

## IFTA Tour Information

We want to share a few details with you about your upcoming tour(s) in Aberdeen. We are delighted that you've chosen to join us, and we hope you enjoy your day with us. Please keep this information with you to remind you of the itineraries and schedules.

### GENERAL

- ✓ Scotland at any time of year can have varied weather; please ensure you have appropriate clothing such as waterproof/resistant jackets, several light layers of clothing is best and sturdy footwear. The average temperature in March is 10 degrees Celsius or 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- ✓ We have three guides who will be facilitating the tours to ensure you'll be able to ask all the questions you have and receive the personal attention you deserve.  
Our guides are:

Ross



Jacqueline



Lia



- ✓ Timekeeping. All our tours have a tight schedule and especially with larger groups it is important we are mindful of this. Please be on time for your collection in the morning and when returning to the meeting points/bus. We will endeavour to keep on time as much as possible and failure to do so may result in missing the tour or incurring additional costs.
- ✓ Meeting points. We will be collecting from two locations in Aberdeen for the Sunday through Tuesday tours and various locations on the Wednesday. Please check each day for pick up location.

The primary locations are:

- Doubletree by Hilton, **Aberdeen Beach Boulevard**, AB24 5EF. (Please note there are two Doubletree hotels in Aberdeen!)
- Holiday Inn / Holiday Inn Express at the Aberdeen Exhibition & Conference Centre, AB23 8BL.



- ✓ Most places, taxis & busses will accept payment by card, however for some purchases it is worth having a small amount of cash. (GBP Sterling)
- ✓ To get to your pickup points, you can use taxi services, buses or walk. The hotels in which you are staying will be happy to call a taxi for you. Here are some useful numbers to have: Aberdeen Taxi, +44 (0)1224 200200, ComCab, +44 (0)1224 353535, Rainbow City Taxi, +44 (0)1224 878787. The bus service through the city is regular and the best way to search how to get from A to B is to use Google Maps -transport feature on your smartphone.
- ✓ Please do share your photos with us on our social media by tagging @grampianescapes  

## DAILY TOUR INFORMATION

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of March – South Aberdeenshire Coast Tour

Depart	Arrive
09:00 Holiday Inn @AECC	09:15 Doubletree Hotel (Beach)
09:25 Doubletree Hotel	10:00 Stonehaven
10:30 Stonehaven – Harbour & Old Town	10:45 Dunnottar Castle
12:00 Dunnottar Castle	12:20 Quayside Restaurant - Lunch
13:30 Gourdon	14:00 Doubletree
14:15 Doubletree	14:30 Holiday Inn @ AECC

- ✓ Lunch will be provided by the Quayside Restaurant and is included in your tour. The Quayside is based in the fishing village of Gourdon and the restaurant has panoramic windows over the small harbour and the North Sea. You will have a choice of the following:
  - The British Classic: fish and chips with mushy peas
  - Scampi and chips with garden peas
  - Macaroni cheese with garlic bread
 You will be asked to pre-order in the morning and will include choice of soft drink, tea or coffee.
- ✓ The entry to Dunnottar Castle is £7.00 per adult and can be paid in cash or by card. There are a lot of stairs to the castle and limited facilities on site. Restrooms are in the castle or in nearby Stonehaven.

### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> of March – V&A Museum and RSS Discovery Tour

Depart	Arrive
09:15 Holiday Inn @ AECC	09:30 Doubletree Hotel (Beach)
09:35 Doubletree Hotel	11:00 RSS Discovery Museum
12:15 RSS Discovery Museum	12:30 Lunch
13:45 Lunch	14:00 V&A Museum
14:45 V&A Museum	16:15 Aberdeen Doubletree (Beach)
16:25 Doubletree	16:40 Holiday Inn @ AECC



- ✓ Entry to RSS Discover Museum is £11.25 Adult, £8.75 Seniors. Explore the exhibits and learn about the voyages of Captain Scott and crew on their travels to the Antarctic but be sure to leave plenty of time to visit the vessel in drydock next to the museum!
- ✓ Lunch is free time – there are several good cafés in Dundee City centre and Ross & Jacqueline will be happy to show you where is best.
- ✓ The V&A Museum is free to visit as is the Scottish Design Exhibition.

### Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of March – Loch Ness Cruise & Urquhart Castle

Depart	Arrive
07:15 Doubletree Hotel (Beach)	07:30 Holiday Inn @ AECC
07:45 Holiday Inn	10:45 Clansman Harbour, Inverness
13:10 Clansman Harbour, Inverness	13:30 Kingsmills Hotel for lunch
14:15 Kingsmills hotel	14:30 Culloden Battle field
15:30 Culloden Battle Field	18:00 Holiday Inn @ AECC
18:15 Holiday Inn	18:30 Doubletree Hotel

- ✓ This is a very long day, so please be sure to have a good night sleep. 😊 This tour is a full day and parts of our schedule are very busy so please be aware of time. **This day especially, we can't wait for anyone running late. The cruise will not wait for us so on time departure is essential!**
- ✓ Lunch will be at the Kingsmills Hotel and will be included as part of your tour. The Kingsmill Hotel is a 4-star hotel which is proud of serving locally sourced food and using the best produce available in the Highlands. Lunch will be a buffet of soup, sandwiches (including vegetarian options) and fresh sausage rolls served with coffee and/or tea and shortbread. **If you have specific dietary requirements, please let us know in advance so we can liaise with the restaurants.**
- ✓ The Cruise & visit to Urquhart Castle will need to be pre-booked. If you haven't already done so, please don't wait. What you need to know:
  - The link below is to website on which you book your cruise and castle tickets.
  - Date 26<sup>th</sup> of March, the **11:00** sailing Freedom Tour (2 hours)
  - Please bring a print copy of your booking on the day.<https://www.jacobite.co.uk/tours>
- ✓ The visit to Culloden Battlefield is part of the National Trust for Scotland as will cost £11.00 for adult and £9.50 for seniors.

### Wednesday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March – Aberdeen City Walk & Afternoon Tea

Time	Activity
10:00	Aberdeen Maritime Museum on Shiprow. Find out about the maritime history of Aberdeen, the fishing past and Oil & Gas of recent years.
11:00	Walking tour of Aberdeen with Lia.
12:45	Time for Afternoon Tea at the Carmelite and rest your feet.

- ✓ This tour will start with a visit to the Maritime Museum: this will be your meeting point. The Museum is in the city centre, near to the Harbour on Shiprow. (AB11 5BY) Entry to the museum is free but donations are gratefully accepted.
- ✓ Lia will take you on your walking tour of Aberdeen city and share stories of people who contributed to the history of the city as well as some unknown facts and highlights.



- ✓ Please be sure to bring outdoor clothing and comfortable shoes as you'll be walking for approximately 1 ¾ hours on your tour.
- ✓ You'll end your tour with an Afternoon Tea at the Carmelite Hotel in the city's Merchant Quarter. You'll enjoy a lunch with selection of scones, sandwiches and lovely cakes with a steaming up of tea or coffee. You'll need it after your walk.

### Glen Garioch Distillery & BrewDog Tours

Depart	Arrive
13:30 Carmelite Hotel – City Centre (AB11 6JU)	14:30 Glen Garioch Distillery – Master's of Malt Tour
16:15 Glen Garioch	16:45 Brewdog HQ – Dogwalk Brewery Tour
18:30 Brewdog HQ	18:35 DogTap
19:30 DogTap	20:00 Carmelite Hotel – City Centre

- ✓ We will be departing from the Carmelite Hotel, in the city centre. Be sure to have a hearty lunch before this tour as there are several tastings this afternoon!
- ✓ Glen Garioch Master's of Malt tour is £17.50. You'll experience a tour of the distillery and sample three of their small batch whiskies.
- ✓ The DogWalk Brewery Tour shares the story of BrewDog and its history from small Craft Brewery to worldwide success. The DogWalk is £15.00 and has four samples at the end of the tour.
- ✓ **Please note:** participants in the Brewery Tour you must wear closed-toed shoes and no high heels, sandals are allowed. Participants on this tour must be over the age of 18.

### South Aberdeenshire Coast Tour

Depart	Arrive
09:30 Aberdeen Maritime Museum	10:00 Stonehaven
10:30 Stonehaven – Harbour & Old Town	10:45 Dunnottar Castle
12:00 Dunnottar Castle	12:15 Stonehaven - Lunch
13:30 Stonehaven	14:00 Maritime Museum

- ✓ The entre to Dunnottar Castle is £7.00 per adult and can be paid in cash or by card. There are a lot of stairs to the castle and limited facilities on site. Restrooms are in the castle or in nearby Stonehaven.
- ✓ Lunch is free time – there are several good cafés in Stonehaven and Ross will be happy to show you where is best. Great options are The Bay Fish & Chips and next door at Auntie Betty's you can get a fabulous homemade ice cream! Just beware of the Seagulls!

We are looking forward to meeting everyone in a few weeks' time, have a safe journey to Aberdeen and if you have any questions please feel free to ask.