



MARITIME TRAIL

DUNDEE



A two-kilometre walking trail around some of the many maritime features of Dundee's Waterfront

www.dundemaritime.co.uk



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A two-kilometre walking trail around some of the many maritime features and historical sites that reflect Dundee's important links with the seas. The trail is suitable for all ages and abilities

This leaflet offers a summary of the information which can be viewed on the trail website:
www.dundeewaterfront.com

You can also follow the route on Google Maps



Trail Website



Google Maps



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Suggested Route



Sites Of Interest

1



Waterfront Place

1

(Site Under Construction) – due to open in 2022 this coastal themed parkland is being built on land reclaimed from the River Tay, an area once used as a tidal harbour.



Whale Mural

2

A mural by Adam Milroy depicting whales - including the skeleton of the Tay Whale which can be viewed at the McManus museum.



Although now considered a controversial industry, in the 19th century whaling was commonplace around the world and conducted from many ports in Scotland. In Dundee it was vital for supporting the jute industry as the whale oil was used for processing the raw fibre.

The industry also supported the shipbuilding economy of the City, most famously the RRS Discovery being built here to a design similar to that of the whaling fleet which had already proven their ability to cope with the Arctic and Antarctic conditions.

Today, researchers at the University of St Andrews are studying the songs emitted by whales as they venture around the world's oceans.



The mural was commissioned by the City Centre and Harbour Community Council with financial assistance from Sustrans.

Telford Beacon

3



Despite its name, the Telford Beacon was designed by James Leslie, a consultant to the famous engineer Thomas Telford. This tiny beacon lighthouse once stood on the wharf between the tidal harbour and King William IV dock to help guide ships in.



The beacon survived when the docks were filled in to make way for the Tay Road Bridge but was left standing well inland. In 2011 the beacon was once again in danger of being lost to make way for the redevelopment of the area. Rather than demolish it, Dundee City Council took the decision to relocate the beacon to this new location on Black Watch Parade.

Tay Road Bridge

4



The Tay Road Bridge is 2250 metres in length, connecting Fife with Dundee. Although originally a toll bridge (which charged 80p for a car to cross), tolls ceased in 2008.

The roadway is essentially a very long ramp, rising 25 metres between Dundee and Fife

Construction:

The bridge took three years to build and opened in 1966. It was designed by William A Fairhurst - if you walk round to the pedestrian lift you can try to spot his image within the artwork below the bridge at the Dundee end.



Chandlers Lane and the Shipyards

5



Chandlers Lane is one of the oldest and most intact historic streets within the area. Now private homes, the buildings on the west side were converted from the former harbour workshops that date back to 1837. The large chimney marks the "smiddy" - a blacksmith's workshop where ship's chains were repaired.



The east side of the lane is also now private homes - these buildings were once the offices and workshops of the Panmure shipyard. The Panmure shipyard built the RRS Discovery.



As you walk along the waterfront be on the lookout for sculptures which mark where the Discovery was built and another that recognises the craft of making and repairing sails.



Shipyards in Dundee extended throughout the Port area that we see today as well as within the housing area at City Quay.

These included:

- Panmure Shipyard
- Gourlay Camperdown
- Caledon Yard
- Stannergate Yard (Caledon)

The Caledon yards produced over 500 ships in their lifetime, before finally closing the gates in 1981.



Port Of Dundee

6



Looking eastwards, the Port of Dundee is owned and operated by Forth Ports. It is a busy commercial port. Work here includes servicing the offshore oil and gas industries; the offshore wind power generation; repair and decommissioning work and handling of cargoes for the forestry and agricultural industries.



Looking along the shoreline it's also a common sight to see cruise ships berthing at the wharf.

HMS Unicorn

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Launched in 1824 HMS Unicorn is the third oldest ship in the world. She is Scotland's only preserved warship and is the most completely original ship in the entire world to have survived from the golden age of sail.

Open daily: (entry fee applies) You can explore all four decks of history aboard this original, and nearly 200 year old, historic ship and museum. This authentic and interactive experience of life on board a 46-gun frigate is a fun day out for all.



North Carr Lightship

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The North Carr is believed to be the last remaining Scottish lightship.

With a weight of nearly 270 tons it is equipped with a light and a foghorn, as well as having been painted bright red to warn seafarers of the dangerous North Carr rocks which lie just off Fife Ness.

Unlike normal ships, it doesn't have its own engine and propeller. The space is taken up by fuel tanks, three generators to power the light and other electrical services, and three compressors for the foghorn. This meant that they had to rely on it being towed out to the rocks and back again if it ever required servicing. Whilst on station it would rely on an anchor to keep its position.

The lightship was crewed by eleven men but only seven were on board at any one time. Most of the crew spent a month at a time on board, with two weeks ashore. In 1975 the lightvessel was replaced by a buoy and decommissioned.

The lightship was saved from the scrapyard and is now under the ownership of the Taymara charity (Tay Maritime Action) who are seeking assistance in restoring this important piece of maritime history.



Foxlake Watersports Centre 9



Activities include wakeboarding, ringo rides, paddleboarding and Scotland's largest aquapark floating assault course.



Port Of Dundee Customs House 10

10

Built in 1842, the Port of Dundee Customs House is actually two buildings under one roof and included the former Port of Dundee (Dundee Harbour Trust) offices.



Due to the amount of trade that sailed in and out of Dundee it was one of the largest customs houses in Scotland.

Currently vacant, it is awaiting conversion into a new use.



