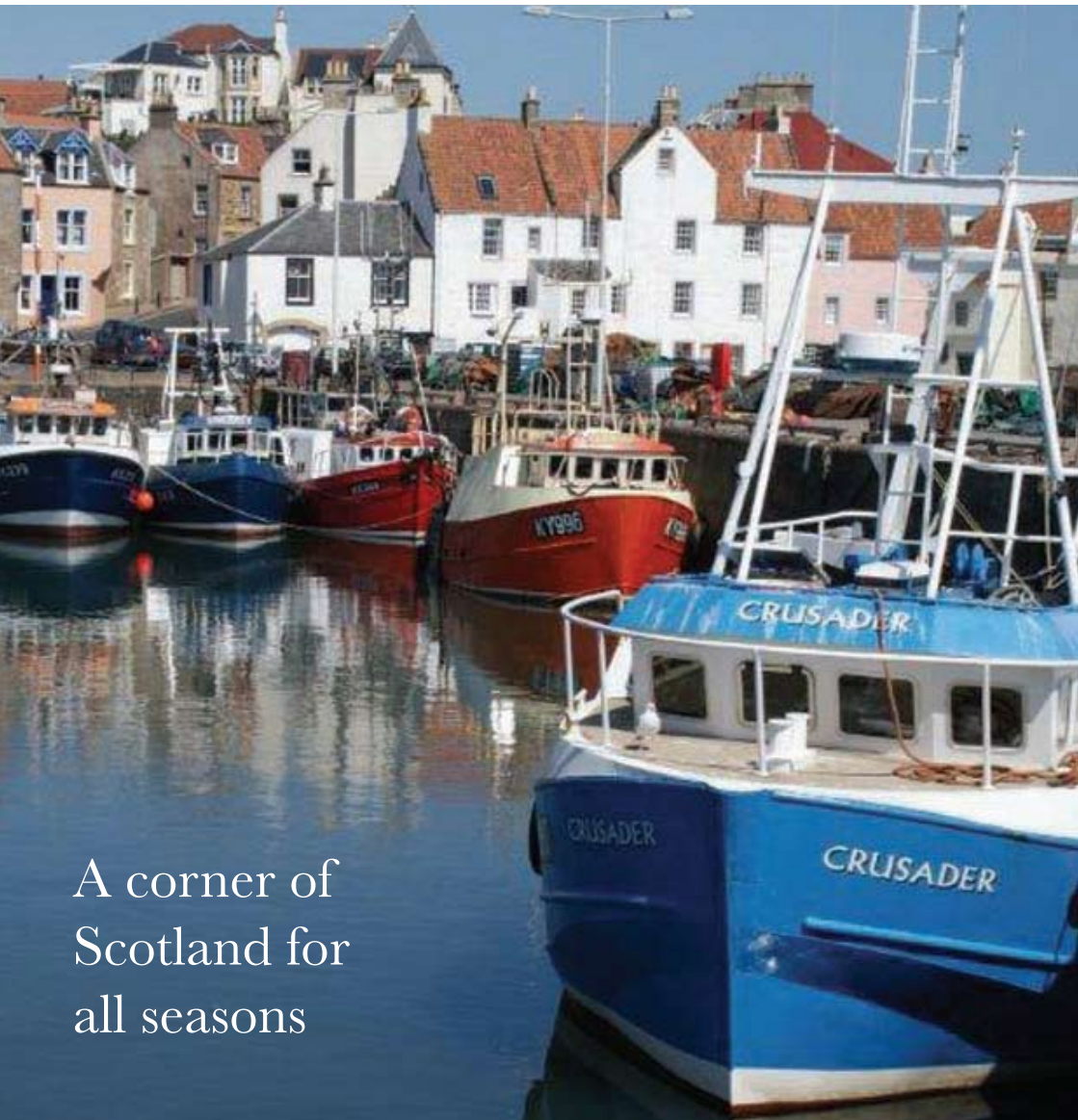


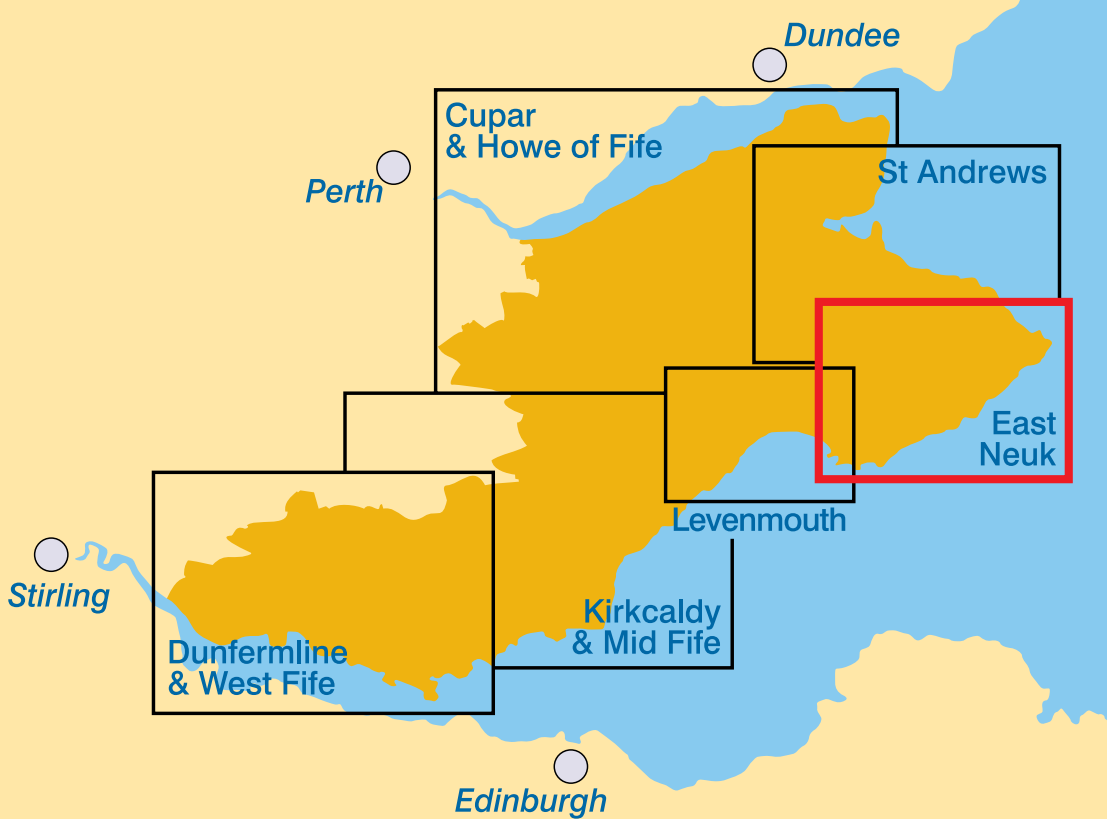
Visitor Guide

East Neuk of Fife



A corner of
Scotland for
all seasons

welcometofife.com



welcome to East Neuk

East Neuk 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 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 East Neuk 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 East Neuk LTA in good faith based on the information provided by organisations within Fife's tourism industry. East Neuk 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. East Neuk 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. East Neuk 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.



