

Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom

The Granite City wears its stone proudly — grey skies, cliff-top castles, and a royal Highland hinterland just an hour's drive away. Aberdeen is a port with serious punching power for a one-day stop.

Docked (North or South Harbour)

Typical call: 8-10 hrs

GBP (pound sterling)

English

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____ Arrive: _____ All aboard: _____

Excursion: _____ Notes: _____

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: All berths alongside — no tender. Larger ships use South Harbour (Balmoral Quay), ~3 km from centre; smaller ships dock at North Harbour, ~1.2 km walk.

Best For: Castle day-trips, Scotch whisky, Royal Deeside scenery, coastal walks

Walk to centre: 15-20 min from North Harbour; shuttle or taxi needed from South Harbour.

Don't Miss: Dunnottar Castle — one of Scotland's most dramatic clifftop ruins, 27 km south by car or tour.

Getting around: **Taxi** ✓ £8–£12 · **Rideshare** ✓ Uber · **Hop-on hop-off** ✓ Aberdeen Adventurer

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Dunnottar Castle & Stonehaven** — A ruined fortress perched on a sheer 50 m sea cliff south of Aberdeen — one of Scotland's most photographed sites.
- Royal Deeside & Balmoral Castle** — Drive west into the Cairngorms National Park to Balmoral, the Royal Family's Scottish summer retreat.
- Aberdeen City Walk: Marischal College & Old Aberdeen** — Marischal College is one of the world's largest granite buildings — its elaborately carved façade is unmissable.
- Scotch Whisky Distillery Visit** — Aberdeenshire sits on the edge of Speyside malt country.
- Dolphin & Wildlife Spotting** — Aberdeen Harbour is one of the best land-based bottlenose dolphin viewing spots in Scotland, particularly April–July.

BEST WALKS

- Union Street to Old Aberdeen** 3 km · 45-60 min one way · Easy — Walk the length of Union Street, Aberdeen's grand granite main street, then continue north through the university quarter to Old Aberdeen's medieval cobbled lanes, St...
- Footdee (Fittie) & Beach Promenade** 2 km · 30 min · Easy — From the North Harbour, walk east to Footdee — a charming 19th-century fishermen's village of brightly painted cottages tucked at the harbour mouth.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		49°	40°	12d
Jun		59°	50°	12d
Aug		62°	53°	16d
Sep		59°	51°	13d
Oct		54°	47°	15d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:59AM–8:18PM · Jun 4:12AM–10:05PM · Aug 5:35AM–8:48PM · Sep 6:39AM–7:26PM · Oct 7:42AM–6:04PM

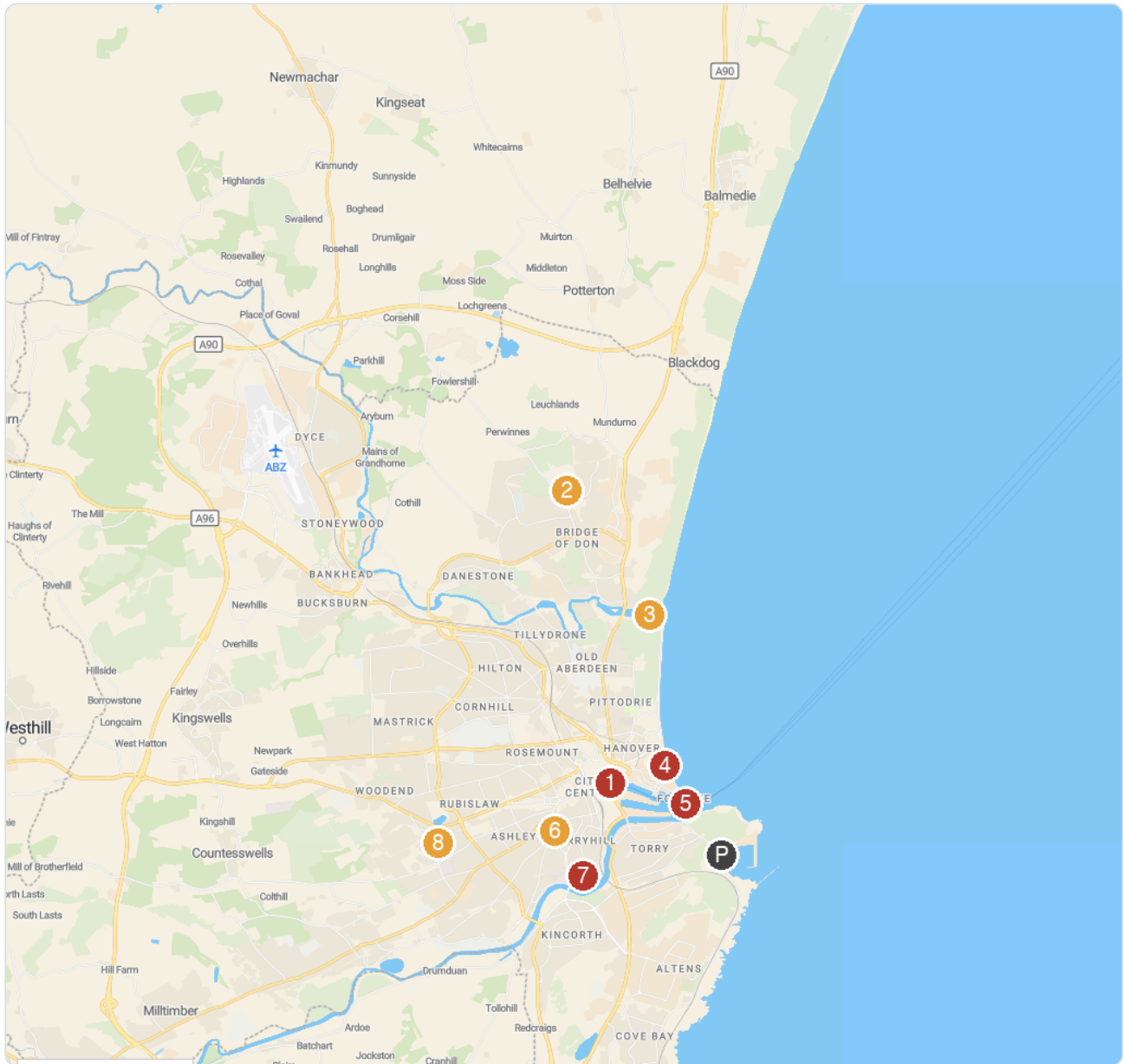
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- South Harbour shuttle: If your ship docks at Balmoral Quay, buy the cruise line shuttle or budget for a taxi (~£10-12 each way). The walk into town is not practical.
- Cash & cards: Scottish pounds (GBP) are standard. Note that Scottish banknotes are sometimes refused in England — spend them here.
- Book Dunnottar in advance: Entry tickets (around £8) can be purchased online. Go early — tour-group coaches fill the car park by midday.
- Pack layers: Aberdeen weather is brisk and changeable even in summer. A waterproof jacket is non-negotiable, especially on the Dunnottar cliff path.
- Free dolphin watching: Walk to Greyhope Bay (south of the harbour) on a calm morning for a genuine chance of spotting bottlenose dolphins — no boat ticket required.
- Castle day-trips need time: Balmoral is 90 km each way. If your ship departs before 6 pm, stick to Dunnottar (27 km) or Aberdeen city sights.

Aberdeen, Scotland, United Kingdom — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| 1 Aberdeen Maritime Museum | Museum showcasing Aberdeen's maritime history and North Sea oil. | 2 Scotstown Moor Local Nature Reserve | A local nature reserve with heathland, woodland, and wetlands. |
| 3 Donmouth Local Nature Reserve | Nature reserve at the River Don's mouth, great for birdwatching. | 4 Queens Links Leisure Park | Leisure park with amusements, cafes, and beach access. |
| 5 Footdee | Historic fishing village with unique, colourful cottages near the harbour. | 6 The Locked Door Escape Games | An indoor venue offering challenging, themed escape room games. |
| 7 Duthie Park | Large Victorian park featuring beautiful gardens and famous Winter Gardens. | 8 Johnston Gardens | Picturesque small garden with waterfalls, rockeries, and charming bridges. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |