

East Lothian Travel Guide. Top Things to Do

Amazing days out in Edinburgh's coast and countryside



For more information go to
daysoutguide.visiteastlothian.org

visit
east lothian
Edinburgh's Coast & Countryside

Welcome to East Lothian

Welcome to the East Lothian Travel Guide

Top Things to Do

From adventures, family fun and world-class entertainment to history, heritage and areas of outstanding natural beauty, there's so much to see and do in East Lothian, Edinburgh's coast and countryside. Whether you're travelling alone or with family, we have created this guide to help you discover some of the very best days out in the region.

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*The Brunton is operating at various venues in Musselburgh and Haddington.

Welcome to East Lothian



Bike Parking



Bus Services



Dog Friendly



EV Charging



Green Tourism



John Muir Way



Recycling Facilities



Accessible



Family Friendly



Food and Drink



For more information go to daysoutguide.visiteastlothian.org

Active

Foxlake Adventures

Foxlake is a 5-star award-winning adventure hub offering a wide variety of safe, unique, adrenaline filled outdoor activities. There's wakeboarding, the unique Foxfall overwater ropes course, Ringo rides, open water swimming and their inflatable obstacle course, Aqua Park, which first opened in 2023. If getting soaked isn't your thing, check out the off-road Segway tours, grab a bite to eat at the five-star Jaybird's Larder or relax in the lake side Sauna & cold plunge pool. There's something for all the family to enjoy!

Bus routes: X7 and the 106 (East Coast Buses)

FAST

FACTS

- Scotland's first cable wakeboarding park.
- Connected to National Cycle Network route 76.
- Foxfall is the only adventure of its kind in the UK.

 foxlake.co.uk

 Dunbar, East Lothian, EH42 1XF

 info@foxlake.co.uk

 01620 860 657



Active

Musselburgh Racecourse

Looking for an unforgettable day for the whole family? Look no further than Musselburgh Races.

Set in a unique coastal location, Musselburgh Racecourse is renowned for being one of the UK's most stylish racing venues. Enjoy their award-winning hospitality and experience the fantastic atmosphere as horses thunder down the home straight.


The course's exceptional lineup of events, including family days, Ladies Day, Edinburgh Cup, and themed fixtures like the Friday 90's Race Night, offer endless opportunities to create cherished memories with your loved ones. With 25 racedays across the year, there's something for everyone. Take advantage of early bird prices and book early to save.

Bus routes: Lothian buses: 26 and 44.
East Coast: 113, 124, 140/141.

Free wheelchair friendly shuttle bus to Wallyford and Newcraighall park and rides every raceday.



 musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

 Linkfield Road, Musselburgh, EH21 7RG

 enquiries@musselburgh-racecourse.co.uk

 0131 665 2859



- This five-star visitor attraction was the Racecourse Association's Champion Racecourse in 2023.
- The racecourse welcomed its first £100,000 jumps race in 2024.
- The first races at Musselburgh took place in 1777 and were permanently located at the track from 1816.

FAST

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Entertainment

The Brunton

If you're passionate about the arts or just love to be entertained, catching one of The Brunton's shows at venues in Musselburgh and Haddington is one of the top things to do on the east coast.

East Lothian's flagship arts and entertainment Trust has a calendar packed with incredible professional events and productions to thrill, move, charm and entertain you. Get inspired by the very best in theatre, music, cinema, comedy, children's shows, dance and more. Or enjoy some festive family fun during pantomime season.

Bus routes: (Various)

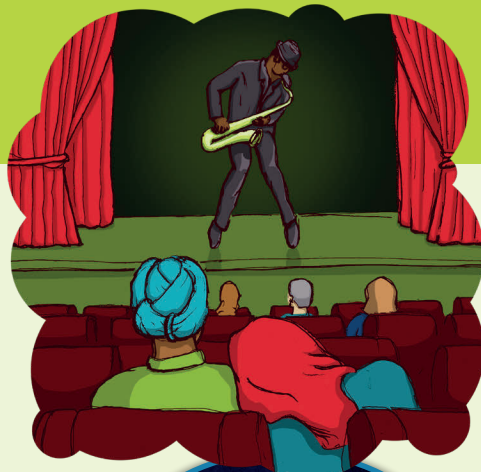
-  thebrunton.co.uk
-  Various venues across East Lothian
-  Ticketing enquiries: boxoffice@eastlothian.gov.uk
-  All other enquiries: info@thebrunton.co.uk
-  0131 653 5245



FAST

FACTS

- Check the details for your performance venue and location on booking.
- The Bistro at The Brunton in Musselburgh is the perfect choice for pre theatre suppers.
- The Brunton hosts performances for the world-famous Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August.



