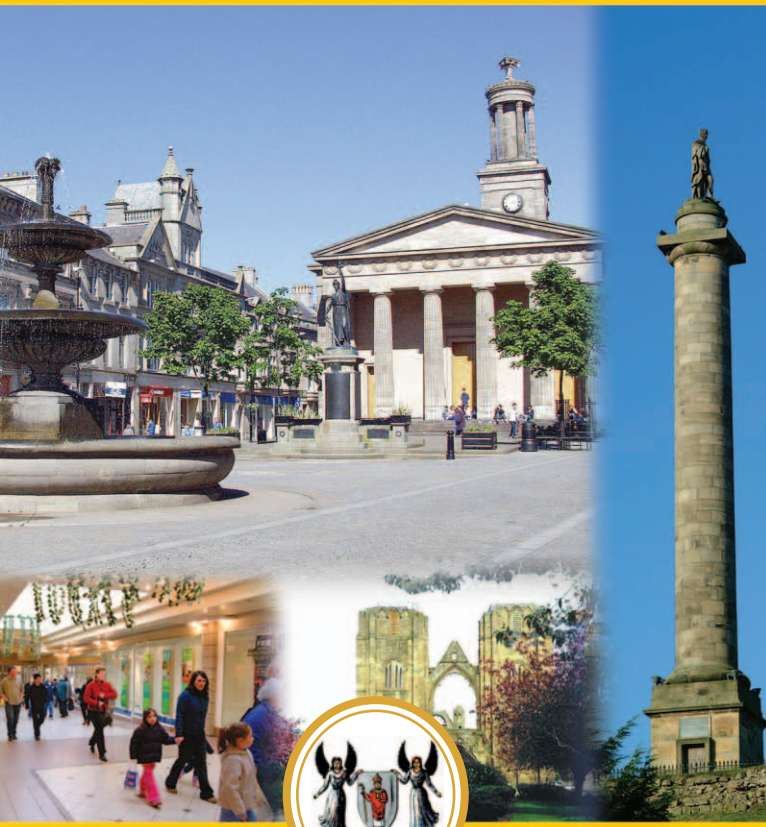


ELGIN VISITORS GUIDE



Elgin's Coat of Arms



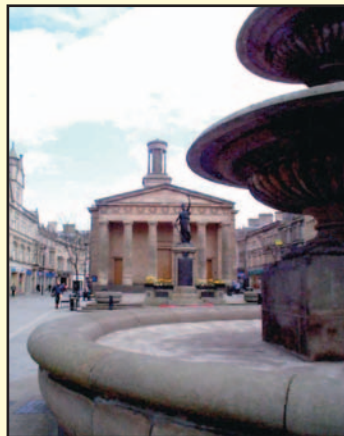
*"Thus is the Way
to the Stars"*

*To The City and Royal
Burgh of Elgin.*

www.elginscotland.org

Elgin

Elgin, the administrative and commercial capital of Moray, has a long and fascinating history, still reflected today in the buildings and layout of the town. It grew up on a low ridge between the loops of the River Lossie, and by the twelfth century, when it was created a royal burgh by David I, it was a thriving town with its castle atop Lady Hill to the west, and the great Cathedral to the east.



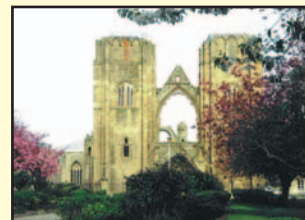
The Cathedral was founded in 1224 as the seat of the Diocese of Moray, which had previously been at Kinneddar, Birnie and Spynie. In 1390 the notorious “Wolf of Badenoch”, son of King Robert II, quarrelled with Bishop Alexander Bur, who excommunicated him. In revenge he burned the Cathedral and the towns of Elgin and Forres. The Cathedral was rebuilt and continued in use until the Reformation. In 1567 the lead was stripped from the roof by order of the Privy Council and Regent Moray, and the process of decay began. On Easter Sunday 1711 the great central tower fell, and by the end of the eighteenth century the once-magnificent Cathedral was being used as a quarry for building stone. In 1825, however, the Exchequer assumed responsibility for the preservation of the structure, and restoration work is still going on.

The mediaeval street plan of Elgin is well preserved. The main street widens to the old cobbled market place, now known as the Plainstones, and is linked to parallel streets by a series of narrow wynds and pends. A few buildings still retain the arched facades which were typical of early eighteenth century Elgin.

