



KINBLETHMONT

HOUSE • COTTAGES • GALLERY

Local Information 2024

There is so much to do in the surrounding area you will be spoilt for choice. This list is not exhaustive but there should be something for everyone! A good general website about the area and what is on to visit is www.visitangus.com You can always pop into the estate office or give us a call/e-mail if you want advice.

Whilst we do our best to ensure the information is up to date, we would always recommend that you check with attractions before visiting to check if you need to book in advance.

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Emergencies

I hope that you will not need the emergency service numbers but I have put them up first because they are important if you do need them. We will always try to help if we can.

Contact Us

Gemma - 07494 775364

Jessica Ramsay 07928 601757

Jonathan Ramsay (maintenance) 07834 344099

For logs contact Jonathan Ramsay (as above)

Emergency Services The number to call in the UK for emergency services – Fire Brigade, Ambulance or Police is **999**

Non-Emergency Number is 101

Doctor

Springfield Medical centre, 30 Ponderlaw St Arbroath

- East Practice – 01241 870311

- West Practice – 01241 870307

Phone at 8.30 am for a same day appointment

Most other local practices will also take temporary patients

Out of Hours Service – for evenings and weekends, phone **111** this will get you to the NHS 24 help line. A nurse will discuss your symptoms and if necessary direct you to hospital – the nearest unit is **Arbroath Infirmary** (on your left as you approach Arbroath from Dundee) which has limited facilities otherwise you would be directed to **Ninewells Hospital** in Dundee.

There is also a midwife led maternity unit at the Arbroath Infirmary.

Dentist

Most dentists here will only take their own patients however you could try:

Campbell & Gibb in Montrose 01674 672236 who will give you a private appointment (£30-£50) on the day if there is a space.

Alternatively you can turn up at the **Dundee Dental Hospital**, Park Place Dundee 01382 660111. You cannot make an appointment but if you turn up Mon – Fri 8.45 to 3.00 and you don't mind waiting you will get seen.

Grocery Shopping and local food

Supermarkets

There are large Morrisons and Tesco supermarkets in Arbroath and an Asda near McDonalds on your way into Arbroath. In the centre of Arbroath there is also a Lidl. In addition, there is a Sainsburys just off the A92 on the way into Dundee.

Tesco (www.tesco.com) and Asda (www.asda.com) will deliver to Kinblethmont house and cottages. Just make sure you put the cottage name in the delivery instructions. We should be able to help them with direction if they get lost on the estate.

There is a small Morrisons Local that has most things and is open every day until 8pm in Friockheim. It is useful if you have been up Forfar/ Brechin way and want to pick something up on your way back.

Local produce at Chapelton.

You can pick up local eggs, potatoes and occasional season veg at the wee shack opposite the old graveyard at Chapelton (turn right at the bottom of the estate road and continue past the crossroads). There is an honesty box so bring cash. You can also buy cakes at the Old schoolhouse in Chapelton where there is a small outdoor café as well. The wee shop also includes tablet, sandwiches and ice cream as well as some gifts.

Butchers

Flemings is a good butcher with locally sourced well-hung meat, you will find them at 27 West Port in Arbroath down from the railway station. There is also Falconers on the High Street and Robertson's in Fisheracre who regularly win prizes for its produce.

Venison

Award winning local wild venison is available from Highland Game www.highlandgame.com
Tel: 01382 827088 or Pitscandly Farm <https://www.pitscandlyfarm.co.uk/> Tel: 07711 416 786

Fishmongers

There are a number of good fishmongers in the harbour area of Arbroath. The local speciality is Arbroath Smokie – a hot smoked haddock- it doesn't look particularly appealing but really is delicious! You can often buy them hot and ready to eat at the harbour – look out for the signs of when they are ready.

Smokie demonstration – Stuarts Fresh Fish at the harbour can give you a demonstration of how Arbroath Smokies are made. Call 01241 876254 to book – your fee includes tasting the smokies you have watched being made.

Farm Shop

The Carnoustie Farm shop is conveniently located just off the A92 between Dundee and Arbroath.

<http://carnoustiefarmshop.co.uk>

Farmers and general markets

The local farmers markets are:

Montrose – first Saturday of the month (morning) and held on the High Street

Forfar – second Saturday of the month held in John Street

Dundee – third Saturday of the month held at the City Square
Arbroath – last Sunday of each month from April to September held at Victoria Park

Eassie Farm

If you are off to Glamis castle during asparagus season why not pick up some delicious asparagus while you are there? They now also sell seakale. Eassie Farm, by Glamis, Angus, DD8 1SG. Telephone 01307 840303;
Seasonal times Farm shop: 9am– 6pm during asparagus season is usually Apr–Jun.

Tea Gardens of Scotland

Angus tea growers, based at Kinnettles by Forfar DD8 1TR produce limited quantities of Scotland's first ever 100% pure black tea. They undertake small group tours of approx. 2 hours at a cost of £25 per head, where you will see the project, learn how to pluck and see it rolled, followed by tasting. By appointment only <https://teagardensofscotland.co.uk>

Other Shopping

Arbroath

Like most town centres Arbroath high st. has suffered a downturn lately but you will find most High Street type shops (Boots the chemist, WH Smith, Argos etc) there with the odd interesting pop up. Independent and more unusual shops can be found mostly in the West Port, down from the Railway Station. There is also an excellent outdoor equipment shop there called Base Camp.

Dundee

Dundee has most of the usual large high street chains located on the High Street and its 2 shopping centres as well as some more interesting independent shops - these are mostly located on the smaller roads that come off the High Street such as Union St, Whitehall St and Crichton St.

Perth

Perth is a beautiful city and has some high quality independent shops as well as a large shopping centre. There are also several antique shops here as well as an antique centre in Rait off the A90 on the way to Perth.

Broughty Ferry

Broughty Ferry (see separate section) still has some independent shops and interesting little boutiques.

Getting Around

By Car

Most of our guests chose to bring a car as it is really the easiest way to get around in this rural area. Do be aware of the fact that local drivers can drive very fast on the roads near the estate so please be careful. Keep in mind this is an agricultural area so you may find yourself stuck behind tractors or combines from time to time – and it may happen on the private roads on the estate too. Do be patient and only overtake when you can be quite sure that the way ahead is clear. In the spring and summer you may also come across joggers and cyclists.

Electric car charging.

There are many locations locally to charge your electric car. These include nearby:

Tesco Supermarket, Arbroath – Type 2 and CCS
Asda Supermarket, Arbroath – Type 2 and British plug
Harbour car park – Type 2
Arbroath Train Station Car Park – Type 2
Arbroath Infirmary Car Park– Type 2
Stanley Street Car park – Type 2 and CHADEMO
Friockheim Park– Type 2
The Hub, Friockheim – Type 2 and CHADEMO

You can check out the websites below (and others) for charges and availability

<https://chargeplacescotland.org>

<https://chargefinder.com>

You are not permitted to hang charging cables out of interior windows to charge your car. We are planning on installing chargeable charging stations near the farm, until then you can request to use our own chargers at the farm for a reasonable fee.

