclub.co.uk

Despite its youth, Hawkshill looks and feels more mature than its age suggests, mainly due to the stately pine and birch trees flanking the fairways. With clever bunkering and water hazards coming into play in no fewer than seven of the holes, this is one of the area's toughest tracks.

Swailend is not as mentally challenging as its older brother, but its subtle contours, well positioned bunkers and testing greens present every standard of golfer with a challenge which should not be underestimated.

Although challenging, Newmachar provides two memorable golfing experiences.

Hawkshill: Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 74 Length: 6,717 yards (6,143m) Architect: Dave Thomas

Swailend: Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 71 Length: 6,323 yards (5,783m) Architect: Dave Thomas





PETERCULTER

Founded in 1989, Peterculter Golf Club is situated on the banks of the River Dee in some of the most beautiful scenery in Aberdeenshire.

Peterculter Golf Club,
Burnside Road, Peterculter,
Aberdeen AB14 0LN
Pro Shop: 01224 734994

www.petercultergolfclub.co.uk

Often referred to as the hidden gem on Royal Deeside, the 18 hole course is spread over several terraces and follows the natural contours of the river bank offering a fair test to all golfers. Over the years the course has matured very well and is kept in immaculate condition all year round, receiving praise from members and visitors alike. Players can't fail to be inspired during their round by the panoramic views of the Dee valley with the imposing Grampian Mountains in the distance.

Another attractive feature at Peterculter is the cosy Clubhouse where you will always find a warm welcome, especially for visitors. Come along and try it, you will not be disappointed.

Holes: 18 Par: 71 SSS: 70 Length: 6,226 yards (5,693)

Architect: Eddy Lappin



PETERHEAD

Set in the breathtaking dunes of the North East of Scotland, Peterhead is the 18th oldest golf club in the world and certainly one of the best.

Telephone: 01779 472149
email: enquiries@peterheadgolfclub.co.uk
Facebook: [/peterheadgolfclub](https://www.facebook.com/peterheadgolfclub)
Twitter: [@PeterheadGolf](https://twitter.com/PeterheadGolf)

www.peterheadgolfclub.co.uk

Among the dunes and across the Craigewan Links the course is a classic example of Scottish seaside golf at it's best - and the toughest!

Peterhead Golf Club was established in 1841. The current 18 hole layout "Craigewan Links" began as a 9 hole course in 1892, designed by Willie Park Jnr a dual winner of the Open Championship and was extended to 18 holes in 1908. A second 18 hole course was established in 1923, however today it exists as a nine hole course, appropriately named the "New Course".

Take the opportunity to come and play the course and enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere of the club. Groups and Societies welcome. Full catering and bar facilities for visitors. Advanced bookings required for large groups.

Holes: 18 Par: 70 SSS: 71 Length: 6,147 yards (5,621m)

Architect: Willie Park Jnr





PORTLETHEN

Portlethen Golf Club is conveniently situated on the A90 only 6 miles south of Aberdeen City Centre making it an ideal location for golfers travelling to or from the City from the South.

