

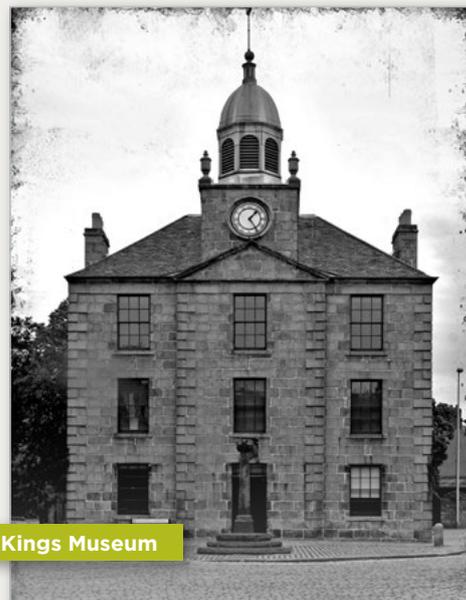
Aberdeen Hidden Gems by Bus & Foot

Apart from the City Centre attractions, there are a couple of hidden gems we would like to share with you. If you can't make time for them all, don't worry, you can always come back!

Start the day in beautiful Old Aberdeen. Enjoy soaking up the history in these cobbled streets and alleyways, where monks and scholars, traders and travellers settled. Today the 14th century St. Machar's Cathedral still stands and Kings College, the forerunner to Aberdeen University, was founded by Bishop Elphinstone in 1495.



Kings College



Kings Museum



Kings College

Getting there



- Bus Number:** [First Bus - Number 20](#) 🖱️
- Bus Pick-Up Point:** [Outside St. Nicholas Kirk, Union Street](#) 🖱️
- Old Aberdeen Bus Stop:** [King's College, High Street, Old Aberdeen](#) 🖱️
- Bus Ticket Price:** First Bus Day ticket £3.80 Mon-Thur after 9.30am and all-day weekends (Be sure to have the exact change to give the bus driver, the First Bus operates an exact fare policy.)
- Travel Time:** 15 minutes (22 minute walk)

Get off when you see King's College (see picture opposite, it's hard to miss!)

[Click here for map of walk route](#) 🖱️ 

Take a stroll in **Old Aberdeen** 🖱️ and enjoy the old granite buildings, and visit **King's College**. 🖱️ Aberdeen was once two towns before it became the Silver City with the Golden Sands. The granite of course, is the silver part, but if you choose to walk back along the beach you will discover the gold. But more on that later...

Head down the high street, towards the Old Town House. In here is the fantastic **King's Museum**, 🖱️ which has regularly changing exhibitions showcasing hundreds of years' worth of artefacts, collected by Aberdeen University.

For further information:

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Once you have enjoyed the curiosities in the museum, cross over the main road (St. Machars Drive) and head down The Chanonory. On the left you will come to the **Cruickshank Botanic Garden**, 🖱️ a peaceful haven housing an important collection of over 2,500 plants.

Continue down The Chanonory and you will notice the spires of **St. Machar's Cathedral** 🖱️ towering before you. It is said to be the only medieval granite cathedral in the world and to have been a place of worship since 580 AD. The present building dates from circa 1350-1520. According to legend this is where William Wallace is buried. Well, at least a left quarter of him. After his execution in London his limbs were sent to different parts of the country. Whether any part of him really is buried in the walls of the cathedral, it is not known.

If you carry on straight past the front of St Machar's you will see the entrance to **Seaton Park**. 🖱️ It's one of Aberdeen's many parks that put the city on the map, due to the city winning Britain in Bloom a record-breaking 10 times. The park offers a riot of colour from spring to autumn, highlights include cathedral walk and the walled gardens.

Once in the park head towards the river path, to the right hand side as you come down from the Cathedral. Follow the river path and look out for herons, seals, deer and people fly fishing from the river. There are salmon, sea trout and the river is particularly famous for its brown trout.



Cruickshank Botanic Garden



St. Machar's Cathedral



Seaton Park



The new bridge over the Don



Aberdeen Beach



Kings Links Golf

This path will take you up to a cobbled road that leads you to **The Brig o'Balgownie**. 🖱️ This is the old Bridge of Don built in late 13th century, believed to have been commissioned by Robert the Bruce.

Once at the Brig, walk on one of the paths that run along either side of the river heading towards the estuary. As you walk check out the river and try to spot some seals, which often bask on the island.

This takes you out at the new Bridge over the Don, and from here you will see the start of the Beach Esplanade.

The golden sand of **Aberdeen Beach** 🖱️ is certainly worth a stroll, where you can spot surfers, windsurfers and the eagle-eyed may even spot dolphins. You can follow the Esplanade all the way down to Footdee close to the harbour. Watch out for golfers at **Kings Links Golf Centre**. 🖱️ You can also enjoy an ice-cream or lunch from the numerous café's along the front.

For further information:

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Aberdeen Hidden Gems by Bus & Foot

Footdee, or Fittie 🖱️ as the locals call it, is an old fishing village at the mouth of the harbour. Some of the cottages look like they are taken from a fairy tale. The gardens are very personal and show the creativity, warmth and imagination of the inhabitants.

From Fittie you can sometimes see Aberdeen's cutest residents, our pod of Bottlenose Dolphins, which come to feed on the salmon at the harbour entrance. However, the **Torry Battery** 🖱️ at the other-side of the harbour is the best view point and can be easily reached by bus not far from here.



Footdee or Fittie



Kayaking at Aberdeen Beach

Getting there



- Bus Number:** [First Bus - 12 Torry](#) 🖱️
- Bus Pick-Up Point:** [Guild Street, opposite Union Square](#) 🖱️
- Torry Battery Bus Stop:** [Balnagask Golf Course, St Fittick's Road](#) 🖱️
(15 minute walk from here)
- Bus Ticket Price:** First Bus Day Ticket still valid (if you haven't got one, remember that FirstBus operate an exact fare only policy)
- Travel Time:** 20mins (40 minute walk)

[Click here for map of walk route](#) 🖱️



Dolphins

At the bus stop head down to the harbour and follow Greyhope Road up (with the harbour on your left) to the Torry Battery, it's around a 15 minute walk.

RSPB Scotland's Dolphinwatch 🖱️ normally have staff here Thursday to Sunday 11.00-18.00, from April - August and they are happy to provide you with information about the bottlenose dolphins and other marine mammals you have the chance to spot.

The dolphins however, don't care about opening times and there is a chance to see them at any time!

More information

For more details on traveling with FirstBus in Aberdeen check out the **FirstBus website**. 🖱️

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Alternatively visit www.visitabdn.com 🖱️ for some more inspiration for your visit.



Dunnottar Castle

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