By Taxi

There are several taxi firms in Arbroath that you can chose from

Zippy taxis – (takes card payment) 01241 430430

Cook's taxis – 01241 876266 (takes card payment) have 6 seater and wheelchair accessible taxis.

Arbroath Taxis – (takes card payment) 01241 430430 are based at the bus station

Central taxis (takes card payment) – 01241 877766

Abbey Taxis – 01241 877777

RJ executive Travel – 07763 913307 have nice 7 and 8 seater transport for transport and private bus services.

By Bus

There are regular buses from Arbroath bus station to Dundee, Forfar and further afield.

Private Bus with driver – ideal for large groups

G&N Wishart's are based nearby in Friockheim 01241 828747 and can provide 15 or 25 seater buses with driver for groups. Phone them – they are very helpful.

Black's of Brechin - can provide a large comfortable coach with on board WC and uniformed driver for a group outing Contact Robert P Black

removals@blacksofbrechin.com. 01356 622119

RJ executive Travel – 07763 913307 have nice 7 and 8 seater transport for transport and private bus services.

Simpson Coach Holidays

This serves Aberdeenshire but have been used by a group at Kinblethmont House recently
www.simpsoncoaches.co.uk

City Circle

This is based in Edinburgh and has been used by Kinblethmont House guests in the past

edi@citycircleuk.com

Self drive mini vans – good value – a range of sizes

Economy car and van rental Dundee

www.economycarandvanhire.co.uk

01382 400200

Train – Arbroath station lies on the main line from London to Aberdeen so there is a good service to Dundee (15 minute journey), Edinburgh (1 1/2 hours away) and Aberdeen (1 hour away). There are connections to Glasgow and Perth. It is worth getting tickets in advance. You can buy them on-line (www.thetrainline.com & others) and there is a ticket collection machine at Arbroath station. You can also buy tickets at the station desk or at the ticket machine.

Also see separate “Day trip to Edinburgh section”.

Sometimes there may be taxis at the station but it would be best to call one of the numbers above if you need a taxi back.

If heading north to Aberdeen you can pick the train up at Montrose where there is a good car park.

Bicycle The area is good for cycling with various cycle networks. The private roads around the estate are good for children on bicycles though you do have to take care of vehicles on the tarmac road up to the house. The Letham Grange area opposite the farm has a number of quiet safe roads and paths that children can explore.

If you don't bring your own, then why not hire bikes through a local company – Angus Cycle Hub on 01241 873500. Give them plenty of notice though.

Eating Out

There are lots of restaurants in Arbroath and the other towns in the area. Here are just a few that we have tried and can recommend.

Arbroath

The West port area of Arbroath near the station and a short walk from the harbour has several independent cafes – you could try:

Smithies Delicatessen

Vin-tealicious

In the harbour area there are:

The Old Boat Yard

A very good spacious restaurant specialising in seafood with an excellent position overlooking Arbroath Harbour. www.oldboatyard.co.uk Tel: 01241 879995

The Old Brew House-

Atmospheric pub in harbour setting serving good pub food all day every day with a wide choice to suit all tastes and appetites. Tel: 01241 879945

The Marina -

This eatery overlooks Arbroath Harbour with downstairs and upstairs eating areas but also does takeaways. <http://www.the-marina.co.uk/> 01241 878104

Other restaurants you might try are.

The Bellrock - Located on the dual carriage way in Arbroath opposite the Signal Tower Museum- good for families and children.

Webmors -Located just off the High Street in Arbroath beside the Webster Theatre, this restaurant offers light lunches, afternoon teas and a wide selection of cakes.

The Friockheim hub a few miles away – also has a nice café. Which might be nice for a destination if you are going on a bike ride. www.friockhub.co.uk

In the Local Area

Roo's Leap- A large Australian themed restaurant with burgers etc close to Montrose golf course. Great for hungry families – now with outdoor area - (roosleap.com)

The But'n'ben – a traditional Scottish restaurant in the tiny village of Auchmithie. Popular so book ahead. www.thebutnben.com 01241877223.

Sinclairs Kitchen

This gastropub is located by the Forrester's seat caravan park just off the Arbroath Forfar Road. It is child and dog friendly and has steak nights and Sunday roasts . Open Wednesday to Sunday and has steak nights and Sunday Roasts.

www.sinclairskitchen.co.uk

Gordon's - Inverkeilor

Intimate restaurant offering fine dining from a British masterchef, using the best local ingredients. www.gordonsrestaurant.co.uk

Worth the trip

The Drovers Inn

www.the-drovers.com

The Drovers Inn in Memus by Forfar had both bar food and excellent restaurant food. It has a great atmosphere with log fires and delicious food and is well worth the trip.

The Newport restaurant

www.thenewportrestaurant.co.uk

Newport- on-Tay is across the Tay bridge from Dundee and developed in the 19th century as the wealthy jute barons of Dundee sought peace and quiet across the river.

The Newport is an award-winning restaurant with stunning views over the Tay with a reputation for excellent modern fine dining.

Sandbanks Brasserie (formerly The Tayberry)

<https://sandbanksbrasserie.co.uk>

In the centre of charming Broughty Ferry is the Tayberry restaurant. This relaxed but elegant restaurant offers contemporary Scottish fine dining with lovely views out over the Tay. Make sure you ask for an upstairs table when booking.

Take Away (carry out) Food

Always handy if you don't want to cook but don't want to eat out either! You can try:

Indian – from the Saffron - 28 Millgate Arbroath 01241 437437

Chinese – from the Great Wall Chinese takeaway - 4, Arbirlot Road, Arbroath 01241 870823 or The Star, Millgate Loan, Arbroath 01241 873383

Some will deliver for a small charge – check out www.just-eat.co.uk

Fish and Chips – Best eaten wandering around the harbour!

Don't forget to try fish and chips from one of the shops in and around Arbroath Harbour – Marcos, The Marina, Harbour Fish and Chips (formerly Pepos) or the Golden Haddock which is at the bottom of the High Street. Most popular of course is haddock and chips (a fish supper made with haddock, native to these waters). The girls behind the counter will ask you what you want when you enter the shop and it is then freshly cooked to order – delicious. You can also get hot smokies to take away at some of the fishmongers near the harbour – or why not get them vacuum sealed and take them with you when you return home. Better than a stick of rock!

Beaches and Walking and Gardens

Beaches

Arbroath

There is a lovely sandy beach at Arbroath that runs for miles to Elliot. There is an outdoor play area that includes crazy golf and small car rides as well as a paddling pool with seating areas. When you get hungry there is a food hut that has a surprisingly varied menu to suit everyone, regardless of your hunger level.

