

A Summary Guide to Visitor Attractions in the Highlands

This is a work in progress but here are just a few visitors attractions to keep you busy and a good website to visit is www.undiscoverscotland.co.uk. These are just visiting tips, there are lots more places to see, empty beaches to enjoy, walks to explore and stunning scenery to view. If you are in doubt if an attraction is open ask reception to look at the website for you. Have a fantastic stay in Inverness and enjoy the Scottish Highlands.

1. **Loch Ness – Top of the list** it has to be a visit to see **Nessie, Loch Ness** and **Urquart Castle**
2. **Jacobite Cruises** – The finest way to see Loch Ness, nothing compares to a luxury cruise with the Jacobite Experience – for the splendour of summer or crispness of winter (Warm drinks and a cabin is provided!) www.jacobite.co.uk
3. **Caladonian Canal & the village of Fort Augustus** – the William Telford an Engineered Canal stretching 60 miles of which 22 miles are man made. Definitely worth a visit!
4. **Baxters Highland Village at Fochabers** – Tour round the Baxters Centre and view the presentation then enjoy a coffee and the gift shop sampling some of the finest Baxters Products. www.baxters.co.uk
5. **Glen Ord Distillery, Black Isle** – A fantastic distillery founded in 1838, with tours, Exhibition and Shop, it is in easy driving distance. Guided tours and special tasting tours are available. (Ask at reception for opening times as it varies throughout the year)
6. **Black Isle Brewery** – Opened in 1998 to offer the very best in Scottish Organic Beers. The Black Isle has long been known for its excellent malting barley. The aim of the brewery is to build on this heritage and produce world-class beers using organically produced barley and hops. www.blackislebrewery.com Again times of opening vary depending on time of year.
7. **Highland Wineries at Moniack Castle** – 16TH Century Castle producing a wide range of country wine, liqueurs, jams, jellies and sauces. Visit for a tour, tasting and talk. (Near Beaulieu) www.moniackcastle.co.uk
8. **The Priory in Beaulieu** – The ruins lie at the east end of the main square of Beaulieu. It was one of three priories founded in Scotland by monks of the Valliscaulian order in the years following 1230. Worth a visit, keys often held at Priory Hotel. www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/beaulieu/beaulieupriory
9. **House of Beaulieu** – For Highland style, produce, gifts or a rest break stop off at the House of Beaulieu
10. **Inverness City Centre** – Whether it is for shopping or for visiting the castle, museum or taking a walk round the gardens, its well worth investigating.
11. **Bogbain Family Farm** – A fantastic attraction for all ages including very big kids with quad biking and target paintball. Plus there is an organic farmshop, coffee shop with home baking, gift shop and arts & crafts events, then for the kids there are animals as well! Little People: Bogbains Adventure Barn and Play area offers hours of fun for children and toddlers alike. The area includes a rainproof barn with clamber frame and chute, a trampoline, rope swing,

bouldering walls, giant sandpit, toddler tunnels and slide. Outside there are dozens of ride on toys, bicycles, scooters, balls and a playhouse. Electric go-carts – suitable for children +3 years. Digger school for +3 years. Bigger People: Junior quads suitable for children 6-12 years and a superb 25 acre quad track for teenagers and adults. www.bogbainfarm.com

