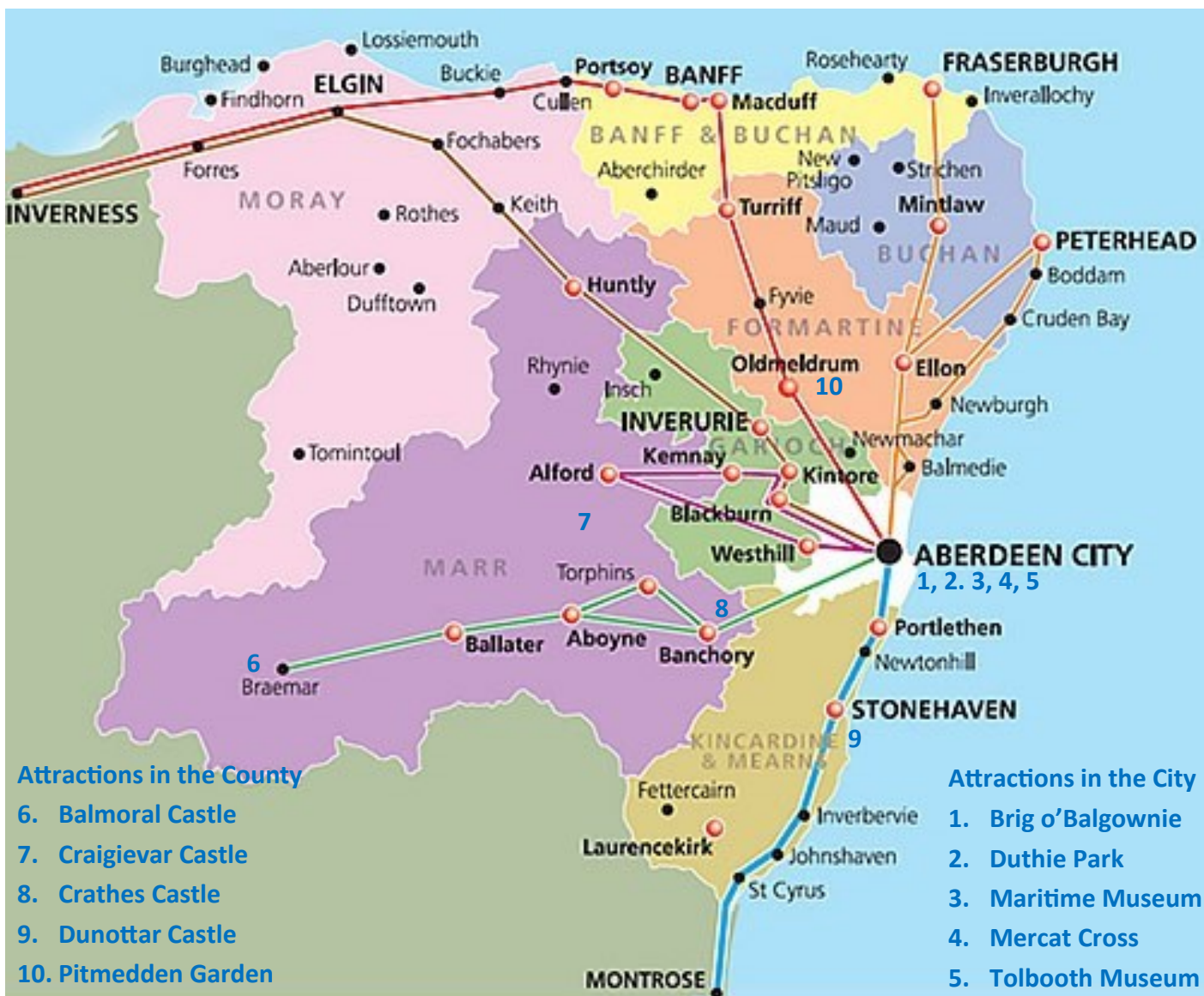


Aberdeen

“The Granite City”

Here’s a city that looks and feels quite different. Not just on a summer’s evening, when you can walk the main street in daylight at 11pm. Not just because that same main street – the mile-long Union Street – is lined with classic granite buildings that help make this one of the most architecturally distinctive cities in Europe. But mainly because this isn’t just a city by the sea, it’s a city of the sea. A city where ships dock right up against the city-center streets. Where urban dolphins leap at the harbor mouth. Where locals paddle-board and surf off the city beach. And golden sands stretch for miles – towards vast dunes to the north and high cliffs to the south. It’s a city of rivers too, where the Dee and the Don meet the sea, bringing crystal clear waters from the Cairngorm mountains.

The city is a great hub from which to discover this “forgotten” north east corner of Scotland. With many great castles, golf courses, whisky distilleries and outdoor adventures. The jewel in the crown is Royal Deeside, headed by the Queens Scottish home at Balmoral Castle, only 50 miles from the center of Aberdeen. The city is well served by rail and air links to all major cities in Britain and is the terminal for the overnight ferries to Orkney and Shetland.



1. Brig o' Balgownie

Dating from the 13th century, the bridge was the only crossing of the River Don to the north from Aberdeen until 1830. The arch spans 40 feet and at low tide is 56 feet above the



2. Duthie Park

Duthie Park is Scotland's third most visited gardens for its wide range of exotic plants and recently restored Victorian design features. Also features the David Welch Winter Gardens, one of the largest indoor gardens in Europe.



3. Maritime Museum

Aberdeen's collections of maritime paintings and objects are displayed, with touch screen consoles and computer visual databases bringing the drama of the North Sea industries and fishing to life.



4. Mercat Cross

Built in 1686, originally a merchants meeting place and later became a focal point of many town events such as announcements, proclamations and executions!!



5. Tolbooth Museum

One of Aberdeen's oldest buildings and one of the best-preserved 17th century gaols in Scotland. Features display local history and development of crime and punishment. Displays include the Maiden and the blade of the 17th century guillotine.



6. Balmoral Castle

One of 2 private residences, owned by the Royal Family since 1852. Construction of the castle began in the 14th century. Prebooked entry to the grounds are available when the family is not in residence.



7. Craigievar Castle

Discover the beautiful pink castle, said to be the inspiration for Disney's Cinderella. Admire an impressive collection of artefacts and experience a tour with no artificial lighting beyond the 1st floor. A National Trust for Scotland property.



8. Crathes Castle

A magnificent 16th century castle with an intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels and painted ceilings. See Yew hedges planted in the 17th century. A National Trust for Scotland property



9. Dunottar Castle

This dramatic and evocative ruined cliff top fortress was the home of the Earls Marischal, once one of the most powerful families in Scotland. Steeped in history, this romantic and haunting ruin is a photographer's paradise and a history lover's dream.



10. Pitmedden Garden & Museum of Farming

A National Trust for Scotland property. See over 30,000 annual bedding plants that make up the colorful displays. The Museum of Farming Life brings the agricultural past to life.

