

MARITIME TRAIL
DUNDEE

Broughty Ferry Maritime Trail



A one-kilometre walking and cycling trail visiting points of interest on Broughty Ferry's shoreline

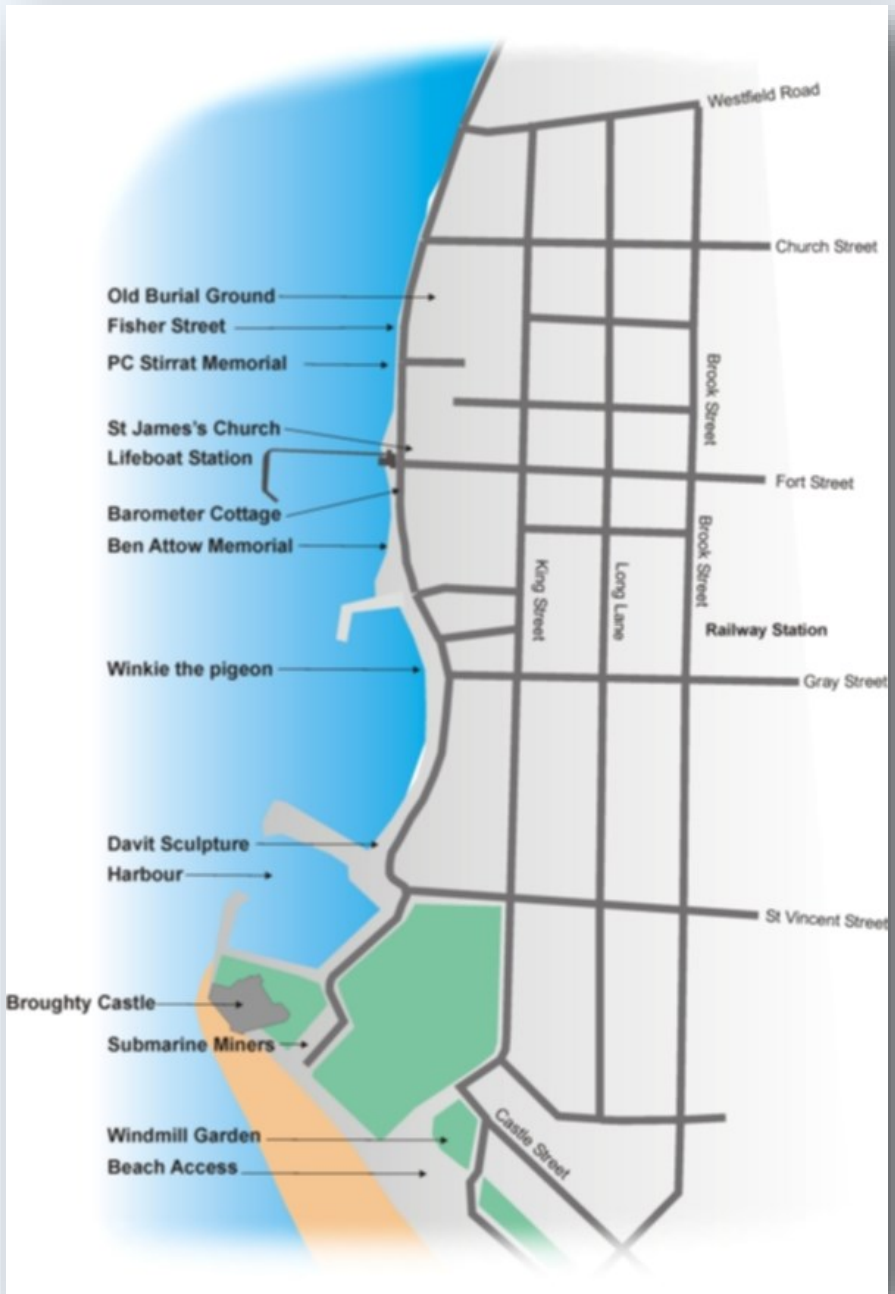
www.dundemaritime.co.uk/BroughtyFerry



This one kilometre trail visits some of the many maritime and historical features of the Broughty Ferry shoreline. 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.dundemaritime.co.uk/BroughtyFerry

If you enjoyed this trail then you may also wish to visit the website to view the Dundee City Centre Maritime Trail.



The Old Burial Ground

The Old Burial Ground in Broughty Ferry is a historic site reflecting the town's strong connection with its maritime heritage. Dating back to at least the 17th century, it served as the main burial place for local fishermen, sailors, and residents of the old fishing village. Many of the gravestones are weathered, with intricate carvings and inscriptions that tell stories of the town's seafaring and fishing communities.

The last burials took place in the 1860's at the time of a cholera outbreak. The small building by the entrance was a mortuary where coffins were laid out prior to burial.

