



CHRISTMAS

IN ABERDEEN

2018



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IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

Aberdeen will come alive with some seasonal sparkle for the 2018 festive season. Christmas in Aberdeen includes events and activities for all to enjoy, including the bigger and better Christmas Village in and around the Broad Street area.

ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Broad Street Thursday 22 November - Monday 31 December

In partnership with Aberdeen Inspired and delivered by Codona's Amusement Park, we are thrilled to bring the Aberdeen Christmas Village back to the city. There will be something for ALL the family including a spectacular ice rink and a wonderful festive fairground!



Open Air Ice Rink

Monday - Thursday, 12pm - 9pm

Friday, 12pm - 11pm (School Holidays, open from 11am Monday - Friday)

Saturday, 10am - 11pm Sunday, 10am - 10pm

Boasting the beautiful backdrop of Marischal College, this family favourite is returning bigger and better! Skate on real ice under twinkling fairy lights while your family and friends keep warm and enjoy the refreshments on offer within the Village.



Festive Fairground Rides

Monday - Thursday, 12pm - 9pm

Friday, 12pm - 11pm (School Holidays, open from 11am Monday - Friday)

Saturday, 10am - 11pm Sunday, 10am - 10pm

***kiddies rides close at 8pm**

Thrill seekers will be excited to see new rides, the Snowball and Freak Out added to the offering. Traditional favourites such as the helter skelter and carousel return for the children along with the addition of bumper cars.



Refreshments

Monday - Thursday, 12pm - 9pm

Friday, 12pm - 11pm (School Holidays, open from 11am Monday - Friday)

Saturday, 10am - 11pm Sunday, 10am - 10pm

Soak up the festive atmosphere and enjoy a 'flavour of Aberdeen' with some local traditional snacks and drinks.



Community Events

This year's Christmas in Aberdeen community events will feature Christmas songs, Nativity play, music, dance and drama. A full Community Entertainment Programme can be found at aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas



Relaxed Skating

Friday 28 December 10am - 11am

Low music and no strobes aims to make this hour as inclusive as possible. For further information call

01224 595910 or email:

phionna@metoomagazine.org



Santa's Grotto

Open Thursday - Sunday until 23 December

Thursday, 4pm - 8pm

Friday, 12pm - 6pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11am - 6pm

Our Santa's Grotto in Marischal College Quad is brand new for 2018. Come along and meet Santa and his elves in his Christmas cabin, where every child will receive a fantastic early Christmas present.



Aberdeen Christmas Village is brought to you by Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeen Inspired.

aberdeencity.gov.uk
aberdeeninspired.com



CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON

Castlegate - Thursday 22 November 2018, 7pm - FREE

Our twin town of Stavanger in Norway has once again kindly donated a magnificent Christmas tree. A carol service will be held at the Castlegate prior to the switch-on where the Lord Provost of Aberdeen and the Deputy Mayor of Stavanger will light up the beautiful spruce. Musical entertainment will be provided.



TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE

Union Street - Sunday 25 November, 12noon - FREE

Santa and his Cairngorm reindeer travel from the Castlegate up to the Trinity Centre. For full details visit trinityaberdeen.co.uk



CHARLIE HOUSE SANTA FUN RUN

Union Street - Sunday 25 November, 5.15pm

Be part of the Christmas Lights Switch-on parade by running down Union Street dressed as Santa - raise money for Charlie House at the same time!
Sign up at www.charliehouse.org.uk before 25 November



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE

Union Street - Sunday 25 November, 5.30pm - FREE

Aberdeen's Christmas lights will be switched on in a 'Fire and Ice' themed parade led by the Lord Provost of Aberdeen. This year's parade includes: santas, reindeer on segways, carnival characters, panto characters and special guests the Sandwich Up Helly-Aa Vikings from Shetland.



TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WOODEN SCULPTURE TRAIL

Saturday 1 - Monday 24 December - FREE

Twelve unique and striking totem pole sculptures have been located across the city centre. Created by local chainsaw wood carver Gary Shand, the carvings depict the popular carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas. This is sure to be a popular challenge for all ages, join the fun by using the hashtag **#ABDN12days** and share your pictures from the trail.



