A Guide for Disabled Visitors



# WELCOME TO DUNNEE & ANGUS!

From the modern, ship-like buildings of Dundee to the colourful shoreline cottages of east Scotland and the green Angus countryside; this vibrant pocket of Scotland is perfect for an accessible road trip or spectacular railway journey.

Inside this guide you'll become familiar with the maritime and city suburbs of Dundee, encounter urban relics, uncover a lift to the Tay Road Bridge, climb aboard legendary boats, and trace the coastal route north to Arbroath, stopping at Scotland's most infamous golf course along the way.

The places in this guide are ready to be explored, and we hope that they give visiting disabled people a flavour for Dundee and Angus, as well as practical information about accessibility before visiting.

#### **EXPLORE FURTHER ONLINE**



For disabled access reviews and more information about accessibility, visit

#### www.euansguide.com/dundee-guide

to discover more about the featured locations, as well as thousands of other places including hotels, restaurants and transport.

If you've been exploring the places in this guide, as well as other locations, don't forget to share your discoveries by writing a review on Euan's Guide. That way, other disabled people, their families and friends can benefit from your experience. Why not start by reviewing your favourite place in this guide? Go to <a href="https://www.euansguide.com/write-a-review">www.euansguide.com/write-a-review</a>

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A waterfront city, and the fourth largest in Scotland, Dundee is modern but packed full of history, creative with an industrial flair, and likely to surprise you with its accessible gems.

At the heart of it all is City Square, overlooked by Caird Hall where concert-goers come and go for orchestras, gigs, fairs and organ recitals. The building's remarkable organ was designed by Alfred Hollins, the renowned blind organist of Edinburgh, and the instrument has fifty speaking stops! Arriving from the pedestrianised City Square, there is ramped access to the Marryat Door where staff will welcome you inside. If you're driving, there's a handy car park beneath the hall with a large lift into the building.

Tracing the city centre, you'll see names like

Nethergate, Marketgait and Overgate, the original medieval thoroughfares that the modern cityscape is built around. Most of these have become major roads, but Overgate was transformed into a large shopping centre in the 1960s. It's a favourite with the locals and has good accessible parking and large, well-signposted toilets for visitors.

Before exploring the rest of the city, stop by the VisitScotland iCentre in City Square for top tips and advice on where to go and how to get there. You'll be able to collect a map of the city here and find out about any events or festivals going on during your visit.



### **QUICK TIP**

Look out for Desperate Dan striding by in City Square!



### ARTHOUSE CINEMA LOVED 134 LOCALS

Head west along Nethergate to Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA), a venue which oozes style in its Jute Café Bar and art house cinemas, while flaunting its fun side in the Print Studio and galleries.

Relaxed yet energised, DCA is loved by locals and international art fans alike for its world-class exhibitions, inhouse cinema programme, learning and printing tools. Film lovers can enjoy the induction loop system in the cinemas, while wheelchair users need not worry about tight spaces in the Print Studio or galleries. The attractive art centre filled the space of a disused car showroom, meaning there is no shortage of room to move around and explore!



#### **QUICK TIP**

The small Print Gallery above the shop is accessible by stairs only, but you can ask to see works from the gallery in the Print Studio or shop.

**DUNDEE REP THEATRE** 

### ENSEMBLES AND ENCOKES

At a time when cinema was booming in 1930s Dundee, traditional theatres became a rarity. It wasn't long before Dundee Rep Theatre formed from the ashes of the city's theatrical groups and became an organisation like no other.

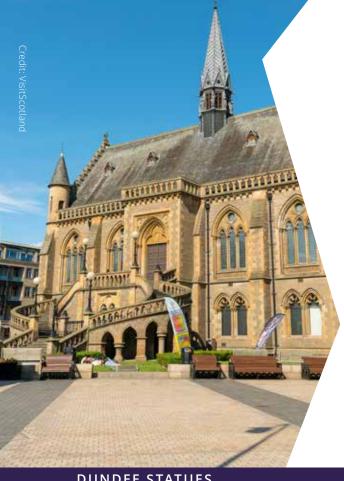
What makes this Tay Square venue so unique is that it is home to permanent ensembles of actors and dancers, the only twin ensemble of its kind in Scotland! The venue has been made wheelchair accessible with a push button at the main entrance and a ramp to the box office.