Relax

Inveresk Lodge Gardens

Inveresk Lodge Garden is a tranquil hillside garden and pond nestled in a characterful little village just outside Edinburgh. Wander among fragrant flowers and towering trees as meadows meet woodland at the foot of the garden.

The walled garden's themed borders transform with the seasons, offering year-round delights from snowdrops and tulips to perfumed roses.

Wildlife lovers should keep their eyes peeled too, with swans, ducks, geese, tits, herons, and treecreepers often sighted around the water and woodland. If you're lucky, you might even spot a kingfisher!

Bus routes: Lothian Buses: 26.

-  nts.org.uk/visit/places/inveresk-lodge-garden
-  24 Inveresk Village Rd, Inveresk, Musselburgh, EH21 7TE
-  0131 665 1546



- Check the white board as you arrive for a list of seasonal plants and wildlife to look for during your visit.
- There are trails to follow and picnic benches to rest at.
- You can take your own net to try out the pond dipping platform.

FAST

FACTS



Fascinating

Free entry museums

John Muir's Birthplace

One of the top things to do in East Lothian for explorers young and old. John Muir's Birthplace tells the incredible life story of a famous Scot who, 100 years on, still inspires climate action today.

jmbt.org.uk
126 High Street, Dunbar, EH42 1JJ
01368 865 899

John Gray Centre Museum

An interactive experience for all ages exploring East Lothian's history through 100s of objects. The centre also hosts a lively temporary exhibition programme and is home to the Archives & Local History Team and Haddington Library.

johngraycentre.org
15 Lodge Street, Haddington,
EH41 3DX
01620 820 690

FAST

FACTS

- John Muir's Birthplace marks the starting point of the well-marked epic 134-mile John Muir Way walking and cycling route across Scotland.



Fascinating

**Coastal Communities Museum**

Travel back in time 10,000 years as you discover a rich local coastal history, at the Coastal Communities Museum in North Berwick.

coastalmuseum.org
School Road, North Berwick, EH39 4JU
01620 894 313

Musselburgh Museum

This small museum in Musselburgh, close to neighbouring Edinburgh, is packed with fascinating stories telling of the important role the town has played over the past two millennia.

musselburghmuseum.org.uk
65 High Street, Musselburgh, EH21 7BZ
0131 665 6642



Bus routes: (Various)

FAST

FACTS

- Learn all about Treasure Island author Robert Louis Stevenson, who based some of his finest work on his childhood holidays in East Lothian, at the Coastal Communities Museum.

- The John Gray Centre is close to the stunning 400-year-old St Mary's Parish Church, where John Knox, leader of Scotland's reformation, instigated repairs after it was damaged during the last Anglo-Scottish wars in the 1500s.

FAST

FACTS



Fascinating

Dirleton Castle

Dirleton Castle & Gardens

This magnificent fortress-residence is a wonder to behold for history lovers, green-thumbs and hopeless romantics. Dirleton Castle was home to three successive noble families over a four-century period, before being heavily damaged by Oliver Cromwell's siege in 1650.

In the 1660s, the Nisbet family took ownership and began to breathe new life into the old ruins and gardens. It even has its own chapel, originally built for the private use of the Haliburton lords, meaning Dirleton is not only a stunning place to visit, but a popular wedding location too!

Dogs are welcome, but are not permitted in roofed areas.

Bus routes: 122, 124, X5.

 historicenvironment.scot/dirleton-castle

 Dirleton, North Berwick EH39 5ER

 01620 850 465



FAST

FACTS

- The castle's gardens date from the late 1800s and early 1900s.
- The grounds are home to a rare tree species unchanged since the time of the dinosaurs.
- The castle hosts fascinating and fun events throughout the year.