Today, the old burial ground stands as a quiet and valuable reminder of the town's past, preserving the memory of generations who lived and worked in a small fishing community by the River Tay.



To access the burial ground, please obtain a key from the nearby Ship Inn.

Fisher Street



By the 17th century, it was a thriving fishing village, known for salmon and herring. Fishermen used small boats to catch salmon, whitefish, and shellfish. Fishwives played a crucial role in cleaning, preparing, and selling the catch. The 19th century marked its peak, with lucrative salmon fishing and ties to Dundee's whaling industry. Traditional methods like stake-net fishing were common.

PC Stirrat Memorial

Broughty Ferry may appear to have been distant from the battles of World War 2 but the Tay estuary and docks of Dundee were to play an important role in Scotland's war efforts. This role was to have tragic consequences for Police Constable Stirrat of Broughty Ferry.

On 5th May 1941 PC Stirrat was called to investigate a strange object that had washed up onto the foreshore at Fisher Street. Upon arrival the young 24 year old constable was perhaps unsure of what it was but concluded it was of interest and moved in to secure it from floating away on the next tide.

The object was a small sea mine and as he tied it off to the sea wall it detonated with a huge blast that propelled debris across the street and destroyed the windows of nearby houses. Local residents rushed to the aid of the badly injured constable and summoned an ambulance. Sadly PC Robert Stirrat would succumb to his injuries and passed away that afternoon at Dundee Royal Infirmary.

St James' Church

St James' Church was built in 1890 on the site of the earlier Beach Mission, started in the 1860's by representatives of all the churches in Broughty Ferry.

The Beach Mission ran services for the fishing community in a small hall on the site where St James' Church was later built.



In 1887 the Church of Scotland congregations in Broughty Ferry took over the running of the Beach Mission and constructed the church which was initially known as the Beach Parish Church, and later renamed as Broughty Ferry St James. A Reading Room was added which is now used as a shop by the local RNLI.

Lifeboat Station

The first lifeboat was stationed at Buddon Ness in 1830 by the River Tay Lifeboat Society. Another lifeboat was placed at Broughty Ferry in 1859.

Both stations were subsequently taken over from the local Lifeboat Committee by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1861. The Buddon Ness Station was rarely used and the decision was taken in 1894 to close it, with all rescues thereafter to be undertaken from the Broughty Ferry Station.



The Broughty Ferry lifeboat service is one of the busiest in Scotland, with the volunteer crew having two boats: an all-weather Trent class lifeboat moored at the pier and an inshore D-class housed within the building.

Information boards at the building give more information and includes a memorial to the eight crewmembers of the Mona lifeboat who were lost during a rescue attempt in 1959.

Barometer Cottage

The cottage at 115 Fisher Street has a cabinet on the front wall containing a barometer, used to aid the forecasting of weather when Broughty Ferry sustained a sizeable fishing fleet.

The placement of the barometer was petitioned by local fisherman George Bell in 1859. The delivery of the Barometer was arranged by Robert Fitzroy who had founded what we now refer to as the Met office only five years before. In the same year as the barometer arrived Fitzroy developed a daily weather record and began working towards properly forecasting weather. The first public weather forecast was published in July 1861 but was halted shortly after his death only four years later. Public demand saw them restarted in 1879 but in the meantime mariners such as those at Broughty Ferry had to rely on local knowledge and of course...their barometer.

Ben Attow Memorial

The On 27th of February 1940 the Dundee based trawler the Ben Attow headed out to sea on a routine fishing trip. The crew of the Ben Attow had little cause for concern for a war happening in central Europe and their minds were no doubt concentrated on the work aboard the vessel to ready the nets and lines for a day's fishing. But it was not to be.

Approximately seven miles from May Island near the Firth of Forth, The Ben Attow struck a sea mine recently dropped by a German aircraft and the trawler was lost with all hands. The story of the Ben Attow and her nine crew only started to emerge days later when debris started to be washed ashore bearing the ship's name.

Collectively the crew left 26 children without fathers. By a strange quirk of fate one of the crewmember's sons was also on a trawler around that time and rescued the crew of the German aircraft that is believed to have laid the mine.

Winkie The Pigeon

Winkie was a carrier pigeon and the first animal to be awarded the Dickin Medal for gallantry.

In February 1942 a Beaufort bomber was returning alone from a mission over Norway and ditched out at sea. As the aircrew abandoned their aircraft and made their way onto a liferaft, unable to radio for help and with little hope of survival they sent Winkie on her way.

With a storm raging and her feathers covered in engine oil from the wrecked aircraft Winkie covered some 120miles back to her home in Broughty Ferry to raise the alarm.

Even then finding the aircrew was a huge challenge in the open sea but the message Winkie carried indicated when the ditching had happened. With that knowledge combined with the weather conditions and George's estimate of how fast Winkie could fly was enough to narrow the search area enough for a successful rescue of the four airmen.