#### **QUICK TIP**

A visual story is available for visitors who would like to gain familiarity with the theatre before visiting.





### A GOTHICALLY GOOD MUSEUM

Make your way to Albert Square to admire the tremendous neo-Gothic building that is The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.

Housing Dundee's main collection, The McManus displays art, history and nature across eight themed galleries over two wheelchair accessible floors. If you're arriving by car, head towards the rear of the museum where there are a few lesser-known accessible parking bays. Once inside, keep a look out for the Tay Whale, known to locals as 'The Monster', and learn about the 'Three Js' of Dundee as you explore the artefacts of this stunning museum.



#### **QUICK TIP**

Go find the statue of 'Oor Wullie' who sits on the wall outside the museum! He's aiming his pea-shooter towards Robert Burns' statue nearby...

**DUNDEE STATUES** 

### DUMDEE'S UMMISSABLE STATUES

Every city has its statues, but none are quite so playful as the characters scattered around Dundee!

Far away from Cactusville, Texas, the bronze figure of Desperate Dan can be seen striding alongside locals in City Square. 'Dawg' is tugging at his leash, while Minnie the Minx sneaks up behind. These are of course the much-loved comic book characters created by Dundee publishing firm, DC Thomson & Co Ltd.

If going on a comic trail is your idea of fun, don't miss the fictitious Bash Street which was unveiled in Dundee by Dennis the Menace. The colourful street sign can be admired and photographed from a quiet lane beside West Marketgait.

While you're on the search for the city's mischievous characters, be sure to stop and admire the five penguins at Steeple Church too! Loved by locals, the penguins are often dressed up to mark special occasions.





### A JUTÉ MILL TRANSFORMED

Travel back in time at Verdant Works, the backstreet industrial museum that tells the incredible stories of Dundee's mill workers during the height of the jute industry.

Restored from a crumbling relic to a stunning museum, Verdant Works is a sensory experience where you can feel the jute, hear the machines and see the mill brought to life with characters, exhibits and displays. The museum is a little bumpy in places, so take care if you are a wheelchair user exploring different floors.

For the best view of the old factory steam engine, take the lift up to the viewing balcony and admire the colourful machinery. Local costumed characters will help to bring the stories alive, and give you something to chat about over a slice of cake in the tearoom afterwards.



#### **OUICK TIP**

Strike up a conversation with the people who work the original machinery in the museum today.

FISHER & DONALDSON

### DUMDEE CAKE

If you're keen for a slice of traditional Dundee, don't forget to try this bakery favourite.

This fruity (with no cherries allowed) traditional cake is a beloved Scottish treat, and a common sight in Dundee. Look for the cake decorated with circles of almonds and you'll know you've found it! Locals will tell you to visit Fisher & Donaldson for all your sweet-tooth cravings, and there are three shops to choose from in Dundee.

If you're exploring the City Square area, try the bakery on Whitehall Street and sample one of their famous fudge doughnuts or 'fudgies' while you're there. Other local favourites include yum yums and sair heids.



### **QUICK TIP**

If you're venturing around the city in search of cosy cafes, there is a fleet of buses regularly passing through the city centre that are wheelchair accessible. You'll find the major bus stops on the High Street.





# Staying in Dundee for more than a day? The city has great hotels for a luxury break, quick getaway or comfortable stay.

One of the best situated hotels in the city is Malmaison. Located a short walk from both the train station and the city centre, this luxury hotel is friendly, stylish and accessible too. Don't be put off by the steps on the corner, the main entrance has wide automatic doors and level access.

Further inland and close to the comical Bash Street is Hampton by Hilton. This contemporary city centre hotel has spacious accessible bedrooms with well-placed fixtures.