Telephone: 01224 781090

email: admin@portlethengolfclub.com

Facebook: /portlethengolfclub

PGA Professional - Stuart Wilson 01224 781571

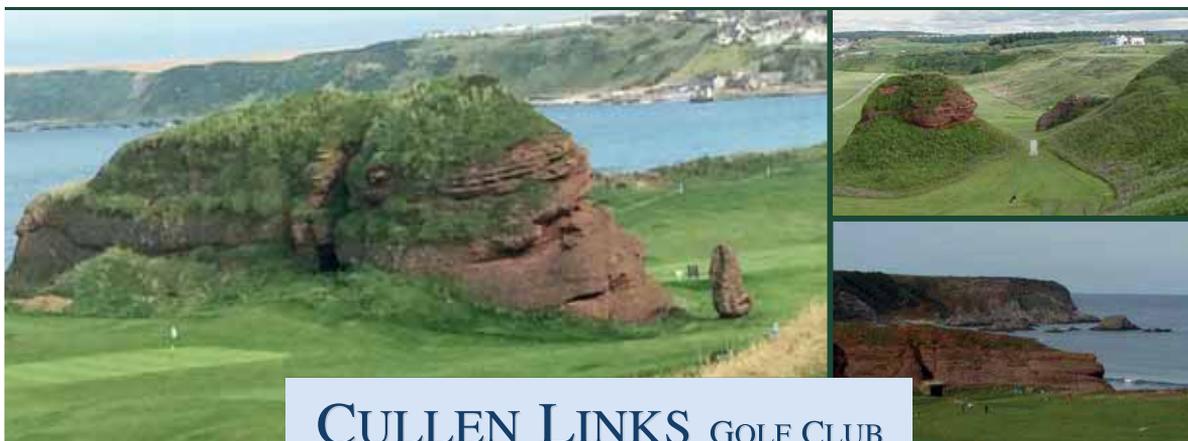
www.portlethengolfclub.com

Maturing into one of the more popular parkland courses in the North East of Scotland having been blessed with natural features, the principal being the Findon burn which, lined with mature broadleaf trees, crosses five of the holes on the first nine influencing either tee or approach shots.

As well as hosting the Scottish Under-16 Boys Stroke-play Championship in 2013 the course has been chosen to host many local Golfing events including the 72 hole North-East Open and offers players the option of a gentle, but still testing, 5,757 yard, Par 70, SSS 68 course or for those who prefer a greater challenge play from our white tees lengthens the course to 6,449 yards, Par 72, SSS 71.

Holes: 18 Par: 72 SSS: 71 Length: 6,449 yards (5,897m)

Architect: Donald Steel



CULLEN LINKS GOLF CLUB

Old Tom Morris design with sea views.

Cullen Links lies midway between Aberdeen and Inverness on the Moray Firth coastal route.

The present course is more than 100 years old with the same turf and soil of the classic links courses of the North East of Scotland. One of only 246 true links courses in the world. Cullen Links has the status of being the shortest of these. Nothing short about the holes themselves. A course that has more par threes than fours but every hole the same challenge and quality of the nearby championship links. Three hours of golfing history complemented by stunning rock features. Hotel overlooks the golf course and the Moray Firth.

Holes 18 Par 63. SSS 62 Length 4623 yards

Cullen Golf Club, The Links, The Royal Burgh Of Cullen, Moray, AB56 4WB Telephone: +44 (0) 1542 840685

E-mail: info@cullenlinksgolf.co.uk | www.cullenlinksgolf.co.uk

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And finally...

Things you may not know about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire

1. Braemar Golf Course is the highest in the UK at 339 m above sea level. The village of Braemar also holds the record for the lowest recorded temperature in the UK at -27.2 C on 10 January 1982.
2. Aberdeenshire hosts two of the 10 oldest golf clubs and has five in the top 100 golf courses in the UK.
3. On the western edge of Aberdeenshire in the Cairngorms is the Lairig Ghru – a deep mountain glen enclosed on both sides by four of the five highest mountains in the UK.
4. You get an extra one hour and 17 minutes of daylight in Aberdeenshire versus London in mid-summer.
5. Aberdeen has won the Britain in Bloom competition a record-breaking ten times and has hosted the Aberdeen International Youth Festival since 1973.
6. Aberdeen has far milder winter temperatures than one might expect for its northern location.
7. Five of Scotland's top 10 businesses are based in Aberdeen with a collective turnover of £14billion, yielding a profit in excess of £2.4billion.
8. The UK's longest direct rail journey runs from Penzance to Aberdeen, leaving Penzance at 08:28 and taking 13 hours and 27 minutes.
9. There are over 30 places named Aberdeen throughout the world.
10. Aberdeen Harbour Board, established in 1136, is Britain's oldest business.
11. With over 300 castles, stately homes and ruins dotting its landscape, Aberdeenshire is unsurprisingly known as 'Scotland's Castle Country.' Home to Europe's largest castle trail, there are more castles per acre here than anywhere else in the UK.
12. BrewDog was founded in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire in 2007 by James Watt and Martin Dickie and boasts 45 bars, UK and Internationally along with global beer sales.



Paul Lawrie

image courtesy of the R&A

Born or raised in Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire

13. Henry Cecil, one of the most successful horse trainers of all time, was born in Aberdeenshire.
14. Denis Law, former football player, played for Manchester City, Manchester United and the Scottish national football team, joint all-time record Scotland goalscorer with thirty goals.
15. Paul Lawrie, golfer and winner of The Open Championship in 1999, was born and still lives in Aberdeen.
16. Annie Lennox, musician, winner of eight Brit Awards, grew up in Ellon.
17. Dame Evelyn Glennie DBE, virtuoso percussionist, was born in 1965 and raised in Ellon, Aberdeenshire.
18. Lord Byron, poet, was raised (age two to 10) in Aberdeen.
19. Emilie Sandie, singer/songwriter, was raised in the village of Alford Aberdeenshire.