Lunan Bay

Lunan Bay is a 2 mile long stretch of unspoilt dune-backed sand just 10 minutes away by car. It is well worth visiting at all times of year as it is a great place for an invigorating walk-in winter as well as having all the paddling/ and castling opportunities in summer!

There is a large car park and a dog friendly **café**.

Imries bar and grill is next door at the Lunan house hotel and is fine for burgers etc – best to book in advance.

Beach visitors can now use the toilets in the café without the need to buy anything.

Directions – at the bottom of the drive turn right. When you reach the small crossroads turn right toward Inverkeilor. After a couple of miles, you will meet the intersection with the A92- turn left towards Montrose. After approx. 2 miles take the right turn signposted 'Lunan' down and underneath the railway. Turn left at the T-junction at the bottom and then right down the track past the café to the car park where there is usually plenty of parking.

Montrose Beach

Montrose beach is a lovely stretch of white sand. Additionally, there is a water based play area. Follow signs to Seafront splash. There are public toilets, an ice cream kiosk and small café. There is a golf course here also (see golfing section) and it is convenient for the “Roo’s Leap” diner. (See eating out section).

NB: the replacement water park is smaller than the old one. Monifieth beach (see below) might be a better place to go for a play park that is similar to the old one at Montrose.

St Cyrus Beach

If you continue further up the A92 from Montrose towards Stonehaven, you come to St Cyrus beach and nature reserve. It is a beautiful reserve with abundant flowers, butterflies and birds leading to a stretch of natural sandy beach. There are toilets for public use daily from April to October 8am-8pm and November to March 8am – 5pm except Sundays when they are open 10am-5pm.

Monifieth Beach

A lovely sandy beach with a walking and cycling path alongside, it's an ideal place for to enjoy a walk or some bird watching. There is a car park just a short walk away and also a great children's play area and skate park. There are toilets and picnic benches or if you don't feel like bringing your own, why not try the Bay Diner – based on the caravan park but open to everyone.

Broughty Ferry beach

Broughty Ferry is a historic and prosperous suburb to the East of Dundee. Its beach is a blue flag beach and great for families with its promenade, ice creams, children's playground and swimming area next to Broughty Ferry Castle. (See separate Broughty Ferry section.)

East Haven Beach

This is a quiet beach between Arbroath and Carnoustie. In summer months you can pop into East Scryne fruit farm and cafe close by for its delicious cakes, fresh fruit ice-creams and children's play area.

The Boddin, by Montrose

The Boddin reaches out into the sea and the old lime kiln on it can be seen looking north from Lunan bay. It is a rocky beach with lots of rock pools and shells. There are interesting old lime kilns there too (take care with children). There is very little parking but as it's not on the main tourist maps, you should have no trouble finding a space.

Directions: Head North on the A92 towards Montrose. Pass a couple of signs towards Lunan Bay on your right and then take the road signposted “Usan”. Go down this road past a crossroads until you see a sign that says “Boddin farm” in your right. Continue down this bumpy single-track road until you get to the gate. Park by the side of the road here and walk down to the beach.

Walking and Isle of May

There are lots of walks in the area. A good idea would be to head to the visit Angus website which has lots of information on local walks.

<https://visitangus.com/walking-and-hiking/>

Walk Highlands is also good

<https://walkhighlands.co.uk/angus/>

The Angus Glens

There is some lovely hill walking in the Angus glens of varying degrees of difficulty. Kirriemuir is generally considered to be the gateway to the Angus glens. Glen Clova is a great place to head for as you can get a good meal and drink and information about walks at the Glen Clova Hotel (about 1 hour from Kinblethmont). There are also lovely walks in Glen Esk, Glen Isla and Glen Doll.

Arbroath path network and cliff walk.

There are some good path walks around the Arbroath area. Particularly spectacular is the cliff top walks between Arbroath and Auchmithie. There is even a website dedicated to it! – www.arbroathclifftrail.com.

A lovely trip is to walk from Arbroath to Auchmithie along the coastal path from Victoria Park and the East end of Arbroath (allow about 2 hours) and to finish with a meal at the “But and Ben” in Auchmithie (make sure you book ahead) before booking a taxi there to take you back to your car in Arbroath.

Scurdie Ness light house

A lovely coastal walk from Ferryden along the estuary from Montrose. If you are lucky you might see some dolphins. You can carry along the coast towards Lunan bay for a longer walk.

Tentsmuir beach and forest

As you head towards Dundee you will see over on the other side of the Tay estuary a bright sand spit and forested area – this is Tentsmuir forest and nature reserve.

It is a great place to go with paths through the forest, a picnic area with space for portable BBQs and toilets and the beach where you can often spot seals.

After you go over the Tay Bridge turn left to Tayport and follow directions to the beach from there – allow about 1 hour from Kinblethmont.

The Isle of May

www.isleofmayferry.com

The Isle of May is a small island situated off the coast of Fife and is reached from Anstruther (about 1 hour 20 mins drive) The Island is a National Nature Reserve (NNR) and is the home of incredible wildlife which include eiders, puffins, guillemots and razorbills but also the breeding colony of grey seals, the offshore reefs and small fishes surviving on them and the plants that grow on the cliffs. Well known for visiting migrant birds and the island is the best Puffin site in the UK. The ferry runs between April and September but wear a hat – the terns may dive –bomb you!

A 4-5 hour trip will take you by boat to the island with a couple of hours ashore (weather permitting). Phone 07429 454055 to book – pick up tickets from the kiosk at the harbour.

Gardens

There are many gardens in the area both private and public open to visitors at various times in the year. The Scotland's garden scheme website is a good place to find them.

<https://scotlandsgardens.org/>

Pitmuies is only about 10 minutes away by car (on the left on the road between Frioekheim and Forfar) www.pitmuies.com

Visitor Attractions

Castles and historic buildings

Glamis Castle – Nr Forfar

www.glamis-castle.co.uk

Glamis castle was the childhood home of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and is the setting for Shakespeare's famous 'Macbeth'. It really is a worth a visit as it is a magnificent castle set in splendid grounds. There is also a café.

In the village of Glamis is also Glamis Gallery and the Gin Bothy experience which are both well worth a visit. You can buy combines Gin bothy and castle tickets www.ginbothy.co.uk.

Arbroath Abbey

Arbroath Abbey is famous in Scottish history for its association with the Declaration of Arbroath. As well as impressive ruins, there is a good visitor centre with a viewing gallery, café, film, display explain the declaration of Arbroath and model of the original. It has been rumoured that there is a tunnel linking Kinblethmont to the Abbey – we have never found it but who knows!