For a night's stay right on the waterfront, the Premier Inn Hotel has views across the River Tay and modern accessible rooms. This convenient hotel is also positioned very close to the train station.

Tucked behind the coast on the docks is the Apex City Quay Hotel and Spa, offering wheelchair accessible accommodation with good walking links between the waterfront and the city centre. Take a moment to step out onto the bridge at the City Quay for an impressive viewpoint and dockside attractions. If you're travelling with children, don't miss Olympia which is behind the docks just off Seagate. The pool has flumes, waves and bubble beds to keep families entertained.



Dundee's bold and design-led waterfront regeneration is well underway, and there are countless hidden discoveries to be made along the pathways and routes on the Tay shore.

The nautical waterfront is undergoing a long-term regeneration which is changing the shoreline of Dundee dramatically. Being Scotland's sunniest city, a walk along the waterfront is generally pleasant, especially if you keep a look out for playful dolphins in the country's longest river.

Starting from Discovery Point as you exit the train station, Riverside Walkway is a pedestrian and cyclist route heading west toward Magdalen Green. This tree-lined walkway follows the seawall and is decorated with information boards and artworks.

If you choose to head east from Discovery Point, things will begin to feel more industrial with

concrete structures and the looming Tay Road Bridge up ahead. Look out for Telford Light, a tiny lighthouse once used to guide boats into the harbour, and get ready to head upwards when you find the Tay Bridge Lift...

The options for getting up onto the bridge are to drive, climb the steps, or take this handily placed lift right up to the bridge walkway and cycle path. Once on the bridge, it takes around half an hour to walk its length as it is one of Europe's longest road crossings at 1.4 miles! Be aware of the noise levels on the bridge if you dislike loud traffic. Look out across the end of the bridge to see The Law, Dundee's extinct volcano, or turn to the left to see the architecturally impressive V&A Museum of Design jutting out into the water.

Returning to ground level, it's possible to continue heading east toward the city docks which will take you back to the city centre through City Quay.



Discovery Point tells the story of Captain Scott and his RRS Discovery voyage in 1901, one of the most heroic tales from Dundee's nautical past.

Located on the quayside beside the train station, Discovery Point welcomes visitors with level access and automatic doors into a friendly reception and information point. The museum galleries are all on the ground floor and feature a combination of exhibitions and audio-visual displays.

Outside, in the foreground of the futuristic V&A Museum of Design, sits the beautiful RRS Discovery which was trapped in Antarctic ice for two winters.

Visitors are invited on board to explore the deck and cabins; however, the ship's layout is not suitable for wheelchair access. A ramp is available at the top of the traditional gangway providing access to the vessel and the lower stairs. If it isn't possible for you to board the ship, there is a film shown that captures the scenes below deck, including audio commentary and subtitles.



### **DON'T MISS**

A remote controlled camera has been mounted on the mast of RRS Discovery. You can use a joystick to change the vantage point for views of the road bridge, V&A Museum of Design, the shoreline, or along the decks.

### **V&A DUNDEE**

The only V&A Museum to exist outside of London, V&A Dundee is at the heart of Dundee's waterfront regeneration and is due to open in September 2018.

Designer Kengo Kuma's vision for the museum is for it to be a 'living room for the city', and it will feature

around 300 exhibits on Scottish and international design. Inspiration for the building was taken from cliffs on Scotland's east coast with the museum designed to look like a rocky cliff face on the River Tay, but at times it can appear like a majestic ship setting sail from Dundee.

**HMS UNICORN** 



### THE GOLDEN AGE OF SAIL

The only wooden warship in Scotland, HMS Unicorn, has close to two-hundred years of history to share.

Hammocks, mess tables, ship models and weapons fill the decks of this fascinating ship, but the best part to explore is the Gun Deck which also happens to be wheelchair accessible. Here you can get up close to the lines of canons and learn from the stewards about how they were used. While lower levels aren't as easy to access, a virtual tour is available for anybody who prefers to stay above deck and learn the stories of the HMS Unicorn. With lots of artefacts and treasures inside, the ship is an excellent museum to touch and feel the history of this warship.

