

Sightseeing in **The Kingdom of Fife**

Isle of May Boat Trips, Anstruther

The Isle of May is a remarkable island which lies only 5 miles off the Fife coast and is an important National Nature Reserve owned and run by the Scottish Natural Heritage. Christened the jewel of the Forth by Anstruther Pleasure Cruises many years ago for good reason, this is truly a beautiful Island, peaceful with stunning views everywhere.

Falkland Palace, Falkland

Set in the picturesque village of Falkland, this palace was the favourite retreat of the Stuart dynasty and a former residence of Mary Queen of Scots.

Kellie Castle & Gardens, Nr Pittenweem

Dating from 1360, this enchanting castle with its picturesque walled garden was once home to the Earls of Kellie. Beautifully restored by the Lorimer family in the late 19th century

Crail Pottery, Crail

Crail Pottery is set around a beautiful courtyard in the heart of historic Crail. Crail is famed for its picturesque harbour, historic buildings with pantiles and crow stepped gables and Crail Pottery.

Dunfermline Palace & Abbey, Dunfermline

The Abbey Church is the centrepiece of Dunfermline, one of the oldest settlements in Scotland and once its proud capital. The history of this light and airy church is entwined with that of Scotland itself, as Dunfermline was the burial site of the Scottish monarchs before the adoption of the island of Iona, and you will see many reminders and relics there of great Scottish rulers of the past.

Scotland's Secret Bunker, Nr Crail

Scotland's best kept secret..... until now !!

Scotland's best kept secret for over 40 years, Hidden beneath an innocent Scottish Farmhouse, a tunnel leads to,

Scotland's Secret Bunker. 24,000 square feet of Secret accommodation. The size of two football pitches, one on top of another. On two levels 100 feet underground.

Had there been a Nuclear War, this is where Scotland, would have been Governed, from within

St Andrews Aquarium

Step through the doors and be transported into an underwater world of adventure and discovery. Come face to face with some of the most beautiful, fascinating and dangerous creatures of the watery worlds. From black tip reef sharks to spiders, lobsters to lionfish, poison dart frogs to piranhas, loveable seals..... and not to forget our fabulous meerkats.

St Andrews Botanic Garden

Set in 18 acres of impressively landscaped grounds, St Andrews Botanic Garden has won international recognition, yet remains one of St Andrews' hidden treasures.

The garden has several main areas, ranging from the rock garden and scree, with pools and waterfalls, to sheltered paths through large plantings of trees and shrubs. Whatever the season, there is always something to see.

St Andrews Castle

On a headland to the north of St Andrews stand the ruins of the city's castle, the main residence of the bishops and archbishops of St Andrews – the focal point of the Church in Medieval Scotland. Today, a siege mine and counter-mine can be explored, and the 'bottle dungeon' viewed. Visitor centre with exhibition.

St Andrews Cathedral Museum

The remains of what was Scotland's largest and most magnificent church still show how impressive St Andrews Cathedral must have been in its prime. Its museum houses a collection of early and later medieval sculpture and other relics found on the site. St Rule's tower provides access to spectacular views.

St Andrews Cheese Factory

Visit the farm, where you can watch the cheese – making in progress from the specially constructed Viewing Gallery.

Complete your visit with a light lunch or fresh coffee and home baking in the 'Butterpat' Coffee Shop, with its splendid views down over the Firth of Forth.

Fife Coastal Path, East Neuk

The Fife Coastal Path offers a range of walks for walkers of all abilities. The routes are mainly flat, making them ideal for family walks, but never short of interest, and they include both circular routes and longer ones where leaving a second car at the end or catching a local bus back to the start can greatly extend how much you can cram into your day.

The best thing about the Coastal Path, though, is simply the variety of sights you can see along the way. From ruined castles to an abandoned salt works, from rock pools to fascinating rock structures and much, much more ... and this is definitely the best way to visit the fishing villages of the East Neuk. One of the best stretches lies between Pittenweem and Elie, with St Monans marking the half-way point. Another fine route runs between Crail and Anstruther. In time, the Fife Coastal Path will provide an unbroken route between the Forth and Tay Bridges, but at present there are still some gaps, most notably in the area around St Andrews, so you will have to drive towards the East Neuk to find a starting point.

Hill of Tarvit Mansion House & Gardens, Nr Cupar

Hill of Tarvit Mansionhouse is one of Scotland's finest Edwardian mansionhouses, and is home to an amazing collection of furniture, antiques and paintings.

Within the grounds, the 9-hole Kingarrock Hickory Golf Course has recently been reinstated giving golfers the chance to play the game as it was many years ago.

Loch Leven Castle & Heritage Trail

This late 14th or early 15th century tower was the setting for the most traumatic year in the life of Mary Queen of Scots. It was here in 1567 that she was imprisoned and forced to abdicate before her dramatic escape a year later. Visitors can enjoy the fragrance from the large beds of pink purslane in the south and east wooded walks from April to July. Follow in the footsteps of Robert Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots as you cross the loch to the island. The quiet island setting lets the visitor explore at leisure and conjure up images of the hapless Mary languishing in her prison.

