The Dunnet Estate

Region: Highlands **Sleeps:** 18

Overview

The Dunnet Estate holds a magnificent location on the north coast of the Scottish Highlands, set on Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of the UK mainland. The 2,000 acre estate boasts remarkable coastal views in all directions and a makes a truly extraordinary setting for a family get-together or special occasion stay. While guests will enjoy total tranquility and privacy, a variety of helpful amenities, including supermarkets and restaurants, can be found in the nearby town of Thurso, less than a twenty-minute drive away.

The home boasts a varied and fascinating history, originally completed in 1906 by Admiral Sir Edwyn Alexander-Sinclair, notable for firing the first shots of the Battle of Jutland. In 1948, the Estate was purchased by Commander Clare and Lady Doris Vyner, a close friend of Elizabeth, HRH the Queen Mother, and invited her to stay at the house in 1953 after the death of her husband, King George VI. During her stay, she spotted Barrogill Castle from one of the upstairs windows, she arranged to view and purchase the dilapidated castle, later renaming it the Castle of Mey, its original name. This story was even touched upon in the first series of the popular tv show, The Crown. Since then the home has been hotel, a private residence and even nearly became a recording studio for Led Zeppelin. The house gradually fell into a state of disrepair until it was eventually purchased by its current owners who have lovingly restored and transformed the house into the beautiful home that it is today.

The ground floor is home to the fabulous entertaining spaces which comprise of the elegant sitting room, library, games room and formal dining room which can comfortably seat up to twenty guests. The kitchen comes fully-equipped with all the tools you could possibly need to create delicious meals, while a second caterers' kitchen is available for those who wish to really relax and hire in the professionals! The Dunnet Estate can comfortably accommodate up to eighteen guests across the nine beautifully-appointed bedrooms, seven of which feature en-suite facilities, while the remaining two share the use of a fantastic family bathroom. On request, four of the bedrooms can be set up with twin beds, making them ideal for siblings or friends to share.

Outside, wonderful views can be enjoyed from every direction: south to Dunnet Bay, west to Peedie Sands beach which is a short walk away, north to Dunnet head and east to St John's loch and the Castle of Mey. Any children in the group will enjoy exploring, playing games, and having yummy picnics in the large grounds.

As mentioned in... (https://www.cntraveler.com/gallery/7-castle-stays-in-scotland-that-feel-straight-out-of-the-traitors)

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Facilities

Boat Trips • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Recommended • Ideal for Kids • Romantic • Golf Nearby • Walking/Hiking Paths • Horse Riding • Watersports • Canoeing/Kayaking • Historical Sites • Cycling • Sailing • Ideal for Xmas/NY • Eco Friendly (Sustainable) • EV Charger • Catering Available • Surfing • Weddings • Chef/Cook Available • Quirky (Unique) • Dry Hire Option • Marquee Hire Permitted • Licensed for Marriage • Manor • Ideal for Teens • Has Discount • Has Offer • Cots (Cribs) • Special Offer • Maid Service Available • Walk to Beach • Outdoor Ceremony • Instagrammable • Beach Nearby • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Flexible Catering Options • Parking Space • Allow Ceremonial Fire • Heritage Collection • Country Estate • Wi-Fi/Internet • Seaview • Allow External Caterers • Lakes and Mountains • Allow Fireworks • Bath mat • Rural Location • Decorated for Christmas • Indoor Reception Available • Washing Machine • Northern Lights Viewing • Nearby Church/Chapel • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Hairdryer • Tourist Towns & Villages • TV • Table Tennis • Laptop Friendly Workspace • Games Room • Indoor Games • DVD • Gym/Fitness Room • Tumble Dryer • Dishwasher • Microwave • AGA • Safety Deposit Box • Smart TV • Table Football • Home Cinema • Fire Pit • Heating • Half Board • Pre-Stocked Fridge Available • Cooking Classes Available • Yoga Classes Available • Transfers Available • Breakfast Available • Board games • Babysitting Available • Children's books • Butler Available • Xbox/Playstation/Wii • Property host • English speaking babysitter available • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Stair gates • Mattress protector • Plastic crockery • Baby bath • Food blender • High Chair(s) • Fenced Grounds

Interior & Grounds

Ground Floor
- Entrance hall with piano
- Boot room with table tennis
- Sitting room
- Library with selection of books
- Cinema/ TV room
- Fully-equipped family kitchen
- Separate kitchen for external caterers
- Dining room with seating for up to 22 guests
- Cloakroom
- Family bathroom