NORTH CARR LIGHTSHIP

### AN AULD LIGHTSHIP

A maritime relic and a charming rust bucket, North Carr Lightship has the potential to become one of Dundee's waterfront gems.

Scotland's last lightship, the North Carr Lightship, has an almighty foghorn that is still sounded on occasion today. This lighthouse on a ship is anchored in Victoria Dock close to HMS Unicorn, and it is hoped that the vessel will be refurbished into a new waterfront exhibition space. Wander across the dockland bridge to take a photo by this quirky Scottish lightship.





### **DON'T MISS**

Stand on Chandlers Lane to admire the old maritime buildings by the docks.

## DUNDEE

Key









Secondary Road

01 Dundee City Square

02 Fisher & Donaldson

03 The Malmaison

04 RRS Discovery / V&A Dundee

**05** The McManus

06 DCA

**07** Dundee Rep Theatre

**08** Verdant Works

09 North Carr Lightship

**10** HMS Unicorn

**11** City Quay

12 Dens Park / Tannadice Park

13 Dundee Law

**14** Mills Observatory

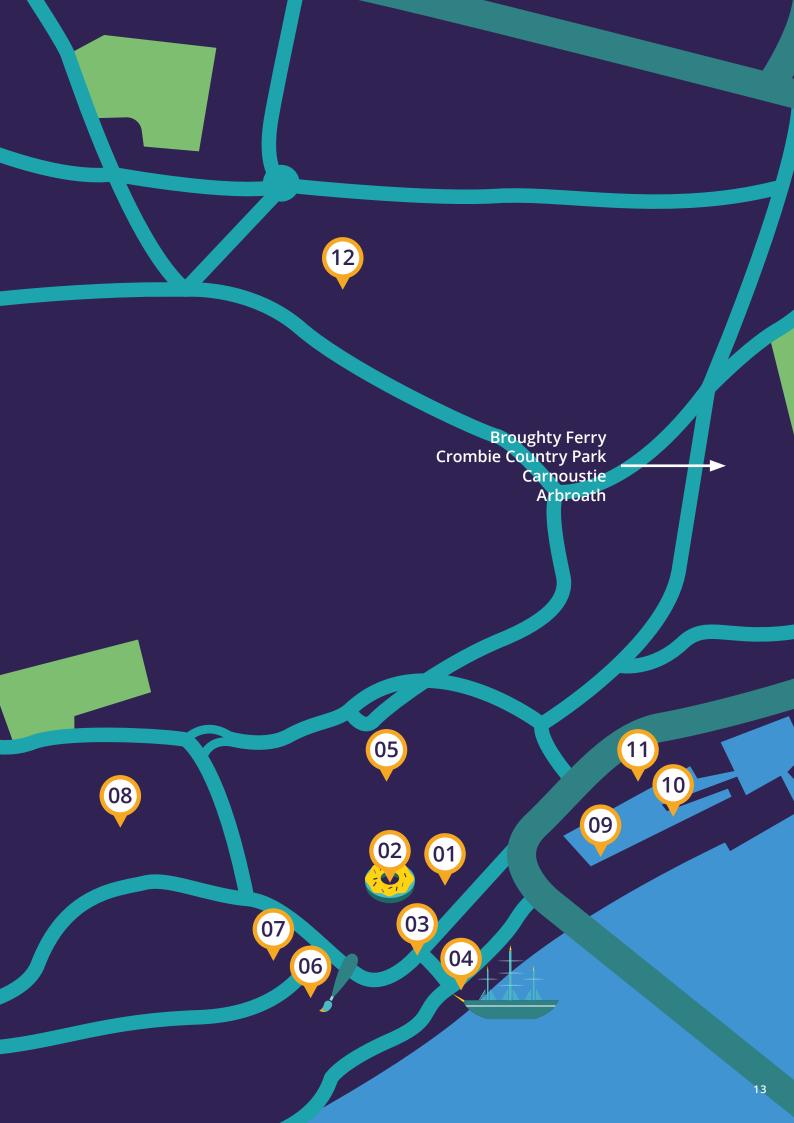
**15** Botanic Garden

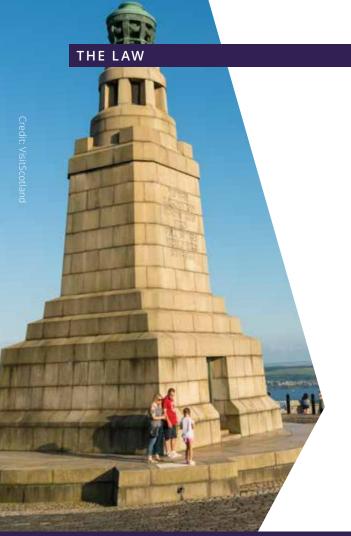
Dundee Ice Arena Camperdown Country Park











### THE LAW AMD AROUND

Dundee is all about discovery, but it's not just about maritime expeditions, fantastic inventions or cutting-edge games. Climb the city's highest peak to see Dundee in all its splendour, then head to the nearby Balgay Hill to look even higher...

At 174-metres high, locals flock to The Law at the hint of a promising sunset, news of a rare super moon, or simply to enjoy a picnic with the city unfolding beneath them. An extinct volcano, The Law is a fairly steep climb, but any Dundonian will tell you the views are worth it. If you'd rather not reach the top via steps, it's possible to drive to the peak where a number of parking bays have been marked for visitors.