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/arbroath-abbey/>

Bell Rock Lighthouse & caves sightseeing

One of the major engineering feats of the early 19th Century the Bell Rock Lighthouse was designed by noted lighthouse engineer Robert Stevenson (1772 – 1850) and came into service in 1811. The signal tower museum tells of the history of the light house – you can also go up to the light house (but not land) on one of the boats that takes sea angling and sightseeing trips from Arbroath harbour.

Look out for posters on the big black shed at the harbour or try Inchcape marine service. Alex Smith 07752470621

Hospitalfield House – Arbroath

www.hospitalfield.org.uk

This hidden away gem is amongst the trees opposite the McDonalds/ Asda complex as you come into Arbroath. In the 19th century it was lived in by Patrick and Elizabeth Frazer. After their deaths it was left in trust to provide training in the arts to young people.

There is now a lovely café there and there are events house tours and garden walks. Check the website for details.

House of Dun – Near Montrose

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/house-of-dun>

There has been a lot of work gone into the visitor offering at the house of Dun in the past couple of years. There is now an imaginative tour with costumed guides and along with the café and beautiful grounds with makes it a great place to visit.

See website for opening times

Scone Palace – Nr Perth

www.scone-palace.co.uk

Scone Palace attracts visitors from all over the world. Fifteen hundred years ago, it was the capital of the Pictish kingdom and the centre of the ancient Celtic church. In the intervening centuries, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of Kings.

Buy tickets before you visit and to secure palace tours and maze time slots.

Beautiful gardens and café also available.

Stirling Castle (about 1 ½ hours by car)

www.stirlingcastle.scot

Without doubt one of the grandest of all Scottish castles and the views from it are spectacular. Displays on the castle's history and medieval kitchen are featured and there is an attractive café.

Book online through the website.

Dunnottar Castle – Near Stonehaven

www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk

Dunnottar Castle is a dramatic and evocative ruin perched on the cliff top just south of Stonehaven. If the outline is a little familiar, this may be because Dunnottar Castle was the location for the film version of Hamlet starring Mel Gibson. It has also recently been used as the inspiration for the castle in Disney's 'Brave'.

You need to buy ticket for morning or afternoon entry on-line. There is also a food van in the car park.

Stonehaven is a charming little town with picturesque harbour and pubs/restaurants and is a great place to visit in connection with the castle. There is a good walk from the town to the castle – about 1 ½ miles.

Dunninald Castle – Nr Montrose

www.dunninald.com

Dunninald castle is a family home set in wonderfully planned landscape gardens. Check the website for opening times.

Historic Ships and walking tours

RRS Discovery – Dundee

www.rrsdiscovery.com

A very interesting exhibition centre about the Antarctic in general and Captain Scott's voyage of Discovery in particular. There are lots of interactive exhibits and you can have a good look around the boat itself.

Concessions and family tickets available. Please note a combined ticket may be purchased for entry to Verdant Works (see under museums) allowing for savings to be made.

Currently there is no need to book however I would check the website as this may change.

Frigate Unicorn – Dundee

www.frigateunicorn.org

There is a lot to see over three floors on the frigate unicorn from the impressive gun deck to the sailors' sleeping quarters.

DD Tours – Dundee

www.ddtours.co.uk

These historical tours are fascinating, Dundee based, with offbeat humour and quirky local guides – some are not for the faint hearted! (DD stands for Dark Dundee!)

The tours change every couple of months and private tours are also available.

Museums

Signal Tower Museum – Arbroath

[Arbroath Signal Tower Museum Feature Page on Undiscovered Scotland](#)

Situated on the waterfront just along from the harbour, the signal tower museum is an interesting museum about the Bell rock light house and the signal tower. There are also some exhibitions on the historic Arbroath fishing industry.

Admission is free

Currently Tuesday – Saturday 10 am – 5pm

Verdant Works – Dundee

<https://www.verdantworks.com/plan-your-visit/>

Verdant works transports you back to the 19th Century when the jute industry was at its prime. Through a variety of exhibits and interactive displays this museum brings alive the jute industry and miserable lives of its workforce.

Dundee Museum of Transport

www.dmoft.co.uk/

At the Dundee Museum of transport you can learn about Dundee's tram network, railway and marine history, look around the constantly changing selection of cars, commercial vehicles and buses, get up close and personal with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and have a look at our recreation of Dundee's first flying machine.

Transport related events are held throughout the year, so keep an eye on the website for details of these, and new additions to the collection. Check the website for opening times.

McManus Gallery – Dundee

www.mcmanus.co.uk

The McManus Gallery is housed in a splendid Gothic revival style building in the centre of Dundee (at the top of Commercial St). It has 8 galleries which house Victorian and modern paintings, the natural world and the making of modern Dundee and it also has temporary exhibitions. It is a great place to spend a little time out while in Dundee and has a café and gift shop. Entrance is free but donations are welcome.

V&A Dundee

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/dundee/>

This extraordinary building designed by Japanese Architects Kengo, Kuma & Associates and neighbouring Slessor Gardens and train station have transformed the Dundee waterfront in recent years. There is a free permanent exhibition featuring the history of Scottish design, and a larger exhibition space with the special exhibitions changing several times a year. There is a café and restaurant – it would be worth booking early if you want to go to the restaurant.

Visit their website to see what exhibitions are on – booking may be necessary.

Entry is free and they are open 7 days a week 9 until 5. There may be a charge for the special exhibitions. Their website has full details of exhibitions.

Pictish Angus

2000 years ago a number of Iron Age tribes lived in northern Scotland. These tribes gradually amalgamated and by AD 297 they were known as the Picts. Today most of what we know about them comes from the mysterious stones, which, carved with pictures, and symbols, have been found dotted around the county. We do of course have our own stone in Kinblethmont House. Provided there is no one renting Kinblethmont House we will be glad to show it to you (Tel 01241 890204). Other places of interest are:

St Vigean's Museum – Arbroath

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/arbroath/stvigeans/index.html>

A lot of stones on display in this tiny museum in the pretty village of St Vigeans with its hilltop church. Some are incised with Pictish symbols and they include the famous inscribed Drosten stone.

New opening times are April – September, Wednesday – Saturday 10 am – 4.30 pm

Miegle Museum - Miegle

<https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/meigle/meiglestones/index.html>

There is a large collection of Pictish stones here, most of which have been found close to Miegle's old church.

Tel: 01828 640612

McManus Gallery (as above)

There is some information about picts in the history section of the museum and a Pictish stone very like the one we have at Kinblethmont!

