

Montrose Basin Access Guide



Before Your Visit

- From March until the end of October, the Visitor Centre is open every day from 10.30am to 5pm.
- From November until the end of February the Visitor Centre is open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 10.30am to 4pm.
- The rest of the reserve is open at all times, although the gate to the Visitor Centre car park and the Bank of Scotland Hide is locked shortly after closing.
- Free entry to Scottish Wildlife Trust members.
- Entrance fees for non-members:

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|---------------------------------|-------|
| Adult | £4.00 |
| Concession | £3.00 |
| Child | £0.50 |
| Family (2 adults, 2 children) | £7.50 |
| Carers | Free |
| 10% discount for groups of 10+. | |

- Assistance dogs welcome
- Manual wheelchair available during VC opening times. Please contact the centre in advance so we can ensure that a member of staff is available to meet you at your car with the chair. For any other information prior to your visit please contact us by phone or email so we can ensure that you are accommodated to the best of our abilities.

Phone 01674 676336

Email montrosebasin@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

- SWT will promote and provide, where practical, access to its wildlife reserves for all individuals, irrespective of age and ability in accordance with the location, terrain and nature conservation requirements of the reserve. For further information on the trusts access policy [please click here](#).

How To Get Here

- The Visitor Centre address is;

Montrose Basin Visitor Centre
Rossie Braes
Montrose
DD10 9TA

- By Road: The Visitor Centre is located on the A92 Arbroath to Montrose road, one mile south of Montrose. There are brown tourist signs on each side of the road directing you towards the centre, with a large sign located at the top of the car park entrance. For Sat Nav use Postcode DD10 9TA, OS Ref NO701565
By bus: buses run regularly between Arbroath and Montrose and will stop on request at the Visitor Centre. The X7 coastal service runs between Dundee and Aberdeen but will only stop on Montrose High Street. Full details of bus times can be found at www.strathtay.co.uk
- By train: The nearest railway station is Montrose, located at the eastern edge of the Basin, about 2 miles from the visitor centre. Trains run regularly from the north and the south, full details can be found at on the [ScotRail website](#).

Parking

- There is a large tarred surface car park with two designated Blue Badge parking spaces, the nearest of which is 60m from the visitor centre entrance.
- The route from the car park to the Centre is ramped with a permanent tarred surface and downward gradient. This ramp is 140cm (4ft 7in) wide and has a support rail throughout its length, which 110cm (3ft 6in) high.
- Alternatively the visitor centre can be accessed via steps. There are 9 steps, which are deep and not clearly marked, however the lighting levels at the steps are good. The steps have handrails at both sides.

Visitor Centre

- The centre is accessed through double doors that open towards you. Both doors can be opened by staff if asked, allowing access for wider wheelchairs and scooters. The door opening is 156cm (5ft 1in) wide.
- The main visitor centre viewing gallery, interpretation and information displays, gift shop and light refreshments are located on the ground floor, with level access to all. The telescopes can be adjusted to a height suitable for wheelchair users. There is a fixed loop hearing system in place at the reception desk.
- The upper floor, used as a gallery space, is only accessible by stairs. The stairs consist of 15 steps on a tightly winding staircase, with handrails on both sides.
- The education room, located on the lower floor is accessible by stairs, a lift and an outside entrance. The staircase is again a spiral, with handrails on both sides and 12 steps. The education room can also be accessed by an outside path, which is on a moderate downwards slope. Access in then through a single door, which is 75cm (2ft 5in).
- There is a lift on the ground floor for public use, going between the ground and lower floors. The lift is a platform lift and is located 11m from the Visitor Centre entrance. The dimensions of the lift are 0.96m x 1.3m (3ft 1in x 4ft 3in). The lift has Braille markings but no tactile markings. There is no audible announcer, visual floor indicator or mirror to aid reversing. At the lower level there is a moderate ramp leading to the lift, which manual wheelchair users may require assistance with. Staff need to be notified before use of the lift.
- A picnic table is located in the grounds down a slight gradient onto a grassed area approximately 10m from the front door.

