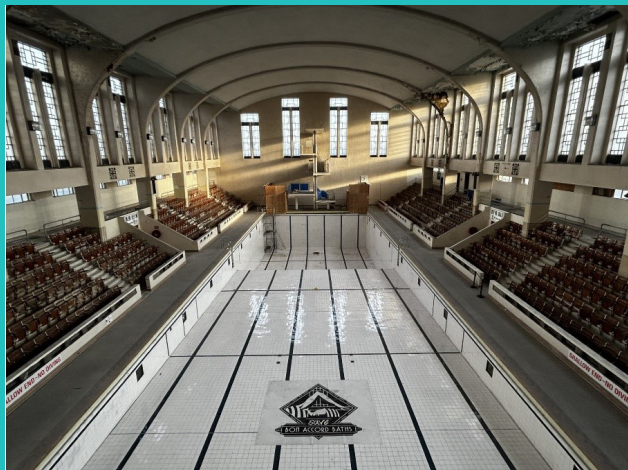




Event sponsored by the  
Scottish Civic Trust

# DOORS OPEN DAYS 2026

## ABERDEEN CITY

5th & 6th September

Doors Open Day is Scotland's largest free festival that celebrates places and stories, new and old.

Explore the national programme:  
[DOORSOPENDAYS.ORG.UK](https://doorsopendays.org.uk)

Above: Bon Accord Baths

## 1. Aberdeen Town House

Broad Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AQ

5th September 10am-4.30pm

Built between 1867 and 1872 to the design of Peddie & Kinnear, the Town House is a striking example of Victorian civic architecture, with its grand entrance, sweeping spiral staircase and ornate second-floor rooms that have hosted Aberdeen's civic life for over 150 years. The building is also home to Aberdeen's UNESCO-recognised archive, preserving centuries of the city's documentary heritage. A family-history event will take place in the civic rooms, with genealogical societies from across Scotland – on hand to answer questions and help visitors explore their own ancestry. Tours are self-guided, with staff available throughout the day.

Facilities:   

## 2. Society of Advocates

Concert Court, Aberdeen, AB10 1BS

5th September 10am-4pm

Visitors are offered a rare chance to explore one of the city's most distinguished professional buildings. Founded in the 16th century, the Society is one of Scotland's oldest legal bodies, and its current home in Concert Court reflects centuries of civic tradition. The building features a grand entrance hall and staircase leading to the historic library, a richly atmospheric space lined with legal volumes and complete with its period gallery. The library has long served as a meeting place for Aberdeen's legal community, preserving records, books and artefacts that chart the development of law and civic life in the North-East. Visitors are welcome to wander freely, with guides available throughout the day to answer questions.

Facilities:  

## 3. Robert Gordon's College

Schoolhill, AB10 1FE

6th September 10am-4pm (last tour 3pm)

Founded in 1750, the College has been a central part of Aberdeen's civic and educational life for more than 275 years. Originally an all-boys boarding school, it has evolved into a co-educational day school for pupils aged 3–18, continuing its long tradition of academic excellence and community service. Today, it is also home to Scotland's most transformative bursary programme. Visitors will have the rare chance to explore iconic buildings normally closed to the public, including the Auld Hoose, and learn about the school's architectural heritage and development over nearly three centuries.

Facilities:  

## 4. Aberdeen Sheriff Court

Castle Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1WP

6th September 10.30am-3.30pm

Aberdeen Sheriff and Justice of the Peace Court is located in this Category A listed building built between 1868 and 1874. There will be guided tours with an experienced member of court staff, talking about history of the Court building and what happens in the court room, with an opportunity to explore areas of Courts 1 and 6. There will be opportunities to take pictures, try on gowns and sit at Sheriffs bench. Suitable for all ages. Tours are every 20 minutes between 10.15am and 3.30pm.

Facilities:     

## 5. Kirk of St Nicholas

Back Wynd, AB10 1JL

5th September 10am-3.30pm

Known as the Mither Kirk, the original church dates from 1151 and was once one of the largest medieval churches in Scotland. Surviving elements from the late 12th century remain visible in the transepts and central crossing, reflecting centuries of architectural change and

civic importance. The West Church, thought to be the only remaining Gibbs building in Scotland, is particularly notable for its rare, largely unaltered 18th-century interior. Visitors can freely explore the building, with guides on hand to provide historical context, highlight key artefacts and assist with directions. Scot-ART is currently developing an innovative museum experience within the Kirk, combining immersive storytelling, digital interpretation and cutting-edge technology to bring the building's long history to life for new generations.

