

Fordyce Itinerary

An Itinerary that takes you to a lovely ancient village, hidden in a tiny valley dominated by a medieval church and castle.

1. Fordyce Joiner's Workshop

Visit the Fordyce Joiner's Workshop and visitor centre situated on Church Street. 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.

2. Fordyce Church

Head to Seafield Terrace to visit this ancient church. Fordyce Church 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.

3. Sandend

Take the short trip to this tiny hamlet with a simple harbour at the end of the beautiful sandy sweep of Sandend Bay. Sandend is perhaps the smallest of the many old fishing villages scattered along the north-facing coasts of Moray and Aberdeenshire. It is also one of the most attractive where there is a wide sandy beach, opportunities to surf and enjoy a picnic. There is a caravan park on the beach ideal for families. Overlooking the far end of the bay is re-opened Glenglassaugh Distillery, which still shows evidence of its original Victorian grandeur, and great views over the sea.