Fascinating

National Museum of Flight

Discover one of Europe's best collections of aircraft at this historic airfield and enjoy a supersonic experience on board Scotland's Concorde. Then get hands on, with over 25 interactive exhibits in the family-friendly Fantastic Flight gallery.

Fly back in time to learn about the history of aviation from the First World War right through to the present day, then hear the stories of the brave men and women who worked at the museum's home on East Fortune Airfield, in the Fortunes of War gallery.

Bus routes: 121.



 nms.ac.uk/flight

 East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian EH39 5LF

 0300 123 6789

FAST

FACTS

- The museum's café and outdoor picnic area are perfect for refuelling after navigating the plane-packed hangers and airfield.
- Parking is free for museum visitors.
- The museum hosts a range of events and activities throughout the year.



Fascinating

Newhailes House & Gardens

Wandering round the 300-year-old halls of Newhailes House is like a journey back in time. This beautiful Palladian location played an important role in the Scottish Enlightenment and is packed with secrets and curios waiting to be discovered.

The stunning gardens and grounds offer outdoor activities and events including woodland walks with views across the Forth.

Weehailes Adventure Playpark offers great fun for the kids, while accompanying adults can enjoy refreshments from the Stables Café and maybe a scoop or two at the 'The Dairy' ice cream parlour.

Bus routes: 30 and 26.

 **Newhailes Road, Musselburgh, EH21 6RY**

 **nts.org.uk/newhailes**



FAST

FACTS

- Family-friendly events include festivals, musical performances, and dog and car shows.
- Newhailes monthly Farmers' Market showcases some of the best produce from East Lothian.
- The gardens are home to a wide range of Scottish wildlife, including over 60 species of bird.



Fascinating

Preston Mill & Phantassie Doocot

The quirky architecture and Dutch-style conical roof of Preston Mill have enchanted countless visitors, photographers, and painters over the years.

Incredibly, the historic Preston Mill remained active all the way up to 1959, making it East Lothian's last working watermill. Be sure not to miss the guided tour, which delves into the hard graft of a miller's life – from heavy lifting to dealing with floods, mice and more.

Other things to do nearby include discovering the Phantassie Doocot, built in the 16th century and once home to 500 pigeons.

Bus routes: 120 (Eve's Coaches).

 **nts.org.uk/preston-mill**

 **Preston Road, East Linton EH40 3DS**

 **01620 860426**



FAST

FACTS

- See and hear the mill mechanisms in action.
- Preston Mill has featured several times in the hit TV series, Outlander.
- Nature lovers can keep an eye out for various wildlife on their way along the river to the doocot.






Fascinating

Scottish Seabird Centre

For a 'wild' day out by the sea, visit The Scottish Seabird Centre's award-winning visitor experience located in the stunning coastal town of North Berwick. Open year-round, the centre offers fun for the whole family, with seasonal events and boat trips for those who want to get up close to Scotland's incredible coastal wildlife.

From the warmth and comfort of the centre itself, you can virtually explore the wonders of Scotland's marine wildlife and habitats through a range of interactive displays, including virtual reality and live video.

Bus routes: 124, X5 and Eves Coaches 120 and 121.

