

## Visitor Attractions Guide for Inverness & the Highlands

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. A great visitor's website is: [www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/highlands](http://www.visitscotland.com/destinations-maps/highlands).

### 1. Inverness Activities & Attractions

- **North Coast 500** – the ultimate road trip round Scotland start from the Inverness Castle, just opposite the Palace just as the Grand Tour on Amazon Prime have done. Then experience the new scenic route showcasing fairy-tale castles, white sand beaches and historical ruins. The road trip can take from 5 to 7 days so be prepared for your stop – offs, plan your itinerary and make the most of your experience so [www.northcoast500.com](http://www.northcoast500.com). It is a year round travel plan so whether you want spring sunshine or winter weather drama – there is something for you.
- **Inverness Castle Viewing Platform** - directly opposite the Palace, the North Tower of the historic Inverness Castle is to be opened as a visitor's attraction with a new Inverness Castle Viewing Platform. You get a fantastic view up and down the River Ness and the surrounding town and hills.
- **Loch Ness – Top of the list** it has to be a visit to see [Nessie at Loch Ness](#) and [Urquhart Castle](#)
- **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 link to [Fort George](#)
- **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/culloden](http://www.nts.org.uk/culloden)
- **Cawdor Castle** – A Fairy Tale Castle that has been the home of the Thanes of Cawdor since 1370. Excellent attraction full access to the gardens, grounds with trails and walks, own 9-hole golf course, restaurant and shops. Cawdor Castle also features a summer programme of events so for more information see the website [www.cawdorcastle.com](http://www.cawdorcastle.com)
- **Near Culloden: Clava Cairns (Near Culloden)** – 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](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/inverness/clavacairns/index.html)
- **Jacobite Cruises** – Award winning 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](http://www.jacobite.co.uk). You can choose from a selection of cruises or the adventurous and fast paced Rib Experiences on Loch Ness. A definite must for Nessie spotting!
- **Caledonian 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!
- **Inverness City Centre** – Whether it is for shopping or for visiting the castle, museum or taking a walk round the gardens, it is well worth investigating.

- **Inverness Museum** only minutes from the Palace in the town centre this is well worth a visit for exploring the Highlands, traditions and crafts [www.inverness.highland.museum](http://www.inverness.highland.museum) well as up to date Exhibitions featuring Highland life.
- **Inverness Botanic Gardens** – previously Floral Hall, the 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, well worth a visit walking distance from the Palace [www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-botanic-gardens](http://www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-botanic-gardens).
- **Tomatin Distillery** excellent distillery is located in the Monadhliath Mountains just south of Inverness off the A9 [www.tomatin.com](http://www.tomatin.com). A Trip Advisor must visit.
- **Happy Tours** – Local Tours, Historical Walking Tours, Whisky Tours, Tours to the Skye or Orkney, Mountain Bike Hire and Private Guided tours. Cameron offers all sorts of tours around the city and along the riverbank. Run by Cameron the “man in the kilt” 07828 154 683 [happytours@uwclub.net](mailto:happytours@uwclub.net) [www.happy-tours.biz](http://www.happy-tours.biz)
- **Highland Historian** - Andrew is a Highland Historian and is a passionate orator with knowledge of the connecting culture between the 'big' events. As a knowledgeable and skilled historian he offers bespoke tour guiding. His passion for history and storytelling will make your adventure in the Highlands complete! Contact Andrew - [www.highlandhistorian.com](http://www.highlandhistorian.com) or 07867 526 051.
- **Dolphin Spirit** – set out on a Dolphin Spirit wildlife adventure across the Moray Firth. You can choose from a cruises or Mischief RIB experience perfect for any adventurer. [www.dolphinspirit.co.uk/](http://www.dolphinspirit.co.uk/)
- **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. Now they are doing trips from Inverness to Skye, John O’Groats and Applecross [www.puffinexpress.co.uk](http://www.puffinexpress.co.uk)
- **Phoenix Dolphin Trips** on the Moray Firth [www.inverness-dolphin-trips.co.uk](http://www.inverness-dolphin-trips.co.uk)