First Floor
- "Bushta" bedroom with four-poster double bed and en-suite bathroom
- "Dwarwick" bedroom with super-king double bed and en-suite bathroom
- "Olrig" bedroom with double bed and en-suite shower room
- "Morven" bedroom with super-king double bed and en-suite shower room
- "Holborn" bedroom with king-size double bed and en-suite shower room
- "Hoy" bedroom with king-size double bed and en-suite shower room *(can be set up with twin beds on request)*
- "Mey" bedroom with super-king double bed and en-suite shower room *(can be set up with twin beds on request)*
- "Stroma" bedroom with twin single beds
- "St Johns" bedroom with twin single beds
- Family bathroom

Exterior Grounds
- Walled garden
- Fire pit
- Large grounds
- Lochs
- Walk to secluded sandy beach
- Parking

Additional Facilities
- Wi-Fi
- TV
- Nespresso Coffee Machine
- Hairdryer
- White Company bed linens
- Gym with Peloton, water rower, free weights and TRX
- Travel cot available on request *(please bring your own cot linen)*

** Four of the nine bedrooms can be set up with twin beds on request. The games room downstairs can be set up as a disabled bedroom with accessible bathroom next door if needed, please just request at the time of booking.*

Location & Local Information

The Dunnet Estate is situated on the north coast of the Scottish Highlands, while guests will enjoy the tranquil position, helpful amenities can be found in the village of Castletown, less than 10-minutes away. A wider variety of shops and restaurants can be found in the town of Thurso, less than a 20-minute drive away. For those travelling from further afield, Inverness Airport is just a two-and-a-half-hour drive away. A day trip to Orkney can also be easily arranged from the house.

There is plenty for guests to see, do and explore in the surrounding area. Hike across the Estate to the beautiful Peedie Sands or Dunnet Bay Beaches, spend perfect days swimming, surfing and watching the sun set over the Atlantic. For history enthusiasts, the Castle & Gardens of Mey and Old Keiss Castle are well worth a visit and both less than a 30-minute drive away. Any keen whisky or gin drinkers will enjoy informative tours of the Wolfburn Single Malt Distillery and the Dunnet Bay Spirits Distillery, both less than 20-minutes away, be sure to book in advance to secure tickets. Finally, no trip to this remarkable part of Scotland would be complete without a visit to John o'Groats to have a picture taken next to the iconic signpost, just a 20-minute drive away. From here, enjoy a 3km coastal walk to Duncansby Head Lighthouse and admire the truly out of this world scenery.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Inverness Airport (196km)**
Nearest Bar/Pub	**Northern Sands (1.1km)**
Nearest Beach	**Peedie Sands on the estate (1km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**Thurso (19km)**
Nearest Golf	**Thurso Golf Club (19 km)**

Nearest Restaurant	**Northern Sands (1.1km)**
Nearest Shop	**Spar, Castletown (7.6km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**Tesco Superstore, Thurso (14.2km)**
Nearest Town	**Thurso (14.5km)**
Nearest Train Station	**Thurso (16km)**
Nearest Village	**Castletown (5.9km)**

What we love

- Notable home which was regularly visited by the late Queen's Mother, re-opened by King Charles III in July 2021 and even featured in an episode of The Crown!
- Magnificent, tranquil location on Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of the UK mainland, while being just 20-minutes from helpful amenities in Thurso and a variety of attractions
- The home has been beautifully restored and features elegant interiors and furnishings throughout. Seven of the bedrooms feature en-suite facilities making the home ideal for families holidaying together who wish to retain an element of privacy

What you should know...

- Those travelling with small children should ensure that they are not left to explore the grounds alone due to the open lochs
- On request, the games room can be converted into a ground floor bedroom - ideal for any guests who struggle with mobility

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** £1,000 charged to client's credit card by the owner or paid via bank transfer prior to arrival and refunded after departure, subject to full inspection.

- **Arrival time:** 4.00 p.m.

- **Departure time:** 10.00 a.m.

- **Energy costs included?:** Yes.

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes, including beach towels.

- **Pets welcome?:** Up to 2 well behaved dogs welcome (downstairs only) on request only and with prior agreement with the owner. If accepted, a pet supplement will apply (payable locally).

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Four of the nine bedrooms can be set up with twin beds on request. The games room downstairs can be set up as a disabled bedroom with accessible bathroom next door if needed, please just request at the time of booking. Weddings and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges. Stag/hen parties are not allowed.

- **Changeover day:** Flexible.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Standard changeover clean included in the price. Guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.

- **Smoking Allowed?:** No.

- **Minimum stay:** Please note that there is a 3-night minimum stay, this may be increased across peak dates.

- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.

- **EPC Rating:** B