Much has been done and is being done to invigorate the centre of the town while retaining and restoring the old buildings. The relief road, Alexandra Road, built to free the High Street of heavy and through traffic, has cut a swathe through the area behind the shops on the north side of the High Street, opening up new vistas towards the Cathedral and Lady Hill. The landscaping along Alexandra Road is of interest to gardeners, and new housing developments at each end of the road show how modern council housing can be fitted into the environment of a historic town.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Elgin Cathedral, King Street, (Historic Scotland). Telephone 01343-547171. When complete this was justly regarded as the most beautiful of Scottish Cathedrals and known as the “Lantern of the North”. Though it is now a ruin, the visitor will not fail to be impressed by the soaring towers and intricate traceries of stone. Open April to September. A comprehensive guide book is available at the Cathedral. *



The Biblical Garden, behind wall adjacent to the Cathedral. Experience a unique atmosphere in a tranquil corner of historic Elgin. *

Bishop’s House, King Street. Remains of a building thought to have been the Precentor’s Manse, adjacent to the Cathedral.

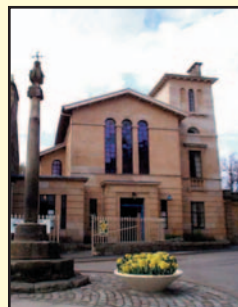
Panns Port, Pansport Road. The sole remaining archway of the defensive wall around the Cathedral.



Anderson’s, South College Street. Designed by Archibald Simpson and built in 1832 from a legacy left by General Andrew Anderson who made his fortune in India. Now a residential home for the elderly.

Greyfriars Convent Gardens, Institution Road. Specialist rose garden with old species roses, climbers and ramblers, and a pergola walk. Open May to September.

The Malt Whisky Trail. Follow the signposted road tour which visits six malt whisky distilleries, a former distillery and a cooperage. The trail is approximately 70 miles long and an hour should be allowed for each visit. You will have the opportunity to see the production processes and to buy products in the specialist shops. A free leaflet is available at Tourist Information Centres giving details of the only Malt Whisky Trail in the world. *



Cooper Park. The forty acres of the park, together with Grant Lodge, built around 1750 as the residence of the Earls of Seafield, were gifted to the town in 1902 by Sir George Cooper. The park provides an excellent range of recreational facilities. *

Little Cross, High Street. The present cross was erected in 1733, replacing an earlier one which was erected in 1402. At one time this was a place of punishment with stocks and jugs.

Elgin Museum, 1 High Street. Telephone 01343-543675. Run by a registered charity, the Moray Society, the award-winning museum houses a major display “The Story of Moray” (from dinosaurs to the present day) as well as Pictish sculpture and foreign travellers. Programme of changing exhibitions, talks and events. Shop selling books, jewellery and local crafts. Open April to October. *

Braco’s Banking House, 7 High Street. One of the surviving buildings with an arcaded facade in Elgin. Built in 1694 by John Duncan and his wife Margaret Innes, the building takes the name from William Duff of Dipple and Braco, ancestor of the Earl of Fife.

Masonic Close, 15 - 17 High Street. Behind the Masonic Building of 1728 lies a tasteful example of the blending of the new with the old by the former Elgin Town Council.

Muckle Cross, High Street. To the east of St Giles Kirk stands the Muckle Cross, a nineteenth-century replacement of an earlier market cross.

St Giles Kirk, High Street. The present church, built in 1827-28 to a design by Archibald Simpson, stands in the widest part of the High Street on the site of the original parish church of Elgin, which dated from the late twelfth century.

Lady Hill, High Street. At the west end of the High Street is the hilltop site of Elgin’s original Royal Castle, which was occupied by King Edward I of England in 1296 during the Wars of Independence. Only a fragment of the castle now remains. The hill is surmounted by a column, erected in 1839 in memory of the fifth and last Duke of Gordon; the statue was added in 1855. Lady Hill derives its name from the castle’s Chapel of St Mary, which continued in use until the sixteenth century.

Dr Gray’s Hospital, Pluscarden Road. Built in 1815-19 from a bequest by Dr Alexander Gray, who made his fortune in India. The architect was James Gillespie Graham.