For further information please visit www.golfaberdeen.com



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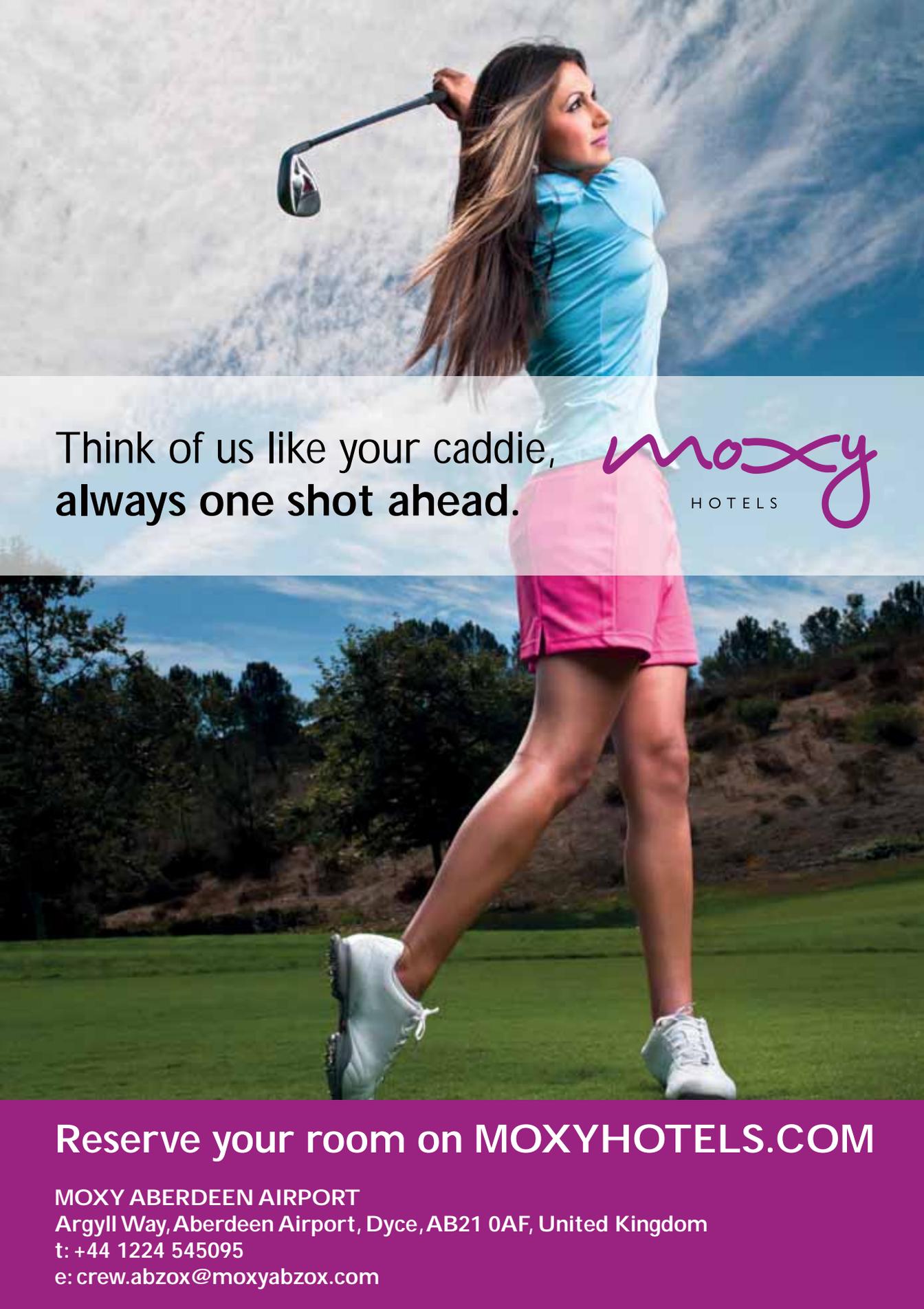
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