NATIVITY SCENE

St Nicholas Kirkyard - Monday 3 December, 11am unveiling
Open daily until Friday 4 January 2019, dawn - dusk - FREE

An important reminder of what Christmas is all about. Aberdeen Churches Together will officially bless the crib, and refreshments will be available after the event.



CAROL CONCERTS

David Welch Winter Gardens, Duthie Park - Saturday 15 December
11am and 2pm - FREE

Join in singing your favourite carols to the accompaniment of the Bon Accord Silver Band and singers. Food bank donations are also being accepted in aid of CFINE - a social enterprise charity committed to improving health and wellbeing for all. For more details visit cfine.org



FRIENDS OF HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND

Hazlehead Park - Sunday 16 December, 12.30pm - 2.30pm - FREE

Get in the festive spirit with Santa and his reindeer, join in with the music and browse the craft stalls. Entertainment will be provided by Rock Choir, Hazlehead School Choir, Cairngorm Reindeers and Bon Accord Silver Band. This event is free to attend but donations to Friends of Hazlehead are welcome.



HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS

Schoolhill - Monday 31 December, from 9.00pm
Fireworks at midnight - FREE

Bring in the bells at our open air stage on Schoolhill for the ultimate Aberdeen street party. With live music from ABBA tribute band Thank you for the Music and bag pipe rock band Gleadhraich, followed by a spectacular midnight fireworks display from His Majesty's Theatre rooftop. You don't want to miss the best party in town!

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Full details of all the events below can be found at aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas

Dyce Primary Christmas Fair

15 November, 7pm - 9pm

Cults/Bieldside/Milltimber Community Councils

Christmas lights switch on

17 November, 4pm - 6pm

Kingswells Primary School PTA Christmas Fair

24 November, 2pm - 5pm, Adults £2 / Children free

Kittybrewster Primary School Christmas Fayre

29 November, 6.15pm - 8.15pm

Kaimhill Schools Christmas Fair

29 November, 5.30pm - 7pm, Adult £2 / Children £1

Ferryhill Parish Church Development Fund

Christmas Fair, 1 December, 2pm - 4pm

Rosemount Community Centre Christmas Fair

1 December, 1pm - 3pm

Loirston Primary School Christmas Fayre

1 December, 10am - 12.30pm

Adults £2 / Concessions £1

Kingsford Primary School Christmas Fayre

1 December, 11am - 2pm

Danestone Primary Christmas Fayre

1 December, 10am - 1pm, Adults £2 / Children £1 Under 3's free

Glashieburn Primary School and Nursery PTA Xmas

Fayre, 1 December, 10am - 12pm

Adults £2 / Children £1

Scotstown Primary School Christmas Fayre

1 December, 1pm - 3pm

Fernielea Primary School Christmas Fair

6 December, 6pm - 8pm

Westpark School Christmas Fair

7 December, 3pm - 5.30pm

Abbotswell Primary Christmas Fair

8 December, 10am - 12pm, Adults £2 / Children £1

Gilcomston Church hosts the African

Children's Choir

14 December, 7pm. Buy tickets at <https://bit.ly/2Nm3r0s>

Gilcomston Church, Carols on the Steps

15 December, 10.30am & 11.30am

Somebody Cares Charity Fundraising Christmas,

Somebody Cares Megastore, Hazeldene Road

15 and 16 December, 12pm - 8pm, entry £1 donation

The Fountain of Love Annual Christmas

Carol Concert, Palmerston Rd, 15 December, 5.30pm

Hillview Community Church, Cults

16 December, 6.30pm

Queen's Cross Church 'Carols round the Tree'

16 December, 6pm

Queen's Cross Church, Business Community

Carol Service, 19 December, 12.30pm

Queen's Cross Church, Beer and Carols

The Dutch Mill Hotel

Queen's Road, 23 December, 6.30pm

Queen's Cross Church, Christingle Service

24 December, 6.30pm

Hillview Community Church, Cults

Christmas Eve Service, 24 December, 6.30pm

Hillview Community Church, Cults

Christmas Day Celebrations, 25 December, 10.30am



ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE MARKETS

CHRISTMAS IN THE QUAD

Marischal College

Weekend 1: Thursday 22 - Sunday 25 November

Weekend 2: Thursday 29 November - Sunday 2 December

Weekend 3: Thursday 6 - Sunday 9 December

Weekend 4: Thursday 13 - Sunday 16 December

Weekend 5: Thursday 20 - Sunday 23 December

Thursday, 4pm - 8pm

Friday, 12pm - 6pm

Saturday and Sunday, 11am - 6pm

We are delighted to present a new version of the Christmas Market to the people of Aberdeen for 2018. A wide range of locally produced crafts, arts and gifts, along with gourmet food and drink will be available from our open-air festive wooden cabins. With a unique offering each weekend, the market will showcase both new and established brands bringing you a high quality offering for your Christmas shopping. Come along and support some fantastic local businesses from the North East. To see which businesses will be attending, please visit aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas

BROAD STREET MARKET

Broad Street

Thursday 22 November - Monday 31 December

Monday - Friday, 12pm - 8pm

(School Holidays, open from 11am Monday - Friday)

Saturday and Sunday 10am - 8pm

A selection of festive gifts and decorations along with sweet and savoury treats will be available to buy during your visit.



ABERDEEN CITY CHRISTMAS EVENTS



CHRISTMAS

IN ABERDEEN

2018

A ABERDEEN CHRISTMAS VILLAGE
Broad Street / Upperkirkgate

B CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON
Castlegate

C THE TRINITY CENTRE REINDEER PARADE
Union Street

D CHARLIE HOUSE SANTA RUN
Union Street

E CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON PARADE
Union Street

F NATIVITY SCENE
St Nicholas Kirkyard, Union Street

G CAROL CONCERTS
David Welch Winter Gardens

H HOGMANAY CELEBRATIONS
Schoolhill

I HAZLEHEAD WINTER WONDERLAND
Hazlehead Park



12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WOODEN SCULPTURE TRAIL

1 PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE
Castlegate

2 TWO TURTLE DOVES
Aberdeen Arts Centre

3 THREE FRENCH HENS
St Nicholas Kirkyard

4 FOUR CALLING BIRDS
Broad Street

5 FIVE GOLD RINGS
St Nicholas Street

6 SIX GEESE A LAYING
Bon Accord Centre

7 SEVEN SWANS A SWIMMING
Rosemount Viaduct

8 EIGHT MAIDS A MILKING
Rose Street

9 NINE LADIES DANCING
George Street

10 TEN LORDS A LEAPING
Schoolhill

11 ELEVEN PIPERS PIPING
Union Square

12 TWELVE DRUMMERS DRUMMING
The Green

**ABERDEEN
CHRISTMAS
VILLAGE**

GALLOWGATE

UPPERKIRK GATE

Icons representing activities: a snowflake, a hot tub, a carousel, a sleigh, a tent, and a bonfire.



SNOW GLOBE



QUEEN STREET



Subject to change



CHRISTMAS MARKETS

German Christmas Market (Jager Haus)

Union Square, 26 October - 4 January 2019

Belmont Street Market

Saturday 24 November/ 8 December (incorporates 20+ stalls from the Grampian Young Enterprise) / 15 December / 22 December

Thistle Street Market

Saturday 10 November / 8 December

George Street Farmers Market

Saturday 3 November / 1 December



FINE Christmas Food & Drink Market

St Nicholas Mall, 22 - 25 November

Thursday 5pm - 8pm, Friday 10am - 5pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5pm

Let us tell you the story of our region by celebrating local producers at FINE Christmas Food & Drink market this November. Choose from a selection of delicious artisan producers and treat yourself or your loved ones to something tasty and unique this Christmas.



Etsy Made Local - Aberdeen

St Nicholas Mall, 29 November - 2 December 2018

Thursday 5pm - 8pm, Friday 10am - 5.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5.30pm

Popping-up in the St Nicholas Mall, Bon Accord Centre over four days, the third annual Etsy Made Local Market promises to be a fun alternative to the traditional Christmas shopping experience. Buy direct from local Etsy designers, makers and vintage collectors. Meet the people behind the product and look locally for this year's Christmas gifting!

Etsy Made Local is a national initiative celebrating the crafters, collectors and artisans in local communities across the UK. For further details visit aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas





BON ACCORD
IN THE CITY'S HEART

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

With unique independent boutiques and all of your favourite high street stores, Aberdeen is the perfect destination for your Christmas shopping.