Facilities:    

## 6. St Mary's Chapel (OpenSpace Trust)

Kirk of St Nicholas, Correction Wynd,

AB10 1JL

5th September 10.30am-3.30pm

Dating from around 1450, the chapel has recently undergone a major restoration led by the OpenSpace Trust, which is transforming the former East Kirk of St Nicholas into a flexible community venue. The restored chapel features historic stained glass, carved woodwork and worked stone, alongside newly revealed architectural details that highlight how the building has evolved over centuries. Dr Abeer Eladany from the University of Aberdeen will deliver 30-minute talks at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00 and 15:00, sharing insights from the dramatic archaeological discoveries made during the 2006 dig in the East Sanctuary. Visitors can enjoy self-guided tours with stewards on hand to answer questions or provide informal guided explanations.

Facilities:   

## 7. The Belmont Community Cinema

49 Belmont Street, AB10 1JS

5th September 10am-6pm

Visitors are invited to explore the future of Aberdeen's only independent community

cinema. Now operated by a registered charity, the Belmont is working to revive and reopen the much-loved venue following its abrupt closure in 2022. The building on Belmont Street has long been a cultural landmark, known for championing independent film, local creativity and community engagement. Throughout the day, a programme of three talks will explore the cinema's heritage and its ambitious revitalisation plans: Reimagining the Belmont (10am), Reviving the Belmont: History, Heritage and Revitalisation (1pm), and Community Resilience at the Belmont (4pm) – each session is bookable online.

Facilities: 

## 8. Central Library

Rosemount Viaduct, AB25 1GW

5th September 9am-5pm

Opened in 1892, the Library is the headquarters of Aberdeen City Libraries and forms part of the famous trio of neighbouring institutions known locally as "Education, Salvation and Damnation" alongside St Mark's Church and His Majesty's Theatre. Inside, the building houses the Lending Library, Media Centre, Information Centre and the Central Children's Library, serving thousands of readers each year. Each department will feature pop-up information displays, and two behind-the-scenes guided tours will offer a rare glimpse into areas not normally open to the public—including the basement, where a long-standing library ghost story adds a touch of mystery. Tours run 10am-11.30am and 1pm-2.30pm and must be booked online in advance due to limited capacity.

Book online: <https://aberdeencity.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/EVENTS?HOMEPRMS=EVSESPARAMS>

Facilities:   

### 9. Aberdeen Trades Union Council/ Aberdeen Social Care

John Londragan House, 22a Adelphi,  
AB11 5BL

5th September 10am-4pm

Formed in 1868, ATUC is one of the oldest continuously active trade union bodies in Scotland, representing affiliated unions across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. For more than 150 years it has played a central role in supporting workers, campaigning for fair conditions and amplifying the voices of local trade unionists. The premises also house the Aberdeen Social Centre, a grassroots activist hub dedicated to strengthening community networks, supporting local campaigns and providing a welcoming space for meetings, workshops and collaboration. Visitors can explore a display of historical artefacts that chart the development of trade unionism in the North-East—from early organising efforts to modern campaigns. Guides will be on hand, though visitors are free to wander at their own pace.

Facilities:  

### 10. Peacock & the Worm – Peacock Visual Arts

21 Castle Street, AB11 5BQ

5th September 10am-4pm

Peacock & the Worm will open its Castle Street print studio, offering free guided mini-tours that introduce visitors to its screen-printing, relief-printing and digital-making facilities. Founded in 1974, Peacock has long supported artists across Aberdeen through its workshops and project space, encouraging creative experimentation and community engagement. Tours run at 10am, 11am, 2pm and 4pm (45 minutes), with booking preferred via Eventbrite but not essential.

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doors-open-day-2026-print-studio-tours-tickets-1993599978201?aff=oddttdtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/doors-open-day-2026-print-studio-tours-tickets-1993599978201?aff=oddttdtcreator)

Facilities:     

### 11. St Andrews Cathedral

28 King Street, AB24 5AX

5th & 6th September 10am-4pm

Founded in 1817, the church became the birthplace of the Episcopal Church in the United States and, by extension, the worldwide Anglican Communion. is a fine example of early 19th-century Scottish Gothic Revival architecture. Its tall lancet windows, elegant proportions and atmospheric interior reflect the confidence of the growing Episcopal community in Aberdeen. Over the centuries, St Andrew's has served as a spiritual home for generations of worshippers, a centre of civic engagement and a symbol of Aberdeen's longstanding connections with global Anglicanism. Across the weekend, visitors can enjoy Cathedral @ Noon, with guided tours available on request. A Festival Eucharist will also be streamed online.

Facilities:     

### 12. Trinity Church NEW!

79 Queen Street, Aberdeen, AB10 1AN

What3words: settle.nodded.takes

5th September 10am-4pm

6th September 10.30am-5.30pm

Built in 1904, the church is a striking example of early 20th-century Presbyterian architecture. Recently, Trinity Church has undergone an extensive and sensitive renovation, reopening as a modern, accessible and welcoming space while carefully preserving its historic character. The restored building blends traditional craftsmanship with contemporary design, allowing the congregation to honour its heritage. Many original features remain, complemented by new facilities that support community use, reflection and hospitality. Guided tours will take place on Saturday at 10am, 12pm and 2pm, offering visitors the chance to explore the renewed sanctuary, learn about the building's history and view artefacts and furniture that reflect Aberdeen's wider Presbyterian story.

