

About St Andrews

“St Andrews is indisputably one of the most beautiful and inspiring places to come for a university education.”

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LOCATION

Situated on the east coast of Scotland St Andrews is set in a breathtaking position. On one side it has the rolling fields and wooded hills of Fife but to north and east it looks out over a rocky headland to the dramatic waters of the North Sea.

SIZE

St Andrews is just over two miles end-to-end. It has a population of around 18,000.

HISTORY

For more than a thousand years, the town of St Andrews has been a focal point for bishops and kings, saints and martyrs, students and holidaymakers – not to mention the greatest golfers in the world. In its early days, St Andrews attracted pilgrims from near and far to pay homage at one of the most important shrines of early Christendom – the place where some of the bones of St Andrew were laid to rest.

WEATHER

The town enjoys mild sunny summer days with contrasting blustery rain, crisp frosts and occasional snow in winter. St Andrews has less rainfall than western parts of the country but is prone to strong winds blowing in off the North Sea. Even in the winter when the sun often shines with a dazzling brightness you can find people sitting outside braving the weather relaxing in the knowledge that this truly is a home-from-home.

ACCESSIBILITY

Wherever you walk, and it is a walking town, you are reminded of a colourful and rich history. Add in the bars, restaurants, hotels, ice-cream shops and all the business associated with tourism, golf and the University and you have an atmosphere and community that is very special.

ENTERTAINMENT

St Andrews has more pubs per square foot than anywhere else in Britain. The local theatre, *The Byre Theatre*, offers a variety of entertainment all year long. The Scottish Chamber Orchestra holds a series of concerts in the Younger Hall. The independent cinema has three theatres and shows current blockbusters as

well as a range of less well known international films, chosen in conjunction with the University's Film Studies department.

SPORT

St Andrews is the home of golf – where it was first invented. There are seven golf courses around St Andrews hosting major international competitions, The Open Championship and The Dunhill Links Championship are regularly held in the town. If you do not play golf there are many other things to do! The University has over 50 registered sports clubs and these cater for beginners and existing players alike. Special mention goes to our beautiful beaches which are ideal for wind surfing, kite flying and all water-based pursuits.

IN THE VICINITY

Using the regular local bus services, you could nip down to Anstruther (nine miles away) to get your chips at the award winning Anstruther Fish Bar, Chip Shop of the Year for several years running. If you are around during the summer months, you could enjoy the internationally famous Pittenweem Arts Festival during August where the work of local and international artists are displayed in over 90 homes and venues throughout the town. Dundee is only 13 miles away and Edinburgh is only an hour by train. There are express buses that run to major Scottish cities, almost hourly, from St Andrews.

UNIVERSITY

During term time on the hour students pour out of lecture theatres, strolling along in groups, arms full of books, or cycling down North Street to catch the next seminar, or meeting up with friends for a coffee at one of the many cafés.

Students may have come from the far corners of the globe, but the town and University embrace them and they are made to feel part of the community, however long they are studying here. Alumni from St Andrews are almost unique in comparison with other universities in having such affection for their *alma mater*, which lasts all their lives. They frequently return to walk along the same streets and gaze into buildings, which although may change in terms of occupancy, are always reassuringly the same externally.