

BROUGHTY BEACH WALK

Few cities have anything to match Dundee's beach footpath from The Stannergate, past Broughty Castle, along the sands to the mouth of the Dighty. Easy walking and stupendous views

Distance: About 6 km **Duration:** 2 -3 hours
Footwear: good walking shoes **Where to eat:** central Broughty Ferry
Transport: Dundee to Monifieth every 8 minutes (longer on Sundays and evenings)
Toilets: Castle green and Bridge Street

The walk can be done in stages and in either direction - it is sensible to choose the route with the wind behind you (it's usually blowing east or west). Numbers refer to map.

1. Take the bus that goes along Dundee Road (74,75,76) and alight at the Stannergate roundabout. Go down Lower Broughty Ferry Road at the eastern end of Dundee Port (or park the car here).

2. The small bay created by the dock embankment often has several ducks particularly golden eye and merganser in the winter. Branch off right from the road along the footpath.

3. After a stretch of concrete walkway you come to the grassy beach where there are some seats close to the shore and a wild flower meadow, at it's best in midsummer. Instead of following the path keep to the beach below a rocky headband. The steep rocks here are old volcanic lava and form a pleasant little shelter with rocky seats. Retrace your steps to the path over the headland and along a fine new stretch of road.

4. This leads you to the shore base of several sailing clubs. Looking back at the cliff you see "Dracula's Castle" on top of Ravens' Craig. The path becomes a concrete walkway raised above the stony beach. Often you can see curlew and redshank wading birds picking their way along the tide line and hear their wild calls.

5. The path joins Douglas Terrace where there is a new slipway for launching boats. Behind is the stone building of the former West Ferry station. A row of good stone buildings continues round to the Castle. Keep to the footpath above the sea wall and admire the view back to Dundee.

6. After Fisher Street with its row of fisherman's' cottages, you reach the old lifeboat station and the new pier that shelters the lifeboat permanently afloat. You can see where the former boat used to be launched down the chute and read about the history of the lifeboat. On the left is the Ship pub and restaurant – one of the few in Dundee with a view of the river.

7. After a short grassy beach you come to the wooden pilot pier, good for fishing and where on occasions a tourist boat stops for trips up the Tay.

Return to Fisher Street, or if the tide is out, descend the stone steps and do the next bit on the beach. Continue along Beach Crescent and walk out along the pier at the Red House. At the end is a raised viewing platform and the land base of the club 'Ye Amphibious Ancients' who specialise in swimming across the Tay to Tayport and organise a New Year 'dook' in the adjacent harbour. Walk round the harbour where in the 19th century the train from Arbroath was loaded onto a ferryboat to cross to Tayport. On the far side under the Castle walls you can see Broughty Rocks at low tide, probably with a few cormorants and eider ducks. At high tide the water rushed past.

8. Enter the castle for the view from the ramparts, and from the top storey. The museum has interesting displays of wildlife, local history and whaling. Exit from the castle and follow the walls round to the rocks on which it is built. These provide a sheltered spot always above the water but access is not possible at high tide. Return to the sandy beach, which now has beach attendants in place in the summer.

9. Continue along the sandy beach, now backed by marram grass sand dunes, out to Sandy Point and round to a set of wide steps. Cross the road to explore Barnhill Rock Garden.

10. Bridge Street over the railway takes you back to the main road and buses. Alternatively, continue along the grass park, past the wastewater pumping station.

11. Shortly you reach the mouth of the Dighty Water which flows round the back of Dundee. At low tide it opens out into a delta where there are numerous swans, ducks, gulls and wading birds. Return to the main road over the rail bridge by the station, or continue to the next bridge just before the caravan site. This part of the beach is particularly fine.

12. You can extend the walk further to Monifieth and beyond up to the mouth of the Buddon Burn at the entrance to the MOD range. On days when the red flags are not flying you can enter the ranges. Continue along the burn going inland to the wooden bridge of Brut, cross over and make for the shore on one of the several paths. The scenery gets increasingly wild as you get to the Barry-Buddon point, where a climb up a sand dune gives a marvellous view of the Tay estuary. Round the point and continue on the sand at low tide or above the rock armour on a footpath in the dunes. You will eventually reach Carnoustie from where buses return to Dundee every half-hour (hourly on Sunday and evenings).

Allow 3 hours for Monifieth to Carnoustie. Bus timetables and information about when Barry-Buddon is open can be obtained in Broughty Library. The whole trip from Stannergate to Carnoustie makes a splendid day's outing!