

# EXPLORE EAST LOTHIAN



**ARRIVE BY TRAIN**  
*to enjoy the delight of  
East Lothian's walking  
and cycling destinations*



**East Lothian**

**Scenic Line**



## EDINBURGH WAVERLEY

With the craggy landscape of ancient volcanoes behind us, the train moves swiftly past **Portobello**, once affectionately known as Edinburgh’s seaside. The rocket-like **neo-gothic church of St John** is an enigmatic landmark in Porty’s centre.

Beyond is the **Firth of Forth**, a busy shipping lane. The Forth estuary to Dunbar and beyond is designated for its outstanding wildlife and geological interests. Seals, porpoises and dolphins can be spotted.

Just after Portobello cemetery we cross the **John Muir Way**, a 134 mile long distance path, easily reachable from every station along the **Scenic Line**. The Edinburgh–Dunbar legs are 41 miles.



## MUSSELBURGH



Newhailes

Just as the landscape feels more rural and well manicured our first stop – one of Scotland’s oldest towns – and a conservation area (1 of 30 in East Lothian), with a harbour, a Roman bridge and a tolbooth. Alight here for:

**Newhailes House & Garden** – an C18th mansion with extensive gardens, follies, water features and woodland walks. ....



**Inveresk Hill – St Michaels Church** – a position once occupied by a Roman Fort commanding expansive views north to Inchkeith and Fife. ....



Open year round are **Inveresk Lodge & Garden** and **Shepherd House** in the heart of the Inveresk conservation village (entry by donation). The lodge gardens have wild areas and water features, woodland and a meadow. ....



**River Esk Walkway** aka the Musselburgh Heritage Trail – wheelchair accessible and an opportunity to enjoy a riverside walk down to **Fisherrow Sands**. ....



**Museum** – interprets local history, from its earliest days as a Roman settlement, through medieval upheaval, then a centre of industry in the C20th. ....



The **John Muir Way** sections to Dunbar are mostly coastal. ....





Dunbar Harbour and Castle © Ruth Alder

## DUNBAR

The **John Muir Way** long-distance path ends in Dunbar, a conservation area, 134 miles from its start in Helensburgh. **Dunbar**, which has medieval origins, is the site of a number of famous battles and the seat of several large estates, but also the humble birthplace of the celebrated ‘father of conservation’ John Muir. Alight here for:

**Historic harbours**, the ruins of a **medieval castle** currently occupied by a Kittiwake colony. The **Dunbar Battery**, recently upgraded and accessible. ....

 12 mins

The views towards the **Bass Rock** and the **Isle of May** are spectacular, seasonally boats run services for wildlife watching and fishing.

**John Muir Country Park** (the only one in East Lothian) spans the picturesque setting of Belhaven Bay towards Tynninghame. Outstanding wildlife along a spectacular East Lothian coastline. Walk via the Clifftop trail. ....

 40 mins

The **John Muir Birthplace** and **Dunbar Townhouse Museum** are free museums (NB limited winter opening times). ....

 7 mins

**Whitesands** and **Barns Ness** are rich in wildlife and fossil interest, walk the East Esplanade via John Muir Link. ....

 50 mins

**Doon Hill** a stone age fort and trig point (60 mins) takes in wide views and the sites of **Battles of Dunbar**. ....

 60 mins

The North Berwick to Dunbar leg of the **John Muir Way** is 15 miles.



Prestonpans mural



## WALLYFORD

Then it's over the **River Esk** to Wallyford, a former mining community. Alight here for:

Shuttle buses to Musselburgh **Racecourse** on race days.



**Levenhall Links** is a very extensive former industrial site reclaimed from the sea, part of Forth Special Protection Area, the ash lagoons, which attracts a wide range of wading birds including unusual visitors. ....



**Fa'side Castle** - destroyed after the Battle of Pinkie in 1547, accessible via off-road paths. ....



## PRESTONPANS

As the train heads to the next stop notice the Lomond hills, aka the "paps of Fife" across the water. Alight here for:

**Prestonpans Murals**, new murals were erected 2023 celebrating its recent industrial past.

Within the conservation area there are fine listed buildings including **Hamilton House** and **Preston Tower**, now restored, and a secluded garden. ....



**Prestonpans Industrial Heritage Museum**. ....



**Prestonpans Beach** (15 minutes) and the fishing village **Port Seton**, childhood home of John Bellany, Scottish artist. ....



The Edinburgh–Prestonpans leg of the **John Muir Way** is only 10 miles or 1 hours cycling.



## LONGNIDDRY

**Gosford Estate**, an outstanding and well-preserved designed landscape with lakes, farmland and woodland and ideal for peaceful walks (no cycling).



**Longniddry Bents** is ideal for beach walking and wildlife watching all year round. ....



**Aberlady Local Nature Reserve** harbours outstanding birdlife and is a dog free zone and **Waterston House** home of the Scottish Ornithology Club (limited opening). ....



The **disused railway line** is an ideal offroad route to the county town, **Haddington**. 35 mins by bike. ....



## DREM

A prominent ridge, the **Garleton Hills**, separates the county town **Haddington** from the coast, boasting extensive views of the whole of East Lothian. Alight here for:

**Chesters** one of Scotland's best preserved Iron Age hill forts. ....



**Garleton Hills, Hopetoun Monument** and the unfinished abandoned **Barnes Castle**. ....



**Flag Heritage Centre** a charming converted doocot in **Athelstaneford**, a conservation village, home of the Saltire, Scotland's national flag. ....



## EAST LINTON

The last time a train stopped in **East Linton** was in 1964, but a new station will open in 2024. East Linton is a charming and well-kept conservation village. Alight here for:

**River Tyne** walks. ....



The C16th **Preston Mill** National Trust (15 mins) and attractive **River Tyne** walks to the Conservation Village of **Tynninghame** (60 mins) or via the nearby **Phantassie Steadings** and **Doocot**. ....



**Smeaton Lake and Woods** a designed landscape with character and outstanding views. ....



The volcanic plug **Traprain Law** (60 mins) is reachable on foot via the River Tyne footpaths and quiet roads via the enchanting **Hailes Castle**, positioned perilously on the river **Tyne**. ....




The southern backdrop is the Lammermuirs, moorland hills, which loom over Dunbar, our next stop.




## NORTH BERWICK


The train branches off at Drem towards **North Berwick**. In the distance a volcanic plug North Berwick Law, shaped by glaciers. The town boasts a busy harbour nestling between two child friendly sandy beaches and a popular outdoor paddling pool. The town's floral displays are award winning. Alight here for:

Boat trips to the Bass Rock from **North Berwick Harbour** or **Seabird Centre** (seasonal). .....  10 mins

**Dirleton Castle** one of Scotland's oldest, nestling in the chocolate box conservation village of Dirleton. ....  50 mins

**Yellowcraigs** beach and coastal grassland. ....  60 mins

**North Berwick Law** – atop is a replica whalebone jaw, the protected site is grazed by Exmoor ponies. ....  40 mins

**Tantallon Castle** – provides breath-taking views over the Firth of Forth and the Bass Rock. ....  70 mins

**Coastal Communities Museum** free entry. ....  15 mins

**The Lodge Gardens** to escape the tourist crush. ....  15 mins

The Prestonpans–North Berwick leg of the **John Muir Way** is 16 miles and 3 hours cycling mainly on the flat.

**From Edinburgh, Dunbar is only 20 minutes by train; North Berwick is 35 minutes.**

Plenty of time to explore the best of East Lothian on foot or by bike or pick up the John Muir Way at every station with great links to East Lothian's core path network.

\* Walk times are indicative only – please allow longer for leisure journeys with multiple stops.



[eastlothiancrp.org.uk](http://eastlothiancrp.org.uk)



designed by moirakaynicol.com

## Train times and information

scotrail.co.uk or the App  
 travelinescotland.com or the App

## Buses times

eastlothian.gov.uk

## Additional resources:

johnmuirway.org | visiteastlothian.org | gojauntly.com

We have used the best available information to compile this brochure, but please note that some venues are not always open or only open seasonally or may be private houses. Plan your journey before you go, respect privacy and access land and water spaces responsibly. Not all points of interest are accessible to all abilities.

Cover image view towards Balfour Monument from Traprain and inset pic is Bass Rock

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- John Muir Way (walking route)
- John Muir Way (cycling route)
- Local walkways/cycle paths
- Other foot paths
- Towns with stations
- Museums
- Rail line



# TICKETS



Prestonpans Railway Station  
 First opened in 1846 as part of the line  
 from Edinburgh to Berwick upon Tweed  
 by the North British Railway (NRB)  
 Over the next 161 years the service  
 has been provided by 5 operators  
 1846-1923 North British Railway  
 1923-1948 London North Eastern Railway  
 1948-1977 British Railways  
 1977-2004 ScotRail (National Express)  
 2004 to date First ScotRail  
 Nowadays Prestonpans is one of 5  
 intermediate stops on the First ScotRail  
 Edinburgh to North Berwick route  
 IN MEMORY OF OUR PRESTONPANS ANCESTORS  
 With thanks to: First ScotRail  
 North British Railway Study Group  
 Scottish Railway Preservation Society  
 Prestongrange Arts Festival  
 MURAL PAINTED BY ARTIST ADELE CONN

Preston Pans Ticket Office Mural



Cockenzie House



Curling House - Gosford



Traprain Law



North Berwick Law Wetlands © Mary Anne Hunt



Inveresk Garden



The Doocot at Athelstaneford



Tymninghame



Dunbar Town House