

Discover Dundee

Move over Edinburgh and Glasgow. There's a new city looking to steal the Scottish spotlight.

Words STEVE McKENNA



Hop on the train from Edinburgh — or hire a car at the airport — and in a little over an hour you'll be in Dundee.

Scenically perched on the north bank of the Firth of Tay, Scotland's fourth-largest city has traditionally been overlooked by tourists, but that's set to change with the unveiling of the much-anticipated V&A Dundee this month. An offshoot of the world-famous London museum, this eye-catching building, with its twisting glass-and-concrete features masterminded by Japanese

architect Kengo Kuma, is part of a \$1.78 billion revamp of Dundee's waterfront.

SEE & DO

Step inside the V&A — named after Queen Victoria and Prince Albert — and you'll find a celebration of Scottish and international design, including a restored tearoom interior by revered Glaswegian architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

You'll also see products created in Dundee, the UK's only UNESCO City of Design, which has a proud history of excelling in creative fields — the Lemmings and *Grand Theft Auto* video game franchises

were spawned in Dundee, and the city's universities are known for their cutting-edge courses and genius graduates.

The V&A also hosts temporary exhibitions, such as *Ocean Liners: Speed and Style*, which pays homage to the golden age of ocean travel, flaunting furniture and fashions from cruise liners like the *Queen Mary* and *QE2*, which were both constructed in Scotland's shipyards.

Incidentally, the V&A sits next to Discovery Point, which houses the *RRS Discovery*, a Dundee-built ship that made a groundbreaking expedition to Antarctica in 1901. Here



you can tread the decks and look inside the cabins of legendary explorers Captain Robert Falcon Scott and Sir Ernest Shackleton.

EAT & DRINK

Away from the waterfront, there's much to savour in Dundee's compact ▶▶

TAKE A DETOUR



central core, including a raft of trendy cafes and bars that have opened in recent years, buoyed by the so-called 'V&A effect'. Seek out The Wine Press, a chic venture from Dundee's oldest wine merchants that pairs globally-sourced wines with local cheeses and charcuterie.

Nearby, Exchange Street is home to cosy tearooms, bake shops and Hard Grind, which triples up as an artisan coffeeshop (The Daily Grind Speciality Coffee Bar), barber and clothing store. On Nethergate, one of Dundee's busiest thoroughfares, you can enjoy locally caught fish and seafood at Tailend, one of several establishments that serve the Dundee-brewed 71 Lager by 71 Brewing. There are more dining choices in Broughty Ferry, a desirable suburb a 10-minute drive east of central Dundee, including The Ship Inn and The Tayberry

Restaurant, where top chef Adam Newth crafts seasonal menus packed with Scottish produce, such as salmon, lamb and beef chateaubriand.


STAY

Although you can daytrip to Dundee from Edinburgh, it's worth staying longer, not just to soak up the city's charms, but also to take in historic nearby landmarks like Glamis Castle, the childhood home of the Queen Mother.

Accommodation-wise, Dundee's Malmaison is an elegant four-star hotel near the waterfront set in one of the city's many glorious

refurbished Victorian buildings, while Urban Quarters has four stylish self-catering apartments that are ideal for families and small groups. Handily, it's a stone's throw from Dundee Contemporary Arts, a multi-purpose hub that marks its 20th birthday next year. Offering a selection of exhibitions, movies, theatre, craft workshops, and food and drink, it has helped drive the city's cultural renaissance.

SOUVENIR HUNTING

Quirky Coo is a gift store just around the corner from V&A Dundee that showcases local talents, including artist Nik Kleppang and her prints of Dundee's streetscapes and eclectic architecture. 

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THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Urban Quarters; gourmet coffee spot The Daily Grind Speciality Coffee Bar, part of Hard Grind barbershop and clothing store; 71 Brewing; Dundee is a short drive from Edinburgh; Quirky Coo. **PREVIOUS PAGE, FROM TOP** Eye-catching exterior of the V&A Dundee; The Tayberry Restaurant.

DETAILS

71 Brewing 36-40 Bellfield St; www.71brewing.com. **Dundee Contemporary Arts** 152 Nethergate; www.dca.org.uk. **Glamis Castle** Angus DD8 1RJ; www.glamis-castle.co.uk. **Hard Grind** 18b Exchange St; www.hardgrind.co.uk. **Malmaison Dundee** 44 Whitehall Cres; www.malmaison.com/locations/dundee. **Quirky Coo** 28 Union St; www.quirkycoo.co.uk. **RRS Discovery Point**; www.rrsdiscovery.com. **Tailend** 81 Nethergate; www.thetailend.co.uk/dundee. **The Ship Inn** 121 Fisher St; www.theshippinn-broughtyferry.co.uk. **The Tayberry Restaurant** 594 Brook St; www.tayberryrestaurant.co.uk. **The Wine Press** 16 Shore Tce; +44 01382 204 444. **Urban Quarters** 26 South Tay St; www.urbanquarters.co.uk. **V&A Dundee** 1 Riverside Esp; www.vandadundee.org.