#### **QUICK TIP**

If you do decide to make the climb, look out for the handy toilet block at the foot of the hill before setting off!

MILLS OBSERVATORY

### LOOK OUT FOR PLANETS

Around one mile west of the city centre, there's an observatory where you can peer into space from the top of Balgay Hill.

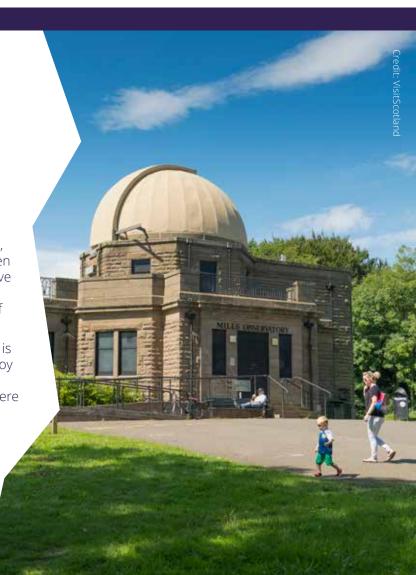
Mills Observatory was a gift to Dundonians in 1935, and it is the only observatory in the UK to have been built for use solely by the public. It's possible to drive up to the observatory and park right outside the building; but if you choose to make the climb, see if you can follow the Planet Trail as you go!

The observatory is open later in the day, and there is a ramp to the ground floor level where you can enjoy the astronomy displays, visit the lecture room, or marvel at the planetarium. Don't miss the shop where you'll find stargazing guides and telescopes!



#### **QUICK TIP**

Let the observatory know you're visiting beforehand and they'll link up the telescope ready for your arrival.







### NAHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE GLASSHOUSES

Discover the world of botany and marvel at the pine trees in the university Botanic Garden.

Dundee's Botanic Garden is a haven for locals and an oasis of calm in Dundee. Wander between the plants, admire the conifers and listen to the gurgle and flow of the River Tay as you explore. The paths are easy to cross, and all of the glasshouses are wheelchair accessible.



#### **QUICK TIP**

Browse the plants for sale beside the coffee shop and pick up a souvenir rhododendron.

CAMPERDOWN COUNTRY PARK

### DUMDEE'S BEST PLAYCKOUND

A stellar tree collection, family-friendly wildlife park and Changing Places toilet can all be found inside Dundee's largest public park.

