



From the modern, ship-like buildings of Dundee to the colourful shoreline cottages of the east coast; 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 elements of Dundee, encounter urban relics, uncover a lift to the Tay Road Bridge, climb aboard legendary boats, find information on and trace the coastal route to the neighbouring seaside town of Broughty Ferry.

You'll also find information on Dundee's festivals as well as the cafe culture and the bars and restaurants.

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

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.



To view more please visit www.EuansGuide.com/Dundee.

ABOUT EUAN'S GUIDE



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? <u>www.euansguide.com/write-a-review</u>

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DUNDEE CITY SQUARE



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 Hall 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, Murraygate, 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 and refurbished in 2000. It's a favourite with the locals and has good accessible parking and large, well-signposted and accessibile toilets for visitors.

Before exploring, it's worth popping to the VisitScotland tourism information centre located at V&A Dundee for top tips and advice on where to go and how to get there. Collect a map of the city and find out about any events or festivals going on during your visit.

QUICK TIP



Nip along to Fisher & Donaldson for a famous fudge doughnut!

DUNDEE CONTEMPORARY ARTS



DUNDEE REP THEATRE

ART HOUSE CINEMA LOVED BY 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.

ENSEMBLES AND ENCORES

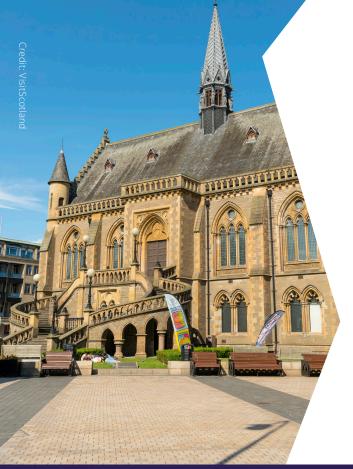
At a time when cinema was booming in 1930s Dundee, traditional theatres became a rarity. Dundee Rep Theatre formed from the ashes of the city's theatrical groups and became an organisation like no other.

What makes this venue 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, as well as an accesible toilet with a hoist. Accessible wheelchair spaces are well positioned and give a good view of the stage. Large print, audio and braille season brochures are availabla on request.

QUICK TIP

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

THE MCMANUS: DUNDEE'S ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM



A COTHICALLY COOP MUSEUM

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

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.

The accessibility at this museum is very good, with level access all the way throughout the building, with a large modern lift to connect the floors, and a good size accessible toilets.



QUICK TIP

Can you spot the statue of Oor Wullie who sits on the wall outside the museum? He's aiming his peashooter towards Robert Burns' statue nearby...

DUNDEE'S STATUES

OUNDEE'S UNMISSABLE 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, look out for the lemmings, and stop to admire the five penguins at Steeple Church - loved by locals, the penguins are often dressed up to mark special occasions like graduation.

VERDANT WORKS

Credit: Paul J Ralpl

A JUTE 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 using the lift. It's also worth noting there are lots of push / pull doors, and the accessible toilet is quite narrow.

Once you've had a good look around, enjoy a bite to eat in the cafe.



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





Science for everyone

Dundee Science Centre helps families learn together, support local schools, advance science communication, and bring science and the public together.

It's a brilliant hands-on learning experience for everyone, and kids absolutely love it.

There's a Changing Places toilet, a cafe with level access, sensory zones, and free parking in the council car park outside. Access to upper levels is via a small lift.



QUICK TIP

Dundee Science Centre is a charity as well as a fantastic learning resource for the community.



PLACES TO STAY



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, and right next to the airport bus stop, 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.

The Premier Inn has views across the River Tay and modern accessible rooms. This convenient hotel is also positioned very close to the train station, with its own car park. Sleeperz Hotel is in a great spot too - it's located directly above the train station and has a view of the busy waterfront from its bar/lounge accessed by a lift.

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. There's also a spa if you have the time to enjoy a treatment or swim.

Meanwhile, Hotel Indigo is a rennovated old mill with individual suites as well as rooms. Assistance dogs are welcome, and they have accessible bedrooms, bathrooms and public spaces. Induction loops are fitted, and Blue Badge car parking is also available.

THE WATERFRONT

TAKE THE MARITIME TRAIL

Dundee's bold and design-led waterfront regeneration has been transformative for the city, and there are countless hidden discoveries to be made along the Tay shore.