East Neuk Local Tourist Association
Delivering together in Fife

Contents

Welcome

Seaside cottages with crow-stepped gables and pantiled roofs, picturesque harbours and sheltered, sandy beaches, a wonderful natural larder and historic golf courses with magnificent views, it's not surprising that the East Neuk is a popular year round destination. It draws visitors from all over the world who come again and again to sample its unique atmosphere. Celebrated music and arts festivals, independent shops and galleries and a wealth of things to do mean that the area is brimming with life. Being just a few miles from St Andrews, the home of golf, and an hour from Edinburgh, there are even more attractions on the doorstep. Independent in spirit and with a great range of accommodation, this unspoilt corner of Scotland is the perfect setting for a seaside adventure whatever the season.


St Monans Windmill

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Crail Harbour

Credits: Front cover photograph: Pittenweem Harbour. Content: McGann Greenwood, Jane Livingstone. Design: Derek Munn. Images Fife Council and contributors as indicated. Maps are based on KFCMW dataset © Stirling Surveys / Fife Council 2011. Minor revisions compiled from OS OpenData. Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2011.

Elie & Earlsferry



Elegant Elie and Earlsferry have been popular seabathing resorts for over two hundred years. At low tide the beach at Elie stretches to Earlsferry creating almost a mile of pale, golden sand - one of five beaches in Fife to enjoy European Blue Flag status. The area is a paradise for watersports enthusiasts and nature lovers and there are many walks to be enjoyed along the unspoilt coastline. Golf has been played on Elie's links since the 16th century with Earlsferry born golfer James Braid winning the Open Championship five times between 1901 and 1910.

The sweeping sands at Elie

Ruby Bay Beach to the east of the village is named after the garnets or Elie Rubies washed up on its beach. The pretty ruby red stones can still be found among the pebbles and shells. Just around the headland from the village is Shell Bay, a vast expanse of sand and dunes with rich pickings for shell collectors. The beach is a pleasant walk from the village although the daring can also reach it by way of the famous 'chain walk' along the cliffs. **6**

Beach cricket at Elie.
Image courtesy of the Ship Inn, Elie.

East Neuk refers to the string of ancient fishing villages on Fife's east coast with 'Neuk' the old Scots word for nook or corner



The village of Elie is delightful with many attractive buildings and a village green. There are several interesting features such as the 18th century Lady's Tower, **7** the Lighthouse, **5** the Parish Church with its three faced clock and the 19th century fountain at Toll Green. South Street contains the village's oldest and finest houses including the Castle which was built in the 16th century.

There is a good selection of shops and foodies will particularly enjoy the Elie Deli or Sangsters, the village's Michelin starred restaurant. There are also some cosy traditional pubs like The Golf Tavern and the Ship Inn. For a real summer treat, enjoy a glass of something cold in the Ship Inn's beachside beer terrace as you watch the local team play cricket on the sand.

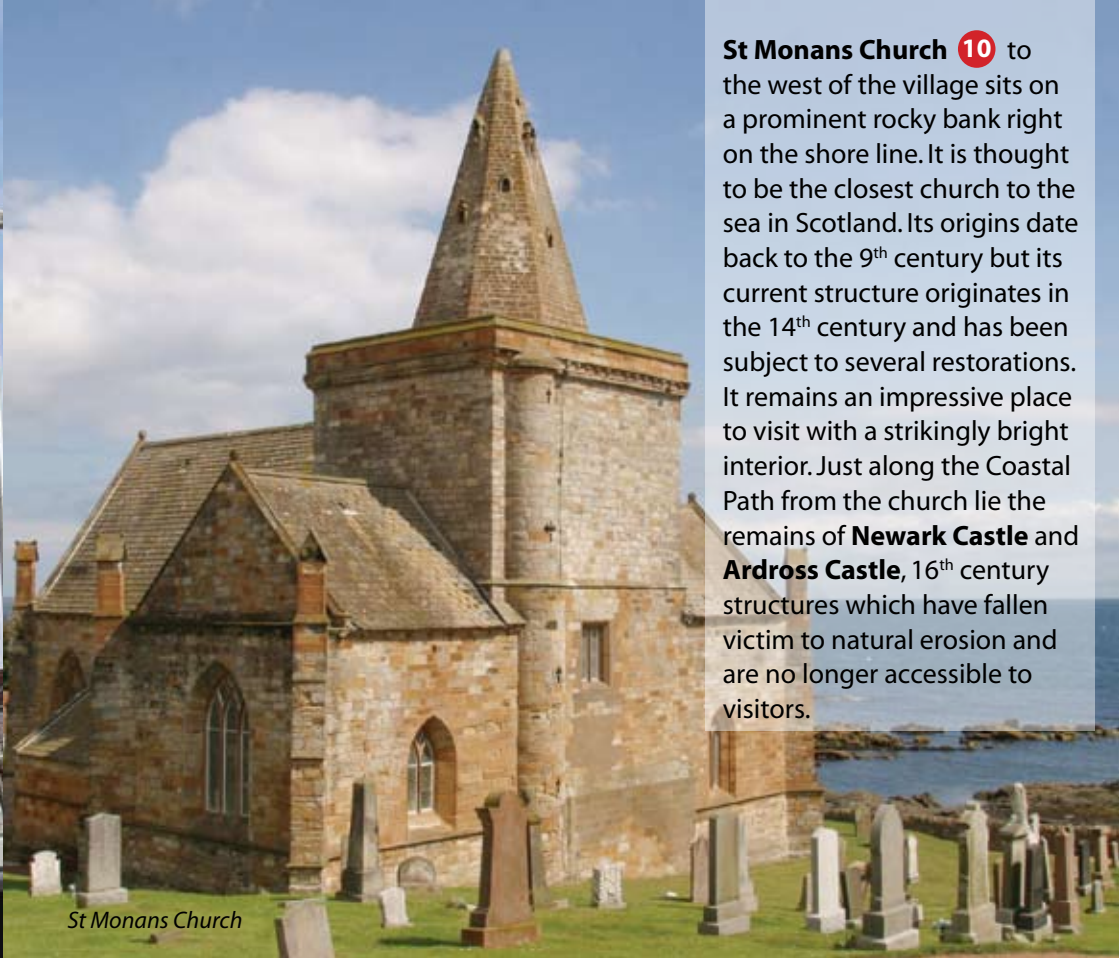
Elie Holiday Park at Shell Bay is a popular destination for tourers and day trippers. Next to a long stretch of sandy beach the park has a restaurant, bar and a Robinson Crusoe play area.

