



Northeast Scotland

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Best Castles

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Adelphi Kitchen (p230)
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Why Go?

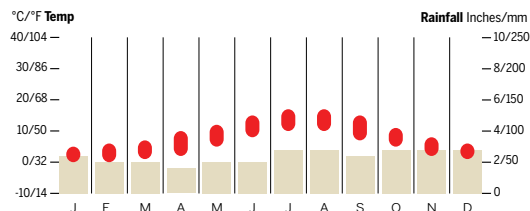
Many visitors pass by this corner of the country in their headlong rush to the tourist honeypots of Loch Ness and Skye. But they're missing out on a part of Scotland that's just as beautiful and diverse as the more obvious attractions of the west.

Within its bounds you'll find two of Scotland's four largest cities – Dundee, the city of jute, jam and journalism, cradle of some of Britain's favourite comic characters, and home to Captain Scott's Antarctic research ship, the *Discovery*; and Aberdeen, the granite city, an economic powerhouse fuelled by the riches of North Sea oil.

Angus is a region of rich farmland and scenic glens dotted with the mysterious stones left behind by the ancient Picts, while Aberdeenshire and Moray are home to the greatest concentration of Scottish Baronial castles in the country, and dozens of distilleries along the River Spey.

When to Go

Aberdeen



Jun/Jul Classic boats fill Port-soy harbour for the Scottish Traditional Boat Festival.

Sep Revellers gather for a whisky and music festival in Duff-town.

Dec Spectacular fireball ceremony in Stonehaven on Hogmanay (New Year's Eve).



Northeast Scotland Highlights

- ① Exploring below decks on board Captain Scott's famous polar exploration vessel **Discovery** (p215) in Dundee
- ② Meditating on the meaning of the mysterious **Pictish stones** of Angus at Aberlemno (p224)
- ③ Tucking into the freshest of Scottish seafood at the **Tolbooth Restaurant** (p234) in Stonehaven
- ④ Being initiated into the mysteries of malt whisky on a Speyside **distillery tour** (p240)
- ⑤ Learning about the Moray Firth's bottlenose dolphins at the **Scottish Dolphin Centre** (p241) at Spey Bay
- ⑥ Sampling from 700-plus varieties of single malt in the Craigellachie Hotel's **Quaich Bar** (p239)