12. **Puffin Express Tours** – Run by Kathleen and Sinclair Dunnett they have a wealth of knowledge about the Highlands, history, culture and animals that live in the countryside. An excellent day out is the trip from Inverness all the way to Orkney and yes you can do it in one day! Travel by coach over to John O’Groats, then a ferry over to Orkney with the Puffin Express Team and a day spent enjoying the Islands history and the local environment. www.puffinexpress.co.uk
13. **Fort George** – A spectacular Fortress built to keep rebellious Highlanders in order. A glimpse into military history of the Highlands from the 18th Century onwards. www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
14. **Cawder Castle** – A Fairy Tale Castle that has been the home of the Thanes of Cawder since 1370. Excellent attraction full access to the gardens, grounds with trails and walks, restaurant and shops. www.cawdercastle.com
15. **Culloden Battlefield and Visitors Centre** – The scene of the last major battle fought on mainland Britain 16th April 1746 – Jacobite Rebellion. Fantastic new visitors centre now open. www.nts.org.uk/property/21
 - **Near Culloden: Clava Cairns** – Following the brown tourist signs to Clava Cairns along minor roads and close to a spectacular railway viaduct en route to the car park for what are properly called the Prehistoric Burials Cairns of Balnauran of Clava. Dating back to 2000BC there are three burial cairns at Balnauran, and they are part of a line of seven dotted along the South side of the valley of the River Nairn. These together are part of a group of some 45 very distinctive cairns in Northern Inverness-shire, all are called Clava Cairns after this location, which is where they were first studied. What sets them apart is their construction within a “kerb”, a ring of large containing boulders. Definitely worth a look and only a mile from Culloden. www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/inverness/clavacairns/index.html
16. **Cairngorm Mountain Railway** – Funicular Railway to 3600ft with great views of the Cairngorms and Caledonian Pine Forest. www.cairngormmountain.com - well worth a visit with a group, stunning landscapes at all times of the year. Also see Cairngorm National Park www.cairngorms.co.uk.
17. **Landmark Forest Theme Park** – Fantastic for kids and adults of all ages. There is Micro World, Timber Trail, Big Slides and Water Coaster, Ropeworx, Sky Dive, Tree Top Trails and Adventure Land. It mixes education about the environment with BRILLIANT fun! www.landmark-centre.co.uk
18. **Brodie Castle** – Owned by the National Trust for Scotland set in a peaceful parkland, this fine 16th Century tower house is packed with enough art and antiques to keep connoisseurs happy all day.
19. **Brodie Countryfare** – Ideal for a visit after Brodie Castle. Spend the afternoon perusing the Scottish food hall, gifts, ladies & men swear and lots more. Nr Broody Castle www.brodiecounrtyfare.com
20. **Going North:**
 - **Strathpeffer:** Next door to Strathpeffer Pavillion, visit the Victorian Spa waters where sulphurous waters were discovered in the 1700’s and declared in 1819 to be the most

healthy in Britain. A lovely Highland Village in the summer also offers the Old Railway Station which is the home of the Highland Museum of Childhood, a superb exhibition about childhood in the Highland of Scotland and which covers subjects as diverse as toys and play on the one hand, and child labour on the other.

- **Falls of Shin:** Set in Achany Glen with a visitors centre and salmon leaps, extensive forest walks, childrens playground and dramatic waterfalls. You can also stop by the Harrods store for some gift items. www.fallsofshin.co.uk
- **Dunrobin Castle and Gardens** – Truly spectacular location on the sea cliffs, it is the most northerly of Scotlands Great houses and is certainly one of the most majestic. It is the largest house in the Northern Highlands with 189 rooms, and is one of Britains oldest continuously inhabited houses, dating in part from the 1300's. The history of the castle is quite facinating and has seen the architectural influences of Sir Charles Barry and Sir Robert Lorimer. The castle has been used as a navel hospital in the First World War and from 1965 to 1972 as a boy's school. Just 50miles north of Inverness and definitely worth a visit.
- **Glenmorangie Whisky Distillery** – Since 1843 the distillery has been producing it's famous malt on the Dornoch Shores. Whisky tasting and tours available. www.glenmorangie.com
- **Castle of Mey and Gardens** – Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother first saw what was then Barrogill castle in 1952. Having acquired the most northerly castle on the British Mainland, The Queen Mother renovated and restored it and created the beautiful gardens you see today. For almost half a century she spent many happy summers here and shorter visits at other times of the year. www.castleofmey.org.uk

21. Going East to Forres (Royal Burgh and Ancient Market Town) – Some Ideas:

- **The Benromach Distillery** – The smallest working distillery in Speyside. Founded in 1898, it was rescued in 1993, the HRH Prince of Wales officially opened it in its Centenary year. Now you can see the mash tun, the burnished copper stills and the brass spirit safe where the distiller's craft creates the unique qualities of the single malt. During your visit discover the time-honoured skills of whiskey making, one that remains true to it's heritage. "Nose" and enjoy a dram of the award-winning Benromach Single Malt in the old Drier House and now Malt Whisky Centre.
- **Dallas Dhu Distillery** – It has a difference, it is a disused distillery owned by Historic Scotland but still offering the full tour of the whisky process through the ages and you can sample a wee dram. www.historic-scotland.gov.uk
- **Pluscarden Abbey** – Founded in 1230, it lies in the tranquil, sheltered valley of the Black Burn, 6 miles from Elgin. Like Scotland's only other active abbey, Iona Abbey, Pluscarden's story is one of abandonment after the reformation in 1560, followed by a restoration in the 20th Century. Visitors today can view the splendid transepts and crossing, and chapels in part of the choir. There is also a range of visitor facilities in the low range on part of the site of the nave. Much of the rest of the abbey is naturally reserved for the use of the monks and guests on retreat, including the beautifully restored east range and the newly constructed west range, opened in 1993.