Loch Leven has many tales to tell, it's one of the best places to see geese, ducks and other birds, and the story of its people is highly eventful. Loch Leven has been a home for monks, the scene of sieges and a queen's escape. It has welcomed generations of anglers and hosted huge bonspiels, the great curling tournaments. Now the whole Loch is a National Nature Reserve with rare plants and insects and thousands of breeding and wintering birds.

Inchcolm Abbey, South Queensferry

David I established a priory here which became an abbey in 1235. It is now the best-preserved group of monastic buildings in Scotland. The island is famed for its seals, wildlife and coastal defences from two World Wars. The abbey's dramatic location – best appreciated from the boat as it docks at the island. Boats sail from Hawes Pier at South Queensferry, where you can take a ferry to Inchcolm Abbey and Island. Or you can book an Edinburgh Bus & Boat package this will give you the opportunity to take in all the highlights of Edinburgh as well as a boat trip to Inchcolm.

Sightseeing in Edinburgh

Royal Yacht Britannia, Leith

Experience Scotland's Best Visitor Attraction. The Royal Yacht Britannia was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family for over 40 years, sailing over 1,000,000 miles around the world. Now berthed in Edinburgh, you can follow in the footsteps of royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of royal residences.

Edinburgh Castle, Royal Mile

Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history. Visit the Edinburgh Castle website to plan your visit and beat the queues by buying fast track tickets online.

St Giles Cathedral & Heart of Midlothian, Royal Mile

St Giles' Cathedral is the historic City Church of Edinburgh. With its famed crown spire it stands on the Royal Mile between Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse. Also known as the High Kirk of Edinburgh, it is the Mother Church of Presbyterianism and contains the Chapel of the Order of the Thistle (Scotland's chivalric company of knights headed by the Queen).

Holyrood Palace, Canongate

The Palace of Holyroodhouse, commonly referred to as Holyrood Palace, is the official residence of the Monarch of the United Kingdom in Scotland. The Queen is in residence at the Palace during Holyrood week, which usually takes place from the end of June to the beginning of July. During the summer months, you can join a guided tour of Holyrood Abbey, which lies adjacent to the Palace in the spectacular setting of Arthur's Seat. Escorted by Wardens dressed in their ancient hunting Stewart tartan, you will learn about the building's extraordinary history.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Inverleith Place

The Botanic captures the imagination of everyone who visits and is world renowned for its horticultural excellence. Over 70 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds provide a tranquil haven just one mile from the city centre.

Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine Road

Home to the UK's only giant pandas and more than 1000 other amazing animals Edinburgh Zoo offers an amazing day out for all the family.

Deep Sea World, North Queensferry

The National Aquarium of Scotland. Find out about British marine life as well as tropical and sub tropical exhibits.

Scots Monument, Princes Street

The Scott Monument is a Victorian Gothic monument to Scottish author Sir Walter Scott. It stands in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh, opposite the Jenners department store. The tower is 200 feet 6 inches (61.11 m) high, and has a series of viewing platforms reached by a series of narrow spiral staircases giving panoramic views of central Edinburgh and its surroundings.

Camera Obscura, Royal Mile

Edinburgh's Camera Obscura and World of Illusions-unrivalled views of the city skyline & fun attractions-a good day out for all the family.

The Scotch Whisky Tour, Royal Mile

Visit the new Scotch Whisky Experience for a sensational journey! Take a swirling, bubbling barrel ride through a replica distillery as you become part of the whisky making process. Along the way you'll hear the stories behind this magical craft, with expert tour guides and whisky advisors with you every sip of the way.

Mary Kings Close, Royal Mile

Buried deep beneath Edinburgh's Royal Mile lies the city's deepest secret warren of hidden streets that has remained frozen in time since the 17th century. For hundreds of years the true story of the Close has remained untold - until now! In the company of an expert guide, you can explore this unique site and experience what it was really like for the people who lived, worked and died here.

Edinburgh Dungeons, Market Street

500 years of Edinburgh's darkest and most gory history, 11 live actor shows and 2 scary rides make the Edinburgh Dungeon an educationally chilling experience and a great day out for the whole family.

Edinburgh Bus Tours, Waverley Bridge

With five bus tours to choose from, there is no better way to travel between attractions than on an open-top sightseeing bus. Each is distinctive, providing a unique insight into the city, and with hop-on hop-off tickets valid for at least 24 hours you have the freedom to see the sights in your own time. Combination packages also make it easy for you to visit attractions such as the famous Edinburgh Castle in addition to using the buses.

Bus & Boat Tour

This half day tour outside the city centre will take you past the magnificent modern art galleries before stopping at South Queensferry so that you can catch a boat to Inchcolm Island. Experience unrivalled views of the Forth road and rail bridges, look out for local wildlife and visit the magical Inchcolm Abbey (additional charges apply).