Lord Provost Lamp Posts. The impressive lamps denoted the residence of the Lord Provost of the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin up until 1974. When Elgin Town Council became Grampian Regional Council, Moray District. The lamps are in the front garden of “Fernhurst” - west end of High Street.

Old Mills, Oldmills Road. The existence of a water mill here is recorded in documents dating from 1230.

Bow Brig, Oldmills Road. The oldest stone bridge over the River Lossie, built between 1630 and 1635.

Moray Motor Museum, Bridge Street, Bishopmill. Telephone 01343-544933. Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars and Motorcycles plus memorabilia from days gone by. Open daily, Easter to October. *

The Moray Firth Wildlife Centre - Spey Bay Tel. 01343-820339. Discover the World of the Moray Firth Dolphins and the Wildlife of Spey Bay. *

Spynie Palace. (Historic Scotland). Telephone 01343-546358. Two miles north of Elgin off the A941 is Spynie Palace, which was the residence of the powerful Bishops of Moray for some five centuries from

about the end of the twelfth century. The Bishops’ cathedral was at Elgin. The site is dominated by the massive tower built by Bishop David Stewart (1461-77) with spectacular views over Spynie Loch. Both James I and James II made use of the Bishops’ hospitality when travelling in the north. Mary, Queen of Scots stayed there in 1562 as the guest of Patrick Hepburn, the last Catholic bishop. Open April to September, Visitor shop and picnic area. *

Spynie Churchyard. Two miles north of Elgin is the old church yard of Spynie, where James Ramsay MacDonald, first Labour Prime Minister of Britain, was buried in 1937. The church itself has been moved to New Spynie, four miles to the west.

Doo’cot, New Elgin. Four hundred years ago, when shortage of feed made it difficult to overwinter livestock, pigeons were bred as a source of fresh meat. The right to breed pigeons was, however, restricted to substantial landowners. This building is a fine example of a beehive-shaped doo’cot.

Millbuies. Millbuies Country Park, five miles south of Elgin off A941 to Rothes, is a peaceful beauty spot with pleasant walks and trout fishing. Nature trail booklets and a wayfaring map are available. Telephone 01343-860234. *

Birnie Kirk. Birnie, three miles south of Elgin and west of the A941 to Rothes. Before the diocese of Moray finally adopted Elgin as its seat, the ancient church of Birnie was for a time the seat of the bishopric. Built about 1140 on the site of a still earlier church founded by St Brendan, it is one of the few Norman churches in Scotland still in regular use. Open daily. Admission free.

Palmers Cross. This bridge replaced the ancient ford used by pilgrims known as Palmers on their way to Pluscarden.

