Dunfermline & West Fife Local Tourism Association is part of Fife’s Tourism Partnership, made up of a range of businesses within Fife’s tourism sector. Its aim is to ensure that visitors experience the very best that the region has to offer, showcasing its natural assets, attractions and heritage and illustrating that the region is an ideal destination for a holiday, short break or as a base for touring.

Tourism businesses interested in becoming involved in Fife’s Tourism Partnership should go to tourismnetfife.co.uk for more information.

The Dunfermline & West Fife Local Tourism Association welcomes comments from visitors to the region.

What have you enjoyed?
What can we improve?
Please let us know at feedback@tourismnetfife.co.uk

This guide is published by Dunfermline & West Fife LTA in good faith based on the information provided by organisations within Fife’s tourism industry. Dunfermline & West Fife LTA has taken reasonable steps to confirm the information contained in the guide is correct at the time of going to press. It cannot guarantee that the information is and remains accurate. Dunfermline & West Fife LTA accepts no responsibility for any error or misrepresentation contained in the guide and excludes all liability for loss or damage caused by any reliance placed on the information contained in the guide. References made in the guide to specific businesses do not indicate any recommendation or preference and are only made for illustrative purposes. Dunfermline & West Fife LTA cannot accept any liability for loss caused by the bankruptcy, or liquidation, or insolvency, or cessation of any company, firm or individual contained in this guide.
Welcome

One of the best connected destinations in Scotland, West Fife is home to ancient capital Dunfermline as well as pretty villages, great walking and cycling routes, golf, beaches, shopping and lots to do. Rich in historical interest and with a host of attractions including Knockhill Racing Circuit and Deep Sea World, West Fife is a fascinating place to visit and an excellent base for a touring holiday. It's just a short journey across the Forth from Edinburgh and as the gateway to the rest of Fife it's within easy reach of the fishing villages of the East Neuk and the golfing paradise of St Andrews.
Dunfermline Abbey

Dunfermline’s most iconic landmark is the magnificent Norman Abbey. It was built by David I in 1128 on the site of the Benedictine priory founded by his mother Queen Margaret. The original foundations of Margaret’s church can still be seen through a grating in the Abbey floor. Over the centuries, the Abbey became a mix of architectural styles but the superb nave with its massive pillars and rare Norman decorations can still be admired. The newer part of the Abbey was built in the 19th Century and continues to be an active parish church.

Ancient capital

Discover West Fife’s rich history which lies at the heart of Scotland’s story.

Home to kings, queens, saints and heroes, Dunfermline became the capital of Scotland when Malcolm Canmore succeeded to the throne in 1058. His wife Margaret was a devout Catholic who founded a church and monastery in the town. She was canonised in 1249, becoming St Margaret of Scotland. Malcolm and Margaret are one of Scotland’s most famous historical couples.

Dunfermline Abbey

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The king sits in
Dunfermline toun
Drinking the blude red wine
Oh whar can I find a
skeely skipper
To sail this ship of mine?

**Burial site of Kings**
Malcolm Canmore and six other Scottish Kings are buried in Dunfermline Abbey with the grave of Robert the Bruce located beneath the pulpit. Bruce’s heart was removed to be taken to the Holy Land as he had wished. It never made it and now lies in Melrose Abbey. Queen Margaret is also buried in the Abbey: her Shrine drew pilgrims from around the world throughout the Middle Ages.

*Image shows interior of Dunfermline Abbey specially lit for the The Pilgrim son et lumiere event in 2008*

Photo courtesy of Tim Fitzpatrick
Behind Dunfermline Abbey are the remains of The Monastery, founded by Benedictine monks brought to Dunfermline by Queen Margaret. In its day it would have featured cloisters, workshops, a refectory, orchards and a fishpond.

Next to the Monastery is the Royal Palace, a striking facade with stone windows framing southerly views. The Palace was probably built in the 14th Century as a guesthouse for important visitors to the Abbey and Monastery. King Robert the Bruce often visited Dunfermline as did Edward I. Scottish Kings, David II, James I and Charles I were all born in the Palace, the latter being the last monarch born in Scotland. Dunfermline's royal connections ended in 1603 when James VI moved the Scottish Court to London.