## 2. Inverness - Family Attractions, Shops, Garden Centres and Coffee Shops...

### Shops & Galleries in Inverness:

- **Victorian Market** - full of unique owned shops from the local Chocolate Shop, Music Shop and Joke shop plus many more see [www.explore-inverness.com/shops/souvenirs-and-gifts/victorian-market](http://www.explore-inverness.com/shops/souvenirs-and-gifts/victorian-market)
- **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](http://www.eastgate-centre.co.uk)
- **Castle Gallery** - [www.castlegallery.co.uk](http://www.castlegallery.co.uk) one of the most successful small galleries you’ll find in Scotland **The Castle Gallery** – described in the Independent newspaper as ‘one of the best reasons to visit Inverness’. Exhibits include landscape, figurative and abstract work by artists from Scotland and throughout Britain, with pieces by established artists and emerging talent. The gallery holds exhibitions of contemporary paintings, original prints, sculpture, crafts and designer jewellery. Castle\_Gallery - open Monday – Saturday and just 5 minutes walk from the Inverness Palace Hotel and Spa.
- **Scottish Flair Art Gallery** - [Scottish Flair Art Gallery](http://www.scottishflairartgallery.com), established in 2004, is a privately, family run gallery that specialises in Edwardian and Victorian Art, situated in Bank Street Inverness (*located on*

*the first floor within The Riverside Art Gallery*). The gallery offers a varied and diverse range of **original Scottish fine art** in all media types, and price ranges, covering a wealth of talent in most genres, catering to all tastes and preferences.

- **Riverside Gallery** - an alternative is Riverside Gallery [www.riverside-gallery.co.uk](http://www.riverside-gallery.co.uk) a family run gallery with exhibitions all year.
- **Kilts Highland House of Fraser** – just a few minutes’ walk from the Palace along the river bank! A family business steeped in the tradition of Highland dress. Boasts a selection of the finest clothing, textiles and gifts. They have been making bespoke kilts within the premises for over 50 years, continuing the tradition of the finest hand sewn kilts. Shop [Highland House of Fraser!](#)
- **Kilts** - For all things kilt related see **Chisholms Highland Dress** a family run kilt business looking after all the details for generations 47-51 Castle St, Inverness. [www.kilts.co.uk](http://www.kilts.co.uk)
- **Leakey’s Second Hand Bookshop** – It is Scotland’s largest second hand bookshop with 100,000 selected volumes. The shop is actually a church, the huge old Gaelic Church at the end of Church Street, one street back from the river, about 7-9 minutes’ walk from the Inverness Palace Hotel. This is THE place to try in Inverness if you like books and or a great bistro style café with home cooking and an open fire. [www.facebook.com/LeakeysBookshop](http://www.facebook.com/LeakeysBookshop)
- **Judith Glue** - From Harris Tweed bags and accessories, Scottish silver jewellery, gifts, textiles and clothing - Judith represents many small Scottish crafters & makers. There is also a range of Scottish food products and even a case full of vintage jewellery and antique ceramics. On Bridge St near the River Ness & Inverness Castle [www.judithglue.com/pages/inverness-shop](http://www.judithglue.com/pages/inverness-shop)
- **The Drawing Room** – a super addition to this list for gorgeous unique gifts and home furnishings you must visit this lovely boutique shop on Kingsmills road. The [Drawing Room](#) is the exclusive Inverness stockist of Cath Kidston, Emma Bridgewater, Rosie Brown, Sheila Fleet, Alex Monroe and many others. [www.spanglefish.com/thedrawingroom](http://www.spanglefish.com/thedrawingroom)
- **Inverness Retail Park** for all big chain shops [www.invernessshoppingpark.co.uk](http://www.invernessshoppingpark.co.uk)

