

# Arts & Culture

## 3 Day Itinerary



### Day 1

We're heading south to Dundee – a city that's fast becoming a cultural hub for Scotland. Also known as the City of Discovery, it is home to [V&A Dundee](#) – our nation's first design museum and a sister venture of the famous London institution. It's free to enter and has an extensive permanent collection as well as numerous touring exhibitions. The design of the waterfront building is well worth travelling for the photo opportunity alone!

[Dundee Contemporary Arts](#) visit brings together art and film under one roof. The city centre building has two galleries that always have something interesting to see – as well as a print gallery focused on print, photography and digital work – and while the cinema programme has more of a nod to arthouse, you'll also find the occasional Hollywood blockbuster.

And no visit to Dundee would be complete without exploring its comic culture. Some of the world's most famous comic strip characters, including Dennis the Menace, the Bash Street Kids and Desperate Dan were birthed in the city thanks to publisher DC Thomson. Head into the city centre and the aptly named Bash Lane to grab selfies with life-size sculptures of famous characters.



### Day 2

Take a break from city life and head to the country – to Royal Deeside to be precise. In this stunning part of the region you'll find a number of small, independent galleries that are under the radar.

One of our favourites – [the Butterworth Gallery](#) - lies near the town of Aboyne. Here, you'll find pieces by renowned Scottish landscape artist Howard Butterworth and his daughter Mary Louise, who is famed for her atmospheric night scenes of Aberdeen.

Move onto Ballater and you'll find [Larks Gallery](#) - a collection of contemporary art, much of which is produced by locally based artists.

And, for something a little different, head towards [the Fife Arms Hotel](#) in Braemar. You might wonder what a hotel has to offer an art lover,



but step inside the doors and you will soon find out! More than 14,000 pieces including antiques and specially commissioned artworks have been arranged in every room, corridor, and corner of the luxury hotel.

In the reception you'll see a Steinway piano that was creatively reimaged by contemporary artist Mark Bradford, while Pablo Picasso's Mousquetaire Assis hangs in the drawing room.

### Day 3

We're going back to the city, but this time heading to Aberdeen. The first port of call is the recently renovated [Aberdeen Art Gallery](#) which has sculptures, photographs and some fantastic pieces from Scottish artists as well as those of international acclaim.

There are also visiting exhibitions from time to time, not to mention collections of decorative arts, textiles and crafts. If you have time, be sure to visit the roof where you'll get stunning views of the city.

You'll also get a real feel for the city by going on a street art walking tour to view the pieces that are left behind as a legacy of the award-winning and internationally acclaimed [Nuart festival](#).

There are huge murals taking up vast swathes of wall as well as tiny installations that are less obvious – but finding them is so much fun! There are organised tours in the spring and summer, but you can guide yourself around the trail with a map that can be downloaded online.

Aberdeen has some great film and theatre venues, and the jewel in the crown is the impressive [His Majesty's Theatre](#) in the city centre. It's worth checking with [Aberdeen Performing Arts](#) to see what shows are coming up at HMT and other venues across the city, and the historic venue also runs behind the scenes tours which give an insight into its history and day-to-day operations.

