

## **BROUGHTY SEASIDE PARKS & GARDENS WALK**

A walk from Broughty Library via Gray Street, Castle Green, Esplanade, Reres Hill, Nature Reserve, Barnhill Rock Garden and beyond.

**Distance:** about 4km to Bridge Street **Duration:** allow about 2-3 hours

**Footwear:** good walking shoes **Where to eat:** Central Broughty Ferry  
Woodlands Hotel, Panmure Terrace

**Transport:** buses to Library every 8 minutes (longer on W/E & evenings)

**Toilets:** opposite Library, Castle Green, Bridge Street

Numbers refer to map

**1.** Start from Broughty Library opposite the Rail Station and car park, close to bus stops. First explore the interesting garden surrounding the library - formal beds, wild garden at rear, two-level ponds, cat & man statue, colourful nature mosaic designed and created by local people.

**2.** Cross the main road into Gray Street and go over the level crossing. Note the recently renovated station buildings - the oldest in Scotland still in use.

**3.** Continue down Gray Street to the River Tay and turn left along Beach Crescent. Usually there are many swans, ducks and gulls on the beach. After passing the Red House, cross the road into castle Green (NB no dogs) - flower beds, children's' play park , crazy golf. Exit by the gate at the model car track.

**4.** Opposite is the Windmill Garden (site of old mill) enclosed by a privet hedge. Enter by the north gate to view the extensive flower beds and leave by the opposite south gate to turn left behind the beach shelter. The beach is now very clean and is maintained to Yellow Flag standards with beach attendants in the summer.

**5.** Walk along the start of the Esplanade at Castle Terrace. In the walled garden on the left are some beds of heathers and fine examples of the Camperdown weeping elm tree first discovered in Camperdown Park in West Dundee.

**6.** Continue along the Esplanade and where it suddenly widens, turn left into Panmure Street.

**7.** Go under the rail tunnel (Dundee to Aberdeen) and immediately turn right into Orchar Park. Mature trees frame the grass pitches and bowling green. In spring purple crocus flower under the trees by the railway. Leave the park at the diagonally opposite corner by a small gate and cross the main road.

**8.** A short distance east enter Reres Park on the left. A wooded hill of mature beach, oak and pine trees, carpeted with daffodils in spring. The steeply rising ground is a long-extinct volcanic plug and you can ascend by one of several winding paths. The view from the summit over the tree tops extends from Tay Bridge to the estuary bar, over to Tenstmuir forest and the hills of

Fife. On a clear day to the south you should be able to make out Largo Law on the South Fife coast.

**9.** Leave the park at the south east side on the main road and turn left. Cross the road at Shiell Street and walk down the hill. In the garden on the left is a fine red rhododendron flowering in early spring and a tall wellingtonia tree.

**10.** Cross the railway by the footbridge and turn right into the Nature Reserve - an area of ancient sand dunes between the railway and the embankment of the former railway to Forfar. Full of insects, wild flowers, trees and birds. Leave by the stone rail arch on the left and turn left again along the Esplanade.

**11.** You soon reach the extensive Barnhill Rock Garden, maintained by the city gardeners with help from Friends of the Barnhill Rock Garden. The garden is mainly set on the volcanic rock that forms the ancient beach - the soil is sandy and you can make out several former swirl holes in the rock. Take time to explore - there are water features, flower beds, scree and steep rock gardens, woodland gardens by the railway, and grassy hills to the east. There's hardly a week in the year when some flowers are not out and it's particularly good in spring and early summer with a huge variety of flowering and foliage plants. The tall trees are mainly Monterey Cypress and Eucalyptus which tolerate the salty onshore winds.

**12.** After the gardens, you reach Bridge Street which leads north to the main road where you can return to the Library by bus. You can of course walk back along the sandy beach or the grass by the shore.

**13.** For a longer walk, continue eastwards along the shore, past the waste water pumping house and Balmossie Station. A little further and you reach the mouth of the Dighty water that flows round the north side of Dundee. At low tide the water spans out into a delta of many streams, the haunt of a great variety of ducks and wading birds. The high tide comes right under the footbridge and you may see many swans feeding on the green seaweed. You can return to the bus route over the rail bridge.

**14.** Continuing further, the footpath rises over protective rock armour and new sand groynes on the beach. The next part of the sandy beach is particularly fine with a long stretch of sand backed by dunes and grassland. When you reach the fence at the caravan site, turn left over the railway to regain the bus route back to the library.