The waterfront has undergone an extensive, long-term regeneration in recent years, which has dramatically changed the shoreline of Dundee. A walk along the waterfront is pleasant, especially if you keep a look out for playful dolphins in the country's longest river.

Starting from Discovery Point, Riverside Walkway is a pedestrian and cyclist route heading west toward Magdalen Green, a large green space popular with dog walkers and picnickers. This tree-lined walkway follows the seawall and is decorated with information boards and artworks. Or head east, and the landscape becomes 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 consider heading upwards when you find the Tay Bridge.

To get on the bridge walkway and cycle path, the options are to drive, climb steps, or take the lift. It takes around 30 minues to walk the length of the Tay Road Bridge - at 1.4 miles, it's one of Europe's longest road crossings! Be aware of the noise levels on the bridge if you dislike loud traffic. Coming back towards the city you'll see The Law, Dundee's extinct volcano, and the architecturally impressive V&A Dundee, both highlights in the sprawling view of the city.

Continue heading east toward the city docks which will take you back to the city centre through City Quay, or continue on for another few miles to visit the seaside town of Broughty Ferry.

V&A DUNDEE

VE A DUNDEE

The only V&A museum to exist outside of London, V&A Dundee has been at the heart of the city's waterfront regeneration.

Architect Kengo Kuma's vision for the museum was to be a 'living room for the city'. 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. At times it can appear like a majestic ship setting sail, which complements its next-door-neighbour, RRS Discovery.

The museum hosts major exhibitions, some original to Dundee and some adapted from the London branch. Rather aptly, Ocean Liners was the opening exhibition, and the internationally renowned Tartan showed a huge collection of pieces from across the globe. There's also the permanent Scottish Design Galleries which explore the everyday relevance of design and how it improves our lives, the processes that underpin it, as well as showcasing little-known stories of Scottish design with international impact.

As well as major shows for locals and tourists alike, V&A Dundee has the local community at its heart. The museum regularly hosts events like DJ sets and special guests, along with regularly corporate events and community-led projects and workshops, particularly in the school holidays. As far as disabled access goes, the museum was designed with this in mind.

Access into the building is at ground level from an entirely paved exterior, where you'll find the ticket desk and shop, and a lift up to the first floor where the exhibitions and events are held.

The exhibition and gallery spaces are well laid out, with space to move around. The cafe is located on the first floor with open access and a varied menu.

There are two accessible toilets including one Changing Places. Assistance dogs are welcome, there's a quiet room, large print guides, and wheelchairs are available to borrow. There's also an app with a virtual tour of the museum - find out more on the V&A Dundee's website.

PLAN AHEAD

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Council parking can be found in the streets around V&A Dundee or at the nearby car parks

RRS DISCOVERY



AN ANTARCTIC VOYAGE

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 across from the train statoin, Discovery Point welcomes visitors with level access and automatic doors into a friendly reception with accessible toilet. The galleries are all on the ground floor and feature a combination of exhibitions and audio-visual displays.

Outside sits the RRS Discovery which was trapped in the Antarctic ice for two winters. The ship isn't suitable for wheelchairs but there is a film shown that captures the scenes below deck, including audio commentary and subtitles. If you can get on board, you can explore the deck and cabins, as well as below deck.

