Take it in...

The McManus Art Gallery and Museum has a stunning exterior and is the place to explore Dundee’s impressive global impact. Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) has everything under one roof - galleries, a two-screen cinema, print studio, restaurant, and Jute Café Bar. Verdant Works takes you back to Dundee’s jute textile past. Hannah MacLeod Centre is an exhibition and cinema space within Abertay University. University of Dundee hosts four galleries, a museum collection, and LifeSpace, a science art research gallery. Step onboard RRS Discovery to explore the famous polar expedition ship. Then visit nearby HM Frigate Unicorn. Dundee Rep Theatre and Scottish Dance Theatre produce and show world class performances. Gardyne Theatre and Card Hall both offer a range of music, theatre and comedy. Visit Dundee Science Centre for hands-on learning. For visual art exhibitions often featuring local artists, check out GENERATOrProjects.

Bites, drinks and sounds

Cafes

- Folk Cafe and its sister cafe The Parlour offer healthy and imaginative daytime bites.
- Flame Tree Cafe caters all. Watch the world go by in Henry’s Coffee House at City Square. Stop by The Auld Tram for takeaway drinks and sandwiches. Macamara has an intercontinental brunch menu. Taypark House is set in stunning grounds, with Gin Bar and garden. Tea And Cake, The Palais, Avery & Co, Jessies Kitchen in nearby Broughty Ferry and Newport based KitchenBake all do good homemade food and cake, lots of cake.

Restaurants


Bars

- George Orwell.
- The Speedwell and The Phoenix. For something different, The Wine Press, a wine bar with wine vending on tap.
- Mayfly and its Door Below.
- Jam Jar has a range of cocktails, including Dundee themed ones.
- The Art Bar is a West End institution, across from the art school with live music and laid back atmosphere. For beer, Duke’s Corner have a whole wall of crafts on tap.
- Visit Scottish craft breaver’s Innis & Gunns The Beer Kitchen and Brewdog. Also try Dundonian pilsner by 71 Brewing, and did someone mention Draffens? Shh...

For independent clothing and accessories check out The Cartonco Store, Manifesto, Hard Grind (for cuts too), Arkive, M Boutique, MC Boutique and fashion designer Hayley Scanlan’s boutique shop.

Places to stroll and sights to see

The top of the Law, our extinct volcanic plug, is the best for panoramic views over Dundee, Perthshire, Angus and Fife. Head along Riverside at sunset and admire the Tay Rail Bridge, visit the Riverside Nature Park, head to Maggie’s Centre to admire world renowned architect, Frank Gehry’s impressive building, from the outside only. Cycle the Green Circular, 27 mile route around the city. Walk or cycle over the bridge to Fife, enjoy Slessor Gardens Discovery Walk and take in Sharing Not Hoarding, an experimental public art project. Visit Dundee Urban Orchard and stroll along the waterfront, also the site of the forthcoming V&A Dundee. If you appreciate a good statue, check out Dundee’s Oor Wullie, JA Braithwaite’s, The Speedwell and Broughty Ferry Castle.

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Observatory, Baxter Park with a grand pavilion. the city centre found calm in The Howff cemetery. Magdalen Green with bandstand is a great space on a sunny day; and the Botanic Gardens are too. Kinzbryndy Beach at Tentsmuir is stunning and has to be one of the UK’s best, it’s on route to St Andrews. The Sidlaw Hills behind Auchterhouse are brilliant for endless walking. Get a day pass on the Number 73 bus and spend your day visiting a trio of great sandy beaches in Carnoustie, Monifieth and Broughty Ferry - have a pint in the Fisherman’s, an ice-cream in Visocchi’s; the Barnhill Rock Gardens and Broughty Ferry Castle.

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Behind the scenes

Here are a few of the organisations and festivals which keep the city creative as the UK’s only UNESCO City of Design.

Creative workplaces include

- Fleet Collective.
- Wasp Studios.
- Dundee Ceramics Workshop.
- DCA Print Studio.
- The Circle.
- Distillery 10.
- Vision Building includes Comics Creative Space, Dundee MakerSpace, NEoN Digital Arts, Biome Collective, Creative Dundee and more.
- V&A Dundee run events and activities in the run up to the doors opening in 2018.
- University of Dundee.
- Abertay University and Dundee & Angus College all have leading art/ design courses and each have Degree Shows running in May.

Some of the many creative festivals to check out include: May - Dundee Design Festival, Degree Shows and Ignite Dundee; June - Dundee West Fest; Sep - THS Festival, and Flower and Food Festival; Oct - Dundee Literary Festival, Discovery Film Festival and Dundee Science Festival; Nov - NEoN Digital Arts Festival.