



## Portsoy and Cullen Marine Itinerary

For a truly unique insight into what life was like for fishermen in days gone by, the [Salmon Bothy at Portsoy](#) is unmissable. The museum, which examines the town's links to salmon fishing, is accredited by Museums and Galleries Scotland and is housed within the old ice chambers of the bothy. The upstairs of the building, where salmon nets were once repaired, is an excellent arts venue, and there is also an on-site genealogy centre in what was once the bothy's sleeping quarters. An idyllic beach is just a short walk from the museum and the high ground above it provides an excellent look out for activity on the water.

Before leaving [Portsoy](#), stop off for a snack at one of the local hotels or cafes, but leave enough room for one of the town's most famous products - the award-winning Portsoy Ice Cream - you could spend a considerable amount of time debating which flavour to try!

Another excellent vantage point for viewing dolphins is at Findlater Castle, a few miles west of Portsoy and close to the town of [Cullen](#). You can enjoy uninterrupted views of the sea from the ruins of this once great castle, but please take care when walking in the area as what remains of the building is in a dangerous state.

If you have a head for heights, then the way-marked walk and cycle path on the historic [Cullen Railway Viaduct](#) will appeal to your sense of adventure. The impressive viaducts, which run through the middle of the town, were built because the Countess of Seafield refused to let the railway line cut through her land. The Grade-B listed structures have become a defining feature of Cullen and you simply cannot visit without enjoying the view from the top.

You will be able to see the Three Kings Rocks, and once you have come back down from the path you can get a closer look by heading down to the beach. Legend has it that three kings – a Scot, a Dane and a Norwegian - were buried underneath each of the three rocks following the Battle of the Bauds in 962 AD. The beautiful stretch of golden sand is one of the best beaches in the area and the bathing water here is recognised as being of the highest standard in Europe. Besides the viaducts, the rock stack is one of the most photographed features of Cullen, its natural form in complete contrast to the man-made structure.



There is a collection of rock pools around the Three Kings Rocks just waiting to be explored, along with others at the western end of the beach. If you have walked along the bay then you may be ready for a drink. Quench your thirst at Jenny's Well – a natural spring where you can sip cold, clear water.

Heading back east and through the historic Seatown area with its colourful traditional houses, take in the sights of Cullen Harbour. It has been used by fishermen for 500 years, although small creel boats and pleasure craft now take the place of commercial vessels. The small harbour was built between 1817 and 1819 by William Minto, to a design by the celebrated Scottish engineer and architect Thomas Telford.

Round off your visit to the town by tasting the famous Cullen Ice Cream and sampling a bowl of Cullen Skink – a world famous soup of smoked haddock, potatoes, onions and milk which was first created here.