Davit Sculpture

This arching sculpture commemorates the lifeboat service in Broughty Ferry. Since 1859 there has been a lifeboat stationed here ready to be launch to the aid of those in peril upon the sea. The sculpture by local artist Stephen Page commemorates the names of each of those lifeboats.

It takes the form of davits - the crane arms that hold small lifeboats aboard larger ships and is constructed of weathering steel. This special steel was chosen as the surface naturally rusts and in doing so forms a weatherproof protective barrier for the rest of the structure.

Installed in 2022 it also marks the completion of the sea wall defences which helps protect the community of Broughty Ferry during combinations of high tide and stormy weather.



The Harbour & Ferry

Broughty Ferry played a key role in early railway transport across the River Tay. In the mid-19th century, the expansion of Scotland's railway network led to the creation of a railway harbour at Broughty Ferry. This harbour was essential for ferrying railway wagons and passengers across the Tay before the construction of the Tay Rail Bridge which opened in 1878.

Introducing the World's first roll-on/roll-off railway ferry system, the harbour allowed entire train carriages to be transported across the River Tay without passengers needing to disembark.

This service was critical for trade and travel, as it connected Dundee and the east coast to Fife and beyond. The ferry operated from specially built piers at Broughty Ferry and Tayport, facilitating the transport of goods, mail, and passengers.

Today, remnants of Broughty Ferry's railway harbour and ferry heritage can still be seen along the waterfront, serving as a reminder of the town's important role in Scotland's transport history

Bollard Trail

As you walk around the Castle area, be on the lookout for a series of plaques fixed to the bollards - each one depicts something that can be found on our shoreline or in our seas.

Each plaque is accompanied by a QR Code you can scan with your phone to find out more.



Broughty Castle

Broughty Castle is a historic coastal fortress originally built in 1496 by the 4th Earl of Angus as a defensive stronghold overlooking the estuary of the River Tay. The castle played a key role in Scotland's conflicts with England, particularly during the Rough Wooing (1543–1551), when it was captured by the English in 1547 and later reclaimed by the Scots in 1550.

Over the centuries, Broughty Castle was modified and reinforced to adapt to changing military needs. In the 19th century, during the Napoleonic Wars and later in response to perceived threats from France, it was refurbished and expanded. It remained in military use until after World War II.

Today, the castle operates as a museum showcasing local history, wildlife, and the castle's military past. Its strategic location offers stunning views of the Tay estuary, making it a popular historical attraction. Please be aware that access to the museum is via a spiral staircase only.



Submarine Miners

During both World Wars, Broughty Ferry's garrison provided artillery defences and worked in tandem with the Royal Navy submarine miners stationed beside the castle who played a crucial role in coastal defence, particularly in laying sea mines to protect the Tay Estuary from enemy vessels and submarines.

The estuary was a strategic naval location, providing access to Dundee's docks, which were vital for shipbuilding and submarine operations.

Their combined efforts helped secure the eastern Scottish coast, protecting key military and industrial assets throughout the wars

Windmill Garden

The Windmill Garden is a public space with historical significance. In the mid-19th century, a wood-turning windmill stood on this site, operating until it was dismantled around the 1850s.

In 2015, a memorial was unveiled within the gardens to honour the victims of the Holocaust. Further developments were made in 2023 as part of the Broughty Ferry to Monifieth Active Travel Project. This initiative created a continuous off-road route for walking and cycling between Dundee and Monifieth. As part of this project, the Windmill Garden was incorporated into the boundary of the Castle Green, enhancing the area's appeal to both locals and visitors. As part of the enhancements, local artist and designer Louise Kirby was commissioned to create three decorative gates for the garden. Drawing inspiration from the historical windmill, her designs reflect the windmill's blades, and celebrate the history and heritage of the site.



Today, the Windmill Garden serves as a cherished green space in Broughty Ferry, providing a serene and tranquil environment for the enjoyment of all

The Beach

At the access to the beach there are a number of sculptures: the most noticeable being a series of dolphins, but if you look a little more closely at the railings you'll find the Beach Bounty series of sculptures- depicting things that people may lose whilst enjoying the beach.



If you keep going...

You can continue your walk along the beach:

The beach is around three kilometres in length. You could choose to walk on the sand or on the adjacent path network where you will find other sculptures. This includes the abstract *Tay Haze* by Lee Simmons which depicts humans in motion or the sail-like information panels.

Towards the far end of the beach is the Barnhill Rock Garden and the path continues into the neighbouring town of Monifieth.



Alternatively spend a little extra time in the heart of Broughty Ferry: sample one of the cafes, get an ice cream or have a look around many of the independent shops that make the town a really special place.

www.dundemaritime.co.uk/BroughtyFerry

The Broughty Ferry Maritime Trail was produced with thanks to:

Dundee City Council, The Broughty Ferry Traders Association
and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution