



# Creative Dundee IncorpoRated™

[createdundee.com/incorporated](https://createdundee.com/incorporated)

Dundee's only crowd-sourced guide to the city - packed with creative insights from people working, studying and living in the area.

Like other great University cities with a strong industrial past, Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow; Dundee has undergone a huge renaissance, reinventing itself as a cultural hub with a thriving creative sector. Former jute mills, factories and listed buildings have been converted into buzzing studio spaces, galleries and venues. Artists, musicians and creative businesses collaborate on projects and events to create the city's vibrant art and music scene.

With an idyllic waterfront setting, nearby beaches and countryside galore, Dundee's other natural beauty is its size. Most things are in walking distance, making it easy to get around. And although it's good to explore, being compact doesn't make it easier to know where to go and what to see; so here are our collective insights to the city...



## Cultural Highs

1 **The McManus** art gallery and museum is a must-see. This Gothic influenced building is beautiful inside and out; making it worth looking up to the rafters as much as looking at the Victorian paintings, contemporary galleries and the great local history collections. For the best in contemporary art, check out exhibitions at 2 **GENERATORprojects**; 3 **Hannah Maclure Centre**, with rooftop cafe; and 4 **Exhibitions DJCAD**, which has four gallery spaces. Another top choice is the 5 **DCA**, visit the centre for contemporary art and for the best British, American and world cinema. With impressive UK and world leading reputations, 6 **Dundee Rep** and **Scottish Dance Theatre** are firm favourites for the best in theatre and contemporary dance. And a popular choice for star gazers is 7 **Mills Observatory**, where you can watch the planets go by...

*'GENERATORprojects is the life blood of Dundee's independent art scene'*

## Bites, Drinks and Tunes

**Cafes:** 8 **The Parlour Cafe** is a contemporary deli cafe with top cakes, *'it has the best vegetarian food on offer in Scotland, never mind Dundee'*. 9 **T Ann Cake** has tasty homemade food and cakes in vintage crockery with a chilled out atmosphere. 10 **Tartan Coffeehouse** has a good information point to find out what's currently on, when. Other fond favourites include: 11 **Burgh Coffeehouse**; 12 **Empire State Coffee**; and 13 **Jessie's Kitchen**.

**Restaurants:** The 14 **Byzantium** for Mediterranean cuisine. 15 **Agacan** for Turkish. 16 **Malabar** for Indian. 17 **Piccolo**, 18 **Cafe Sicilia** and 19 **Visocchi's** for Italian. 20 **The Deep Sea Restaurant** for city centre fish and chips. The Rep's 6 **Encore** restaurant, DCA's 5 **Jute** cafe bar and 21 **Playwright** all offer pre-theatre finer wining and dining.

**Pubs:** Good old-fashioned cosy pubs include: 22 **The Speedwell**, known locally as 'Mennies' is great; nearby 23 **Tay Bridge Bar** and 24 **The Phoenix** are also properly authentic! 25 **The Art Bar** is a West End institution, laidback with a good bar selection and music make it a top creative choice (a tip is to get a pizza from upstairs 26 **Da Vinci's** and eat it over your pint). 27 **Drouthy's**, 28 **Clarks**, 29 **The West House** and 30 **Duke's Corner** all offer good food and live music. Visit the 31 **Metro Bar** at the Apex for posh cocktails.

**Music:** 32 **The Reading Rooms** is a former library, now underground club. Since 2002, the Rooms has brought the most interesting and

eclectic live acts and DJs from around the world, to our city. Check out 33 **The Doghouse** for up-and-coming and established bands. Then there's Zazou at 34 **Kage**, a monthly cosmic/leftfield disco night with *'friendly and hedonistic vibes in a seedy and intimate venue'*.

## Independent Retailers

From upmarket gifts to unique vintage one-off finds, Dundee's stand out areas include: Perth Road: starting at the bottom of the Nethergate, 5 **DCA's shop** is full of contemporary design and local wares. 35 **Groucho's** is another local institution, stocking the best rare and collectable vinyl since 1976! Heading up the road, 36 **Born To** stocks unique kids clothing. Then further up you arrive at 37 **Fraser's Fruit and Veg**, a local green grocer with good banter; and a number of charity shops with good haul potential!