## Coffee Shops & Ice Cream in Inverness

- **Girvans Restaurant** – a family run restaurant serving lovely meals and cakes its very busy [www.girvansrestaurant.co.uk/](http://www.girvansrestaurant.co.uk/)
- **Coffee Affair** – on Church Street a fresh and friendly local Coffee shop with a great selection of cakes and freshly made sandwiches. [www.coffee-affair.net](http://www.coffee-affair.net)
- **Rendezvous Cafe** on Church Street a smaller more quirky cafe serving homemade and local produce with about 10 tables it’s busy and has friendly staff.
- **Miele’s Gelateria** Inverness Ice Cream Shop on Church Street [www.facebook.com/mielesgelato/](http://www.facebook.com/mielesgelato/)
- **New Coyote Coffee & Donuts** on Academy St [www.facebook.com/coyotecoffeedonuts](http://www.facebook.com/coyotecoffeedonuts)
- **New Perk Coffee & Donuts** on Church St [www.facebook.com/perkcoffeeanddoughnuts](http://www.facebook.com/perkcoffeeanddoughnuts)
- **Cobbs Café at Inverness Botanics** for a tempting selection of home-baked cakes, soup, sandwiches and light snacks. [www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-botanic-gardens](http://www.highlifehighland.com/inverness-botanic-gardens)

## Family Attractions

- **Activities:** Swimming Pool & Ice Rink at **Aqua Dome** or for Soft Play visit **Frankie & Lola’s** about 10 mins from the Palace. There is also Ten Bowling at Roller Bowl.

- **Free:** Whins Boating Park and Ness Islands Walk only 15 minutes' walk from the Palace. Belfield Park with Tennis Courts, Mini Golf and a paddling pool in the summer only a 15 minute walk from the hotel. Inverness Crazy Golf - [www.facebook.com/Inverness-crazy-golf-1678880772400829](https://www.facebook.com/Inverness-crazy-golf-1678880772400829)
- **Soft Play Frankie and Lola's** link- [www.frankieandlolas.co.uk](http://www.frankieandlolas.co.uk)
- **Soft Play - Brewster's** Inverness - [www.brewersfayre.co.uk/kids-and-play](http://www.brewersfayre.co.uk/kids-and-play)
- **Trampoline Park** – [www.infinityinverness.co.uk](http://www.infinityinverness.co.uk)
- **Inverness Skate & Bike Park** – Bought Road purchase cards from Inverness Leisure Centre - [www.highlandskateparks.co.uk](http://www.highlandskateparks.co.uk)
- **Inverness Kart Raceway** – see [www.invernesskartraceway.co.uk](http://www.invernesskartraceway.co.uk)
- **The Gruffalo Walk**, Culloden – 15mins by car [www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gruffalo-Walk/179904018809439](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Gruffalo-Walk/179904018809439)

### Garden Centres

- **Simpsons** independently owned [www.simpsonsgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.simpsonsgardencentre.co.uk)
- **Klondyke** [www.klondyke.co.uk/static/howdens-garden-centre-inverness.html](http://www.klondyke.co.uk/static/howdens-garden-centre-inverness.html)
- **Dobbies** [www.dobbies.com/find-a-garden-centre/inverness/](http://www.dobbies.com/find-a-garden-centre/inverness/)

