



Fyvie Castle



Castle Fraser



Haddo House



Pitmedden Gardens

There's no better place in Scotland to visit a castle than in Castle Country, where there are more castles per acre than anywhere else in the UK. Step back in time through the last millennium of Scotland's heritage on this full day tour that takes your guests to three of the eleven properties on the Castle Trail.

The first stop is at Fyvie Castle, probably the grandest example of Scottish baronial architecture, with its fine imposing towers, each built by one of the families who owned it over the centuries, and its exceptional collection of paintings. Its wheel stair is the finest in Scotland and wide enough for the Gordon sons to ride their horses up to the tower, as a wager. Fyvie's Playhouse is one hundred years old and is built in the fashion of American millionaires' houses.

Castle Fraser is one of the finest in Aberdeenshire and the largest and most elaborate built on a Z plan. Its traditional 'laird's lug', its intriguing history and ghost stories will capture visitors' imagination. Quality gifts are available in the National Trust shop and home bakes in the 19th Century castle kitchen. Special performances such as musket practice by the Fraser Dragoons or musical events can be organised to enhance the visit.

TOUR 4

Total hours: 9

Full day excursion

Scotland's Castle Trail

(Fyvie - Fraser - Haddo/Pitmedden)

The next stop can be a country house **or** a formal garden.

HADDO HOUSE - Home of Lady Aberdeen whose ancestors have lived here since 1732.

In this stately home, guests follow in distinguished footsteps, from British Prime Ministers, royal visitors, great politicians and musical celebrities. The extensive art collection includes a series of 150 water colours of Aberdeenshire Castles by Giles.

Haddo House is also home to a choral and operatic society in the works of which Prince Edward is regularly involved. Although a stately home, Haddo exudes a family atmosphere which will make guests feel warmly welcome.

OR

PITMEDDEN GARDENS - originally laid out in 1675 and recreated by the National Trust in the 1950s. The elaborate and formal layout which incorporates no less than 30,000 annual plants and over five miles of boxwood hedges maintains colour throughout the summer and is a sight not to be missed.