Opposite the customs house. Once used by sailors who were awaiting their next voyage. Look up! - the building bears the names of famous seafarers:



Nelson:

Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson: perhaps most noted for his role in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 where he lost his life on the deck of HMS Victory.

Cook:

Captain James Cook : famed explorer, who used the HM Endeavour to chart and explore the Pacific Ocean.

Blake:

Robert Blake, General at Sea: Credited with developing the Royal Navy and produced the Navy's first ever rules and regulations.

Wood:

Sir Andrew Wood of Largo was to become the Lord High Admiral of Scotland.

Duncan:

Admiral Adam Duncan achieved the peerage as Viscount Duncan of Camperdown after a successful sea battle near the village of Camperdown on the Dutch coast. A statue of him can be found on Commercial Street . His son later built Camperdown House and grounds on the edge of the city which is now owned by Dundee City Council as Camperdown Country Park.

Napier:

born in 1786, Charles Napier was to serve for sixty years in the Royal Navy and was an innovator who was amongst the first to develop iron hulled ships and steam power.



Dock Street was once at the shoreline of the City, with direct access to the Earl Grey Dock and King William IV Dock and space for trains to go along the street to service the ships. Along the Street there would have been many businesses directly associated with the maritime industries, a few notable places include:

The Exchange Coffee House: (now known as "The Shore" which contains a youth centre) - built around 1828 it held a meeting room, library and reading room for the merchants of the City.

Caird Hall: Dundee's principal concert venue is named after Sir James Caird who made his fortune through the jute trade in Dundee.

King George V and Queen Mary laid the foundation stone of the hall in 1914 by an electric press button from the Caird Ashton works in Hawkhill. The buttons were formed from large pieces of emerald and jade. The emerald was one of the world's largest. Although the emerald was presented to the King as a gift, he handed it back and it is now incorporated into the Lord Provost's Chain of Office.

James Caird's name will be forever linked to an epic story of survival on the seas. His name was given to a lifeboat aboard the Endurance during Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition (1914-1917). During the expedition the Endurance was crushed by pack ice in the Weddel Sea forcing the crew to abandon ship. Sir Ernest Shackleton and five companions sailed the James Caird lifeboat for around 830 nautical miles (1,500km / 920miles) over the southern ocean. It is arguably one of the most remarkable journeys of all time undertaken by a small boat.



Royal Arch

For over 100 years an ornate archway stood here on the pier which divided the Earl Grey and King William IV docks. Built in 1849, it commemorated a visit to the city by Queen Victoria in 1844.



The arch was demolished to make way for the Tay Road Bridge. The foundation stones for the Royal Arch were rediscovered in 2016 and are now marked by a series of plaques and four trees.

Discovery Walk

Also within Slessor Gardens is a shorter walk: plaques by artist Suzanne Scott celebrate the achievements of those who have lived or worked within the city.

The Gardens;

On the perimeter are eleven gardens, each individually designed:

At the north-west end (nearest the city centre) the design of the gardens takes inspiration from the environmental catchphrase Think Global, Act Local. The global gardens celebrate the City's trading partners who would have received goods shipped out from the port that was once here. Can you spot the reference to the bale of jute in the Asian garden? The local gardens celebrate industries and activities which are important to the City today.



Designed by Japanese Architect Kengo Kuma and opened in 2018, the V&A Dundee Museum Of Design takes inspiration from the sea. With an exterior likened to the coastal cliff scenery the visitor entrance resembles that of a cave inviting you to enter and explore.



RRS Discovery

15



The Discovery was built in Dundee specifically for Antarctic research and launched in 1901 from a slipway near Chandlers Lane. Its first venture to Antarctica carried both Robert Falcon Scott and Ernest Shackleton. In 1923 it was awarded the title RRS (Royal Research Ship) and continued to undertake expeditions in the southern oceans. It was brought back to Dundee in 1986 and forms the centrepiece of the multi-award winning Discovery Point which explains the many Antarctic experiences of the ship and people associated with it.





The Tay Ferries, known locally as the "Fifies", carried passengers and vehicles until the opening of the Tay Road Bridge. At Dundee they landed their passengers at Craig Pier, where the RRS Discovery sits today.

The first regular scheduled steam powered ferry was the "Union" which started service in 1821 and ran six days a week with up to 11 crossings per day. Pleasure trips over the river became available and were an inexpensive day out for many Dundonians working in the City industries.





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Enjoyed the trail?

You can learn more about Dundee's Maritime History by visiting:

Broughty Castle Museum:

Castle Approach, Broughty Ferry

Discovery Point :

Historic Ship and Museum, Riverside Drive

Dundee Museum of Transport: Market Street

McManus

Dundee's Museum and Art Gallery, Albert Square

HMS Unicorn

Historic Ship, Victoria Dock

Verdant Works :

Jute Industry Museum, West Henderson's Wynd

Dundee Central Library

Local History Department, Wellgate Centre



Trail Website



Google Maps



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The trail has been delivered with assistance of:

- Dundee City Council
- Leisure & Culture Dundee Library Service
- Abertay Historical Society
- The City Centre and Harbour Community Council
- Historians James Page and Andrew Jeffrey
- Forth Ports
- HMS Unicorn
- Dundee City Archives
- The Royal National Lifeboat Institution
- Dundee Heritage Trust

Should you be aware of other information or stories that could add to the trail then please do contact the trail designers via the website at www.dundemaritime.co.uk