

Food & Drink

3 Day Itinerary



DALRIADA

Luxury Holiday Lodges



Day 1

Aberdeenshire is Scotland's larder – and nothing says Scotland like whisky and shortbread. We're heading into the most westerly point of the region to visit [Dean's of Huntly](#), which has been producing shortbread to a family recipe since 1975. It's now one of the best-selling brands of shortbread in the world, and you can stock up on the tasty treats at the visitor shop. There's also a great restaurant and coffee shop on site – where you can, of course, enjoy products from the Dean's range.

Incidentally, while you are in Huntly, it's worth stopping off at local ice cream producers [Rizza's](#). As well as having a well-stocked shop, there is a viewing platform at its factory where you can watch the delicious Italian recipe ice cream being made.

Just outside of Huntly is [Glendronach Distillery](#). You'll be able to take a tour of the distillery and, of course, enjoy a wee dram. Although there are very strict criteria on how Scotch whisky is made, each distillery has subtle nuances which create very different tastes and aromas.

There are various types of tour suited to everyone from whisky novices to absolute connoisseurs – just ask which one is right for you. If you enjoy what is served at Glendronach then head to the visitor centre shop, where you'll find a very wide range of expressions.



Day 2

Start your day by going back to school with a lesson in how to make Scotland's second spirit – gin. [The City of Aberdeen Distillery](#) offers a hands-on gin school and educational experiences for all levels of knowledge. Not only will you learn how this spirit is distilled – you'll take home a bottle of gin made to your own recipe.





Seafood is one of our greatest exports so while you're in Aberdeen, stop off for a bite to eat at [The Silver Darling](#). This harbourside restaurant is famed for its seafood – but there's plenty on the menu for those who are not fans of fish.

Aberdeenshire is the home of world-leading craft beer exponents BrewDog and the city has three BrewDog bars, including the chain's first and original. BrewDog has created something of a craft beer revolution in Aberdeen, and [Fierce Beer](#) is one of the by-products. With its own bar in the city centre, it's also possible to undertake a tour of its brewery, during which there's plenty opportunity to sample the Fierce Beer range.

If you're craving something a little sweet and less, well, beery then your next stop should be [Orchid](#). The chic bar has one of the best cocktail menus in the city – and you can even learn how to create your own at one of their regular mixology sessions.



Day 3

In addition to our seafood, we're known the world over for the quality of our beef and our Aberdeen Angus cattle. You won't find this particular breed at [Aberdeenshire Highland Beef](#) near Banchory, but you will find plenty of Highland cattle. The working farm supplies some of Scotland's top restaurants and you can learn more with their unique food and farm experiences.

There is a shop on site, but if you fancy being treated like royalty then make tracks towards Ballater. [HM Sheridan](#) is a renowned award-winning butcher and supplier to the Royal Family. You'll not only find a selection of top quality meats and innovative products, but receive a very warm welcome.



While on Deeside, we recommend a visit to [Devenick Dairy](#), creators of artisan Scottish cheese. There's a café bar on site where you'll be able to sample some of the products before heading into the shop to stock up on supplies.

With such great fresh produce, you have no excuse not to create a wonderful supper in the luxurious kitchen of your lodge. However, you will need dessert – and we recommend a trip to [Aunty Betty's](#). This seafront ice cream parlour just a stone's throw from Dalriada has some unbelievable flavours – you'll struggle to pick one, so you may as well have as many scoops as you can handle!