HMS UNICORN AND NORTH CARR LIGHTSHIP

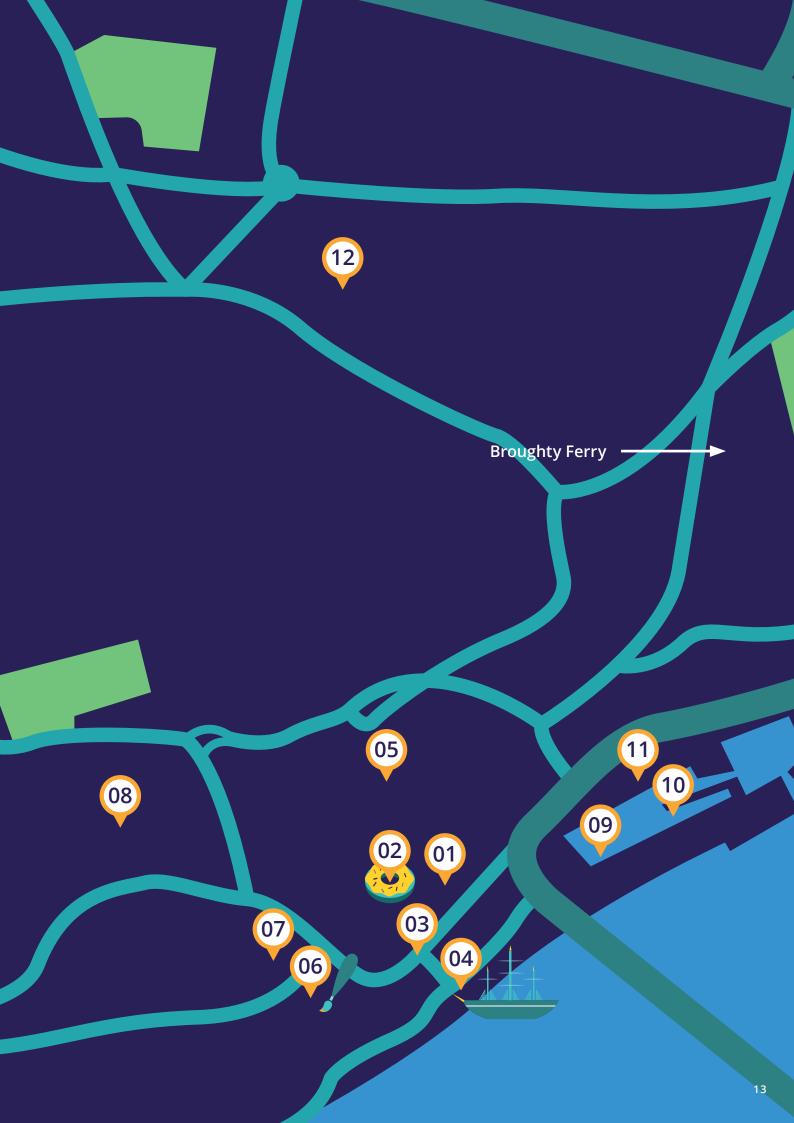
MARITIME TREASURES

The only wooden warship in Scotland and a maritime relic, HMS Unicorn and North Carr Lightship are Dundee's waterfront hidden gems.

Hammocks, mess tables, ship models and weapons fill the decks of this fascinating ship, but the best part is the Gun Deck which also happens to be wheelchair accessible. Get up close to the lines of canons and learn from the stewards about how they were used. Lower levels aren't as easy to access - a virtual tour is available for anybody who prefers to stay above deck.

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. Wander across the dockland bridge to take a photo by this quirky Scottish lightship.

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THE LAW

THE LAW AND 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.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE BOTANIC GARDEN

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE CLASSHOUSES

Discover the world of botany and marvel at the pine trees in the University of Dundee's Botanic Garden.

The Botanic Garden is a haven for locals and an oasis of calm in Dundee. The paths are easy to cross, and all of the glasshouses and cafe are wheelchair accessible. There's also an accessible toilet, the door to which is at the main entrance of the gardens.

Follow the path all the way around the gardens to spot plenty of different plants

QUICK TIP

and trees.

CAMPERDOWN COUNTRY PARK

OUNDEE'S BEST PLAYCROUND

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 animals including European brown bears, owls, 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, with a multitude of different surfaces.

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!



BROUGHTY FERRY

ADMIRE A REAL SAND CASTLE

Head east to Dundee's beach suburb for ice cream, shopping and selection of cafes.

With traditional fishermans' 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.

Broughty Ferry beach is one of Scotland's finest thanks to its accessible promenade, moreish icecream, 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 upgraded 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 and cobbles. A hearing loop is fitted inside for visitors who require it.

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. There's a watchtower on the western promenade, accessed by steps if you fancy a climb to experience a higher vantage point across the estuary.

West will take you out past the lifeboat shed a mile or so along to the old yacht club and waterfront houses, while going east from the castle will take you to the calmer end of Broughty Ferry beach.

Here you'll find an interesting rock garden that is tended by local volunteers, Barnhill Rock Garden. It's a llesser-known attraction at this side of the city, and it's a curious place to explore with lawns and a flat path along the front. It's an ideal spot for picnics, and is conveniently close to another accessible loo.

If you have kids with you, there's a brilliant playpark next to the beach called Castle Green, with an accessible swing and toilets.