Toilet and Baby Change Facilities

- There is a fully accessible toilet located on the ground floor of the visitor centre, 9m from the entrance. This is a unisex toilet, with an outwards opening door, secured by a twist lock. The dimensions of the toilet are 176cm x 200cm (5ft 9in x 6ft 6in), with additional lateral access space of 67cm (2ft 2in). The toilet includes wall mounted grab rails at each side, low mounted mirrors, disposal facilities and a lever style tap. There isn't a functional emergency alarm available.
- Full baby change facilities are available in the accessible toilet.

Education Facilities

- Education room on lower floor is fully accessible via the lift and outside path as explained previously.
- The dipping pond is situated on raised level in front of the visitor centre. It's accessible via a grass covered path and small set of steps, with no ramp access.
- Mud activities at the shoreline are accessed by a grass covered path and then a wooden gate, wide enough to allow wheelchair access. Due to nature of the terrain, the shore isn't accessible past the gate.
- Please specify any access needs when booking so they can be addressed and accommodated. Call 01674 676336 or email montrosebasin@scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk

Events

- The Visitor Centre runs an events programme throughout the year. Events are held both in the Centre and on the reserve. Details can be found in the Scottish Wildlife Trust's [Events & Activities Guide](#).

Reserve Walks

- **Bank of Scotland Hide;** Path to BOS hide not suitable for wheelchair users. The path begins with two raised log steps then continues with a set of deep steps leading down to the hide, with a hand rail on the left side. At the end of the stepped path there is a wooden bridge with hand rails on both sides that allows level access to the hide.
- **Tayock;** The Tayock walk is located on the Western side of the Basin, off the A935 Montrose to Brechin road. The car park is on the left of the road, just after the sign for St Christopher's Caravan Park. There are height barriers (6ft 6in) at the car park entrance.
There is a large tarred surface car park with no designated parking bays. There is a gateway at the start of the path, which is 4 foot wide. The walk to the bird hide is about 1km and is wheelchair accessible. The trail starts with a wide gravel/stone path, predominantly flat but with some minor slopes. A narrower (4 foot) flat gravel path leads to the hide which is on a level surface and fully accessible. However, the viewing slots are too high for wheelchair/buggy users. There are lower viewing slots on the outside section of the hide, which has no roof.
- **The Lurgies;** The Lurgies walk is located at the south western corner of the Basin. From the Visitor Centre you turn right onto the A92, and then take a second right onto the A934 towards Forfar, then a third right signposted Bridge of Dun. You then turn right once you have driven over the small stone bridge and drive along the single track road which leads to the car park. The walk is about 2km long in each direction.
There is a small rough gravel surface car park that has no designated parking spaces. There is a narrow kissing gate at the start of the path and it's therefore not fully accessible. Prior to the kissing gate there is a stone path, passing through a 4 foot gateway. After the kissing gate there is a wide grass pathway, predominantly flat, continuing for the length of the walk.
- **The Shelduck/Wigeon Hides;** The car park for the bird hides is located off the A935 Montrose to Brechin road. If you take a left at the Mains of Dun Farm, the car park is on the right hand side of the road shortly after. Alternatively, the car park can be found from continuing on the road past the Lurgies walk and taking a right turn at the end of the village Barnhead. Having crossed the Bridge of Dun, you then take the second right, driving past the Caledonian Rail Museum and follow the road until you see it located on your left. The walks to the hides are between 1.5k and 2km in each direction.
There is a large rough gravel surface car park that has no designated parking spaces. There is a narrow tarmac road that needs to be crossed before the path to the hides starts. The walk starts with a narrow (2 ½ foot) grass covered pathway which is uneven with some steeply sloped areas. This then opens up into a wide dirt path with loose stones and a centre partition with an outward cambre. This path continues towards the Shelduck hide, until it narrows and again becomes grass covered. The hide is accessed via a set of steps with no handrail. The path towards the Wigeon Hide has a kissing gate halfway along, before continuing along the edge of a field that often contains cattle. This area of the path is often muddy and hard to walk along, especially when cattle are present. At the entrance to the hide there is a second kissing gate. The hide is accessed via a long set of covered stairs, with a support hand rail present.