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo is one of Scotland's most iconic events held every August (2nd – 24th August). Experience the electric atmosphere which showcases the best military bands, pipers and drummers, dancers and display teams from across the world. Combining magnificent music and military theatre set against the backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo really is unmissable. Each year over 200,000 people from around the world attend the event and since the first Tattoo in 1950 more than 12 million people have watched the spectacular show.

Edinburgh Festivals

There are 7 festivals that run throughout the Edinburgh summer season from mid June to August. Kicking off with the Edinburgh International Film Festival and finishing off with the Edinburgh Mela and the International Festival fireworks, when you choose to visit will provide you with a vastly different experience. Dates for the 2013 festival season are as follows:

Festivals in the summer season:

Edinburgh International Film Festival

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

Edinburgh Art Festival

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Edinburgh International Festival

Edinburgh International Book Festival

Edinburgh Museums

City Art Centre: 2 Market Street

Museum of Childhood: 42 High Street

Museum of Edinburgh: 142 Canongate, Royal Mile

The People's Story Museum: 163 Canongate Tolbooth, Royal Mile

The Writers' Museum: Lady Stairs House, Lady Stairs Close, Lawnmarket

Lauriston Castle: 2a Cramond Road South, Davidson's Mains

Queensferry Museum: 53 High Street, South Queensferry

Museum Collections Centre: 10 Broughton Market

Brass Rubbing Centre: Trinity Apse, Chalmers Close, Royal Mile

Nelson Monument: 32 Calton Hill

The Old City (Playfair) Observatory: 38 Calton Hill

Edinburgh Shopping

Princes Street offers a shopping experience with a difference - the perfect mix of shopping and sightseeing, with High Street favourites, such as Zara, Gap, H&M and House of Fraser as well as a spectacular view towards Edinburgh Castle.

Harvey Nichols, on St Andrews Square, is a shrine to style. Packed with designer names, Stella McCartney, Prada and Gucci to name but a few - this is a must for every fashionista!

The West End, Stockbridge and Bruntsfield are all within walking distance or a short bus ride from the city centre and provide an ideal hunting ground for unique items. Stafford Street and William Street have Arkangel & Felon and Sam Thomas, which is a favourite amongst the Edinburgh fashion shoppers, while Studio One is full of unusual gift ideas and homeware.

Head to **Stockbridge** in the New Town where you will find an abundance of second hand shops and galleries.

A little further afield in **Bruntsfield**, you'll find everything here from scented candles in Halibut and Herring to the latest trendy boardwear at Freeze Scotland. From the finest cashmere in The Hawick Cashmere Company to modern Scottish interiors at Anta Scotland, to the first-class tartan of Geoffrey (Tailor) Kiltmakers and beautiful knitwear at Ragamuffin and original Scottish pieces at Ness Scotland, the Royal Mile offers more excellent shopping.

Right in the city centre of Edinburgh, the shopping centres of **St James** and **Princes Mall** house great names such as John Lewis and Scottish heritage stores such as Gleneagles of Scotland. Just across the road and just off the main thoroughfare of Princes Street, the Omni Centre is a beautiful glass-fronted building which offers a host of bars and restaurants.

Ocean Terminal in Edinburgh has a variety of high street names including SuperDry alongside Scottish jewellers such as Ortak and smaller independent stores. Sitting in a beautiful spot down in Leith, this shopping centre has numerous cafes and restaurants, some of which have stunning views out across the Firth of Forth and the Royal Yacht Britannia, and a large cinema, beauty salon and gym.

Sightseeing in Lothians

Rosslyn Chapel, Roslin, East Lothian

Founded in 1446, the mysterious, richly decorated late-Gothic Rosslyn Chapel featured predominately in Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Dan Brown is not the only literary figure to be inspired by Rosslyn. The great Scots writer Sir Walter Scott and renowned poet William Wordsworth, whose sister Dorothy described it as 'exquisitely beautiful', have all featured it in their works.

Linlithgow Palace, West Lothian

The birthplace of three monarchs including Mary Queen of Scots in 1542. Under the care of Historic Scotland, this extensive home of Scotland's Stewart kings is a regular venue for historic performances and re-enactments.

House of Binns, Nr Linlithgow

The House of the Binns is an historic house near Linlithgow in Scotland, and seat of the Dalrymple family. It dates from the early 17th Century, and is currently in the care of the National Trust for Scotland.

Falkirk Wheel, Tamfourhill, Falkirk

The Falkirk Wheel is a rotating boat lift in Scotland. It connects the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal. Named after the nearby town of Falkirk in central Scotland, the lift opened in 2002

Hopetoun House, Nr South Queensferry

Hopetoun House is the traditional residence of the Earl of Hopetoun. Located near South Queensferry to the west of Edinburgh, Scotland, it was built 1699-1701 and designed by William Bruce.