Scottish hero William Wallace hid from his enemies in a cave in the dense woodland around the Abbey: known as Wallace’s Well, the cave can still be seen in Pittencrieff Park.
To the west of Dunfermline is the fascinating medieval village of Culross, birthplace of St Mungo, patron saint of Glasgow.

Two of its most significant buildings are Culross Palace, built by Sir George Bruce at the start of the 17th Century and The Townhouse which dates back to 1626. The village has been designated an Outstanding Conservation Area and has many well preserved 16th and 17th Century houses. The village harbour is one of the oldest in Scotland.

Overlooking the village is the 13th Century Culross Abbey which serves as the parish church to this day.

West Fife has been a centre for spiritual pilgrimage for centuries. Discover more, and share a modern day tour, at forthpilgrim.org

Culross Palace is owned by the National Trust for Scotland. Its gardens are open all year round and the furnished interior is open from April to October. w:nts.org.uk/property/22

There are interesting shops and places to eat in Culross and, on selected summer weekends, some of the impressive private gardens are open to the public.

As well as Culross, West Fife's other historic coastal villages, Aberdour, Limekilns and Charleston are also worth exploring.
Things to do

Adventure Golf Island is a Florida-style fun golf course with floodlit night play just outside Dunfermline. Also on the outskirts of the city is the Odeon multiplex cinema and Bowlplex, offering ten pin bowling, American pool, video arcade, licensed bar and grill.

w: adventure-golf-island.com
w: odeon.co.uk
w: bowlplex.co.uk/locations/dunfermline

The Scottish Vintage Bus Museum just north of Dunfermline is a unique attraction with a collection of restored buses from the 1920s onwards. Open Sundays.

w: busweb.co.uk/svbm

Set in the beautiful surroundings of Craigluscar Hill, Craigluscar Activities offers quad biking, clay pigeon shooting and tractor driving.

w: craigluscar.co.uk

Scotland’s National Waterski Centre is based at Townhill Country Park near Dunfermline.

w: waterskiscotland.co.uk

Take an underwater safari at Deep Sea World, Scotland’s National Aquarium. The UK’s longest underwater viewing tunnel lets you get up close to one of the biggest shark collections in Europe. There’s a cafe and gift shop and parking is free.

w: deepseaworld.com

t: 01383 411880

Sub aqua fun at Deep Sea World
Knockhill Racing Circuit is Scotland’s national motorsport centre. Its action-packed events schedule includes the high speed spills and thrills of British Touring Cars, Superbikes and the Scottish Motor Show. Events take place on most weekends from spring to autumn attracting large crowds. There’s also a wide variety of driving experiences including karting, 4x4 or the ultimate thrill of taking a racing, rally or classic car for a spin around the track. [w: knockhill.com]
The jewel in Dunfermline’s crown is the outstanding **Pittencrieff Park** known locally as ‘the Glen’. It is a wonderful place to visit with stunning views, sweeping lawns and delightful walks. There is also an art deco pavilion with cafe, an open air stage, botanic gardens and two excellent children’s playgrounds. The Glen is accessed through the grand Louise Carnegie Gates at the foot of the High Street.

At the other end of the High Street is the **Public Park**, one of the oldest in Scotland. Designed by Joseph Paxton, designer of Crystal Palace in London, it has panoramic views, a Victorian bandstand, skate park and children’s play areas. **Townhill Country Park** is another attractive green space to explore while **Torry Bay Nature Reserve** is a must for wildlife lovers. Just nine miles north of Dunfermline is **Loch Leven**, Scotland’s largest lowland loch, a National Nature Reserve and location of **Loch Leven’s Larder**, a well stocked farm shop, deli and cafe.
“I never tire of the Glen, it’s an inspiring place”

photos courtesy Jo Freeman
The stretch of the **Fife Coastal Path** that runs from Kincardine to North Queensferry embraces shoreline, harbours and history. The predominantly flat terrain is perfect for leisure walking with much of the route also catering for cyclists. Travelling from west to east the Path passes through ancient Culross, Torry Bay Nature Reserve and the historic villages of Charleston and Limekilns before arriving at the iconic Forth Road Bridges.