St Monans

St Monans is another of the East Neuk's charming fishing villages looking over the Firth of Forth towards the Isle of May and Bass Rock. The village takes its name from Irish Saint Monan who is thought to have brought Christianity to the region in the 9th century and whose shrine drew thousands of pilgrims for many centuries.

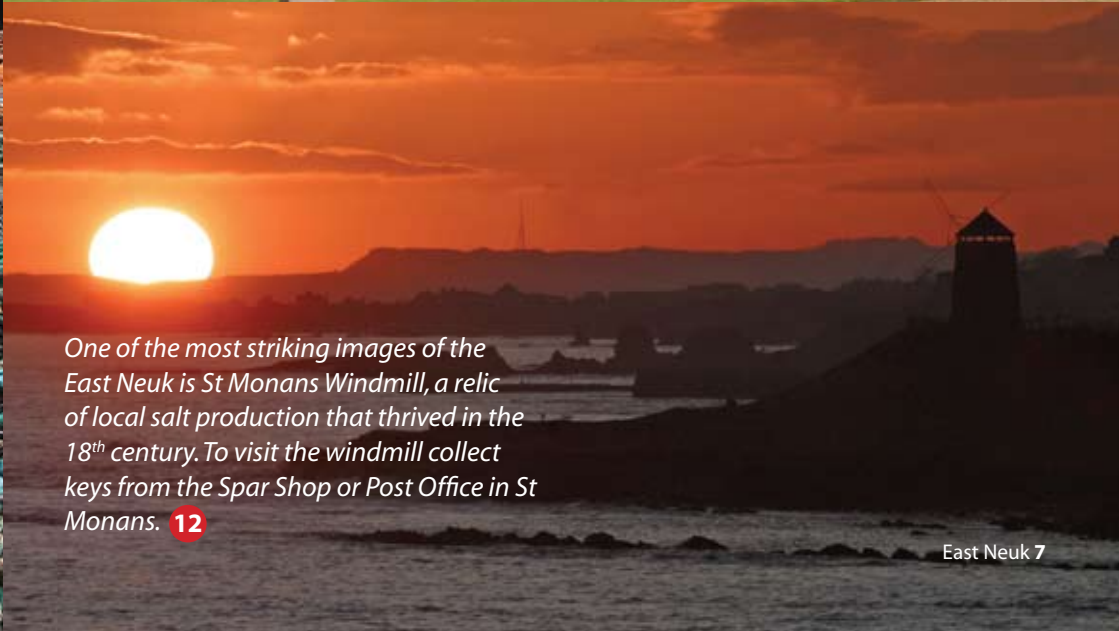
The harbour is surrounded by merchant houses and fishing cottages with the crow-stepped gables, date stones, and pantiled roofs that are typical of the area. Visitors can watch boats come and go from one of the three piers in the harbour, one of which houses the East Pier Smokehouse.





St Monans Church

St Monans Church **10** to the west of the village sits on a prominent rocky bank right on the shore line. It is thought to be the closest church to the sea in Scotland. Its origins date back to the 9th century but its current structure originates in the 14th century and has been subject to several restorations. It remains an impressive place to visit with a strikingly bright interior. Just along the Coastal Path from the church lie the remains of **Newark Castle** and **Ardross Castle**, 16th century structures which have fallen victim to natural erosion and are no longer accessible to visitors.



One of the most striking images of the East Neuk is St Monans Windmill, a relic of local salt production that thrived in the 18th century. To visit the windmill collect keys from the Spar Shop or Post Office in St Monans. **12**



Pittenweem

“Pittenweem captures the charm, heritage and artistry of the East Neuk”

Pittenweem is the East Neuk's only working harbour and visitors can watch the day's fresh catch being unloaded at the harbourside most mornings. The colourful cottages and mercantile buildings that surround the harbour have been attractively restored and display a distinct Dutch influence. There are tremendous views from the top of the village across the harbour to the Firth of Forth. Looking west from the sea front reveals the evocative view of St Monans and its landmark windmill. To either side of the harbour are rocky beaches that can be explored as the tide recedes.



Pittenweem is a hub for local artists and the village's annual art festival in July/August has earned an international reputation. Visitors can enjoy regular exhibitions at some of the local art galleries and there are several interesting art shops to explore.

A series of wynds connects the waterfront to the centre of the village with its attractive selection of shops, cafes and galleries.

St Fillan's Cave sits on one of the village wynds, an ancient refuge of smugglers, priests and Celtic saint, Fillan.

For visitors with a sweet tooth the **Cocoa Tree Cafe** offers a range of tempting chocolate treats or try an ice cream from **Nicholson's** traditional sweet shop on the harbour side.



Image courtesy Allan McBain



Anstruther & Cellardyke

Anstruther is a bustling harbour town and the commercial centre of the East Neuk. Dozens of yachts shelter in its marina and the coming and going of leisure boats and fishing trips make its sea front an ideal place to watch the world go by. It has an interesting range of shops and cafes and world famous, award winning fish and chips. With an attractive sandy beach and the **Scottish Fisheries Museum** on the harbour, Anstruther has a lively atmosphere and lots to do.



One of the East Neuk's annual highlights is **The Anstruther Muster**, a family festival hosted by Anstruther Sailing Club and based around the spectacle of a colourful yacht race across the bay.

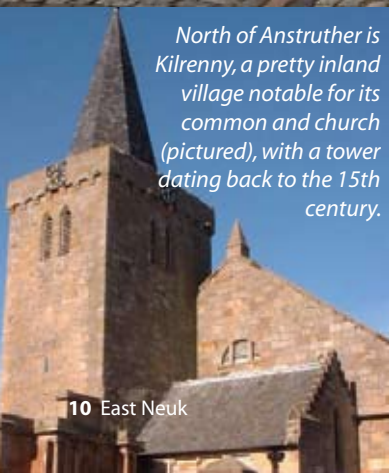
w: anstruthersailingclub.org.uk



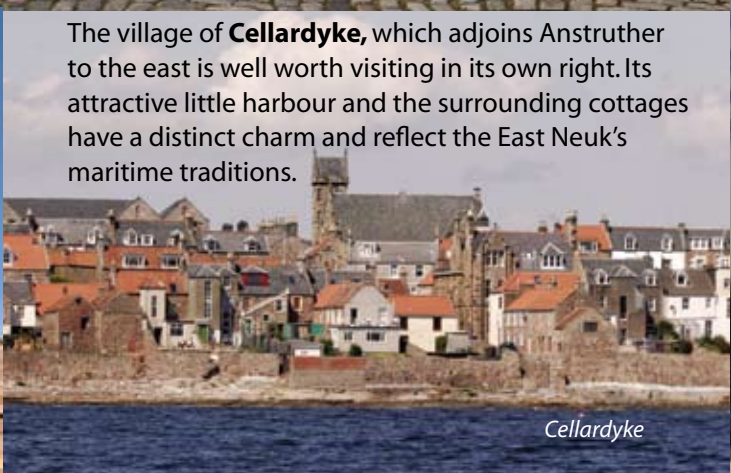
Anstruther

North of Anstruther is Kilrenny, a pretty inland village notable for its common and church (pictured), with a tower dating back to the 15th century.

The village of **Cellardyke**, which adjoins Anstruther to the east is well worth visiting in its own right. Its attractive little harbour and the surrounding cottages have a distinct charm and reflect the East Neuk's maritime traditions.



10 East Neuk



Cellardyke

From Anstruther harbour visitors can take a sea angling trip or visit the **Isle of May** aboard the pleasure cruiser the May Princess. **22**

The Isle of May is an important nature reserve characterised by high cliffs and rock formations – it's only a mile long but packed with interest. As well as the remains of a 12th century monastery and the oldest lighthouse in Scotland, there's incredible wildlife to see such as puffin, guillemot, razorbill and cormorant. The Isle is also a breeding colony for seals. If you're lucky, you'll spot dolphins, porpoises and even whales.

Visitors planning to take a trip to the island should note that times of departures vary with the tides and can be weather dependant. It is a five hour round trip including time on the island. Trips run from April to the end of September.



Puffins on the Isle of May

Crail



One of the most picture perfect of all the East Neuk villages, historic Crail is a great day out destination. It has a lovely beach, two wonderful golf courses and a particularly charming harbour where you can buy fresh lobster and crab from a wooden shed at the harbourside.



Crail Harbour Gallery (above) is one of several galleries that make perfect browsing for visitors



Crail Museum and Heritage Centre tells the story of this ancient Royal Burgh which has been a prosperous trading and fishing port since the 12th century. Its castle, built by King David I, stood on the cliffs overlooking the harbour, but has long since disappeared.

Try exploring the Coastal Path or taking the cycle route from Crail to Kellie Castle, the reputedly haunted 14th century castle near Pittenweem.

There are picturesque walks to be enjoyed along the coastline and nature lovers will appreciate the abundant seabirds in the area.

There are several galleries in the village exhibiting the work of contemporary Scottish artists and Crail Pottery sells stoneware planters and bright hand painted earthenware in a pretty courtyard setting.

There are plenty of coffee shops, restaurants and traditional pubs in the area serving up home baking, speciality coffee and a selection of beers and wines.



Natural larder

Nestled between cold, clear waters and rich, fertile farmland the East Neuk has one of Scotland's most abundant natural larders. Not surprisingly seafood is very much at the centre of the local delights. You can buy fresh lobster and crab from a tiny wooden shed at the harbourside in Crail. It's open from noon to 4.30pm every weekend between Easter and September, and also Tuesday-Friday in July and August. **20**

St Monans has two speciality smokehouses, the East Pier Smokehouse and J.C Morris, where visitors can buy delicious smoked salmon, mackerel and kippers. To experience top of the range cooking which makes the most of local, seasonal produce, try one of the East Neuk's many high quality restaurants, and of course you must sample world famous, award winning fish and chips in Anstruther. No trip to the East Neuk would be complete without savouring this mouthwatering treat, best eaten at the harbour's edge while taking in the sea view. You might have to queue but it'll be worth the wait.

One of the many local fish vans which deliver fresh fish all over Central Scotland and locally around East Neuk.



With its origins in traditionally reared beef and now selling fruit and vegetables, free range poultry, rare breed pork, organic lamb, venison, game and handmade ice cream, **Ardross Farm Shop** near Elie is a celebration of Fife's natural larder. **8**



A family run business, Fiona and Rob Pollock provide exceptional choice, quality and service and visitors will enjoy a warm welcome as well as an abundance of great local produce.

Fife's first artisan cheese is the highly regarded Anster, a superb fresh, full flavoured cheese made



using milk from the Holstein Friesian cows on the farm of the **St Andrews Farmhouse Cheese Company** near Anstruther. Three varieties are made on the family-run farm and visitors can watch the cheese being made in a viewing gallery as well sampling the end result in the farm's Butterpat Coffee Shop and gift shop. **13**

For something sweeter, **Adamsons** in Pittenweem makes delicious crumbly oatcakes, **GH Barnett & Son** of Cellardyke bakes traditional Scottish confectionery and **The Cocoa Tree** in Pittenweem is chocolate heaven.

