

Dundee's Green Circular

There is lots to see as you go round the Green Circular, it links major parks and many places of interest right through the city, from the country park at Camperdown, the waterfront at Broughty Ferry and the City Centre.

The route is signposted in both directions and follows the outskirts of the city, avoiding major roads where possible.

To follow the route look out for this logo on the signs.

This guide describes some of the highlights of the route taken in a clockwise direction:



Discovery Point Visitor Centre

This is the Royal Research Ship, *Discovery*, which took *Captain Scott* to the Antarctic.

The Discovery Centre charts its history from when it was built in 1901 through its adventures.



Alexandra Fountain

In memory of *Queen Alexandra* who regularly sailed from Dundee to her native Denmark.

The fountain also marks the site of the Tay Ferry Terminal. The boats were known as the "*Fifies*" and traded until 1966 when the Tay Road Bridge was opened.

Esplanade

Construction on reclaimed ground began in 1872, funded largely by two railway companies. The Esplanade rapidly became a popular walk. Recently the area has been completely refurbished.

From the route cast your eyes out to the river and watch out for seals basking on the sandbanks. Water birds are another common sight including tufted ducks, mallards, curlews, plovers and eider.

Tay Rail Bridge

The bridge that you can see today was opened on 20th June 1887 and at the time was the longest bridge in the world.

Its predecessor was more famous because it collapsed on the night of 28th December 1879.



A fierce storm raged during the night and whilst a Dundee-bound train was crossing the central girders the bridge buckled under the strain claiming all the passengers and crew. You can still see the piers of the original bridge just downstream of the current bridge and a plaque can also be seen near the bridge landfall.

When you reach Camperdown Park after leaving the main road at the Kingsway West, the entrance road is quite steep. It levels out a bit when you get to the Wildlife centre (on your left) and then there is another small incline up to Camperdown House (on your left).

The route flattens out again until you leave the main drive after passing the duck pond. From here the route is quite steep until it turns east around the golf course.

Camperdown Country Park



This 640-acre Country Park was named after the *Battle of Camperdown* in which Admiral *Adam Duncan* defeated the Dutch Navy in 1797.

There is a lot to see and do at the park with a Wildlife Centre, adventure play areas, golf, pitch and putt and tennis facilities, all in the grounds of Camperdown House.

Before the house you will pass through the Arboretum, planted by *David Taylor*. It contains many exotic and unusual trees including the "*Camperdown Elm*".

Camperdown House was built for Admiral Duncan's son *Robert*, the first *Earl of Camperdown* and *William Burn* designed it in 1828.

Be careful crossing the Coupar Angus Road. Once across the road the route winds through the woods. Some sections of the route can be quite steep until you reach the large white water tower (on the left).

Templeton Woods

The route stays on the main forest track as it works its way uphill. There are lots of side trails that you could come back and explore on foot or by mountain bike.

Look out for the wildlife throughout Templeton Woods.

If you move through the woods quietly you could spot some red squirrels or the different kinds of birds that nest in the wood.



Clatto Reservoir



Formed around a disused reservoir Clatto offers a range of watersports facilities as well as a ranger service operating from the site office where there are Car Parking & Toilet Facilities.

Den O' Mains and Trottick Ponds Nature Area

The path winds through this wild area and runs along the side of the *Dighty* water. The route will follow the *Dighty* for the next three miles. This section is quite flat. The ponds were once used for the textile industry but are now home to a variety of wildlife.

Dighty Water

There were over 30 mills along the *Dighty* Burn at one time and several "bleachfields".

Finlathen Park

This park gets its name from the areas of **Fintry** and **Linlathen**. Long ago there were more mills and ponds along here.

The path will take you below The Seven Arches Viaduct. This disused viaduct (now another path) used to transfer water from the *Monikie Burn* to the wealthy homes of Dundee in around 1844.

Drumgeith Meadow

Come and explore *Drumgeith Meadow* this spring and summer. Look out for moths, butterflies and bees feasting as they flit between the colourful wildflowers and grasses.