Bon Accord Centre

Aberdeen's favourite shopping destination in the heart of the city. Over 70 shops including John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Topshop, Disney Store, River Island, as well as some more specialised stores, whether you're looking for fashion, beauty, the must have gift or the latest gadget, you're sure to find it at Bon Accord. With a festive line up planned including the popular light displays, late night shopping, free parking after 5pm and Santa's Winter Wonderland - Bon Accord is Christmas in the city's heart.

bonaccordaberdeen.com

TrinityCentre

Trinity Centre

The Trinity Centre is home to over 20 shops, bringing you everything from fashion to footwear, DVDs to jewellery, accessories to eateries all under one roof. With high street brands like Debenhams, Schuh and Ernest Jones there is something for everyone. The Trinity Centre car park has over 400 spaces.

trinityaberdeen.co.uk

UnionSquare

Union Square

Union Square boasts over 85 stores and restaurants, a 10 screen cinema and a 203 bedroom hotel right in the centre of Aberdeen. Alongside stores such as Marks and Spencer, Zara and Apple, restaurants such as YO! Sushi, Nando's and ASK Italian happily reside to provide a unique offering to the city.

unionsquareaberdeen.com

UNION ST
ABERDEEN

Union Street and Hidden Gems

Experience Aberdeen's granite mile, the sparkling heart of our festive city. Union St boasts a mixture of independent and high street stores as well as an abundance of popular cafés and restaurants. Venture beyond the high-street to nearby Rosemount and the West End to find streets full of independent retailers - from cool record shops, and quirky tea rooms, to vintage clothing, galleries and gift stores, proving just how much style the city has.

**MERCHANT
QUARTER**
ABERDEEN

Merchant Quarter

1/4 sq mile cultural quarter of Independent business including 6 hotels, 16 restaurants, over 20 bars including cocktail bars and 7 cask beer bars. Live music in many venues. Flanked by the city's undercover retail centres and close to transport links.

SHOP, STAY, PLAY AND SAVE IN ABERDEEN



STAY

Aberdeen during the festive season is truly magical, so why not take advantage of the fantastic accommodation offers available at a variety of hotels in Aberdeen City and Shire.

Aberdeen Douglas Hotel - Merchant Quarter, City Centre, Aberdeen

£65 double room, B&B Thursday - Sunday.

Contact: 01224 582255 aberdeendouglas.com

Carmelite Hotel, Bar & Grill, Merchant Quarter, Aberdeen

£65 per night Designer/Dapper double room, welcome bottle bubbly & 'Not Guilty' cooked breakfast, (Additional complementary bt wine when booking dinner) available from 23 November, throughout December & January.

Contact: 01224 589101 info@carmelitehotels.com

Copthorne Hotel, City Centre, Aberdeen

£59 per night standard double room & breakfast. Thursday to Sunday available throughout December.

Contact: 01224 630404 Reservations.aberdeen@millenniumhotels.co.uk

Hallmark Hotel, Dyce Aberdeen Airport

£49 deluxe room, bed & breakfast, free parking.

Contact: 01224 246804 aberdeen.res@hallmarkhotels.co.uk

Malmaison Aberdeen

£79 Bed and Bubbles standard room, continental breakfast and a glass of fizz. Thursday to Sunday from 1 November to 23 December.

Contact: 01224 327370 events.aberdeen@malmaison.com

Sandman Signature Aberdeen Hotel

£69 signature king room with breakfast.

£79 corporate king room with breakfast.

Available 7 days during November, December & January. (Up to 2 adults per room)

Contact: 01224 945555 res_aberdeen@sandmanhotels.co.uk

How to book: Choose, call hotel direct, quote 'Aberdeen Christmas'
General T&C's apply to all properties, and rate subject to availability.
(Promotional rates not available through 3rd party booking sites)



PLAY AND EXPLORE

This winter, take the time to explore Aberdeen and discover why the North-east continues to captivate visitors from around the world thanks to its strong music, heritage, festivals and food and drink experiences. Home to a varied and vibrant collection of cultural celebrations, featuring traditions both old and new, Aberdeen is transformed into a winter wonderland, promising to capture the magic of Christmas.

Get into the festive spirit at one of the city's award-winning bars, where you can sample whisky, craft beer and gin all produced in Aberdeenshire. The city centre is set against an urban backdrop rich in history, culture and heritage, with many citing Aberdeen as one of the most architecturally unique in the world thanks to the grand granite buildings. The compact layout of the Granite City makes Aberdeen a shoppers' paradise, where you can finish your Christmas shopping at west end boutiques and high street fashion brands.