w: ardrossfarm.co.uk

w: standrewscheese.co.uk

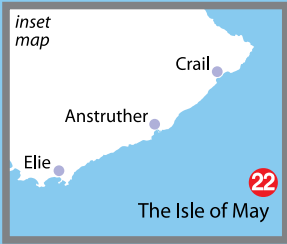
w: thecocoatreeshop.com

w: eastpier.co.uk

w: foodfromffe.co.uk

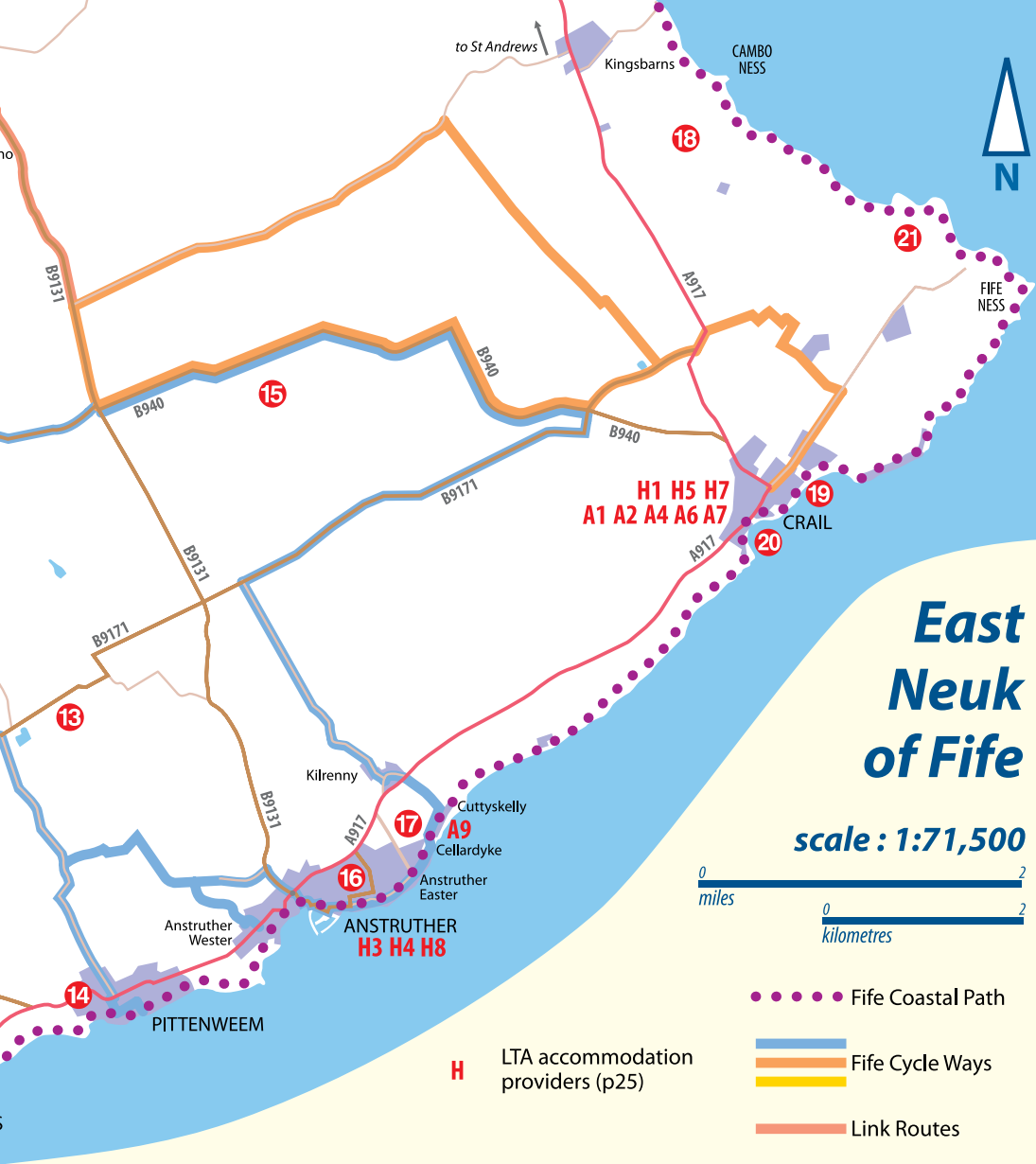


Rob & Fiona
Pollock at
Ardross Farm
Shop



East Neuk

- 1 Elie Cha
- 2 Elie Spo
- 3 Kilconqu
- 4 Elie Wat
- 5 Elie Ligh
- 6 Ruby Ba



East Neuk of Fife

scale : 1:71,500



- Fife Coastal Path
- Fife Cycle Ways
- Link Routes

H LTA accommodation providers (p25)

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- 9 Kellie Castle (p22)
- 10 Parish Church, St Monans (p7)
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The attractions listed are just some of the many tourist attractions available in the East Neuk. For more go to visitfife.com

Great outdoors



The Elie Chain Walk is an adventurous way to climb across a short stretch of cliff face parallel to the main Coastal Path route. Visitors should exercise great care if tackling the chainwalk and be wary of changing weather and tidal conditions. **1**

The East Neuk is one of the most scenic stretches of the Fife Coastal Path as it winds its way through the harbourside villages, along cliff tops and across beautiful beaches. The Path, which runs the entire length of Fife's shoreline, is a great experience for walkers of all ages and can be sampled in bite size chunks or in longer stretches.

A popular option for many visitors is to enjoy the 4 mile stretch between Anstruther and Crail by walking east from Anstruther and then taking the bus back from Crail. (Times of buses are available from Visitor Information Centres).

The area's B&Bs offer a warm welcome to walkers and cyclists and many will prepare packed lunches or arrange collection transport by request. Turn to page 31 for a map of the East Neuk section of the Fife Coastal Path.

w: ffecoastalpath.co.uk

For cyclists there are several bike routes in the East Neuk, primarily suitable for adults and older children. These include Anstruther–Pittenweem–Kellie Castle and Elie–Kilconquhar–Largoward, both of which combine on and off road cycling.

w: fife-cycleways.co.uk



The area's coastline is a great natural playground. As well as exploring the East Neuk's many beaches visitors can take advantage of sightseeing or fishing trips that operate out of Anstruther. There are a number of prime diving sites in the Firth of Forth with the Isle of May boasting many wrecks for divers to explore including The Anlaby, a British steamer that ran aground in 1873.

If you're feeling adventurous why not learn to canoe in a tidal pool, have a go at archery, climbing and abseiling or explore the beautiful coastline by sea kayak? These and other activities - including cycling and coastal scrambles along the Chain Walk - are available at **East Neuk Outdoors**, Cellardyke. **17**
w: eastneukoutdoors.co.uk

Elie Watersports provides a wide range of activities and instruction: you can try windsurfing, ski boat trips, canoeing and sailing and there are pedaloes, inflatables and mountain bikes for hire. **4**
w: eliewatersports.com



For sailing enthusiasts **Anstruther and Elie & Earlsferry sailing clubs** welcome visiting boats and host a number of events.
w: eesc.org.uk
w: anstruthersailingclub.org.uk

Fife Ness and Crail is one of the best areas on the East Scotland Coast for watching migrating birds and has a reputation for many rare species. There is a rich variety of bird life all year round from the gulls, geese, grebes and divers that frequent the harboursides to rarer late summer migrants like red-backed shrike, bluethroat, red-breasted flycatcher, barred and yellow-browed warblers.

Stunning golf



Magnificent sea views from every tee

Craighead, 7th green

An array of memorable courses dot the East Neuk coastline, from world-famous links to quirky nine hole layouts, all less than 30 minutes drive from the home of golf, St Andrews.

Crail Golfing Society, founded in 1786 is the 7th oldest golf club in the world. It has two courses: historic Balcomie and the more recently designed Craighead, both of which offer magnificent sea views from every tee. Balcomie Links has been thrilling golfers since 1895. The course was laid out by former Open Champion Old Tom Morris and features

several memorable holes along the shoreline of the North Sea. Former Ryder Cup captain Sam Torrance rates the fifth – ‘Hell’s Hole’ – as the toughest par four in Scotland. **21**

Founded in 1890, **Anstruther Golf Club’s** philosophy is that guests are treated as members and a warm ‘Anster’ welcome awaits you. This spectacular nine hole course has a fearsome collection of par threes and, laid out on the banks of the Firth of Forth, the course provides splendid views of Anstruther Harbour, the Bass Rock and, on a clear day, Edinburgh Castle.

The **Golf House Club at Elie** is another renowned course with all sorts of charming quirks. Golfers arriving on the first tee can't fail to notice the 30 foot periscope, taken from HMS Excalibur, which the starter uses to ensure the raised first fairway is clear before allowing players to tee off. Though relatively short by modern standards the wind and clever bunkering can wreak havoc on a scorecard while the beach comes into play on several holes. The neighbouring nine hole course provides a less demanding but equally enjoyable test.

Situated a couple of miles inland from Elie at Colinsburgh, the **Charleton Golf Course** offers a change of pace from the East Neuk's seaside links. Laid out over rolling parkland, the Charleton makes good use of mature trees and natural water hazards.

Check out Fife's golf packages for the best offers on green fees and tee time availability. The First in Fife Golf Pass offers great value 3 round and 5 round passes to 13 courses in Fife, or buy a Fifestyle card from any Fife Council golf course starter and receive a discount on municipal courses. Links with History offers discounted green fees to four of Fife's historic courses including Crail Golfing Society.

w: firstinfifegolf.com w: visitfife.com/golf w: linkswithhistory.com

Many of the East Neuk's ruined castle remains are easily visited from the **Fife Coastal Path**.

Walkers heading east on the route from Elie will pass what's left of **Ardross Castle**. This stronghold is believed to date back to the 14th century but today a mere skeleton of the building remains.

Near St Monans, on an imposing headland in the Firth of Forth, sits **Newark Castle**, a 16th century structure now in ruins. **11**

The East Neuk's strategically important position on the Firth of Forth is reflected in the castles and forts which dot the coastline.

Many of these ancient strongholds now lie in ruins but **Kellie Castle** still stands and the building and its gardens offer an enjoyable day out. The structure dates from the middle of the 14th century but most of the castle exterior was completed by Sir Thomas Erskine and his descendants during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The castle was lovingly restored by Professor James Lorimer in the late 19th century and the Lorimer family legacy includes restored 17th century plasterwork and painted panelling, furniture and fittings designed by the renowned architect Sir Robert Lorimer and the walled Victorian gardens.

Kellie Castle is maintained by the National Trust for Scotland and has a café, shop and plant sales. The garden and estate are open all year, the castle from 1 April to 31 October. **w: nts.org.uk/Property/38** **9**



The **Scottish Fisheries Museum** situated on the harbourside in Anstruther provides a fascinating insight into one of Scotland's oldest industries. The museum has expanded to include a number of galleries surrounding an attractive courtyard. Its tea room is very popular with visitors with views over Anstruther's harbour. Open all year round, guided tours are available with prior booking. **16**

w: scotfishmuseum.org

Crail Museum tells the story of this attractive fishing and trade port and is open daily from June to September; check website for details. **19**

w: crailmuseum.org.uk

The East Neuk has a rich history and many interesting buildings: look out for the **St Monans Heritage Collection, Kellie Lodging** in Pittenweem and **The Crail Tolbooth**.

St Fillan's Cave, located on Cove Wynd in Pittenweem, provided refuge for preachers and smugglers as well as Celtic saint, St Fillan. Collect keys from the Cocoa Tree Cafe or the Little Gallery. **14**



St Fillan's Cave in Pittenweem

Things to do



The RNLB Life Boat Station in Anstruther was founded in 1865 and has two Lifeboats manned 24/7 by the volunteer crews. The Lifeboats are launched on exercise at least twice a month and the public are welcome to watch. Details are published at the Station and online. The Station also contains an RNLB gift shop, open daily from Easter.

For energetic activities **East Neuk Outdoors** offers a range of outdoor pursuits including canoeing and cycling. **Elie Sports Club**, **2** which is open all year round, offers bowling, golf, all weather tennis courts and excellent facilities for children. The club has a cafe/restaurant. Just a mile away is the **Kilconquhar Castle Estate and Country Club** **3** with extensive leisure facilities including an indoor swimming pool and an equestrian centre. If motorsport is your thing try some of the events or driving activities at **Crail Raceway** based at the former airfield.

w: eastneukoutdoors.co.uk

w: kilconquharcastle.co.uk

w: crailraceway.co.uk

w: eliesportsclub.co.uk



Scaling the heights with East Neuk Outdoors



Scotland's Secret Bunker

Scotland's Secret Bunker is one of Fife's most popular tourist attractions, providing a fascinating step back into the world of Cold War Britain. Beneath an innocuous looking farmhouse near Anstruther lies an amazing complex built as a government refuge in case of nuclear attack. Encased in three metres of concrete 100 feet below ground Scotland's Secret Bunker has now been revealed. Complete with dormitories, canteen, nuclear command control centre and even a radio studio, this relic of Cold War Britain is a memorable experience. Closed for the winter season; check website for details. **15**

w: secretbunker.co.uk

Accommodation

The East Neuk's coastal villages host an array of welcoming guest houses and B&Bs. Traditional town houses and cottages in Anstruther, Crail and Pittenweem have been converted to offer quality B&B and self catering accommodation. There is also a good choice of caravan parks in the area offering static and touring accommodation with several campsites also welcoming campers. The Elie Holiday Park at Shell Bay with its own private beach is a firm favourite with holiday makers, or for a luxurious alternative try the Kilconquhar Castle Estate located inland from Elie with a choice of villas, castle suites and historical cottages set in 130 acres of beautiful woodlands.



The Spindrift, Anstruther, extends a warm East Neuk welcome

East Neuk Local Tourism Association accommodation providers

Hotels	Website*	map ref
Balcomie Links Hotel, Crail	balcomie.co.uk	H1
May View Hotel, St Monans	mayviewhotel.co.uk	H2
The Royal Hotel, Anstruther	theroyalhotelanstruther.co.uk	H3
The Waterfront, Anstruther	anstruther-waterfront.co.uk	H4
Bed & Breakfast		
Caiplie House, Crail	caipliehouse.co.uk	H5
Craighene Bed & Breakfast, Colinsburgh	facm12000@yahoo.co.uk (e)	H6
Honeypot Guest House and Tea Room	honeypotcrail.co.uk	H7
The Spindrift, Anstruther	thespindrift.co.uk	H8
Staghead Inn, Largoward	alexandregregan@yahoo.com (e)	H9
Self catering		
Alton House Hotel, Crail	altonhousecrail.com	A1
Crail Residence and The Residence, Elie	crailresidence.co.uk	A2
Elie Holiday Park, Shell Bay, Elie	abbeyford.com	A3
The Gables, Crail	thegablescrail.co.uk	A4
Kilconquhar Castle Estate, Nr Elie	kilconquharcastle.co.uk	A5
Old Coach House, Crail	lynda.golightly@astrazeneca.com (e)	A6
Sandcastle Cottage, Crail	2crail.com	A7
St Monans Holiday Park, St Monans	abbeyford.com	A8
Ten Dove Street, Cellardyke	tendovestreet.co.uk	A9

*(e) denotes email contact. Website unavailable at time of publication



East Neuk Festival

Fans of contemporary and folk music will enjoy the annual **Homegame** music festival which happens in **May**. The event, founded by Anstruther-based, Mercury Prize nominee King Creosote, attracts an impressive line up of artists for three days of live music.

The **Crail Food Festival** in **June** is a lively community event with tastings, cookery demonstrations, a food market and live music combining to showcase the very best of the region's produce and skills. The village also hosts the **Crail Festival** at the end of **July** with family entertainment, concerts and children's shows. Folk enthusiasts should also check out the excellent **Crail Folk Club** which hosts regular sessions in the village town hall. On singers' nights, you are even welcome to take to the stage yourself!
w: crailfolkclub.org.uk
w: crailfoodfest.co.uk
w: crailfestival.co.uk



Celebrated pianist Christian Zacharias performed at the 2011 East Neuk Festival.

Image courtesy of Andy McGregor

The **East Neuk Festival** in early **July** is an award winning annual five day celebration of world class music and exhibitions with a pledge from the organisers "to present world class arts in an informal and intimate fashion." There's even a display of sand sculpture, a fun art form you are invited to try yourself! **w: eastneukfestival.com**



Anstruther's King Creosote.

The famous **Pittenweem Arts Festival** takes place in **August**. What started nearly thirty years ago as a photographic exhibition to raise money for lifeboats has become a week long visual arts festival which includes music, drama and children's events. Some unlikely exhibition spaces spring up with art displayed in outhouses, boatsheds and even the baker's shop!

w: pittenweemartsfestival.co.uk

With so many talented artists living and working in the area, the East Neuk hosts regular **Open Studio events** throughout the year. Catch a fascinating glimpse of the artist at work and perhaps pick up a unique souvenir. Entry is free.

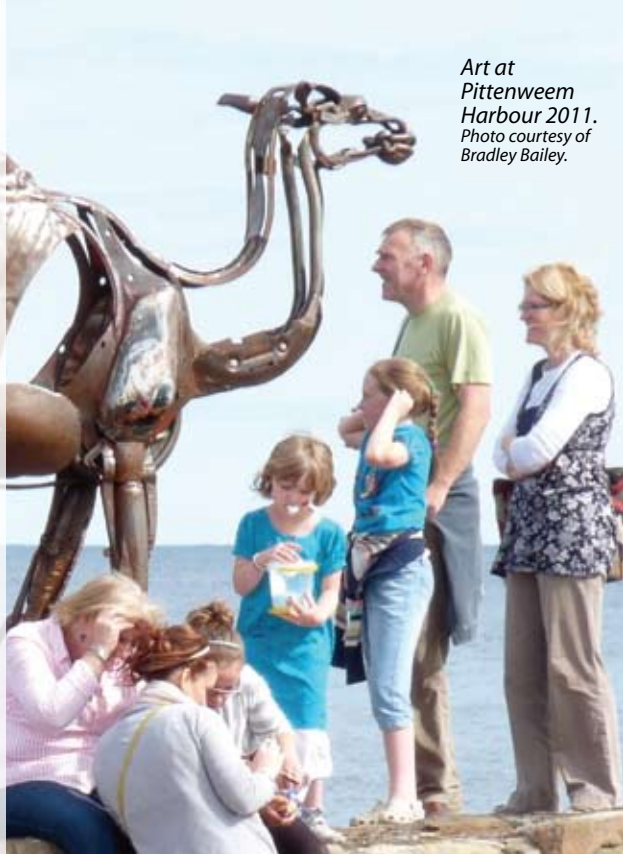
w: eastneukopenstudios.org.uk

The Anstruther Muster, which takes place in **August**, sees an array of jewel bright sailboats racing across the bay and is one of the area's most colourful events. Hosted by the Anstruther Sailing Club, the Muster attracts hundreds of visiting craft. A ceilidh, live music, cookery demonstrations, children's activities and a fun fair all add to the festival atmosphere.

w: anstruthersailingclub.org.uk



Yachts at the Anstruther Muster



Art at Pittenweem Harbour 2011. Photo courtesy of Bradley Bailey.

Traditional fairs and galas with fun activities for all the family take place throughout the summer in each of the East Neuk villages. The St Monans Sea Queen and the Pittenweem Midsummer Gala are in June with the Crail Fair following in July. Visitors should also look out for Fife's Doors Open Days and the Fife Outdoor Access Festival in September. The Cambo Estate at Kingsbarns is just a short drive away. As well as its house and beautiful gardens there is a busy calendar of year-round events including the remarkable spring Snowdrop Festival starting in February.

w: camboestate.com 18

A new event to look out for is the three day Balcarres International Horse Trials in June at the Balcarres Estate.

w: balcarreshorsetrials.com

Art & ceramics

Crail Boats by Artist DSMackie


The East Neuk is a real hot spot for artists and art lovers. Its picturesque villages and coastline have provided inspiration for generations of painters and craftsmen. Visitors can enjoy an array of small galleries and studios where local works take centre stage alongside other Scottish pieces.

Crail and Pittenweem have several enticing galleries for visitors to browse with a variety of exhibitions taking place all year round. As well as an abundance of water colours and oil paintings, visitors to the East Neuk will regularly discover exhibitions of handmade jewellery, woodworks, cards and glassware. Some of the galleries have their own resident artists including Jan Fisher at the Fisher Studio & Gallery in Pittenweem and DS Mackie at Crail Harbour Gallery.

There is a busy calendar of art events and festivals with a number of galleries running workshops for visitors to try their hand at different skills. Many galleries are open all year although there are some seasonal variations.

Crail Gallery specialises in small runs of hand-made linocut and silkscreen prints





“True craftsmanship
makes a connection
with bygone
generations”

*Steve Wright is the lead
potter at Pittenweem
Pottery*

Crail Pottery is a popular destination for visitors all year round. Established in 1965 it is a family run business in the heart of Crail, that produces a diverse range of stoneware and brightly coloured earthenware - every piece being hand thrown on the wheel, hand painted, glazed, and fired in their workshop.

Pittenweem Pottery and Art Gallery is another family run enterprise with all of its pots hand thrown and decorated at its base in Anstruther. The pottery showroom and gallery are next door to each other and as well as traditional rustic pottery, visitors can also browse and purchase more modern styles including ceramic jewellery.

w: crailgallery.com

w: thejerdangallery.com

w: crailharbourgallery.co.uk

w: crailpottery.com

w: pittenweempottery.com



The Yard at Crail Pottery



Visitor information

Tourist information

A Tourist Information Centre, which can help visitors with maps, cycle and walking routes, accommodation and information about attractions, is located next to the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther (01333 311073). Open from Easter until November. During the high season the Tourism Information Centre in Crail is also open. Outwith peak season, the nearest Tourist Information Centre is in St Andrews (01334 472021).

Transport

By rail

There are no direct rail links to the East Neuk but bus connections can be made to Elie, St Monans, Anstruther and Crail from Leuchars and Kirkcaldy rail stations.

By air

The East Neuk is approximately 45 minutes from Dundee Airport and one hour's drive from Edinburgh Airport. Flybe operate flights to Dundee from Belfast, London and Birmingham (www.hial.co.uk/dundee-airport/). There are no direct bus or rail connections from the airports to the East Neuk but several car hire operators have outlets on site.

By road

The A917 is the East Neuk's main thoroughfare and is a signed

tourism route. It links Elie, St Monans, Pittenweem, Anstruther and Crail with Leven to the west and St Andrews to the north. Visitors travelling from Edinburgh and the west should follow signs for Kirkcaldy/Glenrothes and then pick up the signs for the tourism route heading east. Elie, the westernmost of the East Neuk villages, is approximately one hour's drive from the Forth Road Bridge.

By bus

The Stagecoach bus service (X60) from St Andrews to Edinburgh runs hourly and stops at Cellardyke, Anstruther, Pittenweem, St Monans and Elie. The 95 bus runs from St Andrews to Leven stopping in villages between Crail and Elie. Fife Council also operates its Flexi-Zone service providing the use of taxis for customers at normal bus fares.

w: go-flexi.org

t: 01334 840444

Useful contacts and services

Police (Fife Constabulary) 0845 6005702; w: fife.police.uk

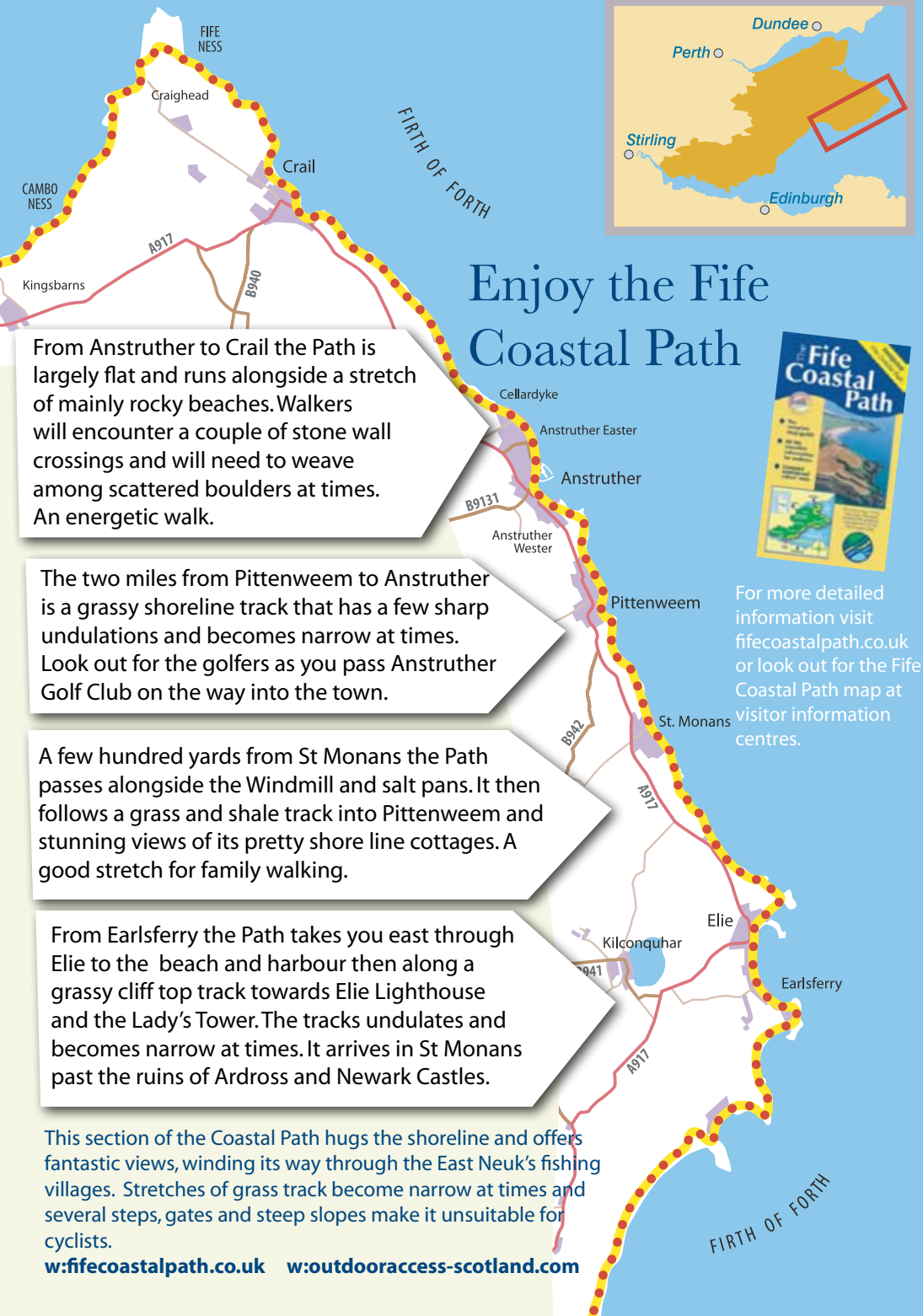
Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, provides 24-hour A&E service. (01592 643355).

St Andrews Community Hospital (01334 465656) provides treatment for Minor Injuries.

w: nhsfife.scot.nhs.uk

Fife Council

08451 55 00 00 **w: fife.gov.uk**



Enjoy the Fife Coastal Path

From Anstruther to Crail the Path is largely flat and runs alongside a stretch of mainly rocky beaches. Walkers will encounter a couple of stone wall crossings and will need to weave among scattered boulders at times. An energetic walk.

The two miles from Pittenweem to Anstruther is a grassy shoreline track that has a few sharp undulations and becomes narrow at times. Look out for the golfers as you pass Anstruther Golf Club on the way into the town.

A few hundred yards from St Monans the Path passes alongside the Windmill and salt pans. It then follows a grass and shale track into Pittenweem and stunning views of its pretty shore line cottages. A good stretch for family walking.

From Earlsferry the Path takes you east through Elie to the beach and harbour then along a grassy cliff top track towards Elie Lighthouse and the Lady's Tower. The tracks undulates and becomes narrow at times. It arrives in St Monans past the ruins of Ardross and Newark Castles.

This section of the Coastal Path hugs the shoreline and offers fantastic views, winding its way through the East Neuk's fishing villages. Stretches of grass track become narrow at times and several steps, gates and steep slopes make it unsuitable for cyclists.

w:fifecoastalpath.co.uk w:outdooraccess-scotland.com

For more detailed information visit fifecoastalpath.co.uk or look out for 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

North Fife



St Andrews



Dunfermline & West Fife



East Neuk



Mid Fife & Kirkcaldy



Levenmouth

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

Fife