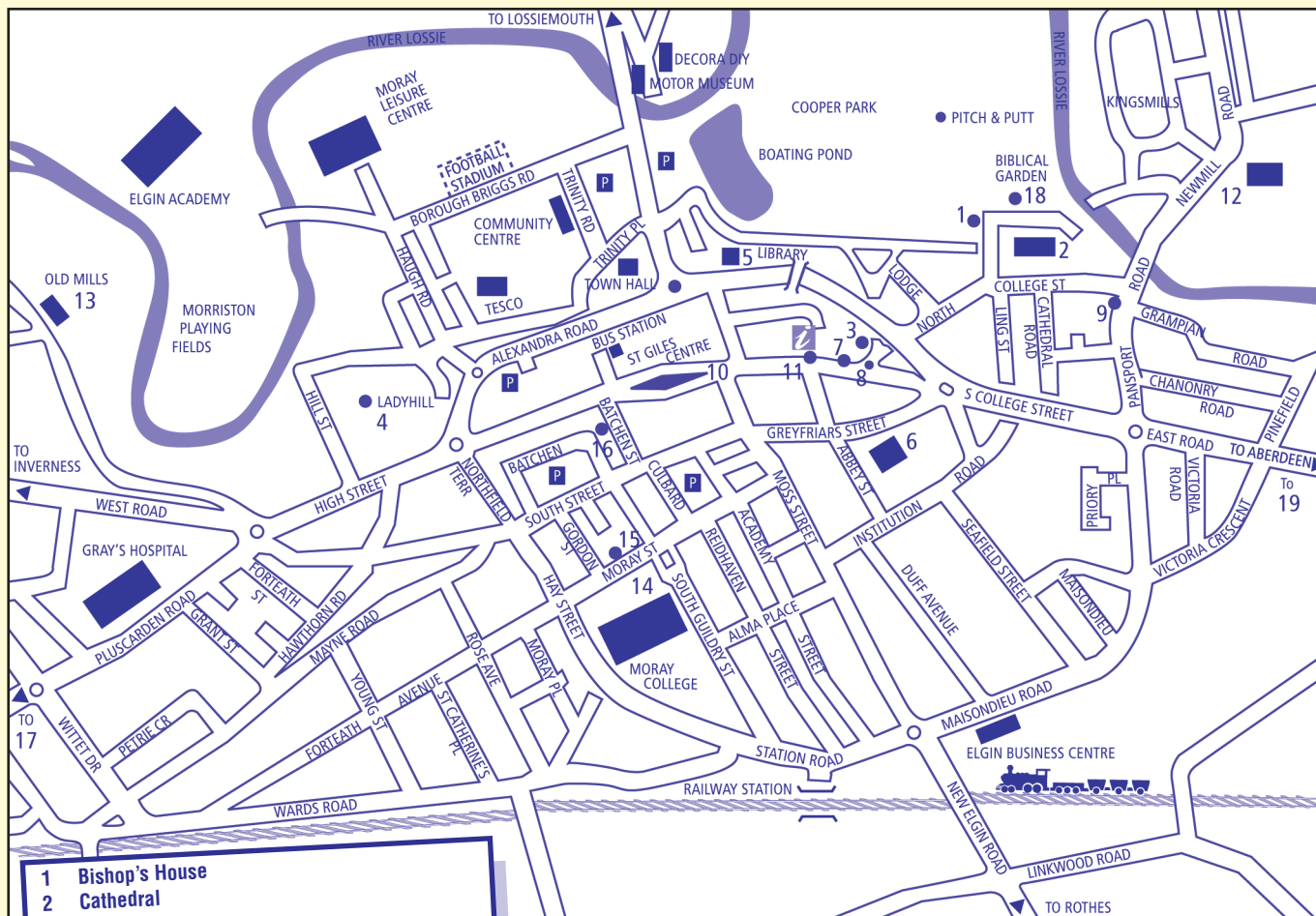
Pluscarden Abbey. Telephone 01343-890257. Six miles south-west of Elgin, the Priory of Pluscarden was founded by King Alexander II in 1230. A house of the Valliscaulian order, it absorbed in 1454 the old Benedictine Priory of Urquhart, only to fall into disuse at the Reformation. Almost 400 years later it was given to the Benedictine community of Prinknash by Lord Colum Crichton-Stuart. The community was able to take up residence in 1948, and the restoration work continues. In 1974 Pluscarden was elevated to the status of an Abbey. 1994 saw the opening of a new building for residential retreats, which are open to men and women. Open all year, Admission free. A guide book is available at the Abbey. *

The Cashmere Visitor Centre, Johnston’s of Elgin, Newmill. Telephone 01343-554099. The mystique of cashmere is explained from the wilds of Asia to the finished product. Mill Shop. Open all year. Mill tours by appointment only. Admission free. *

Glen Moray Distillery, Bruceland Road, Elgin. Tel. 01343-542577. Daily tours. *

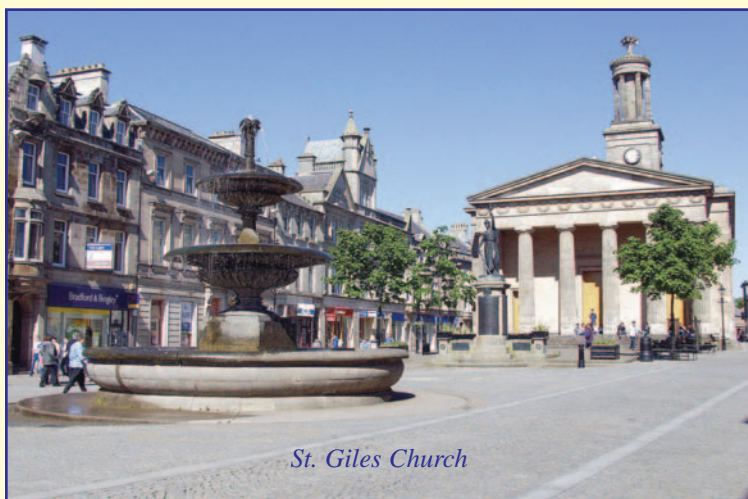
Moray Cycle Rides: Details available from Tourist Information Centre (charge) Tel. 01343-542666. Routes “Elgin Experience”, “Scenic Speyside”, “Lossiemouth Loop”, “Buckie to Maud Meander” and “Forres Foray”.