[w: fifecoastalpath.co.uk](http://fifecoastalpath.co.uk)

*For a map of the coastal path turn to page 31 or pick up route maps and information from visitor information centres.*

“Beaches, forests, hills... Fife is a natural outdoor playground.”

**Fife Cycle Ways:** Fife is a great place to explore by bike. There are many sign-posted routes including stretches of the Coastal Path and the highly popular **West Fife Way** which runs for 11 miles from Dunfermline to Clackmannan. An interesting section of Fife’s 105 mile **Kingdom Cycle Route** goes from Inverkeithing through the densely wooded trails of Blairadam Forest.

[w: fifedirect.org.uk/fife-cycleways](http://fifedirect.org.uk/fife-cycleways)
Looking out to the islands of Inchmickery and Inchcolm, Aberdour’s **Silver Sands** is one of the most popular and attractive blue flag beaches on the Fife coast. It forms a stunning section of the Fife Coastal Path. **Black Sands**, also in Aberdour, is a small, quiet, sandy bay with good views of the Firth of Forth, while **Burntisland**, a little further east, has another Blue Flag beach and is well worth visiting.

**Lochore Meadows Country Park** is a major centre for outdoor pursuits including sailing, mountain biking, fishing and riding. [w:fifedirect.gov/lochore meadows]

**Woodland walks:** With **Blairadam Forest** just to the north of Dunfermline and **Devilla Forest** to the west near Kincardine, there is plenty of attractive woodland in which to walk and to discover the abundant wildlife. [w:forestry.gov.uk]
West Fife’s golf courses provide a good challenge and excellent value for money. There are many attractive parkland courses, often set in rolling countryside or overlooking the sea. **Dunfermline Golf Club** winds its way around a 15th Century Tower House or, for some sea air, the courses at **Aberdour, Burntisland** and **Kinghorn** make for a rewarding round. **Forrester Park Resort** is a modern golf complex with a championship course, restaurants and driving range open every day of the year.

There’s a spectacular outlook over the local countryside from **Saline’s 9 hole course**, while **Pitreavie Golf Club** in Dunfermline boasts views to Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth. Golfing visitors are often pleasantly surprised by the good value green fees and quality of golf in West Fife. Only 20 minutes from Edinburgh airport, it’s a great location for a golf break with **Gleneagles**, venue of the 2014 Ryder Cup, and **St Andrews** close at hand.

Check out Fife’s golf packages to get the best offers on green fees and tee time availability. Buy a £10 **Fifestyle card** from any Fife Council golf course starter and receive up to 20% discount on municipal courses, or try the **First in Fife Golf Pass** for great value 3 round and 5 round passes to 13 courses in Fife.

w: firstinfifegolf.com    w: visitfife.com/golf
‘West Fife’s enviable location brings the cultural delights of Edinburgh within easy reach’

The world famous Forth Railway Bridge was completed in 1890. Visitors can walk or cycle over the Forth Road Bridge which was open in 1964. Photo courtesy of ianappletonphotography.co.uk

Well connected
From West Fife, you’re in easy reach of Scotland’s most appealing destinations. Just along the coast are the quaint fishing villages of the East Neuk and the famous university town and golfing mecca of St Andrews. Historic towns such as Falkland and Cupar are also nearby and worth visiting. Head north to discover the traditional county town of Perth known as the ‘Gateway to the Highlands’ or, for a faster pace, check out the bustling city of Dundee, just across the Tay Bridge from Fife’s north coast. Edinburgh is just half an hour away while Glasgow can be reached in an hour. Regular trains connect West Fife to all points and there’s a Park and Ride facility at Inverkeithing. International links are provided by the ferry port at Rosyth and by Edinburgh International Airport, only 14 miles distant.