At just three miles from the city centre, Camperdown Country Park is over 400 acres in size and is home to European brown bears, wolves, and meerkats, as well as 190 species of tree. Ideal for a family day out, the park has one of the city's most inclusive playgrounds featuring wheelchair accessible equipment and boardwalks that get you right into the middle of the action!

Pack a picnic, follow the tree-lined driveway to the huge car park, and enjoy the outdoors within easy reach of the city. The park is great for a long stay, as it also has a Changing Places toilet for visitors.



#### **QUICK TIP**

Leave plenty of time to explore this park, there's lots going on!

### A JUTE ERA KELIC

This Dundee landmark has been named Scotland's best industrial chimney.

Cox's Stack stands 85-metres tall in the Lochee area, close to Camperdown Country Park. The impressive chimney was built in 1866 as part of one of the largest jute factories of the era and remains today as a testament to the incredible engineering of the time. To find the chimney, head towards the Stack Leisure Park where you can easily view the structure and its decorative brickwork.



#### **QUICK TIP**

Stop here for a photo after visiting other nearby attractions.



HOME OF THE DUMDEE STAKS

Join local hockey fans inside the city's own ice arena for a Dundee Stars game.

Whether you'd love to spectate at a high-adrenaline hockey match or take to the ice yourself, Dundee Ice Arena in the Camperdown District of the city is the place to be. The ice rink is one of the largest in Scotland, hosting major hockey games and figure skating competitions throughout the year. The centre has level access throughout and wheelchair access to the rink, so look out for upcoming wheelchair curling try-outs.



#### **QUICK TIP**

Check Dundee Dragons Wheelchair Sports Club for a calendar of wheelchair accessible sports including curling.

**FOOTBALL** 

### A 300-METRE KIVALKY

Dundee's two football grounds are geographically the closest together in the whole of Britain.

Both grounds sit north of the city centre, with Dundee United's Tannadice Park just down the road from Dundee Football Club's Dens Park. If you're going along to a game, there is good on-street parking within easy reach of both stadiums. Get there early though, as neither stadium has its own car park. If you'd prefer to arrive by public transport, wheelchair accessible buses run between the city centre and the football grounds.



## ADMIKE A KEAL SAND CASTLE



### Head east to Dundee's beach suburb for ice-cream, shopping and pavement cafes.

With traditional fisherman's cottages dotted along the waterside to a backdrop of hillside villas, 'The Ferry' is Dundee's prettiest neighbourhood. The suburb is a short train or bus journey four miles east of the city centre and is the gateway to the cliff-faced trail along Scotland's east coast.

Broughty Ferry beach is one of Scotland's finest thanks to its accessible promenade, moreish ice-cream, romantic dunes and beachside castle. The seafront Changing Places toilet can only be described as one of the best placed 'loos with a view', and the accessible jetties and concrete walkways make this small stretch of seaside well worth a visit.

While the 15th century castle by the coast is not wheelchair accessible, its four floors of museum exhibits make for an interesting visit for those who can manage its ancient spiral staircase. A hearing loop is fitted inside for visitors who require it, and there is a gift shop where you can pick up a souvenir or two.

From the promenade, the views out to the water are exceptional on a sunny day. Watch out for playful dolphins or porpoises in the Tay, as well as seabirds and seals. You might also spot the interesting watchtower on the western promenade. It's possible to climb this for a slightly higher vantage point across the estuary. If you're feeling a little more adventurous, head to the harbour to find the local swim club called 'Ye Amphibious Ancients' Bathing Association' and go for a dook in the water!