### 3. Shopping & Coffee Shops outside Inverness

- **Fiddlers** – Coffee Shop & Restaurant in Drumnadrochit (Loch Ness) ideal if you want a break from Nessie hunting. Also offers Fiddlers Whisky Bar and Beer Cellar. [www.fiddledrum.co.uk](http://www.fiddledrum.co.uk)
- **Dores Inn** – a lovely pebble beach on the Inverness side of Loch Ness only 10 miles from the town centre it is ideal for kids dipping their toes into the loch and the Inn provides delicious food year round. A great stop for any time of year [www.thedoresinn.co.uk](http://www.thedoresinn.co.uk). Dores on Loch Ness [www.doresonlochness.co.uk](http://www.doresonlochness.co.uk)
- **Foyers Stores & Waterfall Café** - 10 miles south of Dores on the quieter eastern shore of loch ness the village is just under a mile's walk from the pier to through steep woodland where you'll find a the highland village Stores & Tea Rooms. Take the walk to Foyers Falls and enjoy the many woodland trails. [www.foyersstoresandwaterfallcafe.co.uk](http://www.foyersstoresandwaterfallcafe.co.uk)
- **Camerons Tea Room & Farm Shop** – for fresh home baking, home made soup and close up viewing of Highland cows Camerons Tea Room is rated no.1 on Trip Advisor. Find it on the south side of Lochness near Camerons Holiday Cottage. [www.lochnesscottage.com/Camerons-Tea-Room-and-Farm-Shop.php](http://www.lochnesscottage.com/Camerons-Tea-Room-and-Farm-Shop.php)
- **Bad Girl Bakery** (Cake Shop and Café) – Great North Road, Muir Of Ord - situated near the western boundary of the Black Isle, about 20 km west of the city of Inverness, and 10 km south of Dingwall. [www.facebook.com/badgirlbakery](https://www.facebook.com/badgirlbakery)
- **Corner on the Square in Beaully** –great coffee shop & award Deli [www.corneronthesquare.co.uk](http://www.corneronthesquare.co.uk)
- **Robertsons Larder and Kids Farm** just outside Beaully with a Kids farm too! [www.robertsonsfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.robertsonsfarmshop.co.uk)
- **Brodie Countryfare** between Forres & Nairn – with womens, mens, kids, toys, home and more it stocks major brands like UGG and has a lovely restaurant too. [www.brodiecountryfare.com](http://www.brodiecountryfare.com)
- **Johnston's of Elgin Cashmere** Shopping Village - offering womens, mens, baby and new home collection plus a free tour of the factor and Coffee shop – great for a visit. [www.johnstonscashmere.com](http://www.johnstonscashmere.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](http://www.baxters.com)
- **Storehouse of Foulis** – 17 miles north of Inverness on the coast of the Cromarty Firth you'll enjoy a fabulous restaurant from breakfast to a light supper of homemade delights. Then visit the Farm shop for local produce and gifts. A local delight well worth a visit with lovely views. [www.thestorehouseathome.com](http://www.thestorehouseathome.com)
- **Munros Nurseries Coffee Shop** by Munloch (North Kessock) a hidden gem of home made cakes and delights only 6.5 miles from the Palace over the Kessock Bridge and lovely plants too. [www.munros-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.munros-nurseries.co.uk)
- **The Coffee Bothy in Golspie** – lovely coffee and the cakes are a work of art. Just 52 miles north of Inverness in the lovely town of Golspie. [www.facebook.com/The-Coffee-Bothy-186246894768198](https://www.facebook.com/The-Coffee-Bothy-186246894768198)
- **The Dairy at Daviot** – just outside inverness on the A9 the Dairy offers a lovely Cafe ideal for a morning coffee or lunch. Also offers a delicious Sunday carvery too [www.dairyatdaviot.co.uk](http://www.dairyatdaviot.co.uk).
- **House of Bruar** – a great stop if you are traveling on the A9 north or south about 70 miles from Inverness this is shopping and dining heaven – lots of Scottish produce and many different shops to browse through makes a great stop off on the way up or on the way home. We've even been known to go down just for Sunday lunch! [www.houseofbruar.com](http://www.houseofbruar.com)

#### 4. Beaches

- Nairn Beaches – there are miles of sandy beaches - 11 miles from Inverness [www.visitnairn.com](http://www.visitnairn.com)
- Rosemarkie Beach – where fossils can be found 25 minutes from Inverness. [www.black-isle.info/fortrose\\_and\\_rosemarkie](http://www.black-isle.info/fortrose_and_rosemarkie)
- Dornoch Beach, beautiful sandy beach, 1 hour from Inverness [www.visitdornoch.com/do-in-dornoch/category/walks/](http://www.visitdornoch.com/do-in-dornoch/category/walks/)
- Findhorn Beach, 50 minutes from Inverness [www.morayholidays.co.uk/beaches/findhorn-beach.html](http://www.morayholidays.co.uk/beaches/findhorn-beach.html)