Children's Stuff

There are many things for children to do in Angus, apart from exploring the grounds of Kinblethmont Estate and the beaches of course. I have detailed just a few here, but do browse through the leaflets or the tourist information website - <https://visitangus.com/>

Arbroath

Arbroath has a surprising number of simple things for small children to do. The West Links seafront, on the left as you leave town heading towards Dundee, has a wonderful refurbished playground and there is access to Arbroath beach. With Easter comes the opening for the mini racetrack. Crazy golf, tennis and a paddling pool are also available in the better weather and there is a snack bar and picnic areas. Don't forget to pack a towel and costume. For the slightly older children, why not try the newly opened skate park further along. Also, at West Links is Jumping Joey's, a large indoor play centre that would satisfy children up to about 8 on a wet day.

Keptie pond is a nice place for small children to feed ducks – the castle-like building on the hill was actually a water tower. Why not take a picnic if the weather is nice and check out the Big Red Bench.

The harbour is a fun place to walk around – if you look at the smokery across the river you can sometimes see the fish hanging up. There are various places where you can climb up to the top of the harbour wall and look around and there is a lower wall all the way along that children like to walk along.

At the far end near the bottom of the High Street you can buy ice creams (look out for unusual flavours like “smokies”) and trinkets. It is also fun to look at the boats in the marina. There is a lovely centre with arts and crafts and a café/restaurant.

Don't forget Chalmers cinema shows more children's films during school holidays if it's a rainy day.

Murton Trust

www.murton-trust.org.uk

This is a visitor farm, tearoom and nature reserve about 15 minutes' drive away just off the Forfar road. It is a great place for young families – you can feed the animals, go on a nice nature walk, play in the play park and have a nice meal in the café.

Brechin castle country park

Country Park – Brechin Castle Garden Centre (brechincastlecentre.co.uk)

This is a great day out for the family approx. 20 minutes away. There are all kinds of things to do including a giant sledge run, fairy trail, jumping pillows and a farm play courtyard. You need to book your visit online through the website.

Dundee Science Centre

www.dundeesciencecentre.org.uk

This is an excellent science-based centre that has plenty to interest very tiny and older children. The main exhibitions are to do with the senses and are very informative and fun – small children can charge around exploring the giant head or eyeball while older ones might actually learn something. There are often temporary exhibitions on things such as insects, space or dinosaurs and there is a 3-D cinema – check out the website for what's on just now. There is also a gift shop and cafe.

Open 7 days with concession tickets available and under 4s goes free. All under 16s to be accompanied. Tel: 01382 228800

Camperdown Park and Wildlife Centre– Dundee

<http://www.camperdownwildlifecentre.com/>

Camperdown Park is the largest public park in Dundee and home to the Wildlife Centre that is home to some 50 species of birds, animals and reptiles. There are also lots of walks and a children's play area.

Open March to September 7 days a week the wildlife centre has a variety of events on during the year - check the website for details and times. Concession and family tickets are available.

Monikie Country Park

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/public toilets and radar keys/monikie country park](https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/public%20toilets%20and%20radar%20keys/monikie%20country%20park)

Monikie Park lies between Arbroath and Dundee – good for nature lovers and water sports enthusiasts. There is windsurfing, canoeing etc here mainly at beginner level. There is also a large wooden children's adventure playground and picnic and BBQ facilities are available all year round.

Opening hours vary depending on the time of year. Admission is free.

There is also a nice café/restaurant.

Crombie County Park

[https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/public toilets and radar keys/crombie country park](https://www.angus.gov.uk/directories/public%20toilets%20and%20radar%20keys/crombie%20country%20park)

Close to Monikie Park, it has a lake, various nature trails and a ranger's lodge. A great place for wildlife spotting. Picnic and BBQ facilities are available all year round.

Admission is free. Please note that the park was badly affected by the recent winter storms so not all the walks are easily passable.

Montrose Basin Wildlife Centre – Nr Montrose

www.montrosebasin.org.uk

Montrose Basin is an enclosed estuary of the South Esk and covers 750 hectares. The visitor centre has many interactive displays relating to wading and migratory birds and lots of powerful telescopes that allow you to see the birds (and seals!) very close up. At holiday time there are often seasonal activities that can be booked in advance and there are walks of varying lengths around the reserve.

Visitor centre opening hours are limited over winter, so phone or check their website for the up-to-date times. Concessions and family tickets are available. Tel: 01674 676336

Dauids Hill Alpacas - nearby at St Vigean's offer alpaca trekking experiences and alpaca fleece crafts

www.davidshillalpacas.com

Newton farm holidays. Based at near Inverarity offer award winning farm tours and alpaca walks

www.newtonfarmhholidays.co.uk

Pantomime/ Christmas Play

The Dundee repertory theatre always put on a Christmas play or pantomime suitable for children in December and January. They are usually very good, but it would be wise to book up early. Tel: 01382 223530

Blair Drummond Safari Park – Stirling

www.blairdrummond.com

Blair Drummond safari park is great for a family day out and if you are going as far as Stirling you could visit the Stirling castle as well! (See historic Scotland section). There are loads to do for animal loving children.

Drive through Wild Animal Reserves/ Boat Trip to Chimp Island / Sea Lion Shows
Bird of Prey Displays, Fun Fair / Adventure Playground, Pets Farm & Lemur Land
Restaurant & Bar Facilities & Gift shops

Open April to October. Concession and family tickets are available and are often cheaper to buy online. Under 3s go free.

Entertainment and Arts

Theatre/Concerts

Dundee Repertory Theatre www.dundeereptheatre.co.uk Tel: 01382 223 530

An excellent award-winning theatre producing a wide selection of plays with its own repertory company and hosting many more theatrical, dance and comedy performances. It has its own restaurant, the Het theatre Café 01382 206699 and the Jute café bar at the DCA is also very convenient (see eating out section). The prices are very reasonable and the performances excellent, making this theatre a great favourite of ours.

The Caird Hall, Dundee www.cairdhall.co.uk 01382 434940.

The Caird Hall is an impressive building forming one side of The City Square in the centre of the pedestrian zone of Dundee. In its sumptuous main hall seating 2,000 it hosts many prestigious productions from popular music to classical ballet to stand-up comedians.

The Webster Memorial Theatre, 64 High Street St, Arbroath 01241 435 800
www.webstertheatre.co.uk

This is a performance venue for drama, dance, comedy, concerts and music events and has a busy line up of tribute acts, musicals, choirs, reel society and children's theatre this year with some well-known names.

Cinema

Chalmers Film house, Queens Drive, Arbroath

Located on the dual carriageway as part of the night club complex at the edge of the West Links. This quirky cinema shows new release films as well as a variety of children's films during the day during school holidays. They are open from 11am to 11pm and have sofas and coffee tables rather than rows of seats making your visit a comfortable and more homely one. You can purchase food and drink onsite at a reasonable price and if you are hungry, there is a joining door to the Milimia Pizza House next door. Phone 07565 032020 for further information or book online at www.chalmersfilmhouse.co.uk

Montrose playhouse – Montrose

The old swimming pool has recently been very successfully converted to this cute cinema, café and arts venue. www.montroseplayhouse.co.uk

Odeon, Dundee Douglasfield shows all the usual blockbusters and is about half an hour from here. All the screens have been recently upgraded to recliner seats with individual tables. Take the main road (A92) into Dundee turn right past Sainsbury's on the outskirts; follow the road past housing estates; go straight over the roundabout and it is on your right.

DCA (Dundee Contemporary Arts) www.dca.org.uk Tel: 01382 909252. An excellent arts cinema showing British and foreign films. As well as arts films it does show select popular films often at a slightly later date. There is a lively bar and restaurant here as well. The thing here is that cinema going can be accompanied by a nice meal, some drinks and coffee rather than fizzy drinks and popcorn!

Art Galleries

Eduardo Alessandro Studios
eastudios.com

Gray St Broughty Ferry – has a mixture of contemporary art in this large gallery which is well worth a drop in when visiting Broughty Ferry.

Glamis Gallery – if you're visiting Glamis Castle why not pop into Glamis Gallery in the village which has a lovely mixture of artwork and jewellery. There is plenty of parking. Check out their FB page or phone 07739 463594 for their opening times which vary during the year.

Broughty Ferry

Broughty Ferry was once a small village and ferry port 4 miles to the East of Dundee. During the 19th Century, it developed into a wealthy residential area containing the homes of the wealthy Jute barons of Dundee.

Today it is a lovely destination approx. 30 minutes' drive from Kinblethmont. It has interesting little boutiques, art galleries, old fisherman's pubs as well as a blue flag beach, an esplanade and Broughty Castle. You may have seen it showcased in 'Bob Servant Independent' starring Dundee's Brian Cox and shown on BBC2.

There is lots of information on the Broughty Ferry website www.cometobroughty.co.uk but here are some ideas.

Pubs

There are several nice pubs in Broughty Ferry. The most atmospheric are

The Ship Inn and Waterfront restaurant

With bar meals on offer downstairs and a restaurant upstairs there is plenty of choice on offer for all tastes. www.theshipinn-broughtyferry.co.uk

The Fisherman's Tavern Hotel

Main meals served daily from noon til 9pm from a menu to suit all tastes

It has award for the best selection of different beers in the UK and appears in a good beer guide. Pre Covid there was an informal fiddler's music night on Thursday evenings – you can check if these are on at the time of your stay.

Restaurants

There are lots of cafe's restaurants and bars in Broughty Ferry and it can get busy on Friday and Saturday nights. You could try

Sol Y Sombra Tapas Bar

Award winning restaurant – very popular so please ensure you book.
27 Gray Street, Broughty Ferry Tel: 01382 776941

The Sandbanks Brasserie

<https://sandbanksbrasserie.co.uk>

In the centre of charming Broughty Ferry is the Sandbanks restaurant. This relaxed but elegant restaurant offers contemporary Scottish fine dining with lovely views out over the Tay – make sure to book an upstairs table.

Vissochis

40 Gray St, DD5 2BJ Tel: 01382 779297

Open Tue and Wed 10.00am – 5pm and Thurs to Sun 10.00am – 9pm. Closed Mondays.
Last orders are 90 minutes before closing for meals.

Authentic Italian café famous for its pizzas but which offers a full menu from baguettes or pasta to steaks. A children's menu is also available. There is also pizzas or ice cream to take away.

Beach

Nestled beneath Broughty Castle is an extensive sandy beach. The promenade provides direct pedestrian and disabled access at several locations. The beach is backed by dunes and provides views across the Tay estuary to the North Fife coast. There is a nature conservation site and a host of wildlife, including birds, seals and the occasional porpoise can be seen. On the beach you can find windbreaks for hire in the summer and volleyball nets are erected. There is a nice walk along the beach to the botanic gardens – approximately 1.5 km. Please note no dogs are allowed on the beach.

There is also a safe area marked out for swimming. Close by are an extensive range of leisure facilities including a museum, an excellent children's play area, a rock garden, cafes, bars, shops and restaurants.

Broughty Castle

Broughty Castle sits imposingly at the mouth of the River Tay. Built in 1496 on a rocky promontory, it has faced many sieges and battles. Today, it houses fascinating displays on the life and times of Broughty Ferry, its people, the environment and the wildlife that live close by. Admission is free.

Boat Trips

Boat trips are available up the Tay and you can also see the V&A. April to end November (weather permitting). Best to book well in advance to avoid disappointment

<http://www.taymara.org/trips> from Broughty Ferry or Tayport.

<http://www.saltdogmarine.com> (fast Rib) for dolphin watching or transport across the Tay.

Day trip to Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a wonderful city to visit for the day (though that might not be long enough) and the trip can easily be managed from Kinblethmont. During Edinburgh festival time there is a carnival atmosphere about the city, and it really is well worth the journey. It would be wise to book train tickets in advance at festival time if you want to be sure of getting a seat.

The Edinburgh Fringe dates for 2024 are 2nd to 26th August.

I would most definitely recommend travelling by train from Arbroath as not only is the stress of driving to and parking in Edinburgh taken away but the journey itself (about 1 ½ hours) is well worth it.

- You will need to buy a ticket. Best to buy advance online for best prices and seat reservations. Try www.thetrainline.com
- The train stops at Edinburgh Haymarket and then at Edinburgh Waverley about 5 minutes later. You will want to get off at Edinburgh Waverley as it is very convenient for most of Edinburgh's sights
- If you are travelling on a weekday you may wish to avoid travelling back during the rush hour if you haven't booked a seat (about 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm)

Driving to Edinburgh –

The drive into central Edinburgh takes 1/1/2 to 2 hours depending on traffic. There is a central car park near the castle at Castle Terrace EH1 2EN. There is also a park and ride at Ingliston see <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/ingliston>.

You can have a fine day out without spending a penny as a walk through the old town, the old buildings, the steps and wynds is fascinating –and easily accessible from the station – many of the galleries and museums are also free. Some ideas are:

- Take a hop on hop off bus or bus tour from the station
- Edinburgh Castle
- Princess Street Gardens
- Edinburgh Zoo
- National Museum of Scotland
- Scottish National Gallery
- Scottish National portrait Gallery.
- Museum of Childhood - known as the noisiest museum in the world!

So much to see and do, one day may not be enough! A quick cheeky plug here- we do have probably one of the best three-bedroom holiday flats in Edinburgh in Ramsay Garden right next to the castle with views over the Firth of Forth towards Fife. Contact us for details.

Golf Courses

Carnoustie

www.carnoustiegolflinks.co.uk

Choice of 3 courses and booking is advisable

Combination and concession tickets available

Caddy and Trolley hire available

Simulator bays available for practice and warm up in their indoor state-of-the-art performance centre

St Andrews

www.standrews.com

Choice of several courses, you will need to book well in advance for the Old Course.