They say variety is the spice of life, so when you need to take a break from the shops to re-fuel, Aberdeen offers a truly international flavour, sample mouth-watering menus at every turn, all produced with the finest local ingredients from the famous Aberdeen larder.

There are few places that capture the magic of Christmas better than a grand Scottish castle, and with 300 located in Aberdeenshire you'll be spoilt for choice, as many of them host pop-up Christmas markets selling locally handmade gifts.

So, don't go cold turkey this festive season, discover a Christmas adventure none of the family will forget. Plan your Scottish winter break at visitabdn.com



Visit **Aberdeenshire**

SHOP, STAY, PLAY AND SAVE IN ABERDEEN

TRAVELLING TO ABERDEEN

With so many transport options Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire have never been easier to get to.



By Air

Aberdeen International Airport is located just six miles from Aberdeen city centre and is within easy reach of Aberdeenshire.

The region is well connected globally with daily flights to all major airports including all three London airports, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam. The international airport also has many direct routes to most UK cities as well as many key European destinations. aberdeenairport.com



By Road

No matter where you start your journey in the UK, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire are simple to get to by road.

Aberdeen is approximately 2.5 hours' drive from Edinburgh or Glasgow and less than a three hour drive from Inverness.

For help with planning your journey to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire please visit traveline.info



By Rail

Aberdeen's railway station, right in the heart of the city, has frequent fast and reliable services to and from major cities. Travel on one of the hourly trains from Glasgow and Edinburgh or use the east coast line to travel from cities such as York or Newcastle.

Scotrail provides an express rail service direct to Aberdeen from many major cities. For timetables and to book your train tickets to Aberdeen visit scotrail.co.uk

Aberdeen can also be reached overnight from London on the Caledonian Sleeper. Visit sleeper.scot for more information about this service.

Virgin Trains East Coast run services along the East Coast Main Line and frequently run trains from cities such as Edinburgh, York, Newcastle and London further details can be found on virgintrainseastcoast.com

National Rail offers also offers rail services to Aberdeen and the surrounding area, visit nationalrail.co.uk for further details.



By Sea

Aberdeen Ferry Terminal is located at Jamieson's Quay directly across from Aberdeen Bus Station.

The centrally located harbour is where ferries travel regularly to/from the Scottish Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

For information about travelling from Orkney and Shetland visit northlinkferries.co.uk



By Foot

Aberdeen city centre is easily navigated on foot with most of the key attractions within walking distance.

TRAVELLING AROUND ABERDEEN



By Bike

There are cycle facilities such as cycle lanes, as well as cycle shops, places to lock bikes, recommended quiet routes and recreational routes around the city.

A map is available on aberdeencity.gov.uk



By Taxi

Taxi ranks are available on Chapel Street, Back Wynd, Hadden Street, and the railway station. Weekend night-time taxi ranks are available on Union Street.



By Bus

First Aberdeen operates a high frequency network of services across the city while Stagecoach Bluebird buses link the towns and villages in Aberdeenshire and various city locations.

firstgroup.com/aberdeen

stagecoachbus.com/timetables



Car Parking

City Centre car parking is available at Union Square, Bon Accord Centre (Harriett Street and Loch Street) and Trinity Centre shopping centres, as well as council car parks at Gallowgate, Frederick Street, Denburn, Chapel Street, West North Street and Virginia Street, and the widely available on-street parking.

There are dedicated Blue Badge spaces across the city, allowing badge holders to park closer to their destination. National concessions apply to on-street and Aberdeen City Council car parks, but please check with private off-street car parks prior to parking.

RingGo is a quick, easy to use mobile phone service that lets you pay for your parking with a credit or debit card rather than using cash at a machine. Download the app to your phone for quick and convenient parking payment.



Alive After Five

Alive After Five campaign offers free parking everyday from 5pm until 8am in the city centre car parks listed below:

- Bon Accord Centre car parks, Harriet Street and Loch Street
- Chapel Street car park, Huntly Street
- Denburn car park, Spa Street
- Frederick Street car park, Frederick Street
- West North Street car park, West North Street



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To keep up to date with all the exciting events in
Aberdeen this Christmas, visit us regularly at
aberdeencity.gov.uk/christmas