The Speyside Way is one of four official Long Distance Routes in Scotland. The route links the Moray coast with the edge of the Grampian Mountains, generally following the valley of the River Spey.



- 1 Bishop's House
- 2 Cathedral
- 3 Museum
- 4 Lady Hill
- 5 Elgin Library
- 6 Greyfriars
- 7 Braco's Banking House
- 8 Little Cross
- 9 Panns Port
- 10 St Giles Kirk and Muckle Cross
- 11 Tourist Information Centre
- 12 Johnston's of Elgin Visitor Centre
- 13 Old Mills
- 14 Moray College
- 15 Police Station
- 16 Post Office
- 17 Glenmoray Distillery Visitor Centre
- 18 Biblical Garden
- 19 Bowl 2000

A detail street map of the whole of Elgin is available from Elgin TIC.



St. Giles Church

WALKS

Millbuies. A selection of walks and nature trails. Several booklets are available from the Warden at Millbuies. *

Elgin Town Trail. A leaflet available from Tourist Office and various other locations, which guides the visitor on a circuit visiting the main points of Elgin.

Quarrelwood Woodland Park. Leggat Quarry Car Park; heading for Inverness past the Eight Acres look for first road on right signposted "Rosebrae". Lookout for car park 300 yards on the right. A walk through the deciduous woods on Elgin's western outskirts.

Forest Walks: Forest Enterprise, Balnacoul, Mosstodloch. Also mountain bike trails. Telephone 01343-820223.

SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES



Cooper Park:

Pitch & Putt, open July and August
10am-8pm, Sunday:
11am-8pm.
Telephone: 01343
548402 during these
months only.

Floodlit Tennis

Courts, which can
convert to Five-a-
Side Football or
Netball, are open all
year. Contact the
Library for bookings
on 01343 562600 at
all other times except
July and August.

Boating at Cooper
Park is open July to
September 11am-
5pm. August and
September weekends
only.

All facilities above operate weather permitting.

Moray Leisure Centre, Borough Briggs Road. Telephone 01343-550033. 2 swimming pools, flume, sauna, steam, spa, ice rink, gymnasiums, aerobics, sunbeds, creche, bar, restaurants. Open all year. *

Elgin Golf Club, Hardhillock, Birnie Road. Telephone 01343-542338. 18 holes. Rated as "probably the finest inland course in the North" by Peter Alliss.

Glassgreen Golf Range, Birnie Road. Telephone 01343-543590. 16 bay floodlit driving range. High quality mats and balls. Coffee shop.

Gliding: Highland Gliding Club, Easterton, Birnie. Telephone 01343-860272. Email <admin@highglide.co.uk>. Flying most weekends throughout the year (weather permitting). Visitors welcome. Trial flights available. *

Picnic Areas: Millbuies; Monaughty Forest; Cooper Park.

Children's Play Areas: Cooper Park; Dovecot Park, New Elgin; Mayne Road; and several others around the town.

Table Tennis: Community Centre, Trinity Road and Elgin High School, New Elgin.

Bowling: Cooper Park Bowling Green ; Elgin Bowling Club, Reidhaven Street; Moray Bowling Club, Seafield Street.

Indoor Bowling: Elgin Indoor Bowling Stadium, Moycroft.

Orienteering and Wayfaring: Quarrelwood, Elgin; Crooked Wood, Lhanbryde; Millbuies Country Park.

Community Centre: Trinity Road. Telephone 01343-543736. Various activities

Paintball: Moray Zap Ardgye House, Alves Telephone 01343 550333 for more information.

Ten Pin Bowling: Bowl 2000 2 Moycroft Industrial Estate Telephone 01343 541444 *

Tennis: Cooper Park. Tel: 01343 562600 during July and August

Fishing:

River Lossie: Permits from the Angling Centre, Moss Street. Telephone 01343-547615; and the Tackle Shop, 188 High Street. Telephone 01343-543129.