Junior Fees available on all courses other than the old course

Montrose Golf Courses

www.montroselinks.co.uk

Choice of 2 courses

Trail Drive Montrose Tel: 01674 672932

You can rent golf clubs and buggies here.

Panmure Golf Club

www.panmuregolfclub.co.uk

Buggy and Club hire available

Tel: 01241 852460 or 855120

Monifieth Golf Links

www.monifiethgolf.co.uk

A choice of 2 courses available

Arbroath Links Golf and Artisan Golf Club Courses

www.arbroathgolfcourse.co.uk

See website for special offers

Discounts available for juniors and seniors.

Tel: 01241 875837

Forfar Golf Club

www.forfargolfclub.com

Discount available for juniors and seniors

Buggy hire available

Tel: 01307 463773

Pipedream Golf and Leisure Resort – Near Dundee

www.piperdam.com

18- and 9-hole courses available

Blairgowrie Golf Club

www.theblairgowriegolfclub.co.uk

18- and 9- hole courses

Swimming, Sports Centres, Horse Riding and Activities

Horse riding and Inflatables

The Leys Riding School

Find it on Facebook or Tel: 07813 989088

Leys of Boysack Farm, Leysmill DD11 4RP. Very close to here – from the bottom of the Kinblethmont road, turn right (away from Arbroath) when you reach the crossroads turn left towards Leysmill. It is at the first farm on your left.

Group and private lessons and hacks available.

Pathhead equestrian – Kirriemuir

www.pathhead.com

01575 572173

Lessons and hacks can be arranged including hacks to suit family groups. Smaller groups and longer treks also available.

Rowanlea Riding School

www.rowanlearidingschool.co.uk

Group lessons lasting 45 minutes. Private lessons or smaller groups prices are available on request.

West Cotside, Barry, Carnoustie, DD7 7SA Tel: 01382 532536

Innoflate Dundee

www.innoflate.co.uk

Inflatable play park for the whole family based at Ethiebeaton at Monifieth (beside Dobbies garden centre). Closed Wednesday. Phone 01382 918588 or check out their opening times on their website.

Water and beach-based activities.

Arbroath Cliff Tours

www.facebook.com/arbroathcliff tours

Enterprising new outfit offering sea Kayak based tours in and around the Arbroath cliffs. I would like them on Facebook for booking and to see what they have been up to and for cancellations and availability. There are sunset and nature watching trips with possible wild swimming coming later.

Blown Away – mobile outdoor experiences

<http://www.blownaway.co.uk/>

Although based in St Andrews, this mobile company can visit Lunan Bay if there are enough numbers. They undertake beach based activities such as land yachting, beach kayaking, stand up paddling, beach Olympics and zap cats for groups or families. Discounts available for groups.

Tel: 07784 121125

SUP to Summit – Various activities including Stand up paddle boarding at Lunan Bay
www.sup2summit.com

Foxlake Dundee – Aquapark
<https://www.foxlakedundee.co.uk/>

For Wakeboarding, paddle boarding and Ringo this park just opened in 2018. See their Facebook page for special offers or phone 01382 298007 or email info@foxlakedundee.co.uk or book a session online.

Stonehaven paddle boarding
<https://shpb.co.uk>

For SUP lessons and tours – all equipment and everything you need included. Tours include one to Dunnottar castle caves and coves.

Indoor swimming pools

Most of the local secondary schools have indoor pools with access to the public at limited times. Check out <https://angusalive.scot/sport-leisure/swimming-and-pools>

Bungees, zip wires & adventure

Highland Fling Bungee Jumps
www.bungeejumpscotland.co.uk

Located in Perthshire, this is Scotland's only permanent bungee jump from a bridge. Combine your day with other activities such as rafting, clay pigeon shooting, quad or bike hire (all these activities are also available on their own). Tel: 0845 3665844

Go Ape
www.goape.co.uk

The nearest located near Aberfoyle, Stirlingshire this tree top adventure site has Britain's 2 longest zip wires at 400m long each. You are 150 feet above ground and 90 feet above a waterfall. Closed from mid-December for several of the colder weeks – phone them to check. Tel: 0333 331 7820

Chauffeur driven Trike tours
<https://rewacotrikesscotland.com>

We have had great feedback about these tours on impressive 3 person motorbikes. They charge by the hour and can make up unforgettable tours through the beautiful Angus countryside. They are based in Brechin.

Local sports and swimming

Arbroath Sports Centre

This centre has a nice swimming pool, squash courts, badminton and a gym. Call in advance to book squash/ badminton courts (you can also hire racquets and balls) and to check pool times as these vary throughout the year – they may also be able to tell you when the pool is least busy.

Tel: 01241 872999. Check <https://www.angusalive.scot/sport-leisure/timetables/> for other keep fit classes you can join in but booking is essential.

Tennis

There are 2 tarmac tennis courts at the West Links complex which is on the A92 on the way out of Arbroath from the town centre towards Dundee.

To book or check availability call 01241 877748

Distilleries

Scotland is world famous for its Scotch whiskey. There are several distilleries that you can visit, some are a little further away but they can be reached via scenic drives that pass other places of interest on the way.

Arbikie -near Lunan Bay

www.arbikie.com

The Arbikie distillery is situated off the A92 with spectacular views over Lunan bay. All their ingredients are grown locally and they even produce climate positive vodka! They are becoming a world renowned brand and they offer distillery tours, tastings and more. The café and shop have tremendous views.

Fettercairn

Fettercairn distillery established in 1824 by Sir Alexander Ramsay (an ancestor of the Ramsays of Kinblethmont) is situated in the picturesque and historic village of Fettercairn with its prominent Royal Arch, tours of the distillery can be taken across the summer months for further details visit www.fettercairnwhisky.com. Make a day of it with lunch at The Ramsay Arms Hotel and continue to follow the heritage trail over the Cairn o Mount into Royal Deeside taking in the spectacular views from the view point.

Glenturret – Crieff

<https://theglenturret.com/>

Scotland's oldest distillery and home to the famous Scottish Grouse whisky is in Crieff, and its main attraction by far. Scenically set by the Glenturret Burn, with fine views of the surrounding Perthshire countryside, the Glenturret distillery has a long history dating back to 1775.

The large on-site shop stocks a superb choice of Grouse goodies including the famous malt. The personalised bottles are especially popular.

Check the website for tour details.

A visit to Glenturret would work well with a visit to Scone Palace.

Edradour – Pitlochry

www.edradour.com

Lying in the hills overlooking Pitlochry from the East, is Edradour Distillery, the smallest distillery in Scotland. Edradour is the last survivor of the long tradition of farmhouse distilleries, and its annual output of 240,000 bottles per year would emerge from the stills of a large Speyside distillery in less than a week.

Check their website for up-to-date information on opening hours.