#### 5. Walks

- **NEW Loch Ness 360** - The "official" start of the Loch Ness 360° is the same as the official start of the Great Glen Way - Inverness Castle:-) But as the Loch Ness 360° is a circular trail, you can actually walk it in either direction and start anywhere along the route! The new Loch Ness 360° Trail starts in Inverness and takes you around the whole of the famous Loch (5-6 days hiking) - 116km of beautiful Highland scenery, challenging ascents, views, history...and maybe even a glimpse on Nessie? [www.facebook.com/LochNess360/](https://www.facebook.com/LochNess360/)
- **Glen Affric & Strathglass** - well known walks around Glen Affric, Strathglass, Beauly- 50 miles all way round see [www.glenaffric.org](http://www.glenaffric.org) for details.
- **Great Glen Way** – You can walk, cycle, sail or drive from Inverness to Fort William it is about 66 miles of stunning scenery, Loch Ness, the Caledonian Canal all the way down to Ben Nevis. A lovely day out with lots to see along the way [www.greatglenway.org](http://www.greatglenway.org)
- **Walk the Highlands** – a fantastic reference website for all walkers for all routes around the highlands for short and long walks. [www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochness](http://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/lochness)
- **Northern Highlands Forestry Commission** for walks, cycle paths, riding and information [www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/forests-around-inverness](http://www.scotland.forestry.gov.uk/visit/forests-around-inverness)

## 6. Inverness Theatre & Entertainment

- **Eden Court Theatre & Cinema**, Ness Walk Inverness see [www.eden-court.co.uk](http://www.eden-court.co.uk)
- **Ironworks Music Venue** - [www.ironworks.co.uk](http://www.ironworks.co.uk)
- **Vue Cinema Inverness** - [www.myvue.com](http://www.myvue.com)
- **Inverness Summer & Winter Festivals** [www.invernessfestivals.com](http://www.invernessfestivals.com)

## 7. Travelling towards Beaulieu & the North – just some ideas...

- **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. Check before you go as opening times vary throughout the year. [www.discovering-distilleries.com/glenord](http://www.discovering-distilleries.com/glenord)
- **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](http://www.blackislebrewery.com) Again times of opening vary depending on time of year.
- **Wyvis Natural Play Park, Garve** – a great way for kids to run and have great fun at this forestry commission play park –directions see [www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Wyvis-Natural-Play-Park-Garve-870530342988881](https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Community/Wyvis-Natural-Play-Park-Garve-870530342988881)
- **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.
- **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](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/beaulieu/beaulieupriory)
- **Robertsons Larder and Kids Farm** outside Beaulieu with a Kids farm too! [www.robertsonsfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.robertsonsfarmshop.co.uk)
- **Falls of Shin Falls of Shin** – an hour from Inverness the Falls of Shin has something to offer all ages. From the outdoors and wildlife, to extensive forest walks, dramatic waterfalls and the famous salmon leap, where you can watch salmon hurl themselves up the falls, attempting to return to their place of birth to spawn. The Falls of Shin is free to visit with plenty of parking space and the new visitors centre and shop [www.facebook.com/FallsofShin/](https://www.facebook.com/FallsofShin/) for up to date information. The car park is open so visitors can visit the salmon leap viewpoint and enjoy the beautiful network of woodland walks at Achany which is adjacent to the car park. Walks see [Falls of Shin](#).
- **Dunrobin Castle and Gardens** – Truly spectacular location on the sea cliffs, it is the most northerly of Scotland's 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 Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses, dating in part from the 1300's. The history of the castle is quite fascinating and has seen the architectural influences of Sir Charles Barry and Sir Robert Lorimer. The castle has been used as a naval 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. [www.dunrobincastle.co.uk](http://www.dunrobincastle.co.uk)
- **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](http://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](http://www.castleofmey.org.uk)

## 8. Travelling East to Nairn & Forres (Royal Burgh and Ancient Market Town):

- **Connage Highland Dairy** – fabulous cheese makers, coffee shop and cheese pantry too! [www.connage.co.uk/Home.aspx](http://www.connage.co.uk/Home.aspx)
- **Wester Hardmuir Fruit Farm** – located close to Nairn it is open from June to Dec with a Farm Food Shop and a Pick your own fruit and veg. Picnic tables for nibbling on the fruit you've just picked. [www.hardmuir.com](http://www.hardmuir.com)
- **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. [www.nts.org.uk/Property/Brodie-Castle/](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Brodie-Castle/)
- **Brodie Countryfare** – Ideal for a visit after Brodie Castle. Spend the afternoon perusing the Scottish food hall, gifts, ladies & men swear and lots more. Near Broddie Castle [www.brodiecountryfare.com](http://www.brodiecountryfare.com)
- **Family Friendly - The Loft in Kinloss** - as lots of activities to entertain both adults and children alike. We offer a wide range of activities ensuring that your experience with us is the best it can possibly be. [www.eastgrange.co.uk](http://www.eastgrange.co.uk) includes grass sledging, water walkerz, turf boarding, quad bike hire, The Arena, archery, farm frisbee and more!
- **The 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](http://www.maltwhiskytrail.com)
- **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. [www.benromach.com](http://www.benromach.com)
- **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.dallasdhu.com](http://www.dallasdhu.com)
- **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. [www.pluscardenabbey.org](http://www.pluscardenabbey.org)
- **Johnstons of Elgin** for world class Cashmere, Knitwear, Fashions and Home and Interiors, Mill Tours, Café and more [www.johnstonscashmere.com/retail/visit-us/what-s-on-site](http://www.johnstonscashmere.com/retail/visit-us/what-s-on-site)
- **Playbarn at Greenfields, by Elgin** – ideal for the kids for soft play and to burn off some energy [www.facebook.com/ThePlayBarn/](http://www.facebook.com/ThePlayBarn/)

- **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](http://www.baxters.co.uk)

## 9. Travelling South to Aviemore (A9):

- **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, Butterfly Centre and Adventure Land. It mixes education about the environment with **Brilliant fun!**  
[www.landmarkpark.co.uk/](http://www.landmarkpark.co.uk/)
- **Cairngorm Mountain** – the Funicular Railway is currently out of service so see [www.cairngormmountain.com](http://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](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)
- **Strathspey Railway Company** – steam trains running through stunning scenery between Aviemore & Boat of Garten and Broomhill (Glenbogle) near Nethy Bridge and Granton on Spey.  
[www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk](http://www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk) – a great day out.
- **Cairngorm Reindeer Centre** [www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk](http://www.cairngormreindeer.co.uk), **Cairngorm Sleddog Centre, Leault Farm Kincaig for Working Sheep Dog** demonstrations in summer only.
- **Cairngorm Brewery Company** [www.cairngormbrewery.com](http://www.cairngormbrewery.com)
- **Highland Folk Museum** – [www.highlandfolk.com](http://www.highlandfolk.com)
- **Dalwhinnie Distillery** [www.discovering-distilleries.com](http://www.discovering-distilleries.com)
- **Highland Wildlife Park** – [www.highlandwildlifepark.org](http://www.highlandwildlifepark.org)
- **Activities:** Rothiemurchus Centre [www.rothiemurchus.net](http://www.rothiemurchus.net) & Loch Insh Watersports [www.lochinsh.com](http://www.lochinsh.com)
- **Loch Garten Osprey Centre at Abernethy** a bit of a drive but if you like wildlife then worth a visit here is the web link [www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/l/lochgarten/index.aspx](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/l/lochgarten/index.aspx)

## 10. Travelling to the West Coast & South West...

- **Eilean Donan Castle, Kyle of Lochalsh** – Scotland's most romantic castle. You can explore every part of the Castle. There is both Modern and Ancient history there. There are guides at the castle to show you around and answer all your questions. [www.eileandonancastle.com](http://www.eileandonancastle.com)
- **Nevis Range Mountain Resort** at Aonach Mor (South West) by Fort William – Britain's only mountain transports you to 650m on the slopes of Aonach Mor. Meander along the mountain trails to the [panoramic viewpoints](#), then relax in the [restaurant & bar](#) with breath-taking views. In summer, visit our [Mountain Discovery Centre](#). [www.nevisrange.co.uk](http://www.nevisrange.co.uk)
- **Jacobite Steam Train** – **departs Fort William** described as the greatest railway journey in the world, this 84 mile round trip takes you past a list of impressive extremes. Starting near the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis, it visits Britain's most westerly mainland railway station, Arisaig; passes close by the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar and the shortest river in Britain, River Morar, finally arriving next to the deepest seawater loch in Europe, Loch Nevis!  
[www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm](http://www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm)
- **Dunstaffnage Castle, Argyll and Bute** - Dates back to the 13th century, making it one of Scotland's oldest castles. You can look around the 13th century chapel, history recounts that the last Stewart Lord of Lorne died there whilst reciting his wedding vows. There are skull and crossbones on the

gravestones and apparently people have been known to come across teeth and other things scattered around there...scary! See [Dunstaffnage Castle](#).

## 11. **Golf Courses** – see [www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore-inverness/golf-in-the-highlands](http://www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore-inverness/golf-in-the-highlands)

- **Castle Stuart Scottish Open Course** – 01463 796111 – only 8 miles from the Palace this the Scottish Open links golf course. [www.castlestuartgolf.com](http://www.castlestuartgolf.com)
- **NEW Kings Club Inverness – opening Spring 2019 – new championship course.**
- Inverness Golf Club - 01463 239 882
- Torvean Golf Club – 01463 711434
- Fairways – 01463 713335
- Nairn Golf Club – 01667 453 208
- Nairn Dunbar Golf Club - 01667 452 741

## 12. **Inverness Bars**

- Hootananay – 01463 233 651 Traditional Scottish
- Johnny Foxes – 01463 236 577 Irish theme Bar
- Black Isle Bar Brewery – 01463 229920 Real Ales
- Caledonian – 01463 250 555 Modern Eatery Bar
- The Auctioneers – 01463 713 005 Bar & Eatery
- Lauders – 01463 235 909 A local bar
- Gellions – 01463 233 648 Oldest Bar in Inverness
- Pockets/SoBar, Castle Street Inverness. A bar upstairs but a pool/snooker club downstairs.
- The Malt Room Whisky Bar, Church St
- Macgregors Bar – Academy St
- Blackfriars – 01463 233 881 A local bar
- The Phoenix – 01463 245 990 Real Ales
- The Castle Tavern 01463 718 178 Real Ales
- The Exchange – 01463 713 307 Gastro Pub
- McCallums – 01463 234 805 local bar
- R&B - 01463 233 027 Modern Eatery Bar
- No 27 – 01463 241 999 Eatery Bar

## 13. **Inverness Places to Eat**

- Riva Restaurant - 01463 237377 Italian
- Rocpool – 01463 717274 Modern Dining
- The Kitchen – 01463 259119 Modern Dining
- The Mustard Seed – 01463 220220 Modern
- Café One – 01463 226200 Modern Dining
- The River House – 01463 222033 Seafood
- The Rajah – 01463 237190 Indian
- The Rocpool Reserve - 01463 240089 Fine Dining
- Aspendos – 01463 711950 Mediterranean & Turkish
- Urquharts - 01463 233373 – Modern Dining
- Zizzis - 01463 237735 Italian
- Little Italy - 01463 712963 Italian
- Bella Italia - 01463 230138 Italian
- White House - 01463 226767 Modern
- Nandos – 01463 250419
- Frankie & Bennys – 01463 240893

## 14. **Inverness Cocktail Bars**

- The Den – 01463 236577 or Bar One – 01463 236577 or White House - 01463 226767 or Scotch & Rye 01463 715 374

## 15. **Beauty Salons**

- Sleeping Beauty Spa at the Palace – 0844 445 7771 – Option 6

## 16. **Car Hire**

- Inverness Limos – 0845 450 5090
- Focus – 01463 709517
- Enterprize – 01463 235525
- Europcar – 01463 235337
- Budget – 01463 713333

## 17. **Hairdressers**

- Ego Hair Design – 01463 220234
- Hair Craft – 01463 223036
- Head Gardener – 01463 222861
- Aurora Hair and Beauty – 01463 223036

**19. Best Western Palace Hotel & Spa Website:**

- What's On Inverness - [www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore/](http://www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore/)
- Explore Inverness - [www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore/](http://www.invernesspalacehotel.co.uk/explore/)

**Have a Great Holiday!**

Best Wishes

The Palace Hotel Team

**PS:** Opening times may vary so please check the web links or ask reception for help.