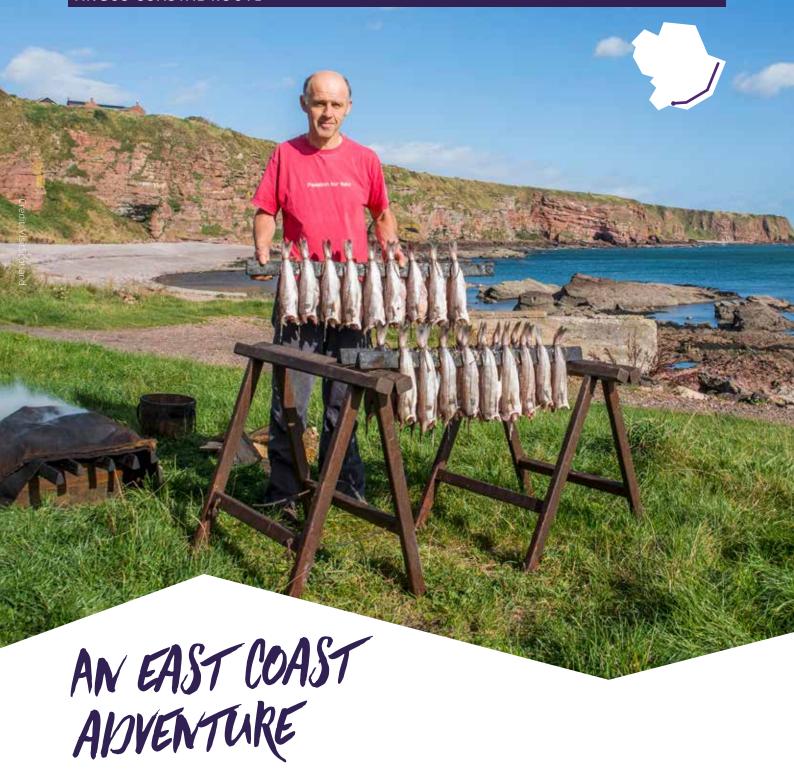
There's a calmer atmosphere at the eastern end of Broughty Ferry beach, just a stroll or a short drive away from the seaside antics. Here you'll find an interesting rock garden that is tended by local volunteers. Barnhill Rock Garden is an unexpected oasis known to few beach-combers at this side of the city, and it's a curious place to explore. It's also conveniently close to another modern accessible loo.



#### **QUICK TIP**

If you're planning to stay for more than a day, The Best Western Woodlands Hotel has accessible bedrooms on the ground floor with roll in showers, and has level access to the bar and restaurant.

### ANGUS COASTAL ROUTE



Follow the A92 out of Dundee and marvel at the North Sea coastline as you take the winding route towards Aberdeen.

This east coast road trip is unmissable if you enjoy driving, countryside and good seafood. If you don't have a car, the same journey can be made by rail with seaport stops and transcendent clifftop views.

Starting in Dundee, the route traces the coastline through Broughty Ferry into rolling Angus countryside. It can feel as though you're witnessing

pockets of old Scotland along this time capsule trail, especially when you reach the remarkable town of Arbroath where the air is laced with the oaky aroma of Arbroath Smokies, a world-class delicacy.

Take the time to stop at quaint coastal villages as you drive; there is the small town of Monifieth with Pictish history and sandy beaches and bountiful farmers' market, and not forgetting Carnoustie with its reputation for golf, fishing and water sports.



ARBROATH



A twenty-minute train journey north of Dundee, Arbroath is Angus' largest town where Smokies prevail and a fascinating story awaits those who visit its ruined medieval Abbey.

With car parks to the north and south of the pedestrianised High Street, Arbroath is an easy place to stop and explore. The first thing you'll notice is the unusual aroma that fills the air; it is of course haddock being smoked in family-run smokeries around the town, home of the famous 'Abroath Smokie'. You can find the tiny smokehouses tucked behind the colourful stone cottages and dotted along the backstreets of Arbroath.

What is an Arbroath Smokie? Given protected status in 2004, an Arbroath smokie is North Sea haddock

that has been smoked traditionally within 8km of Arbroath. Pairs of haddock are tied together and smoked over hardwood chips before being sold in the various fishmongers and restaurants around the town.

The Bellrock on the harbourfront serves the famous Arbroath Smokie and has two accessible parking spaces at the main entrance. A ramp leads into the traditional fish 'n' chip restaurant, where there is also a spacious accessible toilet for diners. The Bellrock's Smokies are supplied by Alex Spink & Sons whose smokehouse can be found on Seagate.



