

Visitor access and safety

Montrose Basin Wildlife Reserve is a large intertidal estuary, and is home to thousands of roosting birds. There is no circular walk around the Basin due to the tides.

Montrose Basin has 750 hectares of mudflats at low tide. These mudflats are dangerous to walk on. Please keep to the paths provided.

Please note that all the walks are on **working farmland**, with the exception of the Goose Hide walk. Cattle may be present during the summer, and nesting birds will be present on all walks from the spring.

Please keep your dogs on leads.



Parking for walks

There are no walks that take place from the visitor centre car park. Please use the following locations:

1 The Lurgies: Lurgies Car Park

what3words ///otter.equipping.growl

GPS 56.705247, -2.53163

2 Goose Hide: Tayock Car Park

what3words ///pine.wasps.sticks

GPS 56.721715, -2.476833

3 Wigeon Hide and 4 Shelduck Hide: Old Mill Car Park

what3words ///natural.guideline.hobbit

GPS 56.72255, -2.542821



All **parking locations** can be found on Google maps.

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You might also like to visit...



Seaton Cliffs Wildlife Reserve

scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/seaton-cliffs

Featuring spectacular red sandstone cliffs with sea caves, stacks, blowholes and arches, the reserve hosts part of the Angus Coastal Path. The cliffs support a mosaic of habitats, including coastal grassland, sand dunes and woodland. Visit for breeding seabirds, wildflowers, invertebrates and dolphins offshore.

Nearest town: Arbroath (2 miles/3.2km)

Balgavies Loch Wildlife Reserve

scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/balgavies-loch

A circular path leads around this important site for wildlife. The reserve attracts a wide range of wild and waterfowl and is a haven for songbirds and red squirrels. Look out for a varied selection of wildflowers, and ospreys can sometimes be seen fishing on the loch. Wheelchair accessible around the west and the north sides of the loch.

Nearest town: Forfar (4 miles/6.4km)



For information on places to see near you, visit our website:
scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/visit

Montrose Basin Wildlife Reserve

Open all year

f @montrosebasin

montrosebasin@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk



Visitor information

Access to the reserve is free. For latest visitor centre admission prices and opening times, please call **01674 676 336** or visit scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/montrose-basin

Visitor centre facilities

Montrose Basin Visitor Centre, on the south side of the reserve, offers panoramic views and fantastic opportunities for spotting wildlife. Telescopes and binoculars are provided. Wheelchair friendly with a coffee and gift shop, and toilet facilities.

what3words ///flocking.muddy.magically

GPS 56.698887, -2.490454

Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly, visit outdooraccess-scotland.com

You can help the wildlife at Montrose Basin by donating today! Just scan the QR code or visit scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/donate



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Montrose Basin reserve walks guide



Montrose Basin

Wildlife Reserve

Montrose Basin's wildlife

Mammals

At low tide, common and grey seals can be seen resting on the mudflats of the Basin. Otters are also frequent visitors to the reserve, although rarely seen.

Birds

The Basin hosts many species of wading birds and ducks, and in autumn tens of thousands of pink-footed geese arrive. Kingfishers are often seen in winter.

Wildflowers

The saltmarsh habitat around Montrose Basin is important for specialist wildflowers such as sea aster – look out for lots of pale purple flowers in late summer.

Invertebrates

The estuarine mud is full of many different invertebrates such as lugworm and *Corophium* mud shrimp, which support the large population of wading birds on the reserve.

Seagrass

Seagrass meadows are an important food source for wintering wigeon and play a very important role in carbon capture.

Discover the wilder side of Montrose Basin

Explore the sights and sounds of the Basin on four wildlife walks around the reserve.



The Lurgies

The point at which the River South Esk flows into Montrose Basin. Visit at low tide to watch a large variety of wading birds feeding in the exposed mud. Keep an eye out for swimming otters, seals, and eider ducks, and listen for the distinctive high-pitched call of a kingfisher. In the summer, ospreys are often seen fishing from here.

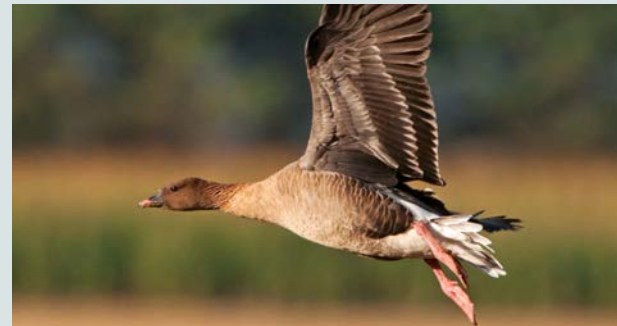


Wigeon Hide

One of the two hides that can be visited from the Old Mill Car Park. In summer, listen out for skylarks and yellowhammers in the nearby fields. The Wigeon Hide is on stilts and gives an uninterrupted view of the town over the Basin. In autumn and winter, thousands of wading birds and ducks roost in front of the hide at high tide.


Montrose Basin is an enclosed estuary of the river South Esk covering 750 hectares of tidal mudflats. A plethora of bird species feed and roost here throughout the seasons. Take a walk and see for yourself!

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|--|---|--|--|
| 1 The Lurgies | 2 Goose Hide | 3 Wigeon Hide | 4 Shelduck Hide |
| Up to 2.5 miles (4km) for a return trip. | 1.25 miles (2km) for a return trip to the hide. | 2 miles (3.3km) for a return trip to the hide. | 2 miles (3.3km) for a return trip to the hide. |
| Allow 1-1.5 hours. | Allow 0.5-1 hour. | Allow 1-1.5 hours. | Allow 1-1.5 hours. |



Goose Hide

This area of reclaimed woodland was planted with over 4,000 trees by the local community in the 1980s. Visit in the evening to enjoy a spectacular sunset over Montrose Basin. The hide here is one of the best places to watch the thousands of pink-footed geese flying in to roost on the reserve in autumn and winter.



Shelduck Hide

A view over 'The Slunks', where the River South Esk enters the estuary, can be enjoyed from the Shelduck Hide. Brown hares are often seen in the fields near the hide, and mute swans, otters, kingfishers, and shelducks can be seen from the hide windows. Reed buntings and sedge warblers are often heard from here in the summer.