

## The Fife Coastal Path - Pittenweem to Fife Ness with lunch at The Anstruther Fish Bar

Distance: 8 miles

Approx Time: 3 ½ hours

Read EatScotland's review of the [Anstruther Fish Bar](#)



Image: Trawlers moored at the harbour of the fishing port of Pittenweem

The Fife Coastal Path starts in North Queensferry in the south stretching for 150kms to the Tay Bridge in the north. With rugged cliffs, long sandy beaches, internationally important estuaries and wildlife reserves, walking the Fife Coastal Path is an experience not to be missed!

Anstruther is the largest in a string of pretty, old-fashioned fishing villages along the stretch of Fife coast known as the East Neuk. Perhaps the top attraction of the place is simply tucking into a quality fish supper from the Anstruther Fish bar on the front, tossing chips to the seagulls and watching the fishing boats come in with their catch.

This walk starts in Pittenweem, Fife's main fishing harbour, and site of a cave used by St Fillan in the 7th century. The path borders the Anstruther Golf Course, and along the rocky shore past Billow Ness to the four old royal burghs which constitute Anstruther.

This popular tourist village is noted for the Scottish Fisheries Museum (on the waterfront overlooking the harbour, just along from the Anstruther Fish Bar) and the Reaper, a herring drifter built in 1900. There are daily boat trips to see the thousands of birds on the Isle of May nature reserve. The route continues through the narrow streets of Cellardyke, passing its picturesque harbour north eastward towards Crail.

At first, the route follows a track then narrows, passing through kissing gates and stone stiles onto open pasture. Livestock may be present in these areas. The Caipie Caves are a prominent weathered sandstone feature situated almost halfway between Cellardyke and Crail. The route continues past an old salmon bothy and salt works before winding its way via some stone steps to Crail.

Crail is a traditional fishing village with a 17th century harbour. The village is situated on a raised beach and may have traded with the Low Countries as early as the 9th century. The section from Crail to Fife Ness is challenging in places.

The route passes a 16th Century doocot and rounds Roome Harbour at the north eastern edge of the village. This is an attractive beach which is very popular with visitors. The path continues through Sauchope Caravan Park before emerging onto a narrower and altogether rougher section of path to the Kilminning Coast Wildlife Reserve.

The reserve is managed by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and sheep and cattle graze the area at certain times of year. The route crosses the reserve and onto Fife Ness, the most easterly point in Fife.