QUICK TIP



The Best Western Woodlands Hotel has accessible bedrooms on the ground floor with roll in showers, and level access to the bar and restaurant.

BROUGHTY FERRY TOWN



If food is a priority, stop at Gracie's for a hearty breakfast, and for lunch or dinner Forgan's does a great plate of fish and chips and has an accessible loo at ground level. There are also high street favourites including Costa Coffee and Gregg's. Broughty Ferry has lots of pubs which are mostly wheelchair accessible and make for a great alternative 'treasure hunt'!

If shopping's on your to-do list, there are lovely independent shops and boutiques, while the charity shops are filled with treasures.



QUICK TIP

Parking in Broughty Ferry can get busy. There are free spaces on the esplanande, some off-street car parking, or find accessible parking in the car parks.

BROUGHTY FERRY BEACH



After a stroll around town take some time to relax at the sandy beach with a view of the castle.

Broughty Ferry beach is a popular spot in the summer months and, with Dundee being Scotland's sunniest city, it's a great way to spend your time. There are lifeguards on duty at the west side.

The ice cream van makes a regular appearance, or get take away ice cream from Visocchi's in town.

Alternatively, enjoy a refreshment or a bite to eat at cafe-restaurant Urban Beach, where you can sit inside or outside and enjoy the view. There's a small park at the back and an accessible toilet inside.

DUNDEE'S FESTIVALS

PUNPEE'S FESTIVALS

Dundee has festivals happening throughout the year, from outdoor summer gigs to science and design events. Lookout for venues that host their own events as part of a wider festival.

Dundee has always been known as a creative city with a strong link to design and music. The art college has alumni including illustrator Johanna Basford and fashion designer Hayley Scanlan - time your visit with the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design Degree Show (May) to see emerging talent, usually held at the University of Dundee campus, and if art is your thing, the NEon Digital Arts festival will probably be of interest with installations and displays at the University of Dundee and Dundee Contemporary Arts, among others.

The Univerity of Abertay is credited with the video game Lemmings, and even Grand Theft Auto's roots are in the City of Discovery.

DUNDEE'S FESTIVALS



Musically, Dundee has been home to Deacon Blue, Snow Patrol (lead singer Gary Lightbody attended uni in Dundee), and The View - so it makes sense that there's a Blues Festival (May), a Jazz Festival (November), and major gigs happening throughout the summer months at outdoor venue Slessor Gardens, right in the heart of the city. Watch out for major road closures on the day of a show.

Other major events include the Science Festival (February), the Dundee Flower and Food Festival (September), Festival of the Future (October) and, of course, WinterFest in November, December and January, where you'll find a big ferris wheel, Christmas market and inclues a Christmas lights switch-on.

The festivals are held at different venues across the city, so access is varied - our advice would be to check each one individually with the Visitor Centre, City Council, or Creative Dundee, or look for reviews on EuansGuide.com.



PARKING AND LOOS

Dundee has a good choice of accessible parking, and there are accessible loos including Changing Places facilities.

PARKING

Dundee is renowned for its one way systems, but the main ones are in the city centre and along the high street of neighbouring town Broughty Ferry.

Once you've navigated these, finding parking shouldn't be too tricky - there are plenty of councilrun car parks with accessible or Blue Badge spaces in the city centre. Overgate Shopping Centre and Gellatly Street car parks are both central and have lifts if needed.

Broughty Ferry offers accessible parking at the waterfront which is free of charge. It can get busy though, so it's worth considering the council car park opposite the library too.

TOILETS

Most venues have accessible toilets and you can check out our Dundee reviews to see which ones might be best suited.

V&A Dundee and Discovery Point both have good accessible loos, with the former having a Changing Places facility as well as another accessible toilet, and the latter having an accessible loo and a list of all Changing Places toilets and locations in the city.

The Dundee Rep's accessible toilet is excellent, and the University of Dundee Botanic Garden has a great accessible loo at the entrance to the gardens.

In Broughty Ferry, you'll find a Changing Places facility, as well as a very good accessible toilet at popular restaurant, Forgan's.



QUICK TIP

If there's anything in particular you need just ask - Dundonians are a friendly bunch!

TRANSPORT IN DUNDEE



TRANSPORT IN DUNDEE

DUNDEE BY RAIL

Dundee's train station has had a major overhaul. There's a lift, accessible toilet and a Costa Coffee shop, and it's located close to the main hotels in the city. Sleeperz Hotel is located right above the station, offering a fantastic view of the inner-city.

