

Itinerary
Builder
(1-5 day options)

TRAVEL

TRADE

visit
east lothian

Edinburgh's Coast & Countryside

Love East Lothian

Throughout East Lothian dotted along the coast and inland through towns and villages the key attractions provide starting points for a day or more's activity.

This East Lothian itinerary builder is designed to draw out highlights to appeal to a mix of customer interests and to explore and experience more in the locality with minimal mileage and maximum relaxation.

Intriguing landmarks, historic sites, activities, walks, and always quality food and drink – there's multiple options and clients will be spoiled for choice. And any itinerary can benefit from a local walk and a long lunch.

Distances are short between these places and it is easy to combine locations for preferred activities, visits and food stops.

In and around



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SCOTTISH
BORDERS

North Berwick

A vibrant seaside town, boasting great beaches, an eclectic mix of shops, cafes and bars and world renowned golf courses. North Berwick offers striking views out to the Firth of Forth and unbeaten views of the Bass Rock, home to the world's largest northern gannet colony.

A short (30 minutes) train journey from Edinburgh and 27 miles/43 km. Nearby locations **Gullane**, **Dirleton** and **Aberlady**.

Top Attractions

Tantallon Castle near North Berwick

Iconic/ Coastal / Mary Queen of Scots / Castle

A cliff top, mid-14th century fortress and one of Scotland's finest. Interpretation boards tell its turbulent story. Enjoy fantastic views from the battlements out to the Bass Rock.

Historic Environment Scotland.

Dirleton Castle and Gardens Dirleton

Iconic/ Coastal / Gardens / Castle

In the centre of picturesque Dirleton village, a magnificent ruined castle dating from medieval times. Chapel, dungeons, well preserved dovecot and delightful gardens with world's longest herbaceous border. *Historic Environment Scotland.*

Scottish Seabird Centre North Berwick

Coastal/ Wildlife/ Environment

Unique coastal attraction and conservation body, helping people learn about Scotland's marine wildlife and seabirds. The Discovery Experience provides Interactive live cameras on the Bass Rock to see the world's largest northern gannet colony and other wildlife.

Boat Trips

from North Berwick and Dunbar

Coastal/ Wildlife/ Activities/ Environment

A number of little islands are dotted around this coastline – **Fidra**, the acclaimed inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's 'Treasure Island' as well as **The Lamb** and **Craigleith**, with its population of puffins and the Isle of May in the distance. Opportunities to see seals, puffins, gannets and sometimes a dolphin!

Pre book wildlife boats trips. Cruises from 1 hour long and private hire possible.

Braveheart Boat Trips North Berwick

Sula Boat Trips North Berwick

Seabird Centre Wildlife Boat Trips North Berwick

Bluewild Nature Boat Trips Dunbar Harbour or North Berwick by arrangement

Other options to visit on a wander include the **Coastal Communities Museum** in North Berwick as well as enjoying local art galleries and craft studios in North Berwick, Dirleton and Gullane.

Walks and Nature

Beaches include **Yellowcraig** and **Seacliff** as well as North Berwick's own town beach, skirting the town and golf courses.

In North Berwick there's also the **Lodge Grounds**, with its aviary or a walk up Berwick Law, an ancient volcano dominating the town – a steep but rewarding walk with great views. **Aberlady Bay Nature Reserve** is a perfect walk for all, for escape and for bird watchers too.



Food And Drink Experiences

Fish and chips, and lobster are celebrated experiences to enjoy in the North Berwick area. There's also fine dining with a concentration of award winning Michelin rated restaurants for special occasions.

