



HOUSE  
OF THE  
NORTHERN GATE



# WELCOME

House of the Northern Gate  
Dunnet Estate  
Thurso, Scotland  
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The amazing sunsets over the Atlantic



The Dunnet Estate and Peedie Sands beach with Orkney in the background

The House of the Northern Gate is a beautiful, exclusive-use Highland coastal estate, where an elegant, luxurious house is surrounded by incredible views in a remarkable setting. You will feel private, warm, welcomed and inspired by the stunning views of Dunnet Bay, one of the UK's most stunning beaches, the Atlantic ocean and Orkney.

You can find us on Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of mainland Britain. This is where our ancestors came from 200 years ago and in 2018, full of excitement, we bought the house and embarked on a multi-year renovation. Throughout we have focused on combining the highest standards of comfort and with a focus on sustainable materials and renewable technology.

The estate includes 1800 acres for hiking, a secluded white sandy beach with crystal clear water, dramatic cliffs with incredible views and hidden caves and lochs to explore. We love the area and hope you will too.

The house has a very varied history. It was built in the late 1800s and was visited by the Queen Mother in the 1950's as a retreat after the death of King George VI. It makes an unforgettable venue for large groups and families to get together and we hope to welcome you soon.

*The Dunnett Family*



We can help you plan a perfect stay in the North of Scotland and, for an additional cost, can provide additional services that you may need including a daily turndown service, catering, a butler service, transfers and concierge service to book activities.

The house was extensively renovated between 2018-2021 incorporating a very high-standard of materials and environmental considerations. The result is a warm, comfortable house in the middle of winter running entirely on renewables from ground source heating, solar and local wind. Inside, the house has been redecorated in keeping with its original character.

The **lounge** with its open fire and spectacular coastal views makes a wonderful room for relaxing and good conversation in your group. In the turret is a vintage telescope for watching the ships in the Pentland Firth - as the admiral who built the house once would have done.



The **dining room** seats up to 22 and includes a fire place and views out to the bay. It is decorated with paintings of local scenes from the past and present by family artist Alex Williamson. The dining room opens onto the kitchen and the doors can be closed for more formal dinners.





The **library** contains a selection of English and French books that you are welcome to borrow during your stay. It makes for a quiet retreat for reading and work or a quiet discussion over a post-dinner drink. It can also be used as a small dining room for an intimate dinner.

We have a large dining room served from a large, well-equipped family kitchen or a separate catering kitchen.

There is also a library, lounge, cinema/TV room and boot room with table tennis. Some with open fires and all rooms having incredible views.

We have nine very comfortable bedrooms, all with excellent views. Seven have en-suite bathrooms and two smaller rooms share a bathroom. Some can be converted from double to twin if required and we can also set up a ground-floor room as a disabled bedroom (and there is an accessible bathroom nearby) if needed.



We have **two well-equipped kitchens**. A family kitchen and a catering kitchen for the use of outside caterers.





The views from the house of the moors of Dunnet Head, out to Dunnet Bay and beyond to the Atlantic are breathtaking in the day and provide magical sunsets at night. And in winter, often a glimpse of auroras.





The **cinema/TV room** is a very comfortable room for relaxing and watching movies on the large screen.



The **main hall** is at the centre of the house and includes a piano for entertaining and leads up the main staircase to the balconied landing off of which the majority of bedrooms can be found.



There is also a **boot room** which can be used for table tennis.





There are enough attractions in the local area to keep you busy for weeks. The estate itself includes **expansive heather moor for hiking** as well as Peedie Sands - a **beautiful secluded beach** five minutes from the house. We provide guests with access to the **house app** before their stay which includes details of the house itself and also contact details and suggestions for activities.





Dunnet Bay is one of the best beaches for **learning to surf** in the country with a surf school there every day (they also do canoeing and standup paddle boarding).



**Shooting and sea and freshwater fishing** is available close by including the Thurso river, one of the best salmon rivers in Scotland. There are stables for horse riding too.



