

Duff House and Banff Bird Life Itinerary

Set out from the front of the impressive [Duff House mansion](#) in Banff – the stunning Georgian property which has been everything from a hotel to a prisoner of war camp. Passing by the side of the rugby pitch, your destination is the Wrack Woods.

At the end of the pitch, you will see two signs: take the one marked woodland walks. As you follow the trails, keep both your eyes and ears open for evidence of bird life. This area of woodland, which skirts the River Deveron, supports a huge variety of species from blue tit to buzzard.

During your stroll in the Wrack Woods you will see two historic buildings associated with the great house – a mausoleum and an ice house – and you may also be struck by the incredible number of flowers on the forest floor. In the first half of the year the area is planted up with snowdrops and daffodils, and makes for a very colourful sight.

If you have the time, it's worth carrying on up the hill at the end of the woods and continuing on towards the Bridge of Alvah. This is a very picturesque bridge over the River Deveron and is an area known to be inhabited by kingfisher.

Once you arrive back at Duff House, it's recommended that you spend a couple of hours looking around the property and the collection of art which belongs to the National Galleries of Scotland. You may be lucky enough to visit during one of the temporary exhibitions: in past years works by acclaimed Scottish painters Jack Vettriano and Jolomo have been displayed here.

Enjoy a bite to eat in the tea room and round off your visit at the gift shop where you will find a good selection of quality Scottish gifts and local souvenirs.

Cross the main road and go through the town centre towards the sea. Follow the road past the marina and on to Banff Links. This is a first class beach, and is a great place to take the whole family. Spend the afternoon building sandcastles, paddling in the sea and – if you are feeling brave – arrange to take a surf lesson with the Banff Watersports Club which is based in one of the pavilions.

You will see many seabirds while in this part of Banff, including herring gulls and the odd shag which may have strayed from the nearby colony at [Troup Head](#).

At the end of the afternoon, head west towards the village of [Whitehills](#) and treat yourself to an evening meal of the most iconic of all seaside delicacies – fish and chips.