

**YOUNG PERSONS GUIDE TO
DOORS OPEN DAYS FESTIVAL IN**

ABERDEEN
EDINBURGH
GLASGOW
INVERNES
PITLOCHRY
STIRLING

INTRODUCTION

Aberdeen's architectural charms can be extremely subtle. The grey granite often feels overly formal, with little sense of humour, especially in dreich weather. But look closer and you will be well-rewarded. The city's buildings possess far more individual variety than initially apparent, while the consistent granite is unique, and provides a sense of unity. And the tiled street signs, combined with the stone's natural shimmer in the sun, offer plenty of charm and levity. So dive in to Doors Open Day and see what you discover.

This guide can be used in two ways. The itinerary is intended to fit in as much as possible on the day, and is intended to be completed on foot, or using the free shuttle bus. The second section contains a more detailed personal set of highlights, which can be combined with your own choices from the full programme.

DAY ITINERARY

Up bright and early, our first stop is Trinity Hall, home to the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen.

Next up, check out the grandeur of the Masonic Temple.

Afterwards, a quick visit to the Gothic Kirk of St Nicholas, making sure not to miss St Mary's Chapel, which is open less frequently than the main building.

Then, a stroll to the Aberdeen Trades Union Council, to learn more about the city's history of activism.

Hopefully making good time, arrive at St Andrew's Cathedral for midday, when the Cathedral Choir will be performing. Stay for the buffet lunch (and if you're still hungry, make a trip to Thain's nearby for a pie or a rowie).

Next, head to the Castlegate, and take your pick from the Sheriff Court, or the Advocates Library. Scale the Salvation Army Citadel's castellated tower for a fine view over the city, or check out a talk on the history of the Aberdeen tenement at 2pm at the Maritime Museum.

From here, make your way to Old Aberdeen, which should be especially buzzing. Depending on time and personal preference, you could tour the beautiful King's Chapel or St Machar's Cathedral, do some learning at the Zoology Building, the Elphinstone Institute, or the Confucius Institute, or stroll around the Botanical Gardens.

Once you're done, enjoy a well-deserved drink at the Machar Bar, or a coffee at Kilau, and start planning for next year.

THEME PICKS

My tastes and interests trend towards the more modern, but Aberdeen's architectural gems date back several centuries, so it's hard to go too wrong whatever you choose to do on the day.

For addresses, opening times, accessibility information, and architect details for listings in this programme, please see the main programme, or visit www.doorsopendays.org.uk.

1. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, N Anderson Drive

A chance for a glimpse into one of the more unique Christian denominations. Modern churches are a particular love of mine, and this one is distinctly American, with its striking needle spire. No photos of the interior online, so a must visit for the curious.

2. Elphinstone Institute, MacRobert Building, 581 King Street

Inside this brutalist giant you'll find a cultural centre for the North East of Scotland's language, folklore, and music. There'll be informal performances throughout the day, and I intend to see a lot of them. Highly recommended.

3. Harbour Expansion Project - Visitor Centre, Walker Park

Could easily be the reception for a new Stewart Milne housing development from the outside, but within you can learn more about a new chapter in Aberdeen's centuries-long reliance on the North Sea, as this complicated feat of marine engineering gets underway.

4. Masonic Temple, 85 Crown Street

Learn more about this secretive guild while appreciating the Temple's beautiful interior, with its elaborate carved wood, decorative tiling, and chequered floors. Not to be missed.

5. St Nicholas + St Mary's Chapel, Correction Wynd

The 'Mither Kirk' of Aberdeen, and a site of worship/burial for nearly 1000 years, which the massive ongoing archaeological project there is uncovering. St Mary's Chapel dates from the 15th century and is particularly moody with its stone roof and medieval woodwork.

6. Trinity Hall, 164 Holburn Street,

This unique building is a kitschy blend of modernism with windows dating from a previous 19th century building owned by the Trades, hidden behind a foreboding fence. The interior makes great use of these windows, and the regal atmosphere inside is a pleasing contrast from its stark outer.

7. Victoria Road School, Victoria Road

A well-known Torry school which closed its doors in 2008 before being seriously damaged by fire earlier this year. Several guided tours (free but advance booking essential, still plenty of spots at the time of writing) will take you inside this historic granite building for a look at its planned redevelopment into affordable housing with a community space.

BEYOND DOORS OPEN DAY

Not all buildings and places are involved in Doors Open Day, and Aberdeen has some noteworthy ones absent from the programme.

Rosemount Square is possibly my favourite building in the whole city, a tenement block which has more in common with German modernism than with most other housing in Aberdeen, asides from its granite construction of course.

Fittie is an obvious choice but the small cottages are a wonderful tribute to Aberdeen's fishing history and the multicoloured huts and sheds in the centre are also charming, with their owner's personalities coming through in their decoration.

The Castlegate and Gallowgate High Rises are a great example of how high-rise social housing can work when well-maintained. They possess few of the social problems often associated with such buildings, marvellous views, and elevated walkways, amongst other interesting architectural features.

And lastly, spare a thought for Bon Accord Baths, one of Aberdeen's most beautiful art deco buildings, long-mooted for restoration. Time will tell, but best to keep the fingers crossed.

YOUNG ADVISORY PANEL

In 2018, Doors Open Days assembled the Young Advisory Panel, through funding from the Year of Young People National Lottery Fund - we're Jordan, Laura, Magda, Sophie, Rachel & Rory. This year we've been tasked with creating, writing and designing guides, both in print and in video, to Stirling, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Pitlochry & Inverness - giving local insight and a fresh perspective on what each location has to offer.

The Aberdeen YAP guide was created by Rory, who is 24. Rory likes post-war architecture, Scottish football, and Joni Mitchell.

**DOORS
OPEN
DAYS** 2019

30
YEARS



SUPPORTING
year of young people
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2018



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