**Ornithology** opportunities are close at hand with puffins on the cliffs of Dunnet Head and many species of coastal bird on St John's Loch in the village which has hides available.



**Whisky** lovers (and gin and rum lovers) can visit distilleries in the village (Rock Rose Gin at the Dunnet Bay Distillery), Thurso (Wolfburn) and Wick (Old Pulteney Distillery). On the drive up from Inverness, you can also find distilleries like Clynelish (Johnnie Walker) and Glenmorangie.



**Archaeologists and tourists** can explore the iron age brochs found in the region and take part in archaeology tours run by excellent local guides. It is possible to visit the UNESCO sites of Orkney in a day and return to the house in the evening. There is also the Castle of Mey (beloved retreat for the Queen Mother) to visit.



**Golfers** have a choice of courses from local links courses to the world-famous Royal Dornoch course an hour to the south.



Huddle around and tell stories and roast marshmallows over the **fire pit** in the house's walled garden



In winter, the **Northern Lights** are often visible from the house - use the AuroraWatch app to get notifications and head out to look for them on the northern horizon.



The house is on the **North Coast 500 driving route** - called "maybe the best road trip in the world" by Conde Nast due to the incredible highlands scenery. The house makes a perfect base to explore from.





## Where are we

**Postcode:** KW14 8YD (takes you to the centre of the village)

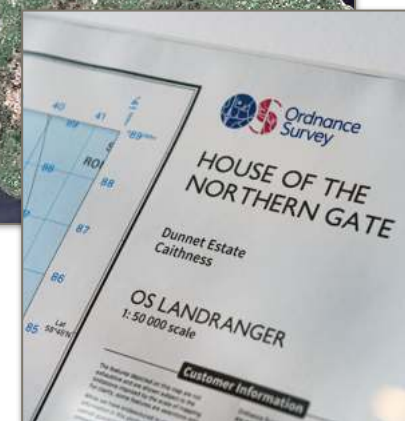
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The house is on the northernmost headland of the United Kingdom mainland: Dunnet Head. We recommend having your own transport to get to the house and to explore the region.

Our house guide includes more transport details including car hire, luxury transfers and public transport.

Travel to the house usually involves a train or plane or drive to Inverness and then a 2h30min drive north to the house along beautiful coastal scenery along the A9.

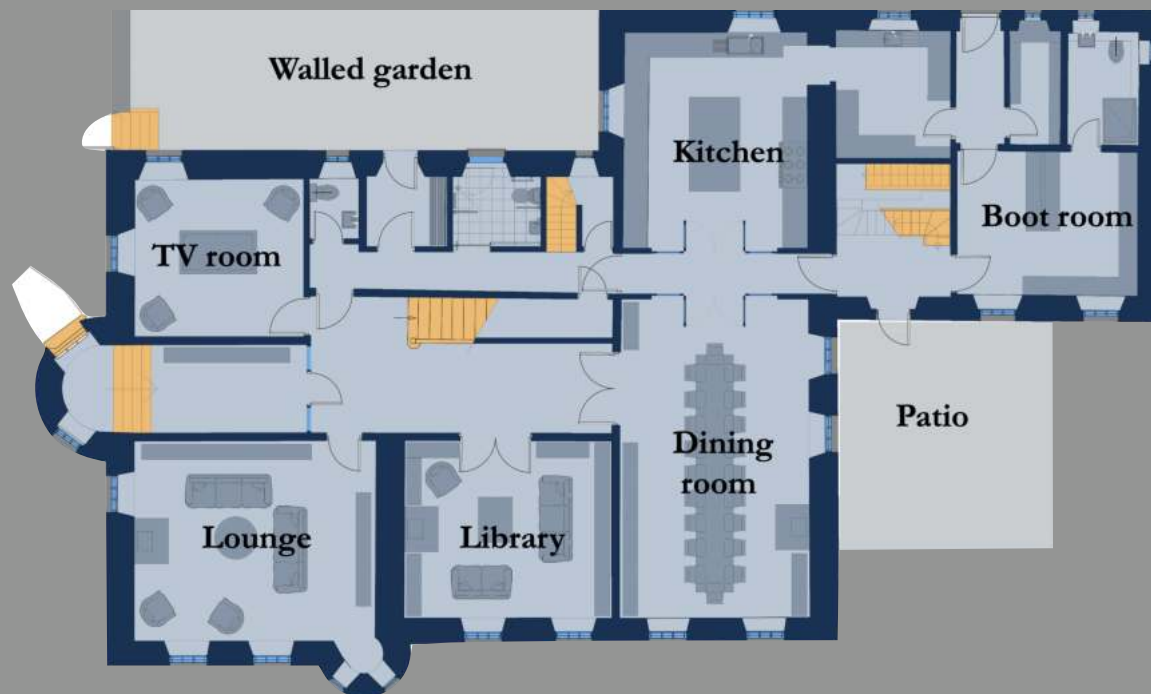
Alternatively, you can fly to Wick airport which is 30min away. Or take a train to Thurso, 20min away.





