

St Andrews ^{Fife}

St Andrews

Fife

St Andrews is the largest town in East Fife and one of Scotland's most popular places to live. The town takes its name from St Andrew the Apostle whose relics, according to legend, were brought to the area by St Rule. Part of the town's prestige can be traced back to medieval times, when it became an important centre for religion and learning.

The University of St Andrews founded in 1411, is the oldest university in Scotland and the third oldest in Britain. The town can also lay claim to the title "the Home of Golf".

It is claimed that the game of golf originated in St Andrews and it has remained a popular pastime in the area for over 600 years. The Old Course in St Andrews is arguably the most famous course in the world, and the town is home to the Royal and Ancient Golf

Today St Andrews is a busy, cosmopolitan, town overlooking the North Sea and surrounded by some of the best farmland in Scotland. During the week the streets are buzzing with activity - mainly in the retail centre between North Street, South Street and Market Street with local people browsing the shops, students going to lectures or Golfers picking up souvenirs.

At the weekend outdoor pursuits beckon with the beautiful beaches, world class golf courses, coastal walking paths and the Fife cycleway.

Demographics

St Andrews has a population of 16,596 and can draw upon a north east Fife population in excess of 75,000. (Source: GROS 2006)

Housing

St. Andrews' housing stock comprises traditional dwellings from crow-stepped gabled cottages and Georgian crescents in the town-centre to modern developments and local authority housing as you journey towards the town boundaries. Average house prices in St Andrews are higher than the Fife and Scottish averages.

House-building and developments in St Andrews are tightly controlled – with new builds in St. Andrews amounting to <3% of the total builds in Fife.

All future housing developments and the expansion of the town will be managed to ensure and protect the integrity and heritage of the town. Over the next 20 years land to sustain 1000 additional high houses will be identified – a large proportion of which will be to the west of the town and will maximise the use of brownfield sites.

Employment

Over 50% of the working population of St. Andrews can be classified as professional or Managerial. NE Fife also has a lower rate of p/t workers than Fife or Scotland, 19.5% against 21.5% and 23% respectively. (Source: ©ONS, APS 2009)

In St Andrews, however, there is a slightly higher than average share of part-time employment. This may be skewed by the seasonal education and tourism sectors which create greater opportunities for flexible, part-time working. The University of St Andrews is by far the largest employer in the town with around 2,000 staff comprising academics, I.T., administration, and other ancillary staff. Tourism is also a key sector in the area employing some 3,500 full-time job equivalents (FTEs) (Source: Fife STEAM Report 2008)

Education

St. Andrews has 3 primary schools and 2 secondary schools, Madras College and St Leonards, a co-educational independent school for pupils aged 4-18. Educational attainment in St. Andrews (Madras College) is higher than the Fife and the Scottish national average at SCQF Level 4, 5, 6 and 7. Almost 75% of school leavers go onto further or higher education.

The University of St Andrews is the oldest university in Scotland. In the academic year 2006-07, the university had 6,799 full-time undergraduate and post-graduate students across its four faculties Arts, Divinity, Medicine and Science. In a recent Teaching Quality Assessment (TQA) of the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC), St Andrews was awarded the highest average rating in Scotland.

The University of St Andrews is Scotland's top rated research institution and one of the leading research-intensive universities in the world. The university has over 40 research centres and institutes, and in 2006-07 received over £38million in research grants.

Leisure and Retail

Shopping in St Andrews centres around four main streets: South Street, Market Street, Bell Street and Church Street. The town is characterised by small specialist shops.

Ten golf courses in St Andrews, including several championship courses including the Old Course, New Course, Jubilee, Duke's, Fairmont St Andrews Bay, Drumoig and the St Andrews Links Golf Academy.

Located 2 miles from St Andrews town centre, Craigtoun Country Park includes a miniature railway, boating pond, bowling and putting green, children's play area and café.

St Andrews has two beaches; the East and West Sands. The West Sands is an accredited Blue-Flag beach. Both beaches link to the Fife Coastal Path, which is popular with walkers, bird watchers and sea-life enthusiasts.

East Sands Leisure Centre with swimming pool, squash courts and fitness facilities.

The Byre Theatre of St Andrews offers a varied programme of contemporary and classic drama, music, dance, opera, comedy and children's productions and workshops.

Visitor Attractions

Can we include any tourism figures?

St Andrews Castle has ruins dating back to the 13th Century. The castle and visitor centre is owned and operated by Historic Scotland.

St Andrews Cathedral is maintained by Historic Scotland. The Cathedral Museum contains a collection of medieval sculpture and relics

The British Golf Museum exhibits the history of golf from the Middle-Ages to the present day

The St Andrews Museum has a resident exhibition exploring the heritage of the town and hosts regular temporary exhibitions and events

The St Andrews Botanic Garden is an internationally recognised Botanic Garden providing seven acres of landscaped gardens and glass houses.

St. Andrews World class

Pioneered by a group of local businesses, in collaboration with public agencies, the St Andrews World Class Initiative was implemented in 2003. The overarching objective of the Initiative is to work collectively towards common goals and to share resources to enhance aspects of St Andrews, making the town an even better place in which to live, work, visit and invest.

At present the Initiative's three main areas of activity include upgrading the physical environment, developing skills and developing products for market. The main physical projects for progression include upgrading of the town centre streetscape and

improvements to traffic management and parking at West Sands. The Initiative is also developing projects to address staff recruitment and retention problems as well as encouraging collaborative working between visitor attractions, restaurants and accommodation providers.

Location and Travel Times

St. Andrews is located in rural north east Fife. The town is well served by trunk-roads and is well served by road. Dunfermline is strategically located within the Central Belt and with close proximity to the Forth Bridge, benefits from excellent transport links, whether people are travelling by car, train or bus.

Road:

Drive times to key cities, Rosyth ferry terminal and Edinburgh airport
Aberdeen: 1 hr 25 m
Dundee: 25 m
Edinburgh Airport: 1 hr 20 m
Edinburgh City Centre: 1 hr 30 m
Glasgow: 1 hr 45 m
Rosyth Ferry Terminal: 1 hr 5 m

Rail: East coast mainline

Leuchars Railway Station on the east coast main-line is the nearest rail link to St. Andrews. Taxis and buses from the train station take approximately 10-15 minutes to reach St Andrews town centre.

Bus

St Andrews Bus Station is located on City Road at the west end of the town centre. There are regular bus services to the rest of Fife and beyond to Dundee, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

