

## Aberdeenshire Coastal Wildlife

### Morning

#### **Forvie National Nature Reserve**

This is one of Scotland's best loved reserves, with its magnificent shifting sand dunes. The area offers excellent walking and wildlife watching opportunities, as here the UK's largest colony of Eider Ducks call home. Along with hundreds of Grey Seals that bask at the mouth of the River Ythan.

**Suggested Time Required:** 1hour



#### **Bullers of Buchan**

On route to the Bullers of Buchan look out for the ruins of Slains Castle clinging to the cliff edge, said to be the inspiration for Bram Stokers Dracula...

Once at the Bullers you can experience a dramatic cliff top walk, with cliff arches and sea caves which are home to breeding bird colonies of Puffins, Shags, Kittiwakes, Fulmars, Razorbills and Guillemots. Seals are also usually seen swimming around the bay, and if you are lucky dolphins can be seen further out at sea.

**Suggested Time Required:** 1 hour



#### **Loch of Strathbeg**

There are lots of seasonal highlights at the UK's largest Dune Loch, but especially in September when up to 80,000 pink footed-geese (20% of the world's population!) come to roost at the loch.

There is also a panoramic viewing window onto the loch within the Visitor Centre.

Alternatively you can enjoy an invigorating walk from St. Combs to Ratray Head. 

Ratray Head beach is scattered with ship wrecks to explore, and at low-tide the Ratray Head Lighthouse can be reached from the beach along its causeway.

**Suggested Time Required:** Around 3hours



For further information:

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## Afternoon

### **Museum of Scottish Lighthouses - Fraserburgh**

The award winning, Museum of Scottish Lighthouses, on the North East corner of Aberdeenshire, comprises of the first lighthouse built on mainland Scotland and a purpose-built museum. The highlight of a visit is a 45 minute guided tour to Kinnaird Head lighthouse.

The restaurant also offers spectacular views over the Moray Firth, where whales, dolphins and a plethora of bird life can be spotted.

**Suggested Time Required:** 2 hours, including guided tour of the lighthouse.



### **Macduff Marine Aquarium**

The award winning aquarium gives visitors an insight into the underwater world of the North Sea and its inhabitants!

**Suggested Time Required:** 1 hour



### **Fishing the Deveron**

Salmon Fishing is available on the River Deveron and can be booked by the day or by the week (including accommodation if required). A full guiding service is available with tuition and equipment hire. This service can be provided throughout the North East if you plan to do some fishing on other rivers such as the Dee or Spey, including booking the fishing if required. Other activities such as Clay pigeon shooting or stalking can also be arranged within season.

**Suggested Time Required:** 3 hours



### **Banffshire Coast**

The Banffshire coast is a place of peaceful natural beauty, stretching from Pennan to Cullen, you can find some indescribable sights along the way. Something really spectacular about this area is the thriving wildlife - it is often a common occurrence to see dolphins at play, not to mention the gannets, porpoises, puffins and the occasional whale.

For more information about the Banffshire Coast please visit our website [www.visitabdn.com/banffshire-coast](http://www.visitabdn.com/banffshire-coast) 



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