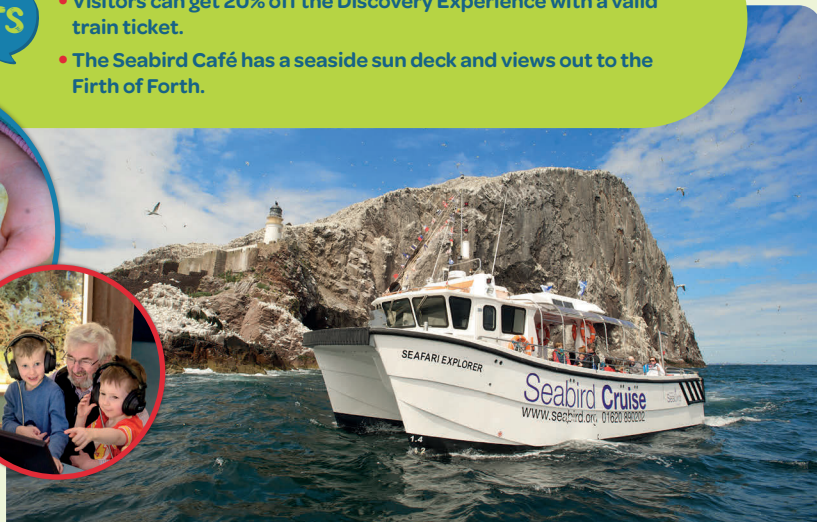
-  seabird.org
-  The Harbour, North Berwick EH39 4SS
-  01620 890 202



FAST

FACTS

- The Scottish Seabird Centre is a national conservation and education charity.
- Visitors can get 20% off the Discovery Experience with a valid train ticket.
- The Seabird Café has a seaside sun deck and views out to the Firth of Forth.






Fascinating

Tantallon Castle

Clamber up to the battlements of one of Scotland's last medieval castles, which was finally abandoned after 300 years of resistance, under the pressure of not one, not two, but three sieges by Oliver Cromwell's army. Even in its ancient state Tantallon Castle is intimidating atop the cliff edge, with stunning views out to the iconic Bass Rock.

With such an embattled past, the castle has become an inspiring filming location. Nature lovers also flock here to sneak a peek of rare animals, birds, and plant life.

Bus routes: 120, 124, X5.

-  historiceenvironment.scot/tantallon-castle
-  North Berwick EH39 5PN
-  01620 892 727



FAST

FACTS

- The castle was once home to the Red Douglas dynasty.
- The mighty curtain wall is the best example of castle architecture from the 1300s anywhere in Scotland.
- The Bass Rock is home to the world's largest colony of Northern Gannets.



Distilleries and Breweries

Belhaven Brewery Visitor Experience

Discover Scotland's oldest working brewery nestled between the rolling barley fields of Dunbar and the beautiful Belhaven Bay, just 25 miles from Edinburgh. This highly acclaimed visitor experience draws on a brewing tradition that dates back over 300 years (since 1719) and showcases how the rich and fertile lands of East Lothian help to produce some of the country's finest craft beers and ales.

You'll learn all about the brewery's history and the brewing process as you take a fascinating tour around the site, uncovering iconic chimneys and a secret garden along the way.

Bus routes: 120/X7. Train to Dunbar station.

-  Belhaven.co.uk
-  **Belhaven, Dunbar, EH42 1PE**
-  visitors@belhaven.co.uk
-  **0845 607 5325**



FAST

FACTS

- Tours finish in the Monks Retreat, where over 18s can sample some of their award-winning beers and ales.
- The brewery is 500 steps from one of Scotland's most beautiful beaches, Belhaven Bay, where you can grab a photograph on the Bridge to Nowhere.



Distilleries and Breweries

Glenkinchie Distillery

Whisky fans must visit Glenkinchie Distillery, the Lowland home of Johnnie Walker.

Go on a sensory journey as you explore this beautiful Victorian distillery, with fragrant orchard gardens surrounded by farmland and wildflower meadows. Discover the secrets of the master distillers who craft the rare Lowland style whisky, evoking fragrant flowers, dried cut grass, and nutty cereal. And no visit would be complete without sampling the lowland malt that's loved around the world, both on its own and as one of the four corners of Johnnie Walker.

-  malts.com/en-row/distilleries/glenkinchie
-  **Pencaitland, Tranent, EH34 5ET**
-  glenkinchie@malts.com
-  **01875 342012**



FAST FACTS

- The distillery recently had a multi-million pound renovation.
- It is called 'The Garden Distillery' because its heavily influenced by the incredible greenery surrounding it.
- The distillery is passionate about preserving the natural wonders that inspire their whisky.



Responsible travel

East Lothian is an area of outstanding natural beauty, with many designated wildlife areas, and we need your help to keep it this way. Whether you are a resident or visitor, you can reduce the impact of your days out in East Lothian by:

Cycling



Travelling by bus



Travelling by train



Using local EV charge points



Using designated bins or taking your litter home with you



Keeping an eye out for special nature-friendly events at some of our attractions



For more information on travelling responsibly go to:
visiteastlothian.org/plan-your-trip/responsibletourism.



Get in touch

This leaflet was produced in February 2024 by the East Lothian Tourism Attractions Group.

We would love to know all about your great day's out in East Lothian and any ideas for the future. Find out how to get in touch at daysoutguide.visiteastlothian.org or use the QR Code below.



Find out more

We would also be delighted if you shared all your wonderful East Lothian experiences on social media using the **#EastLothian** and tagging in Visit East Lothian:

Facebook: @visiteastlothian

Instagram and Twitter: @goeastlothian



Crossword Just for fun!

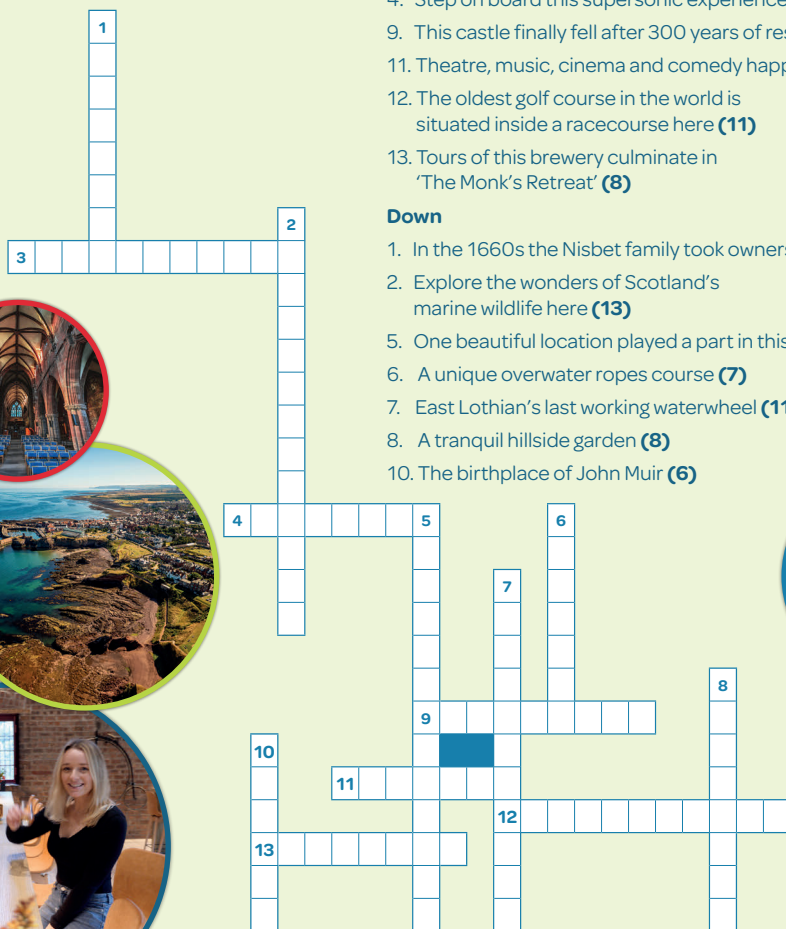
To discover more about the top days out in East Lothian go to daysoutguide.visiteastlothian.org

Across

3. Home of the world famous Johnnie Walker blended whisky. (11)
4. Step on board this supersonic experience (8)
9. This castle finally fell after 300 years of resistance (9)
11. Theatre, music, cinema and comedy happen here (7)
12. The oldest golf course in the world is situated inside a racecourse here (11)
13. Tours of this brewery culminate in 'The Monk's Retreat' (8)

Down

1. In the 1660s the Nisbet family took ownership (8)
2. Explore the wonders of Scotland's marine wildlife here (13)
5. One beautiful location played a part in this (13)
6. A unique overwater ropes course (7)
7. East Lothian's last working waterwheel (11)
8. A tranquil hillside garden (8)
10. The birthplace of John Muir (6)



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