



Walk on the **WILD SIDE**

GULLANE ON SCOTLAND'S EAST COAST ENTICES
JO VAUGHAN TO DON HER WALKING BOOTS

WITH EDINBURGH close enough for a day trip, despite the campsite's rural location, Yellowcraig at Dirlerton is a paradise for adults and children alike. Its pitching areas are separated by sandy dunes, shrubs and roses, making it an attractive place to stay. Even better is that the beach is just a few minutes' walk away, with its acres of golden sand and a myriad of rock pools for the kids to explore.

The town of North Berwick, with its Scottish Seabird Centre that uses

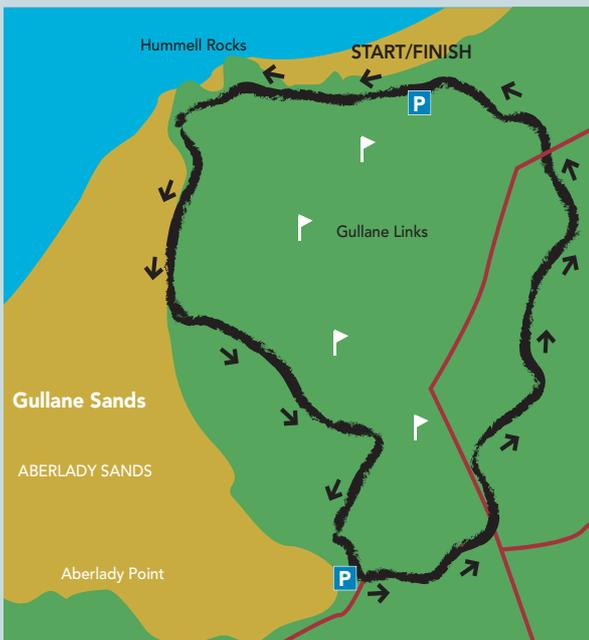
remote-controlled cameras to view the local birdlife without disturbing it, is a very short car ride away. There is a good number of pubs and local shops too, as well as two nearby castles to explore. Dirlerton Castle is the closest – you won't fail to notice it as you approach the site's entrance road – but you'll have to head north through North Berwick to find the wonderful Tantallon Castle, which is perched right on the clifftops.

The start of our walk is just a few miles drive from the campsite, at the

large coastal car park in Gullane. These coastline paths aren't overly easy to follow, but keep to my instructions and ensure you end up on Gullane Sands and you won't go wrong. Keep an eye out for that lone post on the beach, otherwise you'll overshoot the turning off the sand, which isn't clearly marked. This being a Nature Reserve, dogs are not permitted during the birds' main breeding season of April to July, and at all other times they must be kept on a lead.



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Local attractions

- **Tantallon Castle**, North Berwick EH39 5PN. Tel 01620 892727. Open: every day from 1 April to 30 September, and Saturday to Wednesday the rest of the year. A formidable stronghold set atop cliffs on the Firth of Forth. Disabled access: easy into the shop, but will need someone to push to get you to the castle courtyard. The grass can get boggy though
- **Dirleton Castle**, Dirleton, North Berwick EH39 5ER. Tel 01620 850330. A ruined castle that dates back to the 13th century. Disabled access: restricted inside the castle, but two gardens and most of the grounds are accessible
- **Preston Mill**, Preston Road EH40 3DS. Tel 01620 860426. Open: 1 June to 30 September, Thursday to Monday. Cost: adult £5, concession £4, family £14. A picturesque mill that sits on the river Tyne. Disabled access: has provision for disabled visitors



Tantallon Castle

General information

NEAREST CLUB SITE: Yellowcraig, Dirleton EH39 5DS. Tel 01620 850217. Open until 5 November
DISTANCE: 5.8 miles/9.3km
TERRAIN: Good paths, beach, short stretch of road
NUMBER OF STILES: None, although there are some gentle rocks to clamber over
ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT: Ordnance Survey Explorer 351 – Dunbar & North Berwick
LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY: Easy/moderate
REFRESHMENTS: In Gullane
TOILETS: In car park where walk commences, just after the wooden bridge half way round, and also in the centre of Gullane
DIRECTIONS: Leave the campsite and return to the A198. Turn right along the main road until entering Gullane. Then turn right following a car park sign towards 'Gullane Beach'. Park at the far end of the car park. There is talk of a charge being levied on the car park, so carry some change in case

Tourist information

North Berwick Tourist Information Centre, Quality Street, North Berwick EH39 4HJ. Tel 0845 225 5121

DIRECTIONS

- 1** At the far end of the car park there is a rusty metal gate with access on either side to a small gravel path – take this path which runs parallel with the coast. Just before the path descends into bushes it forks – take the left fork that heads between some gorse bushes.
- 2** As the path ascends a hill you'll come to an unmarked path crossroads. Turn right here, passing a small green post on your right-hand side. This path continues along the line of the coast. Keep straight ahead following the main track, following the white arrow on a green post.
- 3** Veer right down a gravel path, still following the green signs with white arrows, across the entrance to 'Tee No 12' on the golf course, but veer right again at the square concrete blocks along a smaller path, again following the arrow.
- 4** The path now descends sharply towards the beach. Descend on to the sand and then veer left to walk around the crescent-shaped beach. Keep on the beach around the headland and continue on the sand along the next beach, clambering over the rocky outcrops.
- 5** Just before the beach ends in a tumble of rocks, veer left up the small bank beside a slope of slate-coloured shingle. Immediately turn right and continue following the path that runs immediately adjacent to the shoreline, still keeping the sea to your right. Soon you get to the wide expanse of Gullane Sands. Once again descend onto the beach and continue ahead, keeping the dunes to your left.
- 6** Continue until you see a single tall wooden post (around 6ft high) buried in the sand. Here, turn left up a sandy bank through the dunes, following a public footpath sign that's buried in the top of the dunes.

- 7** Continue along the wire-fenced footpath and keep ahead where the fence ends, following the wooden bollards. Where the wire fence starts again, stay to the right of it. Continue along the edge of the golf course, passing 'Tee 13'.
- 8** At some fire beaters close to two footpath signs pointing in three directions, turn right. The grassy path turns to gravel, eventually passing through scrub.
- 9** Pass a sign marked 'Aberlady Bay L.N.R.' and cross the wooden bridge. At the road turn left following the sign 'John Muir Way – Gullane 2'. Continue past the sign to 'Myreton Motor Museum' and follow the road around to the left.
- 10** When the pavement ends, cross the road, following the 'John Muir Way' sign, and go through a wooden gate on the opposite side of the road. Follow the gravel path behind the golf course's clubhouse. When you get to the end of the golf course continue following the gravel path around to the left.
- 11** You will see the remains of Saltcoats Castle to the right. Pass through another wooden gate and continue following the 'John Muir Way' signs towards Gullane. Then turn left by 'Tee No 18', again following the 'John Muir Way' sign, along the gravel road.
- 12** When you reach the residential tarmac road, continue straight ahead until you get to the main road. Here turn right, and then use the zebra crossing just beyond Brighton Terrace. Walk down the road opposite, past the public toilets. When you get to the green, take the right fork (Goose Green Road), and follow this around the right-hand side of the green.
- 13** When you've passed the green, continue straight ahead towards the sea along Marine Road. Turn left along Marine Terrace to return to the car park.