



The Historic Banffshire Coast Itinerary

An itinerary which will take you closer to the history of the Banffshire Coast.

1. Turriff

In the High Street you will find **The Auld Post Office Museum and Session Cottage Museums**. The museum houses Town Council memorabilia, artefacts relating to the famous Turra Coo (Turriff cow), old Turriff photographs and temporary exhibitions. The robes and regalia of Turriff Town Council, which was disbanded in 1975, are also on display. The Session Cottage is a charming 18th century 'but and ben', reflecting life of 100 years ago. Turriff and District Heritage Society was formed in 1979 and cares for the two museums.

2. Delgatie Castle

Head to **Delgatie Castle** between Turriff and Banff which was most recently the home of the late Captain Hay of Delgatie, Feudal Baron. The castle has been in the Hay family for much of the last 650 years, having been taken from the Earl of Buchan after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, when Robert the Bruce routed the invading English Army. Mary Queen of Scots stayed at the Castle for three days after the Battle of Cirrchie in 1562, and the bedchamber she used is on view to visitors. One of the highlights of the castle is the Laird's Kitchen – the tearoom famed for its homemade soup, sandwiches, cakes and scones.

3. Banff

Travel north from Turriff to **Banff** (11 miles). Your first stop in Banff should be the magnificent **Duff House** which is a treasure house of art and is a cultural arts centre. Duff House was designed by William Adam and built between 1735 and 1740 as the seat of the Duffs, who became the Earls of Fife. There have been an astonishing variety of occupants and visitors to the House over the two and a half centuries since it was built. There were the Duffs themselves, an ambitious family who acquired great wealth, power and status but were seldom lucky in love. One unhappy Countess of Fife even attempted to murder her husband there. Another Duke married a daughter of King Edward VII. An army of servants kept the house and policies running smoothly, but in the twentieth century Duff House became, in turn, a palm court hotel, a sanatorium and even a prisoner of war camp. Duff House was re-opened as a country house gallery after extensive restoration in 1995. It is operated by a unique partnership of Historic Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council.

In the High Street, you will find **Banff Museum** is one of Scotland's oldest, founded in 1828. See a full-size copy of the Deskford Carnyx, a unique 2000 year-old boar's head war trumpet, as well as award-winning natural history displays, local geology, and nationally-important collections of Banff silver, arms and armour and astronomy.

4. Portsoy

Go eight miles west on the main coast road to **Portsoy** to the **Portsoy Salmon Bothy** which was purpose built in 1834. The three storey building is unique, and provided an office, an ice house, a fish preparation area, workshop and storage accommodation for the local salmon netting industry. The stake-net salmon fishing began at a station near to the mouth of the nearby Burn of Boyne as early as 1828. Bag-net fishing was also carried out. Abundant supplies of ice were obtained originally from Loch Soy and the mill pond, and brought in by horse and cart. Visit the Bothy website www.salmonbothy.org.uk to see what activities are on during your stay.

5. Fordyce

Not far from Portsoy (2.5 miles) is the beautiful tiny village of **Fordyce**, with the **Joiner's Workshop** and associated visitor centre. Discover the importance of the rural carpenter to the local community in the days before mass produced goods, with displays of early tools and audio-visual presentation. Watch the resident craftsman working in wood, relax in a Victorian style garden and see the early workshop machinery.

Then take a stroll to visit the old **Fordyce Church** which was dedicated to the man who was made first bishop of the area in the late 500s. His name is variously spelled as St Talarican, St Talorgan or St Tarquin, but whatever the spelling of his name, he was a native Pictish Saint who apparently established an early church here. His memory is preserved both in the dedication of the church and in the name of St Tarquin's Well, a healing well whose traces can still be seen beside a nearby burn. It is said that after his death, St Talarican's Day was celebrated here on 30th October each year.

6. Sandend

Head back to the coast, to lovely little **Sandend** (less than two miles) at the end of a beautiful sandy cove. Between Sandend and Cullen are the ruins of **Findlater Castle**, perched precariously on an outcrop of rock. There has been some form of fortification on the site since at least the 13th century, but the surviving buildings probably date from the late 14th century, when the castle was owned by the Sinclairs, or possibly from the mid 15th century when it passed to the Ogilvies. In 1546 Sir Alexander Ogilvie disinherited his son and signed the property over to Sir John Gordon, son of the Earl of Huntly. James Ogilvie, the disinherited son, was keen to get his lands back and used his influence as Stewart to Queen Mary's household to try and settle the matter. When, in 1562, Sir John Gordon refused to surrender the castle and grant entrance to Mary, Queen of Scots, she sent a company of troops to seize it. They were defeated by Sir John Gordon, but in turn, he was defeated at the Battle of Corrichie, and taken to Aberdeen where he was beheaded. The castle was returned to the Ogilvies, but they abandoned it soon after 1600 when they moved to a new home in Cullen.

7. Cullen

West of Sandend (3.2 miles) lies Cullen. Here you can visit the **Cullen Old Kirk** which dates from the 14th century, and incorporates earlier work, probably of the 12th century. The internal organs of Scottish Queen, Elizabeth de Burgh, were buried here in 1327. Later additions to the kirk were St. Anne's aisle, the present south transept, built in 1536, and the Seafield loft, an imposing example of a Laird's gallery, built in 1602. The church features a beautiful sacrament house in the north wall and an ornate monument, dated 1554, to Alexander Ogilvie of that ilk, who in 1543 raised the church to collegiate status.

For Opening Hours please check before travelling

Auld Post Office and Session Cottage: Visit website www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/museums for current opening hours

Delgatie Castle: Daily from 10am – 5pm

Duff House: Apr – Oct: 11am – 5pm daily, Nov – Mar: Thursday – Sunday: 11am – 4pm

Banff Museum: Jun – Sept: Mon – Fri: 10am - 12.30pm. Sat: 10-3pm. October-May: Saturday: 10.30am – 1pm.

Portsoy Salmon Bothy: Summer: Mon – Fri (exc Tue): 2pm- 4pm, Saturday and Sunday : 1.30pm – 4pm. Winter: Saturday and Sunday: - 2-4pm;

Fordyce Joiner's Workshop: May – October: Thur – Mon: 10am – 8pm, November – April : Fri – Mon: 1pm – 6pm

Cullen Old Kirk: June – September: Tues and Fri: 2pm – 4pm