Lobster and fish: **The Rockateer Restaurant**, and **The Lobster Shack**, North Berwick

Afternoon tea or lunch in art deco surroundings at **The Marine Hotel**, with views to the sea and the golf courses

Michelin rated restaurants **La Potiniere**, **Chez Roux at Greywalls** and **The Bonnie Badger** all in Gullane and **Osteria** in North Berwick

Coffee and cake in unique venues **Drift Café**, with views to Bass Rock and Tantallon Castle and **Steampunk Coffee** with its focus on responsibly sourced coffee

Pubs and restaurants: **Open Arms**, Dirleton; **The Leddie** and **The Old Aberlady Inn**, Aberlady



Bookable Activities

Venturing Out Outdoor adventures for all

Go Forth Tours Walking tours in and around historic North Berwick

The Marine Hotel Spa and wellness

Fletcher's Cottage Spa at Archerfield Spa and wellness

Blue Wild Gannet diving photography boat trip

Seacliff Stables Horse riding

Dunbar

A harbour town, renowned for its high sunshine record, rugged coastline scenery, growing popularity as a water sports destination as well as being the birthplace of **John Muir**, the famous conservationist. The town also provides the start or end of the **John Muir Way**, a long distance walking and cycling route between Helensburgh on the west coast of Scotland and Dunbar on the east. The **Dunbar Bear** (Dunbear) sculpture is on the edge of town, created as a tribute to John Muir in 2019 by acclaimed sculptor Andy Scott.

Situated an equal distance from Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed on the English Border. 20 minutes by train from Edinburgh and 30 minutes from Berwick upon Tweed. Nearby location **East Linton**.

Top Attractions

John Muir's Birthplace Dunbar Famous Scot/ Coastal

Born in Dunbar, John Muir became a champion of conservation and a pioneer of the National Parks movement in the US. His love of the natural world started along the East Lothian coast. The museum celebrates his life and legacy to the world. The John Muir Way (Coast to Coast route) also begins/ends here.

Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery

Local History/ Art

The Dunbar Town House Museum & Gallery is one of Dunbar's oldest buildings and the perfect place to begin a visit to the town. Changing local history and art exhibitions.

Preston Mill East Linton

Industrial Heritage/ Outlander/ Set jetting

East Lothian's last working water mill. A fine building with picturesque conical-roofed kiln. See the water-wheel and grain milling machinery in action, whirring and clanking as they would have back in the 17th century. A favourite scene set here in *Outlander* season one.

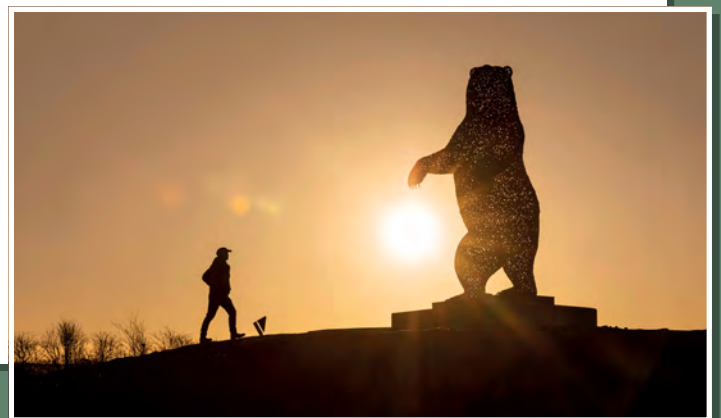
National Trust for Scotland.

Walks and Nature

For walks, great views and historical landmarks options consider Dunbar's harbours, there are three. Must see places include **Dunbar Castle** ruins, the Battery or the cliff-top walk which is a scenic part of the **John Muir Way**.

Beaches include sweeping **Belhaven Bay** and walks from **John Muir Country Park** include the woods and this stunning beach famous for **The Bridge to Nowhere**.

East Linton to Hailes Castle is a lovely, river side walk with the castle, as a rewarding stopping point and also woodland walks like **Pressmennan Wood** (The Woodland Trust) and Woodhall Dean (Scottish Wildlife Trust).





Bookable Activities

Coast to Coast Surf School Surf, SUP and coasteering lessons, experiences and tours

Foxlake Adventures

UK's first cable wakeboarding centre with **Boardside Café**, disc golf, zip line and segway tours through the countryside

East Links Family Park Farm based attraction for all ages. Café and picnic area

Belhaven Bikes Bike and e bike hire

John Muir Alpacas Guided walks and events with alpacas

Dukes of West Barns Bistro, Gallery and Studio. Bookable workshops and creative courses.

Food And Drink Experiences

Home to Belhaven Brewery, Scotland's oldest working brewery, the town's centre has a multitude of eateries and pubs as well as larger places for groups.

Brewery Tours at **Belhaven Brewery**

Traditional pubs **Volunteer Arms**, **Brig and Barrel**, **The Royal Mackintosh** serving Scottish pub food and **The Crown and Kitchen** and **The Linton** in East Linton

The Creel restaurant close by the harbour

Café Culture **Wishing Tree by the Sea** in Lauderdale Park, **Bostock Bakery**, East Linton and **Tynninghame Smithy**, in its picturesque village setting. In Dunbar, **Graze Café and**

Chocolate House

Haddington

Pretty market town, situated in agricultural farm land, on the banks of the River Tyne. Well established Farmers' Market on the last weekend of every month and a good mix of shops, restaurants and interesting landmarks to visit including St Martin's 11th century, **St Mary's Church** and **The Nungate Bridge**, one of the oldest bridges in Scotland and important to numerous invading armies over the centuries.

Located 18 miles/28 km from Edinburgh by car. Excellent public transport (bus) links with express services taking around 40 minutes. Nearby locations and historic villages, **Pencaitland**, **Garvald** and **Gifford**

Top Attractions

National Museum of Flight

East Fortune Airfield

Iconic/ Concorde/ First and Second World War

A world class collection of First and Second World War artefacts, and home to one of Europe's best collections of aircraft including the legendary **Spitfire**. Explore interactive exhibitions, fascinating stories in the hangars across this historic airfield as well as the unique opportunity to get on board Scotland's only **Concorde**.

Lennoxlove House nr Haddington

Iconic/ Mary Queen of Scots/ Art and Architecture

Stately home belonging to the Duke of Hamilton featuring an excellent art collection and paintings from **Van Dyke** and **Raeburn** as well as important artefacts from **Mary Queen of Scots**, Charles II and Napoleon. Private tours available and exclusive catering options.

St Marys Parish Church Haddington

Religious/ Mary Queen of Scots

The largest parish church in Scotland dating from the 14th century. It is one of the three great pre-reformation churches in the Lothians. Famous for the **Lauderdale Aisle**, magnificent marble effigies from King James VI Lord Chancellor.

Glenkinchie Distillery Pencaitland

Whisky/ Industrial Heritage/ Iconic/ Gardens

The famous Lowland Home of Johnnie Walker and closest whisky distillery to Edinburgh. Working Victorian distillery in glorious garden setting.

A variety of tours and tastings introduce you to the flavours and a real sense of the past and story of this malt whisky and its people. Café and shop.

Diageo.

Other unique places to visit include the **National Flag Heritage Centre**, Athelstaneford, for the history of the Scottish Flag, **The John Gray Centre**, Haddington for local history and the unexpected jewel of **Amisfield Walled Garden**, Haddington, one of the largest walled gardens in Scotland.

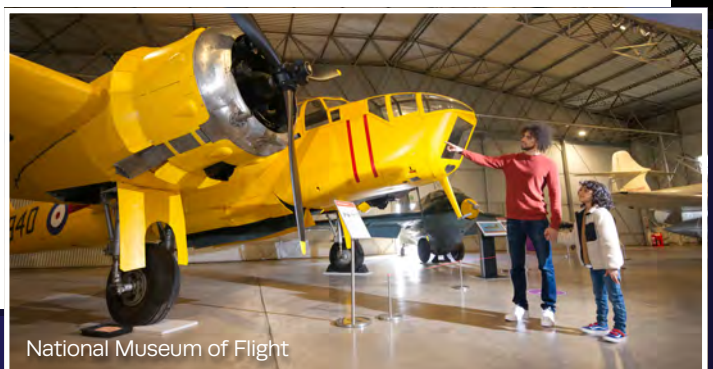
Walks and Nature

Town walks in Haddington along the Tyne will reveal surprises in the amount of historic landmarks and pubs to visit including **St Mary's Church** and **St Mary's Pleasance Garden** and the **Nungate Bridge**.

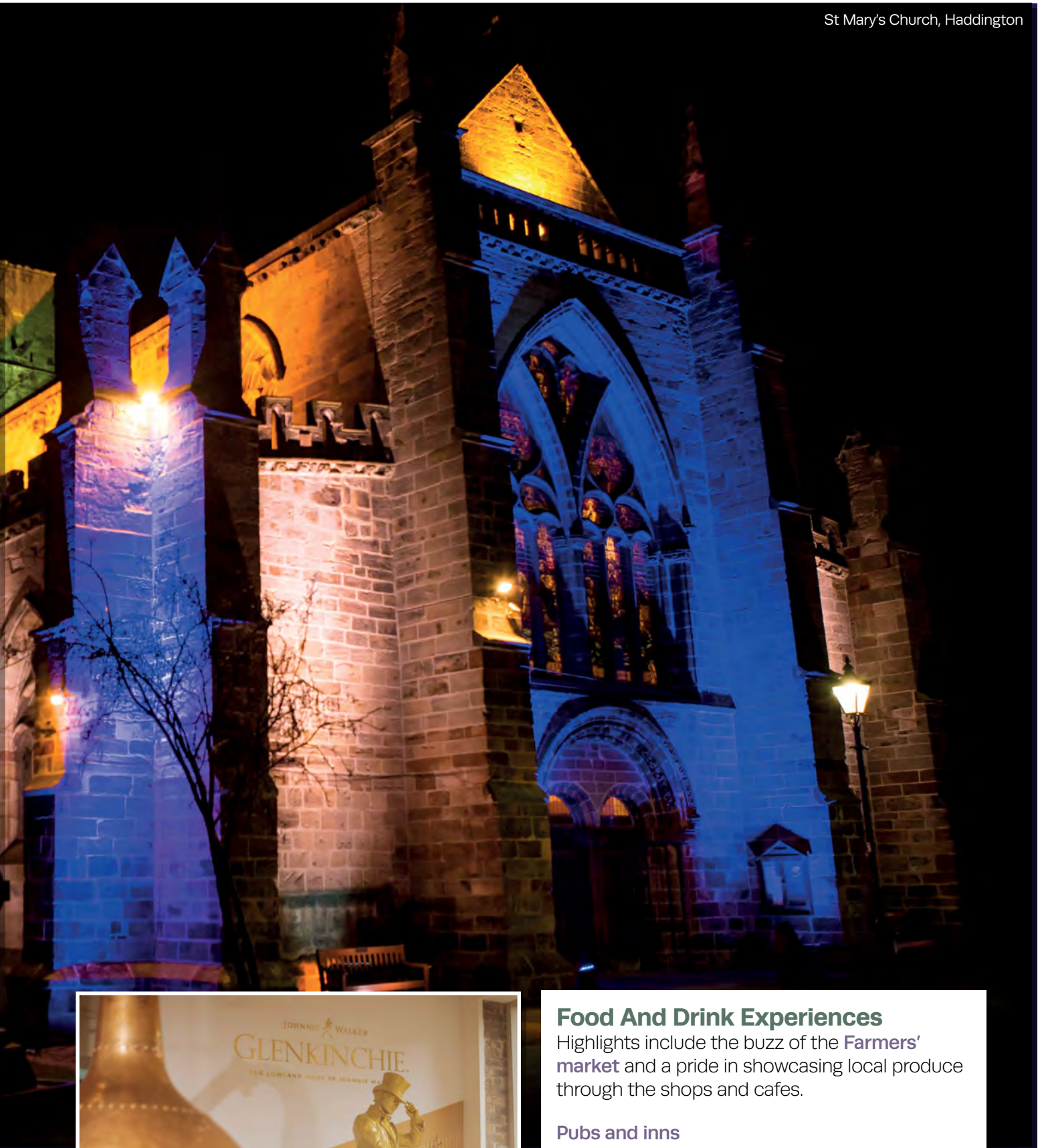
Gifford on the edge of the Lammermuir hills is a destination for walkers and cyclists. There's a walk to **Yester Castle** with its histories of witchcraft and a lovely community woodland walk, a real hidden gem.

Other options include **Traprain Law**, ancient iron-age fort and famous for its Exmoor ponies and views.

Cycling and walking are top activities in this area and cafes offer a friendly welcome.



National Museum of Flight



Glenkinchie Distillery

Food And Drink Experiences

Highlights include the buzz of the **Farmers' market** and a pride in showcasing local produce through the shops and cafes.

Pubs and inns

The Waterside Bistro and **Tyneside Tavern**, Haddington, the **Tweedale Arms**, Gifford, The **Garvald Inn**, Garvald

Artisan cafes around and about include **The Loft Bakehouse** & **Falko**, Haddington **The Lanterne Rouge**, Gifford fabulous for cyclists and **Humbie Hub**, Humbie

Musselburgh

Musselburgh is a market town known as 'The Honest Town' and for its historic golf course in the middle of its racecourse. The name Musselburgh derives from the extensive mussel beds which lie along its shore on the Firth of Forth.

It is the largest town in East Lothian and has a long High Street with a mixture of both local and high street stores.

Nearby locations **Prestonpans** and **Longniddry**. Prestonpans is a small fishing town, with many historic references from the Jacobite Battle in 1745 to its industrial past of salt works, soap making, brick making and pottery, reflected in its main museum.

Close to Edinburgh with frequent train service to both Musselburgh and Prestonpans.

Main Attractions

Newhailes House and Gardens

Musselburgh

Gardens/ Coastal/ Art

This neo-Palladian villa, rescued using pioneering conservation methods, boasts some of the finest rococo interiors in Scotland. Discover exquisite Chinese hand-painted wallpaper, gilded golden eagles and Italian marble fireplaces. Gardens and way marked trails. *National Trust for Scotland.*

Inveresk Lodge Gardens Inveresk
(Musselburgh)

Gardens/ Coastal/ Nature

A walled garden paradise. Featuring many rare and unusual plants, including a National Collection of Tropaeolum. The garden is especially impressive throughout autumn and winter.

National Trust for Scotland.

Prestonpans Museum Industrial Heritage/ Coastal

An open air Industrial heritage museum telling the tale of many local industries. It was the location of a 16th century harbour, a 17th century glass works, 18th/19th century potteries and a 19th/20th century colliery and brick works.

Other unique places to visit include **Seton Collegiate Church**, Longniddry a medieval church with much to see in its well preserved interiors and **Musselburgh Museum**, for local history from prehistoric times to now.

Walks and Nature

Musselburgh harbour and River Esk walk ways provide great town options, and are also part of the **John Muir Way**. Keep an eye out for swans, ducks and other wildlife along the route. Glorious gardens and grounds at **Newhailes House and Gardens**.

Food and Drink Experiences

Ice cream at **S.Lucas**, Musselburgh, a national favourite

Afternoon teas in unique places **The Musselburgh Golf Club** with stunning views of the 18th green

Pubs and restaurants **Lido** and **Ravelston House**, Musselburgh.

Fish and Chips **East Coast Restaurant**

Bookable Activities

Musselburgh Racecourse

for exciting race meeting experiences.

The Brunton

for top theatre productions, films and concerts in Musselburgh and Haddington.



The Brunton



Musselburgh Harbour

East Lothian Tour Operators & Scheduled Tours

Local operators, offering guided tours in the region

Caledonia Tours specialist and bespoke tours, guiding and chauffeur drive

Another Scotland Tours bespoke tours and chauffeur drive with zero emission vehicle

Go Forth Tours walking tours North Berwick

Stewart Tours coach operator offering bespoke and scheduled tours

EZ Bikes electric bike hire and cycling tours of East Lothian



Newhailes



St Mary's Church, Haddington



Dunbar Harbour



Inveresk Lodge Gardens



Tantallon Castle



More itineraries to download:



History and Heritage

Food and Drink Experiences

Outdoor and Active

Nature and Wildlife

Outlander, Culture and Film

Unique Experiences

Touring Itinerary (1-3 days)

Itinerary Builder (1-5 day options)

For further information contact: visit@eastlothian.gov.uk
www.visiteastlothian.org