Wander around the Exchange Street area – visit the very popular 38 **RARA and the Pretty Vacant Showrooms**, for the best vintage one-off pieces; head to 39 **The Cheesery** and 40 **Lovely Things**, which do exactly what they say on the tin. Turn around the corner and step back in time to the nineteenth century at **Braithwaite's**, the only place to buy good quality ground coffee.

The rest of the best: the little boutique shops in Westport, complete with uber quirky eyewear specialists, 41 **Spex Pistols**. 42 **Aitken Wines** for great vino; and 43 **Tayside Recyclers** for a rummage and vintage furniture bargains.

## Places to Gaze, Stroll and See the Sights

Unsurprisingly the top of 44 **the Law**, our extinct volcano, is the place to go for panoramic views over the Sidlaw hills, Perthshire, Angus and Fife.

*'Top of the Law for the best views of the city and it's free! Every great city has its bird's eye view point and Dundee is no different. Only from there can you appreciate Dundee's unique geography.'*

Walk along 45 **Riverside** and spot the seals at low tide by the impressive 46 **Tay Rail Bridge**. Walk, cycle or drive over the 47 **Road Bridge** to Newport for fish and chips from the 48 **Silvery Tay** and watch the sun go down behind Dundee. View 49 **Maggie's Centre** from the outside only, but well worth it as the building was designed by world-renowned architect Frank Gehry; and the mature wooded area behind offers a peaceful walking retreat. Many of the buildings and rooftops in the city centre are good for a look: 50 **DC Thomson's** publishers; and around Castle Street, Crichton Street and Whitehall Street. 51 **The Frigate Unicorn** is a good local site to visit and support; and the 52 **RSS Discovery** needs no introduction!

Dundee has a well-established cycle route and great parks and green spaces: 53 **Magdalen Green** and its band stand are particularly good on sunny days when the city's West End enjoy many a BBQ. The beer garden at 54 **Laings** and courtyards at 5 **DCA** and 30 **Duke's Corner** take some beating.

**Parks:** 55 **Balgay Park** has great views; 56 **Dudhope Park** has a great skatepark; the 57 **Botanic Gardens** for plants; 58 **Baxter Park** with Italian influenced Pavilion; 59 **Camperdown** has a wildlife park. Fife's 60 **Tentsmuir forest** and connecting 61 **Kinshaldy beach**, is stunning and has to be one of the UK's best. 62 **The Sidlaw hills** behind Auchterhouse and are brilliant for endless walking. Take a short trip to 63 **Broughty Ferry** and walk for miles along the sandy beach; have a pint in 64 **the Fisherman's**, an ice-cream in 19 **Visocchi's**; see 65 **Barnhill's Rock Gardens**; and 66 **Castle**.

## Behind the Scenes Creativity

Here are a few of the organisations and festivals which keep the city creative.

67 **Tin Roof Collective**, 68 **Wasps Studios** and 69 **Fleet Collective** each provide working spaces and events for all types of creatives. **V&A at Dundee**, already run events and exhibitions and will feature more in future editions! **Cultural Enterprise Office**, **Dundee Visual Artists & Craft Makers Award Scheme**, **Tayscreen**, **Nesta**, **DJCAD**, **Abertay University** and **Dundee College** all support the creative sectors. Creative festivals include: **Dundee Literary Festival**; **Dundee West Fest**; **NEoN Digital Arts Festival**; and **Ignite Dundee**. Creative collaborators, outfits and zines: **Yuck n Yum**; **D-Air:Dundee Artists in Residence**; **n\_ilk**; and **Satellite**.

**This collective snapshot of the city has only been made possible by our great creative contributors, so as thanks, we pass over the final word: 'It's the welcoming and friendly people that make our city extra special - it could be due to all those extra hours of rays that Sundeel gets as Scotland's sunniest city!'**

## Creative Dundee

Creative Dundee highlights creative happenings, innovative projects and connects interesting people, to provide a platform to showcase the area's creative talent to the world. Official **Pecha Kucha Night Dundee** hosts. The **Creative Dundee Map** lists local creative businesses, cultural organisations and free wifi access!

[www.creativedundee.com](http://www.creativedundee.com)



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