We have nine very comfortable bedrooms, all with excellent views. Seven have en-suite bathrooms and two smaller rooms share a bathroom. Some can be converted from double to twin if required and we can also set up a ground-floor room as a disabled bedroom (and there is an accessible bathroom nearby) if needed.





Downstairs Plan



Upstairs Plan

NB: Floor plans may not reflect exact furniture arrangement at any time



**Bushta:** Named after Loch Bushta, a half an hour walk north of the house on the estate. This is a king-size double room with a four-poster bed, an ensuite bathroom with bath and separate shower in the turret, and stunning views to Peedie Sands beach and the Atlantic. This is the room the Queen Mother stayed in when visiting the house in the 1950's.



**Morven:** Named after Morven, the highest point in Caithness with a steep-sided conical peak and amazing views from the summit. This is a super king-sized double room with an ensuite shower room.



**Mey:** Named after the Castle of Mey (to the east of the estate where King Charles spends two weeks every summer) which was purchased by the Queen Mother when staying at the house. This is a super king-sized double or a large twin room with an ensuite bath with shower.





**Hoy:** Named after the Old Man of Hoy (a coastal stack) on Orkney which can be seen from Dunnet Head on a clear day. This is a king-size double or a small twin room with an ensuite shower room.



**St John's:** Named after the large loch in the centre of Dunnet, visible south-eastwards out of the window. This is a twin-room sharing a bathroom with Stroma.



**Stroma:** Named after the now uninhabited island of Stroma, visible eastwards out of the window. This is a king-sized double or a small twin room sharing a bathroom with St John's.

**Olig:** Named after Olig Hill on the other side of Dunnet Bay. This is a double room with an ensuite shower room.



**Dwarwick:** Named after the headland on which the house is situated. In fact, for a brief period, the house was known as Dwarwick House. It has wonderful views of the beach at Dunnet Bay. This is a super king-sized double room with an ensuite bathroom (with hand held shower over the bath).



**Holborn:** Named after Holborn Head to the north of Scrabster Harbour which is visible to the west out of the window. This is a king-sized double room with an ensuite shower room.







The house has incredible views in all directions and has been the scene for magical weddings, unique photoshoots and memorable Christmas and Hogmanay celebrations. The house and grounds are fenced off from the surrounding estate for privacy and there are electronic gates and cameras for security.