Some Extra Attractions and Free One's

- **Inverness Museum** only minutes from the Palace in the town centre this is well worth a visit for exploring the Highlands, traditions and crafts <http://inverness.highland.museum/> as well as up to date Exhibitions featuring Highland life.

- **Inverness Floral Hall** - The Floral Hall, Gardens and Coffee Shop is a unique visitor attraction that offers a tranquil break amidst beautiful floral displays. Opened in 1993 it has been inspiring local gardeners and visitors from all over the world ever since www.invernessfloralhall.com. Well worth a visit walking distance from the Palace.
- **Victorian Market** - full of unique owned shops from the local Chocolate Shop, Music Shop and Joke shop plus many more see www.invernessvictorianmarket.com.
- **Eastgate Centre** – for the latest shopping a trip to Inverness must include a visit to the Eastgate Shopping centre which includes M&S, Debenhams, Next and all the High street retail brands you know well. See here www.eastgate-centre.co.uk.
- **FREE:** Nairn Beaches – there are miles of sandy beaches - 11 miles from Inverness
- **FREE:** Glen Affric & Strathglass - well known walks around Glen Affric, Strathglass, Beauly-50 miles all way round see www.glenaffric.org for details.
- **FREE: Great Glen Way** – You can walk, cycle, sail or drive from Inverness to Fort William it is about 66 miles of stunning scenery, Lochness, the Caledonian Canal all the way down to Ben Nevis. A lovely day out with lots to see along the way.
- **New Castle Stuart Golf Club** – only 8 miles from the Palace this is a new links golf course.
- **FREE:** Whins Boating Park and Ness Islands Walk only 15 minutes walk from the Palace.
- **Activities:** Ice Rink and Mini Golf at Aqua Dome or for Soft Play visit Play Zone about 10 mins from the Palace. There is also Ten Bowling if you want something for all to enjoy at Roller Bowl. Or for Snooker and Pool visit Rileys.
- **Whisky Trail** – if you love whisky or want to find out more about the Whisky trails across Speyside - Elgin - Huntly - visiting lots of distilleries the very best starting point is this website www.maltwhiskytrail.com.
- **Baxters Visitors Centre**, Fochabers approx 47 miles from Inverness if you love Baxters then this is a good stop for a bite to eat and a look round the visitors centre www.baxters.com.

Entertainment

- Eden Court Theatre, Ness Walk Inverness see www.eden-court.co.uk
- Ironworks Music Venue see www.ironworks.co.uk
- Vue Cinema Inverness see www.myvue.com

Inverness Bars

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| • Hootananay – 01463 233 651 | Traditional Scottish Theme |
| • Johnny Foxes and The Den – 01463 236 577 | Irish theme with night club |
| • Mavericks – 01463 243 342 | Modern Eaterie Bar |
| • Smith & Jones – 01463 250 555 | Modern Eaterie Bar |
| • No 27 – 01463 241 999 | Eaterie Bar |
| • The Auctioneers – 01463 713 005 | Modern |
| • Lauders – 01463 235 909 | A local type bar |
| • Gellions – 01463 233 648 | Oldest Bar in Inverness |
| • Blackfriars – 01463 233 881 | A local type bar |
| • The Pheonix – 01463 245 990 | Real Ales Available |
| • Gunsmiths – 014653 250 116 | A local type bar |
| • The Castle Tavern – 01463 718 178 | Real Ales Available |
| • Brooklyns – 01463 709 409 | Modern Eaterie |
| • The Exchange – 01463 713 307 | |
| • McCallums – 01463 234 805 | A local type bar |

Night Clubs

- Love 2 Love – 01463 233 322
- Bakoo – 01463 235 506
- Hush – 01463 248 819
- Limo Hire – Inverness Limo's – 0845 450 5090

Have a Great Holiday!

Best Wishes

The Palace Hotel Team

Note: Opening times may vary so please see reception if you have any queries.