Blair Athol Distillery – Pitlochry

<https://www.malts.com/en-gb/visit-our-distilleries/Blair-Athol>

Established in 1798 in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, Blair Athol Distillery is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. The distillery produces a 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky, with a mellow deep-toned aroma, a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish.

Check their website for up to date information on opening hours.

Pitlochry is about 1 ¾ hours drive from here but the cross country drive through Forfar, Kirriemuir, and Blairgowrie is a very picturesque one!

Fishing

Angus Country Sports at the Abbey end of Arbroath High Street sells rods flies etc and would be a good place to go for advice about fishing. They also sell permits for fishing locally on the river Lunan. Open Tuesday to Saturday 9-5.

You may also wish to try:

River Fishing

Bervie River

Salmon and Sea Trout

Permits from:

Mearns Hardware, High Street, Laurencekirk Tel: 01561 377471

South Esk River Montrose

Finnock, Sea Trout, Salmon and Grilse

Permits phone: Tel: 01575 574597

Loch and Reservoir Fishing

Rescobie Loch, near Forfar

Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout (March – October)

Permits from:

Rescobie boathouse open 8.30am -10.30am, 4.30pm-6.0pm

Telephone bookings 8.30am – 10.30am Tel: 01307 830367 (boatman)

Lintrathen Reservoir, Kirriemuir

Brown Trout (April to October)

Permits from:

Lintrathen Angling Club

(22 boats and 2 “disabled” boats, Sunday fishing) Tel: Loch 01575 560327

Loch Saugh, Fettercairn – Drumtochty Glen

Brown trout

Permits from:

Fettery Shoppe
Laurencekirk

Tel: 01561 340206

Monikie Reservoir

Brown trout

Permits from:

Monikie Angling Club

Tel: 01382 370300

Open from 4th March til 6 October

(Session times will vary so please check website <http://www.monikie-angling-club.org.uk/>)

Mill of Criggie Trout Fishery

Brown Trout, Rainbow Trout

Permits from:

The Mill of Criggie Trout Fishery, St Cyrus

Montrose

Tel: 01674 850868

(Tuition available by appointment, disabled access, rod hire for fly fishing)

Sea Angling

From May – September /October there are opportunities for booking sea angling at Arbroath Harbour; you will see the adverts attached to the big black barn as you wander around. If you call one of the phone numbers they will be able to add you to a trip – you can also organise a private hire if there are a few of you. It is great for adults and children of all ages to go mackerel fishing in the summer months – there is nothing quite the excitement of like dangling your rod over the side and pulling it up with several writhing fish on the end! There is deeper sea fishing for more experienced fishermen.

You may like to try.

Inchcape Marine Services: Boat Hire or Charters - Arbroath Scotland (fishingarbroath.co.uk)

Lists

Visiting in winter

Most visitor attractions are open until the end of December, but some visitor attractions have a break between New Year and Easter. Don't worry there is still plenty to do! Here are some ideas

- Get blown about on an exhilarating walk at Lunan Bay
- Head to Dundee - RSS Discovery, Frigate Unicorn, Verdant Works, and McManus Galleries are usually all open all year (except Christmas and New Year public holidays).
- For a wild ruined castle, Dunnottar castle is open all year weather depending – wrap up warm!
- Stirling castle is a bit of a drive but is open all year.
- Visit a distillery, most are open all year and you will have a lovely drive with the snow topped hills all around.
- Eat out at The Old Boat Yard in Arbroath while watching the storm tossed waves and have a wander around the signal tower museum.

- Have lunch in one of the cosy pubs in Broughty Ferry while looking out over the river Tay.
- Visit the Montrose basin Wildlife centre and watch the overwintering birds.
- Arbroath Abbey is open all year.

Things to do in bad weather.

It has been said that there is no such thing as bad weather only inappropriate clothing! That may be true for some but for the rest of us here are some ideas of what to do when the weather is not so good.

Rainy Days

Angus is usually one of the driest parts of Scotland but it does still rain sometimes. Here are some ideas of what to do in wet weather.

- Head into Dundee – the newly opened V&A, historic ships, Verdant Works and McManus Galleries are all good to visit in wet weather. For children, Dundee science centre is good as well as the Olympia leisure centre with its wave pool and flumes.
- If you don't want to go as far as Dundee, visit the pool in Arbroath or take the kids to Jumping Joeys or Potter Rhoney (located at the Abbey end of the High Street) to paint some pottery.
- Glamis Castle and Scone Palace have plenty to see indoors
- Head out to one of the cinemas to see an art house film or a current blockbuster
- Cuddle up and watch one of our selection of DVDs or play one of the games

Misty days

As we are near the coast we are sometimes affected by the 'Haar' - this is a sea mist that comes in on some still, hot days in the summer. The best thing to do to escape it is to head inland as it will often be warm and sunny there if there is a haar here. Some ideas are

- Go to Glamis Castle - have a tour and a picnic in the Gardens.
- Head to Kirriemuir and go for a hike in the Angus Glens
- Drive off through the wonderful scenery to one of Scotland's famous distilleries

Windy days

The walled garden at Kinblethmont is very sheltered even on some of the windiest days

Things to do close to home.

Sometimes you feel that you really don't want to have to drive very far. Here are some ideas of things to do all within a 10 minute drive

- Wander around Kinblethmont estate. There are lots of walks and a good view from the top of the track labelled 'Mast'. We have a new walk around the solar park with splendid views to the Angus hills– go up the track labelled 'mast' and follow the signs. You may see some sheep there as well. The walled garden is a lovely place to go – there are swings, garden games and table tennis there and lots of space to run around. Don't forget to admire our lovely new gates!

- Walk along the lovely Arbroath cliff trail.
- Get on your bike and have a cycle around the estate and on to Letham Grange and further if you like. Hire bikes through Angus Cycle Hub – 01241 873500 but make sure you give them plenty of notice.
- If you are interested in renewable energy have a chat with Robert Ramsay – he will be delighted to show you our bio boilers for the cottages and grain drying – call me on 07928 601757 to arrange it.
- Go for a walk at Lunan bay – it is only 10 minutes drive away.
- Have a wander around Arbroath harbour and have some fish and chips
- Take a boat trip from Arbroath Harbour
- Visit the West Links play area where there is something for all ages – don't forget a towel if you venture onto the beach or take a paddle in the paddling pool
- Visit Arbroath Abbey – where the famous declaration of Arbroath was signed.
- Visit the Signal Tower Museum in Arbroath and learn about the famous Bell Rock lighthouse.
- Visit Pitmuies garden – on the left between Friockheim and Forfar
- Visit Dunninald Castle and gardens - open afternoons in July or earlier in the season for snowdrops and bluebells.
- Do visit Hospitalfield House – there is a lovely café and tours on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays.