

Dundee to Carnoustie

Robert Falcon Scott was built in Dundee in 1901. In its first expedition to Antarctica it became ice-bound and Scott and the crew were stranded for 26 months. An attempt to reach the South Pole failed but the eventual rescue and the survival made Scott famous. Although he later failed to become the first man to reach the South Pole (he was beaten by the Norwegian Amundsen by just over a month) Captain Scott and his companions, all of whom died on the long march back from the South Pole, became heroic figures. The story of "Scott of the Antarctic" became a legend.



Once you have crossed over the Tay bridge you start heading east along the city quay dockside area. Berthed here is the Frigate Unicorn, dating from 1824. This frigate has 46 guns, and was built for the Royal Navy in Chatham dockyard. The Unicorn is a unique survivor from the brief transitional period between the traditional wooden sailing ship and the revolutionary iron steamship, and is now one of the six oldest ships left in the world.

Also moored at the quay is the North Carr Lightship which was the last manned lightship in Scotland. The purpose of the vessel was to warn mariners of the dangers of the North Carr rocks which are situated 1.7 miles off Fife Ness at the turning point for vessels entering the Forth from the North and bound for the Tay. The route now leads away from the shoreline since from here eastwards consists of industrial units. Follow the main A82 road up the hill till you come into Broughty Ferry Road and continue until you reach Broughty Ferry itself. Turn right down Douglas Terrace which leads on to Fisher Street. Carry on till you reach the small harbour with the Broughty Ferry castle behind.



The castle dates back to 1495 and its purpose was to defend Dundee from

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enemy attack from the English and also French invaders where the perceived threat by the French in the 1880s caused it to be refortified and the gun placements added and strengthened. The castle is now a visitor centre which is run by Dundee Council. From the castle the route follows the esplanade which runs alongside the small beach. Follow the esplanade to the end when the road crosses over the railway bridge just before Balmossie railway station. Take a right over the bridge into Tyndall Crescent, then Milton Street till it leads onto the main Ferry Road (A930) until it reaches the town of Monifeith. At the end of the town the route follows the path around Barry Links. This area is used by the armed forces as a rifle firing range and used to be out of bounds but there is now a path running around the perimeter which leads into Carnoustie.



Carnoustie is another place famous for its golf course. Between 1839 and 1842, which makes it one of the 10 oldest golf courses in the world. Allan Robertson from St Andrews laid out a ten-hole course at the behest of the recently formed Carnoustie Golf Club. Like St Andrew's Old Course, the early Carnoustie Links had double greens and fairways. In keeping with the fact that the first known golfer at Carnoustie was a 'commoner', the area later became known for its professional golfers. Between 1898 and 1930, it is said that over 150 professional club posts in North America were held by Carnoustie expatriates.

The Open has been played there on a number of occasions. The last time it was played here in 1999, the Frenchman Jean van de Velde threw away a healthy lead at the 18th hole to lose the chance of becoming the champion of the greatest event in world golf.

Continue the walk along the seashore on the esplanade.