At the foot of the Bridges is the attractive village of North Queensferry, which has a small harbour and good places to eat. w: nqht.org

The North Queensferry Light Tower dates from 1817 and is the smallest in the world. Visitors can light the lamp as well as gaining a certificate as Honorary Keeper of the Light Tower. Open daily. Advance booking recommended. w: northqueensferrylighttower.com
West Fife Attractions

1. Devilla Forest (p11)
2. Culross Abbey (p7)
3. Culross Palace (p7)
4. Knockhill Racing Circuit (p9)
5. Dunfermline Abbey (p4)
6. Dunfermline Royal Palace (p6)
7. Pittencrie Park (p10)
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11. Ferrytoll Park & Ride (p25)
12. North Queensferry Light Tower (p15)
13. Deep Sea World (p8)
14. Aberdour Silver Sands Beach (p13)

The attractions listed are just some of the many tourist attractions available in West Fife. For more go to visitfife.com or visitdunfermline.com
The Alhambra Theatre attracts some of the biggest names in showbusiness to Dunfermline. The theatre retains all of its historic atmosphere and regularly plays host to stars of comedy, music, drama and West End shows.

w: alhambradunfermline.com  01383 740384

The Carnegie Hall is a performing arts and live music centre with a 540 seat theatre and restaurant. It has an established reputation for a varied programme of music, drama, dance, comedy and children's entertainment.

w: attfife.co.uk  01383 602302

Fans of live music will find that Dunfermline is a popular venue for some of the top names in music and comedy. PJ Molloys, Fresh Coffee Shop and The Old Inn regularly host live music while the Jam Jar is a popular music and comedy club. A major new annual event is Dunfermline Live which sees bands perform in venues across Dunfermline over a weekend in November.

For the latest entertainment listings go to visitdunfermline.com
Launched in 1976 the **Culross Festival** brings music of the highest calibre to the picturesque setting of Culross. Opera, jazz and blues concerts are staged in the beautiful gardens of Lord Bruce’s Abbey House Estate. The Festival takes place in June and tickets go fast. Also look out for the **Culross Grand Summer Fete** and farmer’s market at the end of July, www.culrossfestival.com

Lochgelly has an exciting new performance space and arts venue in its revamped **Lochgelly Centre**.

A multi screen Odeon cinema is located at the Fife Leisure Park in Dunfermline.
Events

The Bruce Festival in Dunfermline is a major event celebrating Dunfermline’s part in the heroic story of Robert the Bruce. A weekend of battle re-enactments, crafts and entertainments around a medieval village.

Spring sees the The Snowdrop Festival at Valleyfield Woodland Park and the season opening of The Andrew Carnegie Museum. Knockhill hosts the Scottish Motor Show and the MCE Superbike Championship in May with the Scottish Speedfair and Classic Festival following in July.

Summer events include the West Fife Agricultural Show, Dunfermline Half Marathon and the Dunfermline Children’s Gala which, as well as a colourful parade through the town, includes a day of fun in Pittencrieff Park.

There are live music events throughout the year with highlights being the Culross Festival in June, T in the Park in nearby Balado in July and, towards the end of the year, a weekend of live performances for Dunfermline Live.

Autumn sees the British Touring Cars Championship at Knockhill, the annual Beer Festival in Dunfermline with a highlight of November being Dunfermline’s fabulous firework display which attracts thousands of spectators to Pittencrieff Park.

As the year closes there are traditional Christmas festivities including a lights switch on, pantomimes, crafts, markets and children’s activities.

Year round, Open Doors Days, Farmers’ and Continental Markets and regular events in Dunfermline’s Kingsgate Shopping Centre and at Dunfermline Athletic Football Club complete a busy schedule of fun and festivities.

For the latest events information go to visitdunfermline.com
Dunfermline is a popular destination for an evening out. There’s a choice of great nightclubs in the compact town centre and a mix of traditional pubs and contemporary bars.
West Fife offers visitors a wide range of dining options including contemporary European, Asian and traditional Scottish cuisine. Reasonably priced, traditional pub food is widely available throughout the area and villages such as Carnock, Crossford and Limekilns have traditional inns offering good food in cosy surroundings. There are good cafes and coffee shops in Dunfermline, such as Reubens and Fresh Coffee Shop and popular restaurant and pizza chains can be found at Fife Leisure Park, just to the east of Dunfermline.
“Fife’s natural larder is an asset and an inspiration for any restaurant.”