You might glimpse voles and mice as they scurry beneath the long uncut grasses – that were so common before farming became more intensive.

You can spy dragonflies hunting on warm days as you follow the banks of the *Dighty Burn*.

Claypotts Castle

Slightly off the route This is one of the most complete tower houses remaining, bearing the dates 1569 and 1588 and built for the *Strachan* family.

It is also the former home of *John Graham of Claverhouse* better known as Bonnie Dundee.



It is possible to shorten the length of your ride short from here by heading south along Claypotts Road. From there go through Broughty Ferry until you reach the waterfront. This will remove almost five miles of the route but please take care, as the centre of Broughty Ferry can be very busy.

Broughty Beach

Sandy beaches stretch from *Broughty Ferry* up the coast to *Monifieth*. You can see many shorebirds and ducks on the flats and offshore in winter. Look out for the seals lazing on the mud flats too.

Broughty Ferry

Broughty Ferry is a suburb of Dundee, and was once a seaside resort and fishing village. The area still has a village atmosphere and it has lots of very good cafes/pubs and restaurants which are well worth a visit.

When you reach the Castle it's lovely to sit on the seats at the pier in Broughty Ferry for a well-deserved rest and breath in the sea air with the Castle behind you, views of Dundee ahead and *Tentsmuir forest* across the water in Fife. It's a level ride back to Dundee from here.

Broughty Castle



Situated at the harbour, this estuary fort, dating from 1496, now houses a museum collection featuring displays on local history, Dundee's whaling story, seashore life and more.

From the observation room at the top of the castle you can see excellent views across the Tay Estuary.

Lifeboat

Broughty Ferry's first lifeboat was stationed at *Buddon Ness* in 1830 by the River Tay Lifeboat Society. It was supported by a tax on vessels entering the Tay.

Now operated from *Broughty Ferry* by the RNLI it is serviced by an Arun class deep water lifeboat and two smaller boats capable of navigating the shallow waters of the river.



Customs' House

When you arrive at the Port entrance there is a large building across the road and to the right, this is one of the largest customs houses in the country.

This shows just how important Dundee's shipping industry was in the 19th century. The building is still home to the port authorities today.

Sailors Home

Opposite the Customs' House you will see a building with a dome shaped roof. This is the Sailors' Home. It was built in 1881 as a home for the physical, moral and spiritual well-being of sailors.

There are buildings like this in most ports. Because sailors travel around it was thought that this may offer them a home from home.

At the top of the building there are also names of famous seafarers, including Dundee's *Admiral Duncan*.

Frigate Unicorn

When you reach Victoria dock you will see *Frigate Unicorn* moored to the front of City Quay.



This is the oldest British-built warship afloat. Launched in 1824, it has a 46 gun wooden frigate. The ship is now open to the public as a floating museum.



There is cycle parking outside some of the shops in city quay where you can stop for a bite to eat or a cup tea.

Tay Road Bridge



Opened by the Queen in 1966 the bridge takes some 24,000 vehicles per day and at 1.5 miles long, is one of the longest in Europe.

A central walk and cycleway runs the length of the bridge. You can get to this by a lift under the car ramps.

The National Cycle Network

These long distance touring routes also use elements of the Green Circular Route, with Route One running between the Tay Road Bridge and Monifieth and Route 77 between the Tay Road Bridge and Invergowrie.

For further details contact *Sustrans* on 0117 929 0888 or see their website at www.sustrans.org.uk

National Route One is marked with signs like this one:



The North Sea Cycle Route

Opened in 2001 – A tourism promotion project which links cycle routes around the North Sea area, it also utilises Route One of the National Cycle Network. The 5,500km route joins Scotland, England, the Netherlands, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

For more information go to: www.northsea-cycle.com

Problems?

We hope you enjoy your ride. However, the Green Circular Route is not regularly inspected. If you find any defects on the route then please call the *Council Roads* helpline free on 0800 232323.

