

Macduff and Troup Head Bird Life Itinerary

Start your day at [Macduff Marine Aquarium](#) – a visitor attraction once described by BBC wildlife action man Steve Backshall as one of the best aquariums he's ever been to.

But don't think that you will only see creatures from beneath the waves in this excellent venue: here you will catch a glimpse of the bird life that you may encounter later on in the day.

The aquarium has a CCTV camera on site at [Troup Head](#) which monitors the goings on at our very own Seabird City. The cameras are often referred to as 'puffin cams' because they are usually trained on the nests of puffins, but consider this a tiny taster of what you will see there.

During your visit to the aquarium, take time to view the extensive exhibits, which range from jelly fish through to kelp and seaweed. One of the most interesting attractions is the huge tank, which is open to the elements, and which is home to a huge range of species – all of which are found offshore in the Moray Firth. If you time your visit right, you may be able to watch as staff dive into the tank at feeding time.

From Macduff, head eastwards to [Pennan](#) where you will be able to enjoy a spot of lunch. After eating, take a stroll around the village and stop for a photo opportunity at the famous red telephone box which featured in the 1980s film, Local Hero.

Hit the road again and go back in a westerly direction, following the signs for Troup Head RSPB nature reserve. Once you reach the car park, get out and follow the path up to the cliff top, taking great care as you walk.

If you are visiting during the spring and summer season, chances are you may well hear the residents before you see them. These stunning cliffs are home to thousands of seabirds, including Scotland's only mainland gannet colony. You will also see other species including puffin, shag, kittiwake and fulmar. Take a pen and notepad and see just how many you can spot!

The fresh air may well have helped you build up an appetite, so head back to the car and continue heading in a westerly direction towards the village of [Gardenstown](#).

You may want to park your car at the top of the village, which has grown vertically over the years rather than horizontally, and meander through the steep, winding streets. Build up your energy for the climb back to the top of the hill by stopping off for some afternoon tea in one of the local cafes or hotels.