Local food specialities of West Fife include steak or mince ‘bridies’ from Stephens the Bakers and specialist breads from local artisan baker, The Steamie Bakehouse. For something a little sweeter try the delicious traditional ice cream at Divito’s in Crossgates or from Nelsons of Culross.

From a 16th century farm overlooking the Forth, comes the multi award-winning Edinburgh Gin – a very special taste of Scotland.

Dunfermline & West Fife hosts regular farmers and continental markets at the gates of Pittencrieff Park.
West Fife offers a good range of places to stay including award winning country house hotels and city centre accommodation. There are quality guest houses and bed-and-breakfasts ranging from rural locations to town houses and village inns. There are also self catering properties across the region including coastal apartments and country cottages.

“We are dedicated to giving our visitors a warm welcome and a level of service that sets West Fife apart.”

Alistair Bruce, General Manager BEST WESTERN PLUS Keavil House Hotel, Chairman of West Fife’s Local Tourism Association.

West Fife Local Tourism Association accommodation providers

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<td>Roscobie Farm House B&amp;B</td>
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Tourist information
The main Tourist Information Centre is at
1 High St, Dunfermline (01383 720999) and can help visitors with maps, cycle and walking routes, accommodation and attractions.

By rail
Dunfermline is served by three railway stations; Dunfermline Town, Dunfermline Queen Margaret and Rosyth. Dunfermline Town brings passengers to within walking distance of the city centre. It’s a 35 minute journey to central Edinburgh. The Fife Circle route is a good way to explore the attractive villages along the Forth coast linking Kinghorn, Burntisland, Aberdour, and Dalgety Bay to Dunfermline. Tickets and train times from scotrail.co.uk or 08457 484950

By air
Dunfermline is 20 minutes from Edinburgh’s International airport. Shuttle buses run every 30 minutes and link the airport to Dunfermline and Inverkeithing Ferrytoll Park and Ride. w: stagecoachbus.com

By road
Junction 1 of the M90 takes motorists towards Rosyth, North Queensferry and the villages along the Forth coastline. Junctions 2 and 3 are the entry points to Dunfermline with the city centre less than 10 minutes by car from the motorway junctions.

To the west, many visitors will arrive in Fife via one of the two bridges at Kincardine from which the A985 or A907 take you across the region towards Dunfermline.

Ferrytoll Park & Ride at Inverkeithing is a rail, bus and road hub on the M90 to the south of Dunfermline with links to the airport and Edinburgh.

w: ferrytoll.org
By sea
The ferry terminal at Rosyth regularly plays host to cruise ships. The West Fife Local Tourism Association organise shuttles from the Ferry Terminal to enable passengers to visit Dunfermline during their stopover.

By bus
Dunfermline’s bus station is a two minute walk from the High Street. An express coach link provides connections to St Andrews and towns across Fife as well as Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth and Dundee. w: citylinkonlinesales.co.uk

Accommodation
Bookings can be made direct with many of West Fife’s accommodation providers or through visitdunfermline.com or visitfife.com.

The Visit Scotland star grading schemes provide quality assurance for around 70% of accommodation and 90% of the visitor attractions in Scotland, awarding from one to five stars to all types of places to stay and visit, reflecting acceptable basic standards to exceptional quality.

Useful contacts and services
Police (Fife Constabulary)
0845 600 5702 w:fife.police.uk

Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, provides 24-hour A&E service. (01592 643355).

Queen Margaret Hospital, Dunfermline
01383 623623 w: nhsfife.scot.nhs.uk

Fife Council
w: fife.gov.uk fifedirect.org.uk

Dunfermline Athletic Football Club
01383 724295 w: dafc.co.uk
Dunfermline is West Fife’s most popular shopping destination mixing a traditional high street with the Kingsgate, a modern retail centre with leading stores including Debenhams, Waterstones and Marks & Spencer. Cafes and traditional pubs are located around the High Street which winds its way down to the city’s heritage quarter and the gates of Pittencrieff Park.

