

Castles of Deeside By Public Transport

There are two castles in Deeside easily accessible by public bus, let's start with **Crathes Castle** 🖱️ (but you can do it either way around).

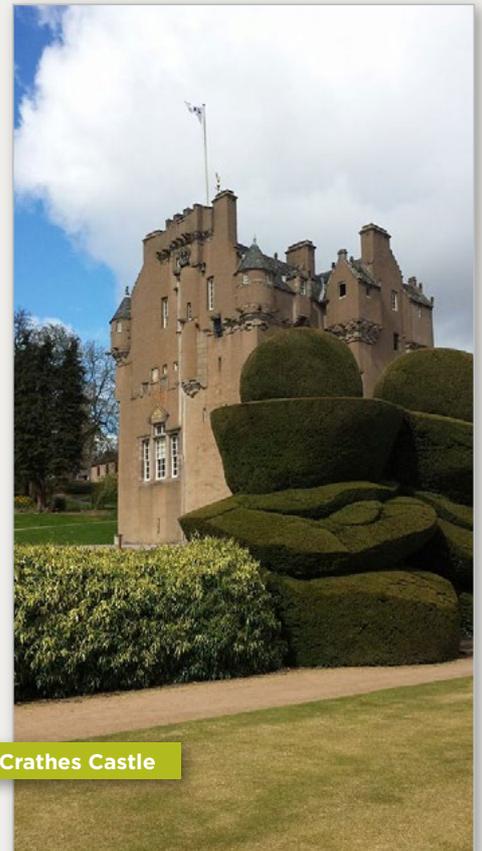
Getting there



Bus Number:	Stagecoach 201, 202 or 203 🖱️
Bus Pick-Up Point:	<u>Aberdeen Bus Station, Union Square, Guild Street, Aberdeen, AB11 6GR</u> 🖱️
Crathes Castle Bus Stop:	<u>Crathes for Crathes Castle - ask the bus driver to let you know when to alight. (20 minute walk from bus stop to Castle).</u> 🖱️
Bus Ticket Price:	Buy a Stagecoach Day ticket on the bus - zone 3, £7.85 (change given on board)
Travel Time:	45 minutes

Crathes Castle Visitor Information

Opening Times:	<u>Year round, please visit our website</u> 🖱️ <u>for up-to-date information.</u>
Ticket Price:	Adults £12.50, Concessions £9 & NTS Members Free
Facilities:	Shop, café, toilets, adventure playground & Go Ape Course.
Address:	Crathes Castle, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5QJ
Tel:	+44 (0) 844 493 2166



Crathes Castle



Crathes Castle

For further information:

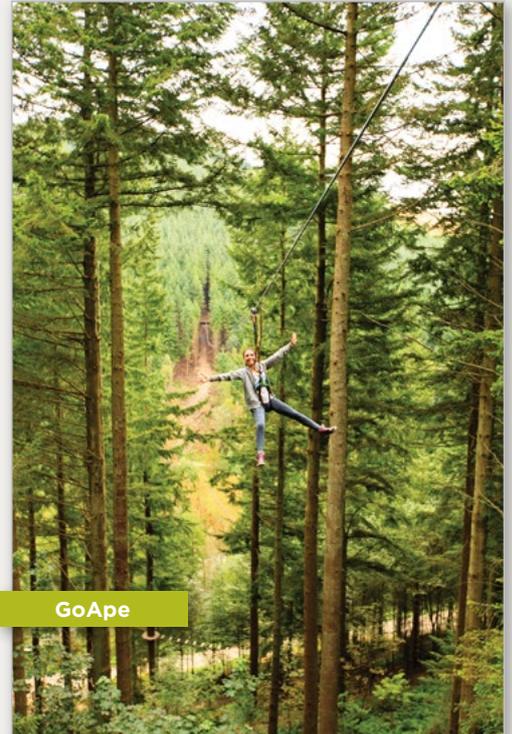
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When you get off the bus, you will see **The Royal Deeside Railway** 🖱️ to the left, but if you would like to continue to the castle you can follow the path behind the bus stop and walk under the road instead of crossing it. You now have a 20 minute walk through the peaceful castle estate, follow the path marked with white arrows.

When you get to the castle, go past it and buy tickets from a wooden booth close to the car park. This includes entrance to the castle and walled gardens and both are well worth a visit. The history of Crathes goes back to when Robert the Bruce gave the land to the Burnett family, but the building itself is from the 16th century. It belongs to The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) and not only has it got its own ghost, but also well educated guides strategically placed in the rooms, that are happy to share their knowledge about the castle and its history.

For those more adventurous you can sign up to the **GoApe High-Wire Course**, 🖱️ and spend a few hours monkeying around in the trees of the Crathes Estate.

After enjoying a few hours at Crathes head back to the main road, but before you catch the bus, head back under the bridge which takes you into the Milton of Crathes craft village. Here there are a number of galleries, the **Milton Brasserie** and **The Royal Deeside Railway** 🖱️ which offers pleasure trips on the old 🖱️ Deeside Railway Line.



GoApe

If you haven't quite had your fill of local history, **Drum Castle** 🖱️ is just along the road on the way back to Aberdeen.



Drum Castle

Getting there



Bus Number:	Stagecoach 201 or 202 🖱️
Bus Pick-Up Point:	Crathes for Crathes Castle 🖱️
Drum Castle Bus Stop:	Drumoak, at Drum Castle Road End- ask the bus driver to let you know when to alight. (20 minute walk from bus stop to the Castle.) 🖱️
Bus Ticket Price:	Day Ticket still valid
Travel Time:	7 minutes

Drum Castle Visitor Information

Opening Times:	April-September, please visit our website 🖱️ for up-to-date information.
Ticket Price:	Adults £12.50, Concession £9 & NTS Members Free
Facilities:	Shop, café, toilets & adventure playground.
Address:	Drum Castle, Garden & Estate, By Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5EY
Tel:	+44 (0)844 493 2161

For further information:

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Don't be fooled by the castle look alike close to the road – **the Mains of Drum Garden Centre and Restaurant.** 🖱️ But when you see it, that is your cue to get off the bus. Follow the brown signs of the NTS and walk on the quiet country road, then through the estate for 20 minutes. Tickets can then be purchased inside the castle (last entry at 4pm).

The estate was given to the Irvine's by Robert the Bruce in 1323. The 13th century tower still stands, but as with most castles a lot has changed during the years. The head of the Irvine clan lived in Drum until it was given to the NTS in 1975. Just as in Crathes Castle you will find very helpful guides inside to tell you the castles story. Drum is also famous for its bats and squirrels in the grounds. Just outside the castle you can see the Chapel and explore the beautiful Garden of Historic Roses.

There is more to both the estates. It's just about how much time you have to explore them!

Head back to the main road and the bus stop you got off at and get on the **201, 202 or 203 bus** 🖱️ back to Aberdeen.



More information

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

Why not have a day in the city and follow our **Hidden Gems of Aberdeen** public transport itinerary? 🖱️

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



For further information:

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