Facilities:    

### 13. Bon Accord Baths

Justice Mill Lane, AB11 6EQ

5th September 10am-5pm

6th September 12pm-4pm

The volunteer-led charity is working to save and restore this iconic Aberdeen landmark, and visitors can explore the ground-floor public areas and pool hall, view an exhibition on the building's heritage, and see architect plans for its future. A major highlight will be the unveiling of a large-scale installation by artist Tod Hanson, transforming the pool basin. Musical performances will run throughout Saturday, and volunteers will be on hand to discuss the project.

Facilities: 

### 14. Gilcomston Church

Union Street, AB10 1TP

5th September 10am-2pm

6th September 10am-1pm

Built in the 1860s by architect William Smith and opened in 1868, the church is a striking example of early decorated Gothic architecture, constructed in grey granite and sandstone with distinctive red and black granite detailing around its arches and windows – it remains a prominent Grade B listed landmark on Aberdeen's main thoroughfare. Gilcomston continues to serve as an active city-centre congregation, preserving its 19th-century heritage while supporting modern worship and community life. Visitors can explore the building at their own pace, appreciating its craftsmanship and historic character.

Facilities:    

### 15. Albyn Hospital

21-24 Albyn Place, AB10 1RW

6th September 11am-1pm

Visitors will be offered a guided look inside Aberdeen's only independent hospital. Part of Circle Health Group, Albyn Hospital has served the North-East for decades and provides a wide range

of clinical services in a modern, purpose-built healthcare environment. Visitors will be able to join guided tours running throughout the day. Staff will explain key areas of the hospital, including consulting rooms, operating theatres, the endoscopy suite, imaging facilities and physiotherapy spaces. Access to specific departments may vary depending on patient activity on the day. Staff will be available to explain how different clinical services operate and how the hospital supports patients across Aberdeen and the wider region.

Booking contact: [customerservicealbyn@circlehealthgroup.co.uk](mailto:customerservicealbyn@circlehealthgroup.co.uk)

Facilities:   

### 16. St Margarets School for Girls

17 Albyn Place, AB10 1RU

5th September 10am-12pm

Visitors the chance to explore Scotland's oldest all-through independent girls' school. Founded in 1846, the school has been a cornerstone of Aberdeen's educational landscape for nearly two centuries, originally established to provide high-quality academic opportunities for girls at a time when such provision was rare. Its long history is reflected in the elegant granite buildings on Albyn Place, part of one of the city's most architecturally distinctive Victorian streets. St Margaret's has grown and evolved while maintaining its core values of respect, equality, hard work, ambition and community. The school's heritage is preserved through an extensive archive of photographs, documents, uniforms and artefacts that chart the development of girls' education in Aberdeen from the 19th century to the present day. Visitors will be welcomed by prefects and staff for guided tours of the school, with the opportunity to view selected items from the archive.

Facilities:   

## 17. Freemasons Hall

85 Crown Street, AB11 6EX

5th & 6th September 10am-4pm

Completed in the early 20th century, the Hall reflects the architectural character of its era, with solid masonry, finely worked timber and symbolic decorative details that speak to the traditions of the craft. For generations it has served as a meeting place for Aberdeen's lodges, hosting ceremonies, charitable work and community gathering. Visitors are offered the chance to explore this purpose-built historic building crafted by local Aberdeen tradesmen. Guided tours will run informally throughout both days.

Facilities:     

## 18. The Bridge Club Aberdeen

14 Rubislaw Terrace, AB10 1XE

5th September 10am-4pm

Founded in 1933, the club has long been the centre of bridge playing in the North-East, hosting regular games, tournaments and classes for beginners and experienced players alike. Today, the building also serves as the home of Aberdeen Scrabble Club and Bon Accord Chess Club, making it a lively hub for traditional games and community learning. Visitors can watch experienced bridge players in action, try the game themselves with guidance from club teachers, and meet members of the Scrabble and chess clubs. Guided tours of the building will run every half hour from 10.30am to 3.30pm, offering insight into the club's history and activities.

Facilities:  

## 19. St John the Evangelist, Scottish Episcopal Church

St Johns Place, Crown Street, AB11 6HD

5th September 10am-4pm

One of Aberdeen's most characterful 19th-century ecclesiastical buildings and reflects the confident Gothic Revival style

of its era. Although the congregation was founded around 1720, the present church was designed by the noted architectural partnership Mackenzie & Matthews and built between 1849 and 1851. Consecrated by Bishop William Skinner, the building has been a place of continuous worship for 175 years and is now recognised as a Category B listed structure for its architectural and historic significance. Visitors are invited to enjoy self-guided tours, exploring the sanctuary, architectural details and the biblical-themed garden.

Facilities:       

## 20. Quaker Meeting House

98 Crown Street, AB11 6HJ

5th September 10am-4pm

Built around 120 years ago, it is one of only two purpose-built Quaker meeting houses in Scotland. Its simple, undecorated interior reflects the Quaker tradition of silent worship and contemplation. Visitors can learn about the building's history and the long-standing Quaker presence in Aberdeen, with members available throughout the day to answer questions. A digital video on George Fox, founder of the Quakers, will also be available.

Facilities:     

## 21. Aberdeen Synagogue and Jewish Community Centre

74 Dee Street, AB11 6DS

6th September 10am-3pm

The synagogue serves as the centre of Jewish life in the North-East, providing a space for worship, celebration and community gatherings. Visitors can enjoy informal tours throughout the day, with members on hand to explain the building's layout, the significance of key features such as the ark and Torah scrolls, and the history of Jewish life in Aberdeen.

Facilities:  

## 22. Aberdeen Spiritualist and Healing Sanctuary NEW!

St Stephen House, 71 Dee St, AB11 6EE

5th September 10am-2pm

Offering visitors a warm welcome into a community organisation that has supported spiritual development in Aberdeen for over 40 years. The Centre provides an inclusive space for learning, healing and personal growth, and Doors Open Day activities will include medium readings, spirit art, healing, a tombola and refreshments. Volunteers will be available throughout the day to show visitors around and answer questions.

Facilities:     

## 23. St. Mary's Episcopal Church

Carden Place, AB10 1UN

5th September 10am-4pm

Known affectionately as the Tartan Kirkie, St Mary's was designed by the Rev. F.G. Lee and architect Alexander Ellis, and is celebrated for its striking interior and rich Episcopal heritage. Outside, the newly developed peace garden commemorates the 1943 bombing of the church and offers a quiet, reflective space open to the public. Children can enjoy a self-guided treasure hunt around the church, discovering architectural features and symbols to win a small prize. Stewards will be available throughout the day to welcome visitors and answer questions, though no formal guided tours are planned.

Facilities:    

## 24. Trinity Hall

164 Holburn St, Trinity Corner, AB10 6DA

5th September 10am-4pm

The historic home of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen – visitors are offered a rare chance to explore one of the city's most significant civic buildings. The Trades have shaped Aberdeen's social, economic and

charitable life for more than 800 years, and Trinity Hall stands as the modern expression of that long heritage. The current building, opened in 1967, blends contemporary design with centuries-old tradition, housing important artefacts, regalia and records that tell the story of the city's craftspeople. Visitors can explore the public rooms, view historic items from the Trades' collections, and learn how the organisation continues its charitable work today through education, community support and the preservation of Aberdeen's craft heritage. Members will be on hand to answer any questions.

Facilities:     

## 25. Albury Community Sports Hub

Albury Road, AB11 6TN

5th & 6th September 1pm-5pm

Visitors are welcomed to explore one of Aberdeen's most charming and long-standing community sports spaces. Hidden just minutes from the city centre and train station, the Hub has served local residents for almost a century and continues to be run entirely by volunteers. Its beautiful green setting includes tennis and pickleball courts, lawn bowls and croquet lawns, a pétanque court and Aberdeen's only 18-hole putting green. Visitors of all ages can enjoy free taster sessions in a variety of sports, take informal tours of the outdoor spaces, and browse historic photographs celebrating the Hub's near-100-year story. Guests are invited to share their own memories, photos and ideas to help shape the Hub's centenary celebrations and future development.

Facilities:      

## 26. Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust

Polmuir Avenue, AB11 7WH

5th & 6th September 11am-4pm

This volunteer run heritage site is home to Aberdeen's original railway station and contains several important pieces of historic infrastructure, including the fully restored 1915 Ransome & Rapier turntable – still used today to turn visiting steam locomotives. Visitors can also explore the 1855 engine shed, now a working restoration workshop, where historic wagons are being rebuilt, along with the newly restored office building, small museum and water tower. Volunteer guides will offer tours on demand from the office portacabin, giving insight into the depot's history and ongoing restoration work.

Facilities:     

## 27. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Central Fire Station

2 Mounthooly Way, AB24 3ER

5th September 10am-3pm (Quiet Hour 10am-11am)

Visitors can explore one of Aberdeen's busiest operational fire stations, meet firefighters, and learn how the service works with partner emergency agencies. Guided tours will run throughout the day, and guests can view fire engines old and new, gaining insight into both historic and modern firefighting equipment. Children's activities will be provided.

Facilities:   

## 28. Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre (AMIC)

Frederick Street, AB24 5HY

5th September 11am-4pm

The building, formerly a school, was transformed into a mosque in 2022 and now serves as a major hub for worship, education and community life. It hosts the five daily prayers, Friday congregational worship and large Eid gatherings, alongside lectures, classes, weddings and social events. Visitors can join guided tours at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm, with opportunities to see the prayer hall, community hall and mortuary washing room. Activities include Q&A sessions, Quran listening, a try-a-hijab stall, Arabic calligraphy and refreshments. Information points throughout the building explain the features of a mosque, and guests may witness a live afternoon prayer.

Facilities:    

## 29. Aberdeen Family History Society

158-164 King Street, AB24 5BD

5th & 6th September 10am-4pm

Located within a historic conservation area, the Centre offers a friendly space where visitors can explore local records, discover family connections, and learn about Aberdeen's rich genealogical heritage. The building is fully accessible at ground level, with staff on hand throughout the day to guide guests and answer questions. Whether a seasoned researcher or curious newcomer, all are welcome.

Facilities:     

## 30. Masjid Alhikmah and Community Centre

41 Nelson Street, AB24 5ER

5th September 10am-4pm

Welcoming visitors into one of Aberdeen's most vibrant community hubs. More than a place of worship, the mosque serves as a centre for learning, social connection and cultural exchange, reflecting the diversity of the community it supports. Built to provide a modern, accessible and inclusive space, the building features dedicated prayer halls, teaching rooms and community facilities designed to bring people together for reflection, education and shared activity. Visitors can enjoy Arabic calligraphy demonstrations, henna artistry and displays exploring the geometric architectural design.

Facilities:     

## 31. St Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church

Gallowgate, AB25 1EA

5th September 10am-4pm

Founded in the mid-1800s, St Margaret's was established during a period of significant growth for the Scottish Episcopal Church, reflecting the High Church tradition that shaped its worship, architecture and identity. Rich in artistic and devotional detail the church hosts intricate stained-glass windows that illuminate the interior with colour and symbolism, while beautifully carved oak, statues and liturgical furnishings showcase the craftsmanship of the Victorian era. Described as an "oasis in the city centre" the church gardens offer a peaceful green refuge. Visitors are invited to wander freely, guided by printed booklets available at the entrance. Knowledgeable church members will be present throughout the day to offer a warm welcome and answer questions.

Facilities:    

## 32. Institute of Medical Sciences

Ashgrove Road West, AB25 2ZD

5th September 10am-4pm

The Institute of Medical Sciences at the University of Aberdeen will open its Foresterhill research centre, offering a day of hands-on bioscience demonstrations, activities and exhibits for all ages. Visitors can explore cutting-edge research in neuroscience, microbiology, immunology, cell biology, pharmacology and more, with highlights including medical research bingo and the chance to try a fibroscan. Guided lab tours will run at 11.15am and 2.15pm for ages 14+ and require pre-booking, as does the bingo session. Email: [p.j.mccaffery@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:p.j.mccaffery@abdn.ac.uk) to book.

Facilities:      

## 33. Aberdeen Mosque and Islamic Centre

164 Spital Walk, AB24 3JD

6th September 11am-4pm

The chance to explore Aberdeen's first mosque. Originally a bank building, it was transformed into a place of worship in the 1970s and has served the city's Muslim community ever since. The mosque provides dedicated spaces for men and women, hosting daily prayers, Friday congregational worship and a wide range of learning and community activities. Visitors can join guided tours at 11.30am, 12.30pm, 2pm and 3pm, with opportunities to see the prayer hall, washing facilities and information displays explaining the features of a mosque. Activities include Q&A sessions, Quran listening, a try-a-hijab stall, Arabic calligraphy and refreshments. Guests may also witness a live afternoon prayer.

Facilities:    

### 34. St Machar's Cathedral

The Chanonry, AB24 1RQ

5th September 10.30am-4pm

This magnificent 15th-century granite landmark is Aberdeen's oldest public building, renowned for its striking medieval twin towers and internationally significant heraldic ceiling of 1520. Visitors can explore the Cathedral's rich history, view original 14th-century records in the Charter Room, enjoy live music, take part in children's activities and even try ringing the bells. Informal tours are available throughout the day. As an A-listed building with deep roots in Aberdeen's spiritual and civic heritage, St Machar's continues to thrive through restoration, education, arts engagement and community outreach, making it one of Scotland's most treasured historic sites.

Facilities:       

### 35. Envirolution NEW!

Seaton Park

5th September 1pm-6pm

The event brings together organisations, artists, activists and community groups for a day of learning, creativity and celebration focused on local climate action and community resilience. Free and open to all, Envirolution Aberdeen aims to inspire practical change while showcasing the power of collaboration across the city. Visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities throughout the afternoon, including interactive stalls, performances, music, dance, poetry, games, debates, talks, workshops and guided walks. The festival is designed to be hands-on and engaging, offering opportunities for people of all ages to explore climate solutions, meet local groups and discover ways to get involved in environmental action. Envirolution Aberdeen highlights how collective action can protect local heritage, strengthen communities and shape a more sustainable future.

### 36. Kings College Chapel

College Bounds, AB24 3FX

5th September 10am-2pm

King's College Chapel is the oldest surviving building of the University of Aberdeen. Founded in 1495, the Chapel is one of Scotland's most important historic religious spaces, home to the country's finest surviving pre-Reformation choir stalls and a remarkable collection of carved woodwork, memorials and architectural treasures. Visitors can join guided tours led by Dr Louise Page at 10.30am and 12 noon, or explore independently using the Chapel's digital self-guided tour app.

Facilities:      

### 37. Confucius Institute of the University of Aberdeen

17 High Street, AB24 3EE

5th September 10am-4pm

Home to the University's centre for Chinese language teaching and cultural exchange, the building has served many roles over its long life, including as a museum and a bank. Today, the Institute acts as a bridge between Scotland and China, providing classes, cultural events and community outreach across the North-East. Visitors are invited to drop in for a taste of Chinese culture and learn more about the Institute's work.

Facilities:     

### 38. Cruickshank Botanic Garden

St Machar Drive, AB24 3UU

5th September 10am-5pm

Visitors have the chance to explore one of Aberdeen's most beautiful green spaces. Founded in 1898 and set within the historic King's College campus, the 4.5-hectare garden is home to more than 2,500 plant taxa, including nationally important collections. Its peaceful grounds feature a rock and water garden, sunken garden, rose garden, arboretum, herbaceous borders and extensive shrub plantings, providing year-round interest. Visitors are welcome to wander freely and enjoy this tranquil, historic landscape.

Facilities:  

### 39. The Anne H Cruickshank Observatory NEW!

Cruickshank Botanic Garden,

The Chanonry, Aberdeen, AB24 3UU

5th September

11:00-11:50/12:00-12:50/13:00-13:50/

14:00-14:50/15:00-15:50

Located within the Cruickshank Botanic Garden with five bookable guided tours throughout the day. This new University of Aberdeen astronomy facility combines advanced 21st-century technology with a historic setting, continuing Aberdeen's 400-year legacy of astronomical study. Visitors will see the powerful John Cruickshank Telescope in action through computer-controlled demonstrations, AI-assisted interfaces and simulated sky observations. Each 50-minute tour accommodates up to 20 people and must be pre-booked. The Observatory is wheelchair accessible via the Botanic Garden paths, and the event is suitable for children, though facilities on site are limited.

<https://abdn.eventsair.com/doors-open-day-2026/tours-of-the-anne-h-cruickshank-observatory-booking>

Facilities:  

### 40. Zoology Building

Tillydrone Avenue, AB24 2TZ

5th September 10am-4pm

Opened in 1970, the Brutalist-style structure houses the School of Biological Sciences and the University's Zoology Museum. Visitors can drop into the Zoology Museum to explore its worldwide collection of taxidermy, skeletons, fluid preserved specimens and models. The ABC will also be open for a hands on experience. Follow the Art Trail outside into the beautiful Cruickshank Botanic Garden with its KMG blackbird mural before heading across to the Sir Duncan Rice Library.

Facilities:      

### 41. The Wallace Tower (Benholms Lodgings)

Tillydrone Road, AB24 2TP

5th & 6th September 11am-3pm

Visitors will have the rare chance to explore one of Aberdeen's most unusual historic buildings. Originally built in the early 1600s as a fortified townhouse on the Netherkirkgate, the Tower was saved from demolition during city-centre redevelopment and relocated stone-by-stone to Tillydrone in 1965. After standing empty for three decades, the building is now being brought back to life by the Tillydrone Community Development Trust. Guided tours will run from outside the tower at 11am-2.30pm, taking visitors up the spiral staircase to the upper floors – spaces that have been closed to the public for many years. Guides will share the story of the Tower's rescue, its move across the city, and the Trust's ongoing work to transform it into a community venue for exhibitions, workshops and cultural events. A new digital heritage resource on the building's history is also being developed.

Facilities:    

#### 42. Sir Duncan Rice Library

University of Aberdeen, AB24 3AA

5th September 10am-4pm

Designed by Danish architects Schmidt Hammer Lassen, this award-winning building is an iconic architectural landmark of Northeast Scotland. It is the University's main library, with 7 floors for use by students, staff and others. The University Collections Research Room is located on the lower ground floor, providing access to rare books, manuscripts and archives. Visitors can drop in to explore twentieth century Scottish art, Pictish stones and stained glass displayed on site. The ground floor also offers a welcoming public space with a café and the University Collections exhibition gallery. Self-guided Trail sheets for the wider University Collections walk will be available at the Library.

Facilities:      

#### 43. James Hutton Institute NEW!

The James Hutton Institute,

Craigiebuckler, AB15 8QH

5th September 10am-3pm

Visitors will be offered an exclusive look inside one of Scotland's leading centres for environmental, agricultural and climate-resilience research. The Hutton Hub, a major new development funded through the Just Transition Fund and other partners, provides cutting-edge facilities for collaboration between researchers, businesses and the public. Visitors can explore the 360-degree immersive suite, VR and augmented-reality technology, interactive touch tables, eye-tracking equipment, and a podcasting and media studio. Scientists will give short talks on landscape change, soil science and current research projects. Hands-on demonstrations, lab-based activities and interactive displays will showcase minerals, soils, bugs, tissue materials and more, alongside a feature from Hutton Unearthed, the Institute's new fundraising campaign.

Facilities:      

#### 44. Aberdeen Crematorium

Skene Road, Hazlehead, AB15 8PT

5th September 9am-4pm

A rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at a facility that has served the city for over 50 years. Set within peaceful woodland grounds, the crematorium supports families across Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire. Staff will lead guided tours throughout the day, explaining how the building operates, how the surrounding grounds have evolved over the decades, and how the crematorium's work supports the community. Static displays and staff discussions will help visitors understand both the history and the day-to-day running of the site.

Facilities:      

#### 45. Thai Buddharam Temple and Cultural Centre SCIO

East Lodge, Queens Road, AB15 6YX

5th & 6th September 8am-4pm

Visitors are offered a peaceful and welcoming introduction to Thai Buddhist culture in Aberdeen. The temple is a striking example of adaptive reuse, transforming a former lodge building into a vibrant spiritual and cultural space supported by Thai and local volunteers. Its design blends traditional Thai religious art, sacred objects and symbolic features within a Scottish architectural setting, creating a unique expression of shared heritage. Visitors can take part in traditional ceremonies led by resident monks, observe daily rituals, enjoy cultural displays and practise meditation in the serene chanting hall. The temple also provides opportunities to learn about Thai customs, Buddhist teachings and the role of the centre in supporting community life.

Facilities:   

#### 46. Torry United Free Church

Grampian Road AB11 8ED

5th September 12-4pm

6th September 11am-4pm

Inviting visitors to explore a church that has been part of the Torry community since 1843. The building reflects generations of local worship and community life, and remains an active congregation with deep roots in the area. On Sunday from 11am–12pm, the morning service will be specially tailored for Doors Open Days visitors, offering a gentle introduction to a typical Sunday gathering and the chance to experience the church's worship and fellowship. Visitors are welcome to look around the church, meet members of the congregation and learn more about its history and role in Torry.

Facilities:    

#### 47. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

North Anderson Drive, AB15 6DD

5th & 6th September 10am-4pm

Offering visitors guided tours of one of Aberdeen's most distinctive modern religious buildings. Designed in Salt Lake City and constructed to the clean, functional style typical of mid-20th-century Latter-day Saint architecture, the building originally featured a striking copper roof and retains its elegant needle-pointed spire – a familiar landmark for anyone travelling along North Anderson Drive. Visitors will be shown around the building and introduced to the Church's long-standing tradition of genealogical research, with insights into how individuals can explore their own family history.

Facilities:     

#### 48. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Bridge of Don, Fairview Street,

Danestone, AB22 8ZP

5th September 10am-4pm

Welcoming visitors to explore one of Aberdeen's newer Latter-day Saint buildings. Constructed around 35 years ago to serve a growing congregation, the Bridge of Don meetinghouse is smaller than the long-established North Anderson Drive building but shares its distinctive needle-point spire and calm, modern design. Visitors can enjoy guided tours led by members of the congregation, offering insight into the layout of the meetinghouse, the purpose of its various rooms, and the beliefs and practices of the Church.

Facilities:    

#### 49. International School Aberdeen

Pitfodels House, North Deeside Road,

Cults, AB15 9PN

5th September 10am-1pm

Established in 1972 as Scotland's first international school, ISA welcomes visitors to explore its impressive grounds and learn about its diverse community of 500 students. Guided tours will run on the hour at 10am, 11am and 12 noon, starting from reception, with no booking required.

Facilities:     

#### 50. NESCOL (Altens)

Aberdeen Altens Campus and the Energy Transition Skills Hub, AB12 3LE

5th September 10am-2pm

Located at the heart of the city's Energy Transition Zone, the site showcases hands-on subject areas including construction, engineering and vehicle technologies. Guided tours will run at 10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30pm from the M Block reception, alongside talks and practical demonstrations. Visitors are encouraged to register in advance.

[www.nescol.ac.uk/open-day](http://www.nescol.ac.uk/open-day)

Facilities:     

## 51. NESCOL (Gallowgate)

North East Scotland College City  
Campus, Gallowgate AB25 1BN  
5th September 10am-2pm

Visitors are invited to explore one of the region's landmark educational centres. Guided tours, introductory talks and a wide range of demonstrations will showcase the campus's specialist facilities across 14 subject areas, from art and media to science, hospitality, computing and more. The NESCol Planetarium will also feature, though lift access is currently unavailable. Tours depart from the Gallowgate entrance at 10.30am, 11.30am and 12.30pm, with advance registration encouraged.

[www.nescol.ac.uk/open-day](http://www.nescol.ac.uk/open-day)

Facilities:      

## 51. Compass Project by Camphill Wellbeing Trust

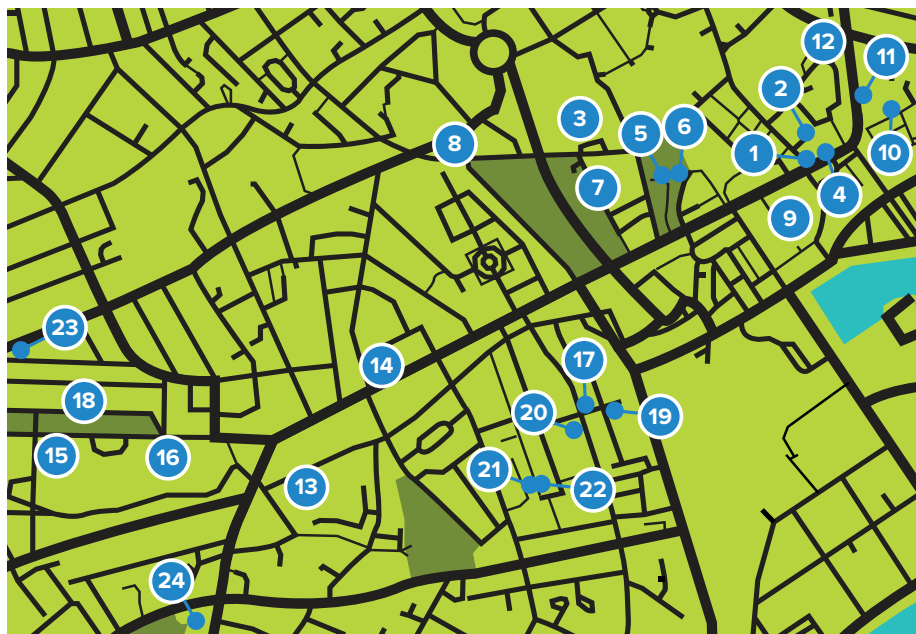
St Devenick's, Murtle Estate, Bieldside  
Aberdeen AB15 9EN

5th September 10am-4pm

Set on a former convalescent hospital and school campus, the project is transforming the grounds into a centre for sustainable, healthy living. Visitors can tour the refurbished North Point building, learn about renewable energy and energy-efficiency measures, and discover plans to retrofit additional buildings into a new Health & Enterprise Hub. Self-guided exploration of the organic no-dig gardens, orchard, beekeeping areas, drystone walling and zero-waste shop will showcase the charity's work to regenerate the site and support biodiversity. The Grade-C listed Main Building exterior can be viewed. Volunteers will be on hand throughout the day.

Facilities:    

### Central Aberdeen inset



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Use the key below to understand what facilities are available at each venue and assess their accessibility:



Wheelchair  
Accessible  
Building



Wheelchair  
Accessible  
Toilet



Refreshment  
Available



Limited Access



Toilet Available



Events for  
Children



Not An  
Accessible  
Building



Hearing Loop



Parking  
Available

*Please check with venues directly for further information and if booking is required.*

Every September you can explore hundreds of fascinating buildings across Scotland for free. Some open up once a year, some just once a lifetime.

From hidden libraries, enchanting churches, green spaces and more, explore Aberdeen City and rediscover its beauty!

Doors Open Days is celebrated each September as part of European Heritage Days in Scotland. The festival is coordinated nationally by the Scottish Civic Trust and is supported by Historic Environment Scotland.

To explore the full national programme and plan visits to venues all over Scotland, you can visit our website:

**DOORSOPENDAYS.ORG.UK**

1495



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ABERDEEN**

**“Aberdeen and Piracy” – Dr Chris Croly**  
**Saturday 5th September, 1pm at the Sir Duncan Rice Library,**  
**University of Aberdeen**

Join historian Dr Chris Croly for a fascinating exploration of Aberdeen's connections to piracy. The talk will draw on archival research and maritime history to reveal stories of privateering, smuggling and naval conflict.

*Email [seonaidh\\_martin@hotmail.com](mailto:seonaidh_martin@hotmail.com) to book your space*

Last minute alterations and additions to this programme may be unavoidable. Keep up to date by visiting [www.facebook.com/aberdeendoorsopenday](https://www.facebook.com/aberdeendoorsopenday) and [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk). Please take care when visiting buildings, which you do at your own risk. Neither the Local Area Coordinator, sponsors or the building owners take responsibility for any accidents or damage.

Many entries also feature in local guides. Search online for 'Free Aberdeen Walking Trails' to find out more!

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