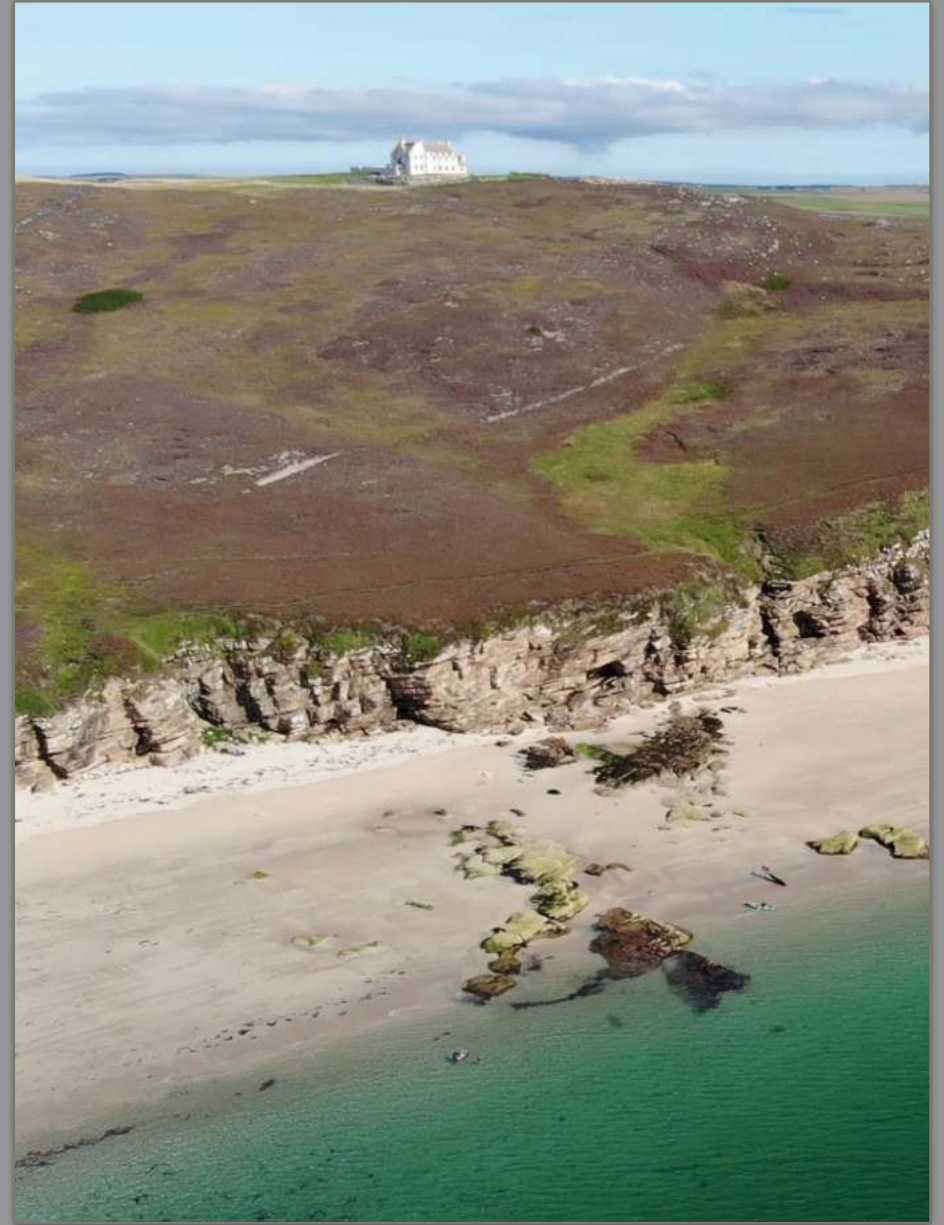
In 2021, at the completion of renovation works, we were honoured by a visit of His Majesty the King (HRH Prince Charles as he then was) who toured the house, asked many questions about the decorations and the sustainability features of the house and met almost all of the local craftsmen who had worked on the house.



The house is full of art gathered over the generations from family living abroad and from artists at home. Each room has a very different set of pictures - each with its own history and story.

This painting in the dining room is by artist Alex Williams and portrays a stylised view of a stormy sea battering the cliffs and puffins of Dunnet Head.







For additional information and  
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