Millbuies Loch: Permits from the Warden, Millbuies Country Park. Telephone 01343-860234. *

Glenlatterach Reservoir: All enquiries to the Warden, Millbuies Country Park, Longmorn. Telephone 01343-860234. *

USEFUL INFORMATION

Population: In the region of 23,000.

Early Closing Day:
Wednesday (Many shops
do not close).

Information - Community
Notice Board - East side of
St. Giles Church

Local newspaper - "The
Northern Scot" - on sale
every Friday.



Tourist Information Centre: 17 High Street, Elgin. Telephone 01343-542666/543388. Open all year, daily in summer, Monday to Saturday in winter.

The Library: Cooper Park. Tel. 01343 562600. Open Monday to Friday, 10.00am to 8pm, Saturday 10am to 4 pm. Internet Access.

Markets: Indoors market - every Saturday - Elgin Auction Centre, opposite B&Q, New Elgin. Farmers' Market, High Street, Elgin - the last Saturday of the month and more frequently during the summer months. Tel: 01309 641259

Cinema: The Moray Playhouse Cinemas, 195 High Street. Telephone 01343-542680 A Two-screen cinema complex.

Disco. Joanna's Disco, High Street. Telephone 01343-541008.

Lido Club, 29a South Street. Telephone 01343-544188.

Public Conveniences:

Cooper Park (Open April to October, 8am to 8pm, November to March, 10am to 4pm);

North Street (down from Woolworth) (Open all year, 8am to 8pm).

St Giles Shopping Centre. 9-5.30.

Churches:

Baptist Church: Reidhaven Street.

Telephone 01343-548309. Sunday services 11am and 6.30pm.

Calvary Christian Life Centre:

Lesmurdie Road. Telephone 01343-542183. Sunday services 11am and 6pm.

Birnie Church, Birnie. Telephone

01343-542621. Sunday service 11.15am.

Elgin High Church, South Street.

Telephone 01343-542449. Sunday Service 11am.

Pluscarden Church, Pluscarden.

Telephone 01343-542621. Sunday service 10am.

St Columba's Church, Moss Street. Telephone 01343-551501. Sunday service 9.30am.

St Giles Church, High Street. Telephone 01343-551501. Sunday service 11am.

Spynie Church, New Spynie. Telephone Hopeman 01343-830276. Sunday service 12.30pm.

Free Church of Scotland: South Street. Telephone 01343-542196. Sunday services 11am and 6pm.

Gospel Hall: Riverside Gospel Hall, Bridge Street. Sunday services 11am and 6.30pm.

Jehovah's Witnesses: Linkwood Road. Telephone 01343-552098.

Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints: East Road. Telephone 01343-546429. Sunday service 10am.

Pentecostal Church of God: Sunday services in New Elgin Hall Annexe 11am and 6.30pm.

Pluscarden Abbey, Pluscarden. Telephone 01343-890257. Sunday Mass in English 8am and Latin 10am, Vespers and Benediction 4pm. Weekday Mass 8.45am, Vespers 6pm.

St Sylvester's Catholic Church, Institution Road. Telephone 01343-542280. Saturday Vigil-6pm. Sunday Mass 11.15am. Holy Days 10 am and 7.30pm.

St. Columba's Catholic Church, Union Street, Lossiemouth - Sunday 6.30 pm

Scottish Episcopal Church: Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Place. Telephone 01343-547505. Sunday services 8am, 11am and 6.30pm.

True Jesus Church: Lesmurdie Road. Telephone 01343-540129. Sabbath service - Saturday 11.30am/2.00pm.

Same-day Film Processing:

Boots, 110 High Street. Tel. 01343-543311.

The Photo Factory, 46 High Street. Tel. 01343-548316.

Bishopmill Pharmacy, 20 North Street. Tel. 01343 547374.

Moss Pharmacy, Main Street, New Elgin. Tel. 01343542186.



Banks:

Abbey National plc 62 High Street. Tel. 0845-765-4321

Alliance & Leicester plc 74 High Street. Tel. 01343-544981

Bank of Scotland 90 High Street. Tel. 01343- 522300

Clydesdale plc 151 High Street. Tel. 01343-545211

Halifax plc 90 High Street. Tel. 0845 607 7010

Lloyds TSB Scotland plc 12 Commerce Street. Tel.01343 547080

Royal Bank of Scotland, 209 High Street. Tel. 01343-548333.