Pay and display car parking is available at each end of the High Street and a large multi-storey car park adjoins the Kingsgate centre.
The cobbled streets of the heritage quarter bring traditional old town charm to Dunfermline’s bustling city centre.

West Fife’s industrial heritage is one of weaving and coal mining. Dunfermline was once a world leader in the production of Damask linen: table linen for royal palaces and for the Titanic was woven in the town. See an original hand loom in action at the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum.

On the cobbled Maygate, sits Abbot House, one of the oldest houses in Dunfermline. Said to date from around 1450, it is now an award-winning heritage centre with a cafe and a 17th Century-style terrace garden overlooking the Abbey grounds.

w: abbothouse.co.uk

A staircase of 84 steps leads down to St Margaret’s Cave, the dark and silent place where the deeply religious Queen Margaret came to pray in the early 11th Century. Situated in Chalmers Street car park, the cave is marked by a small visitor centre, open to visitors from April to September.

t: 01383 722935

The City Chambers, at the corner of Kirkgate and Bridge Street, was built in 1879 in a highly distinctive French Baronial Gothic style. It is decorated with carved stones, gargoyles and busts from demolished royal buildings.
Dunfermline is proud to be the birthplace of Andrew Carnegie, the son of a weaver who became Steel King of America and father of modern philanthropy. Born in 1835, Carnegie emigrated to the USA at the age of 12. Having begun his career as a bobbin boy in a factory, Carnegie made a fortune investing in iron and steel. He became the world’s richest man and, at 33, decided to give much of his wealth away for the benefit of mankind.

On a trip back from America in 1909 Carnegie was able to sign the visitor book in his own museum!
Andrew Carnegie was a driven businessman but also a man of peace who was anti-racism and slavery and who believed in the education of women. He was immensely proud of his hometown and gave it many gifts such as public swimming baths, a library and pipe organs for churches. In 1902 he bought the estate of the Laird of Pittencrieff, from which he had been banned as a boy. He took great pleasure in later gifting Pittencrieff Park to the people of Dunfermline.

The fascinating Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum tells the ultimate rags to riches tale with the aid of interactive exhibits and a programme of exhibitions and events. It contains the tiny cottage in which Carnegie was born, a working loom, cafe and shop. The museum is open from March to November. Admission is free.

w: carnegiebirthplace.com

Built in 1881 the Dunfermline, Carnegie Library was the first free library gifted by Andrew Carnegie. He went on to gift thousands of libraries around the world.
Heading west from Dalgety Bay to North Queensferry the Path hugs the shoreline and offers great views of the Firth of Forth and its iconic bridges. As it continues west towards Rosyth the Path uses roads that skirt the naval dockyard and ferry port in a stretch less suitable for family walking and cycling.

Leaving Rosyth the Path descends over fields into Limekilns using a combination of quiet lanes and pathway before leaving the shoreline to pass through the village of Crombie. Some steeper slopes and a busier road make this part less suitable for children cycling.

Arriving in Torryburn and continuing west to Culross the Path takes in some great views and is predominantly flat. It leaves the coastline and joins the B9037 for a mile to pass through the village of Newmills before rejoining the coastline and crossing the Torry Bay Local Nature Reserve, a natural habitat for seabirds.

The approach to Culross is flat and the Path runs along the coastline and next to an old railway track. This 6 mile stretch is perfect for family cycling and walking and leads you through the historic village all the way to the Kincardine Bridge along a tarmac track.

For more detailed information on the Fife Coastal Path visit fifecoastalpath.co.uk or look out for copies of the Fife Coastal Path map at visitor information centres.
Fife
A beautiful landscape, heritage, culture, entertainment, award-winning food and drink and the home of golf

To get the most from your visit to Fife look out for one of our tourism guides or visit welcometofife.com