

## Family Day Out Itinerary

An itinerary suitable for all the family.

### 1. Cullen

Begin your day with a trip to the Cullen, home to one of the area's best sandy beaches, a harbour and Seatown and a mishmash of fishermen's cottages dating back to the 17th century, there is plenty to see and do.

Also on clear view from the harbour is the town's most striking feature - a series of railway viaducts which make the perfect walkway for visitors in search of fantastic seascapes and a possible glimpse of the many bottlenose dolphins which inhabit the Moray Firth. For Cullen's younger visitors there is the famous Ice Cream Shop. This delightful sweetie shop is packed ceiling to floor with gums, drops and lollipops, and also produces homemade vanilla ice cream, hailed by many as Scotland's best.

### 2. Findlater Castle

A popular coastal walk goes from Cullen to the ruins of Findlater Castle, a 15th-century fort which clings precariously to the cliff top, which can also be reached by car from the A98 Cullen-Banff road. Much care should be taken at the castle however, as it is unstable.

### 3. Fordyce

Higgledy-piggledy streets wind their way round a 13th-century church and a beautiful 16th-century fairytale castle. Visit the Fordyce Joiner's Workshop and Visitor Centre, where the role of the rural carpenter is brought back to life, and the enchanting Annie's Gift Shop, set up in Anne Geddes's dining room which provides tea and cakes to weary visitors as well as a choice selection of soaps, candles, crafts and gifts.

### 4. Portsoy

Just a short drive back towards the coast is Portsoy, home to the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival which attracts around 15,000 visitors to the historic village each summer. After a short stroll around Loch Soy, head for the beautiful 17th-century harbour which was once a thriving herring port and a serious centre for smugglers.

Enjoy some refreshments in Beggars Belief, a quaint harbour-side coffee shop in the former house of famous smuggler Alexander Laird Brebner.

Also worth visits are The Salmon Bothy Museum on Links Road, which provides a wonderful history of the harbour as a trading, smuggling and fishing port, and Portsoy Marble and Pottery, or make your way to Boyndie Visitor Centre, where you can enjoy a bowl of the

famous Cullen Skink – the thick Scottish soup made with smoked haddock, potatoes, onions and cream – sandwiches and lunchboxes are available for the kids.

### **5. Boyndie Airfield**

Visit the historic Boyndie Airfield, which became home to the RAF Banff Strike Wing in September 1944. From there, courageous airmen – 80 of whom lost their lives in the final nine months of the war – flew Beaufighters and Mosquitos on highly risky missions to attack enemy shipping and U-boats in the North Sea and along the Norwegian coastline.

Boyndie Visitor Centre, which is close to the former airfield at The Old School, takes in six acres of woodland paths, ponds and natural wildlife as well as a cafe, and shops selling plants, crafts and gifts.

### **6. Macduff Marine Aquarium**

After lunch, take a trip to Macduff Marine Aquarium, situated at High Shore, where you may be greeted by divers waving from the huge circular kelp tank, where they feed the fish at 2pm every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Children will be fascinated by the aquarium, with its wonderful display of tanks housing octopus, dogfish, jellyfish and rays.

For the brave ones, visit the rock pools where staff invite visitors to touch starfish, sea anemones, urchins and hermit crabs.

### **7. Duff House**

Pay a visit to Duff House, an art gallery and historic country house in the ancient town of Banff, where you can enjoy some outdoor fun at the wonderful playpark. If you can drag the kids from the playpark, take a tour of the house where children can be kept entertained with a choice of quizzes to complete during the tour.

### **8. Harley's Soft Play Centre**

End your day with a visit to Harley's Soft Play, on Old Gamrie Road, which opened on Macduff's Old Gamrie Road earlier this year and has ball pits, climbing frames, slides and a tenpin bowling alley. It is also a great place to enjoy an evening meal before heading home, with a good menu and friendly service.