Cycle Hire: Bikes and Bows, 7 High Street. Telephone 01343-549656.

Cot Hire/all baby hire: Bumps2Babes, 22 South Street 01343-547770

Self-Drive Car Hire:

Arnold Clark, Edgar Road. Tel. 01343-547688 *

Regency Car Sales, Linkwood Ind. Est. 01343-551552

Macrae & Dick, East Road. Tel. 01343-552771

Alan Milne Ltd, Station Road. Tel. 01343-542254

Hawco, Wards Road. Tel. 01343-544977

Parking: Free parking at Borough Briggs, Lossie Green, Trinity Road.

Pay and Display or restricted off-street parking at Ladyhill Road, St.

Giles Road, Batches Lane, Lossie Wynd, Alexandra Road, Moray Street,

Northfield Terrace, North Port, Blackfriars Road.

24 hour Filling Stations:

East Road Service Station. Telephone 01343-542176.

West Road Service Station. Telephone 01343-554585.

Tesco Service Station

Touring Caravan and Camping Parks:

Riverside Caravan Park, West Road. Telephone 01343-542813 *

Caravan accessories, S&D Harper, Edgar Road. 01343-547522

Railway Station: Station Road. Travel the easy way with a Freedom of Scotland Travelpass or Rover Ticket.

Bus Station: Stagecoach, St Giles Bus Station. Telephone 01343-544222, Fax 01343-540977 for local bus services to Inverness, Aberdeen, Lossiemouth, Hopeman, Burghead, Dufftown, Aberlour, etc.

Timetable information available at local tourist information centres.

Coach Tours: Stagecoach, St Giles Bus Station. Telephone 01343-544222, Fax 01343-540977.

Coach Parking: Borough Briggs Road.

Coach and Minibus Hire: Scotravel, 115 South Street. Telephone 01343-542204.

Taxis:

A1 Cabs, Tel. 01343-545545/569169 (Airport Transfers)

C&R Taxis, Tel. 01343-545456

City Taxis, Tel. 01343-543555

Clover Cabs, Tel. 01343-546546/549167

Dave's Taxis, Tel. 01343-556557 (Airport Transfers)

Ladyhill Taxis, Tel. 01343-550440/541212 (Airport Transfers)

Moray Taxis, Tel. 01343-542665/545453/545454

Scotravel, Tel. 01343-551000/542204.

West Road Taxis, Tel. 01343 543284/543701

Launderette:

Bishopmill Launderette, 31 North Street. Tel. 01343-543670

New Elgin Launderette, 3 Springfield Road. 01343-556305

Dry Cleaning:

Dry Cleaning Well, 214-216 High Street. Tel. 01343-541386.

Elgin Express Dry Cleaners, 53 High Street. Tel. 01343-551315

Emergency Contacts

Hospital:

Dr Gray's Hospital, Pluscarden Road. Telephone 01343-543131.

Doctors:

Elgin Community Surgery, Highfield, Hay Street.

Telephone 01343-542234

Health Centre, Maryhill, High Street.

Telephone 01343-542225/543788.

Elgin Medical Centre, 10 Victoria Crescent.

Telephone 01343-547512.

Dentists:

6 Trinity Place. Telephone 01343-542697

16 South Street. Telephone 01343-542729

Chemists:

West End Pharmacy, 176 High Street. Telephone 01343-542571

Bishopmill Pharmacy, 20 North Street. Telephone 01343-547374

Boots, 110 - 112 High Street. Telephone 01343-543311

Moss Pharmacy, 39 Main Street, New Elgin.

Telephone 01343-542186

Lloyds Pharmacy, 48 High Street. Telephone 01343-547065

Chiropodists: 5 Thunderton Place. Telephone 01343-549177.

Wheelchair Hire:

Red Cross, 80 South Street. 01343-542203.

Shopmobility, High Street. 01343-552528

Veterinary Surgeons:

125 South Street. Telephone 01343-542255

New Elgin Road. Telephone 01343-544811

Breakdown Service:

Sheriffmill Motor Co. Ltd., Sheriffmill Road. Tel. 01343-

547121/547378

Police:

Moray Local Command Area Headquarters, Moray Street.

Telephone 01343-543101.

The Moray Council: Access Point, Greyfriars Street.

Telephone. 01343-563000

* Denotes membership of Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board.

Every care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information in this leaflet, but details may be subject to alteration.

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