DUNDEE BY BUS

The bus station is equally as central, though it's set slightly futher into the city centre. Located on Murraygate, it's central to shops, cafes and attractions. Access is limited to automatic doors and a level ground.

DUNDEE TOUR BUS

The open top tour bus runs from April to September, starting at Discovery Point, going round the city and up to the Law, a fantastic point for views across the city from East to West. There's one wheelchair space and commetntary.

DUNDEE BY CAR

Dundee's one way systems are easily navigated by the many roundabouts - or circles, as the locals call

them - which allow for a few time-buying turns for anyone who's missed their exit!

The Apex City Quay Hotel, Premier Inn, and Hotel Indigo have their own car parks. Shore Terrace and Greenmarket car parks central and these work well for people arriving from south of Dundee. Gellatly Street multi-storey is central and cheap, accessed from Dock Street. Near the universities you'll find car parks scattered around Marketgait and Hawkhill, as well as Bell Street. If you're coming from the north, head towards Gallagher Retail Park, where you'll get the first two hours free - but make sure you print a ticket anyway.

ELECTRONIC CHARGING

Dundee is recognised world-wide as a leading city in the introduction and support of electric vehicles and the council fleet runs to almost 190 EVs.

The charging infrastructure has continued to grow, there are now 370 charging points. There's even a solar powered charging hub.

DON'T MISS... The Dundee tour bus will take you up to the top of the Law.



ABOUT EVAN'S GUIDE

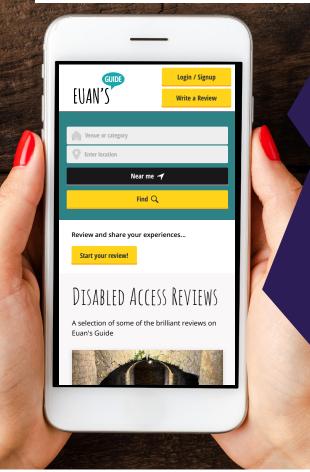
Euan's Guide is the small but mighty charity working to make it easier, safer and more rewarding for disabled people, their friends, families and carers to find and visit accessible places.

We're an award-winning charity, best known for EuansGuide.com, the disabled access review website. We tackle the lack of trusted, up to date disabled access information and the website is the go-to place for disabled access information written by and for disabled people.

We make tens of thousands of accessible toilets safer through our Safer Toilets and Red Cord Card projects, and run the UK's largest Access Survey, providing an insight into the UK's disabled access by sharing the voices of disabled people through their stories, experiences and opinions. Our charity was founded in 2013 by Euan MacDonald MBE, a powerchair user, and his sister Kiki after Euan was diagnosed with Motor Neuron Disease. They discovered how the lack of disabled access information made everyday experiences stressful and Euan's Guide was born as a way to provide disabled access information after discovering that other disabled people experienced the same challenges.



GET INVOLVED



GET INVOLVED!

Tens of thousands of people use Euan's Guide every month to find and share disabled access information. We often get told that just one review from someone with similar access requirements can give someone else enough confidence to visit somewhere new.

Please share your experiences to help us make the world a more accessible place!



SUPPORT US

At Euan's Guide, we rely on volunteers, voluntary income and grants to fund our work. We appreciate whatever support you can offer us, whether that's time, information, donations or grants. Your contribution will make a direct and positive impact on the lives of disabled people.

To find out more go to

www.euansguide.com/get-involved/support-us/

ABOUT EUAN

ABOUT EWAN

An adventurer, rugby fan and whisky enthusiast, Euan MacDonald MBE cofounded Euan's Guide with his sister Kiki in 2013. After his Motor Neuron Disease (MND) diagnosis in 2003, Euan moved from London back to Edinburgh to be with his family and fundraise for MND research.

In 2006, Euan and his father Donald established the Euan MacDonald Centre for MND Research, and helped to set up the Voicebank Project, which is today known as Speak:Unique.

Ten years after his diagnosis, Euan's Guide was launched by Euan and his sister Kiki as a place for disabled people, their families, friends and carers to share their knowledge of accessible places to go. The awardwinning charity is based in Scotland and used by disabled people all over the UK.

For alternative formats of this document, please visit

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Foundation

Scotland



