

The Riverside

The River Almond runs into the Forth at the bottom of Cramond Village. As you walk along the riverside the cottage on the opposite bank of the river is called Cobble Cottage. Prior to the last outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, in 2000, you could summon the ferry by ringing the bell at the steps leading down to the river and the ferryman, who used to live in the cottage, would come and take you across the river. The base of the steps at this point is where the Cramond Lioness was found in 1997 and a good information board gives the story of the find.

Given that it is no longer possible to make the ferry crossing you require to walk upstream and cross the river at the 17th century Old Cramond Brig and then you can walk through Lord Rosebery's Dalmeny Estate and along the shoreline to South Queensferry (a distance of approx. 5 miles).

Eagle Rock

At the mouth of the river look along the shore beyond Cobble Cottage and you will see a large rock sitting out from the coastline. This rock has an eagle carved into it and is said to be the work of Roman Soldiers.



Eagle Rock

Evidence of the Roman occupation at Cramond is abundant around the village and dates back to 142 AD when they used the Almond Estuary as a harbour and built a fort in the area.

Barnbogle Castle

Beyond Eagle Rock lies Barnbogle Castle. This was the home of the Mowbray family for 13 generations prior to being bought by Sir Archibald Primrose in 1662. Dalmeny House replaced the old castle as the family home in 1815 and is the home of Lord Rosebery and family. Following an incident, the old castle stood ruinous for 30 years and was rebuilt in 1881.



Hound Point

The headland beyond, with the steel jetty and oil tankers berthed, is Hound Point and was the location from which Sir Rodger de Mowbray set off to fight in the Crusades.

Hound Point continued

It is said that, as he was sailing off, his hound wailed its sorrow so loudly that he turned back and took it along with him.

Cramond Island

The distance along the causeway to Cramond Island is almost 1 mile. The concrete pillars that you see leading out to the island are the remains of a WWII defence line. They were built to stop shallow bottomed craft from slipping past between the island and the mainland. A visit to the island should be carefully planned as the river is tidal and dangerous.



Forth Bridge

There are good views to be had upstream towards the Forth Bridges and along the Fife coastline opposite. You can see Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay, Braefoot and Inchcolm Island. Downstream you can see Burntisland, Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy. On this side looking east, you can see Granton, Cockenzie, and North Berwick Law (hill) in the distance.



The Cramond Fish

As you walk along the promenade, about 80 yards ahead, you will see the Cramond Fish. The sculptor was local artist Ronald Rae and more of his work can be seen at St Andrew's Square, Edinburgh. At this point you can look out on the Forth Estuary and see the islands of Inchmickerry (lying behind Cramond Island) and Inchkeith which lies further downstream.



Inchmickerry

This island has been fortified since the reign of King Angus in the 8th century. Further fortification of the island took place during the Napoleonic Wars. The oyster beds around the island formed a significant part of the Cramond Oyster Industry in the 1690s, with 11 boats dredging for oysters.

(Inchmickerry continued)

At the outset of WWII dummy funnels and masts were erected to ensure the island looked like a naval destroyer to draw enemy fire and so needlessly waste his ammunition.

It gained the nickname 'Battleship Island'. During both World Wars it played a strategic role in the defence of the Forth Bridge, the Naval Yards beyond and Edinburgh's Turnhouse Airport.



Inchkeith

This island was granted to Robert de Keith by Malcolm II in 1010. It has been used as a place of isolation for those suffering from the plague and other disease on a number of occasions. It has also been a place of refuge and a stronghold during a number of wars, e.g. it was seized by the English Army following the Battle of Pinkie in 1547; used by the French troops in 1564; and re-fortified during the Napoleonic Wars.

It was fortified again for the protection of Leith docks in 1880 and during both World Wars it formed part of the River Forth Defence Services. In November 1918 it became an anchorage hold for the German Fleet at the time of their surrender. Today it is an RSPB site and its Lighthouse is controlled from the mainland.



Granton Quarry

The esplanade joins West Shore road just short of the Granton Gas Works. This area was the site of the old Granton Quarry that supplied stone for:- Holyrood Palace refurbishment in 1552; the remodelling of Royston Castle in 1696; the construction of Granton Harbour from 1836—45; and for the figure of Nelson, on Nelson's Column, Trafalgar Square, London in 1843.

Granton Quarry continued

The quarry was also the site of a great 75ft Araucaria fossil tree find and this is identified on the first O.S. Map of 1853. The fossil tree was so heavy that it was decided to leave it in situ when the quarry was infilled. The final working of this quarry ended following the outbreak of WWII.

Granton Gas Works

The development of Granton Gas Works commenced in 1897. Although only one of the gasholders remains there were 3 on the site until its closure in 2001. It has been determined that the production of gas in the area was of such significance that a gas holder should be retained as a scheduled monument. The area has been under redevelopment for a number of years.



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The Mansion Houses

At the junction of the esplanade with West Shore Road you may turn right and head up the hill, then turn right again along Marine Drive back to Cramond. The mansion houses along this drive were built between 1832 and 1850. The first house 'Craigroyston' was built for Captain Dundas in 1849 and was modified in 1907 for its next owner. During WWII it became the HQ of the Mine-sweeping Defence Force that operated from Granton Harbour. On your left is the Civil Service Sportsground and the Edinburgh Caravan Club.

Further on you will come to the principal mansion of the old estate of Muirhouse, an area that had been part of the hunting lands of the Kings of Scotland. The modern house that you see today was built for Wm Davidson in 1832. This house is followed by Broomfield House (now renamed Almond House), which was the home of the Haig family (of whisky fame).



Muirhouse Mansion

As you walk further on you can see the esplanade and Cramond Island ahead.



When walking the promenade at Cramond there is much to see along the coastline towards the Forth Bridge, across the River Forth Estuary along the Fife coastline and this side downstream.

Should you wish more information visit the Maltings Information and Interpretation Centre on the River Almond Promenade.

Panorama of Cramond Shoreline

The Cramond Association

Promoting the amenity of the community of Cramond, Barton and Cammo and safeguarding its heritage



Walk Edinburgh's Wonderful Esplanade Cramond Foreshore



The River Almond at Cramond

The walk from Cramond to Granton is delightful and a pair of binoculars will enhance the value of the views to be found as you walk along the riverside and look over to Fife.

There is a free public car park at the bottom of Cramond Glebe Road, behind the Cramond Inn. Visit the old village and then take a walk along the esplanade towards Granton. At the end of the esplanade you can continue your walk along the costal road towards Granton Harbour or cut off at the end of the esplanade and head up West Shore Road then turn right along Marine Drive back to Cramond, a walk of approx. 90 minutes.

The area is popular with many people so do take care as the esplanade is used by people of all ages, those taking a leisurely stroll, or stepping it out for more positive exercise, dog walkers, the early learners on their bikes and scooters, serious runners and cyclists.

The water along this stretch of the River Forth is not clean as there are a number of sewage outfalls from the townships up the length of the Forth so don't be tempted by the shellfish or to have a dip. That said, it is a pleasant walk with many great views to be had.

Continued inside >>>>>>>>>>