### **QUICK TIP**

Locals will tell you that Smokies make a great crepe!



#### **LIGHTHOUSE TALES**

While exploring the harbour, take a moment to admire the Arbroath Signal Tower Museum in the south. Until it was decommissioned in 1955, the Signal Tower served the famous Bell Rock Lighthouse which sits 11 miles out to sea. Both the Bell Rock Lighthouse and its signal tower were designed and built by Robert Stevenson and his team in dangerously stormy conditions. Today the museum tells the stories of the lighthouse, and of Arbroath and its seafaring community.

A ramp leads into the building where you can watch a film portraying the history of the tower. Inside there are visitor toilets, including an accessible loo, and there are picnic benches in the courtyard if you fancy lunch beneath the tower.

### AN ECHO THROUGH TIME

At the north of the town, the atmosphere at Arbroath Abbey is quite different from that of the traditional seaside harbour. Follow the signs that lead you up the High Street; a gentle incline filled with barbers, butchers, bakeries and fishmongers; to the magnificent ruin that almost catches you by surprise as you turn the corner.

The Abbey is famed for the Declaration of Arbroath that was drawn up, presumably, in the Abbey's scriptorium. The most important document in Scottish history is said to have inspired the texts of the Magna Carta and the American Declaration of Independence. The original Declaration resides in the National Records of Scotland, but a copy is available to view at Arbroath Abbey.

As you arrive, a long path takes you to the modern visitor centre where screens welcome you to the site. Here there is a virtual reconstruction of the original Abbey with an induction loop for visitors, while the upper level contains 3D model which you can use to imagine the Abbey as it once stood. A lift has been fitted to assist visitors between floors.

Outside, there is step-free access to the nave and cloister, although there are two steps into the sacristy. Don't abandon this entirely, as there is an impressive trick to enjoy at the door. Have a go at playing with the acoustics by leaning in and making a noise. Your voice will echo and ring throughout the room, as this sacristy is one of the country's best echo chambers.



Take a short journey west of Arbroath to Crombie Country Park, a paradise of outdoor activities and wildlife.

Loch Crombie is a reservoir that once supplied Dundee with water during its rapid expansion in the 1800s. Today, the loch is the centrepiece of Crombie Country Park which has 7km of criss-crossing trails and wheelchair accessible walkways to enjoy

Driving into the park, clear signage directs you to accessible parking beyond the park ranger's office

to a woodland clearing. From here, you can visit the ranger's centre to find leaflets and information about wheelchair accessible paths and how to get involved in orienteering. There's also an accessible toilet in this building, with a ramp to the main entrance.

Look out for wildlife as you explore, there are red squirrels, deer, woodpeckers and more hiding in the woodland around the park. The Discovery Trail is particularly fun to walk, as are the Peddieston and Birchwood Trails which are all easy access.



The locations highlighted in this collection represent a handful of the places that are available to discover on Euan's Guide, the disabled access review website.

As a powerchair user, I am familiar with the time and effort that is involved in planning everything from nights out with friends to football matches with the kids, and my Motor Neurone Disease (MND) diagnosis in 2003 was the start of a new journey for me, my family and friends.

In 2013, along with my sister Kiki, we created Euan's Guide, a charity that is all about sharing. As my access requirements changed, we built up a list of 'go to' places in and around Edinburgh which we knew had good disabled access. We weren't the only ones doing this in their home town, but there was no platform for anybody to share their knowledge.

Euan's Guide now has disabled access reviews and listings for thousands of places around the UK and beyond.

The website is used by disabled people, their friends, families and carers to review, share and discover accessible places to visit. You can review anywhere from hotels and concert venues, to train stations and coffee shops. You can write about anything from wheelchair accessible parking and toilets, to audio description and staff welcome.

The possibilities are endless.

Visit <u>www.euansguide.com</u> to join in and start reviewing your favourite accessible places. You could always start with one of the places in this guide!

**Euan**Co-founder of Euan's Guide









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