

Kingdom for life

Enduring charm of the East Neuk make it a fine coast to rival the costas, says **Kirsty McLuckie**

The East Neuk of Fife has been popular for as long as the traditional British seaside holiday.

Picture postcard villages, glorious beaches and a wealth of activities means that as a holiday destination it has a lot to draw people away from the hassle of further-flung travel.

Whether it is playing on the beach at Elie, trekking the spectacular route of the Fife Coastal Path or popping over to St Andrews for a round at the home of golf, when the weather is good, the Spanish Costas have little advantage over the East Neuk.

There are also some of the best restaurants in Scotland, whether it is fresh seafood platters or devouring award-winning fish and chips sitting on the seawall in Anstruther.

It is also an area that is highly accessible from the Central Belt, within just an hour or two's drive from Edinburgh.

But while we might think of the region as perfect for families with small children, Peter Davies, of Abbeyford Leisure, a major holiday park provider in the area, says that these types of self-catering holidays are very popular for couples too. "We host a lot of empty nesters in

Plentiful self-catering options present themselves at the perfectly situated Elie Holiday Park

particular for post-Easter, May and June holidays. We offer dog-friendly accommodation too, and provide dog beds and dog chews, so it is a holiday that means pets don't have to be put in kennels."

Abbeyford Leisure's parks are peppered along the East Neuk and offer a choice of atmosphere.

Family-friendly Elie Holiday Park is close to the beach with forest walks and spectacular meadow views and is home to the free Robinson Crusoe Adventure Park.

Up the coast, St Andrews Holiday Park offers unrivalled sea views across azure waters. There's an impressive bar and restaurant with

a laid-back vibe, and an expansive sun terrace to soak up sea views. And as Fife is one of the sunniest regions in Scotland, with an average of 1,500 hours of sunshine per year, both parks enjoy some of the country's best weather, with seldom a midge to be seen.

Day trippers are welcome and the parks offer excellent food options for those walking the Fife Coastal Path. Davies says: "Many of our guests initially come for the day, but end up wanting to stay longer."

Castaway (Beach or Forest) holiday homes at Elie Holiday Park are priced from £243 for four nights per family in May.



CELEBRATING 70 YEARS
Abbeyfordleisure *A lifetime of holidays*

Your first choice for holidays in Fife

- Award-winning Elie, St Andrews and St Monans Holiday Parks
- Self-catering holiday homes and lodges with hot tubs
- Touring caravans & tents, book online, save 10%
- Own your own holiday home from £19,995

Late Apr/May
holiday homes
4 nights
From £243

Lodges with hot tubs at St Andrews & Elie Holiday Parks

Fabulous Food on the Fife Coastal Path

Castaway (Forest) holiday homes at Elie Holiday Park

Book online at abbeyford.com