

THE PINEAPPLE (easy)

What you'll see: Scotland's quirkiest building

TODAY, pineapples on the supermarket shelves are mostly imported from the Caribbean but this exotic fruit was actually grown in Scotland more than 300 years ago. One James Justice of Midlothian is credited with growing the first Scottish pineapple in 1732, some 70 years after the fruit arrived from Barbados. It took considerable investment, but there was clearly a market among the wealthy.

The Pineapple garden retreat and hothouse near Dunmore was built in 1761. This building, described as the most bizarre in Scotland, combines a large central tower sculpted exactly like a pineapple, with buildings on either side containing hothouses and stores.

From the left-hand side of the car park follow the path down to the pond. Right of the viewing platform the path emerges on to the lawn facing The Pineapple.

Left of the buildings an arch in the brick wall surrounding

the garden gives access to a woodland path. At a muddy track, turn left and follow it into open countryside.

Pass through fields with views of the Ochil Hills and the River Forth to reach the access road leading to The Pineapple car park. Follow the access road left to a small house and a signposted track on the right.

The track leads past the house beside the wall of an old garden to a signposted path junction. Turn right on to the path, descending to cross a burn and emerging into open country with Dunmore village visible on the right. Continue straight on to meet a track that enters more woodland.

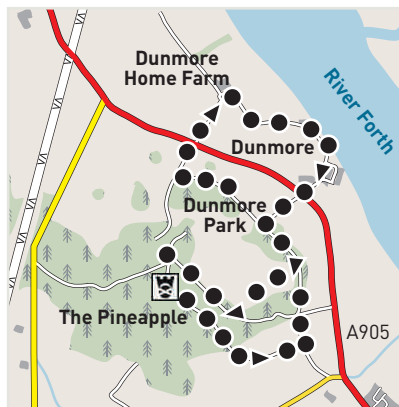
Go straight on at the next junction (the path on the right is your return route from Dunmore village) to arrive at a tree-lined access road to Dunmore Park farm. The road leads right to the main A905 road and offers views north-west to the Ochil Hills. Cross



over the main road and continue on the access road to Dunmore Home Farm.

Signs then point you along a continuation track, which emerges at the banks of the Forth and Dunmore village. Go through the village with its bowling green and square to reach the main road. Cross straight over to follow the signposted route back to the main track.

Retrace your steps left to the track round the old walled garden and follow it to the right to a gateway inside, from where the car park is easily accessed to the left.



An NTS property

The NTS maintains the gardens and policies at The Pineapple. Visitors can take a walk in the walled garden, where an orchard of crab-apple trees has been planted. An all-ability path leads from the car park to a pond viewing platform, where, if you are lucky, you may catch a glimpse of the rare great crested newt. Tel: 0844 493 2132 or visit www.nts.org.uk.

The essentials

MAP OS 1: 50,000 SHEET 65

DISTANCE 5 MILES (8 KM)

TIME 2-3 HOURS

START/FINISH THE PINEAPPLE CAR PARK,
OFF THE A905 SOUTH-EAST OF STIRLING

EXTRA INFORMATION THE PINEAPPLE IS OPEN
ALL YEAR FROM 9.30AM TO SUNSET

