

This guide is prepared to help you enjoy a visit to Cramond Village.

There are many areas of the village that you may wish to explore. These have been numbered to help identify their location. We have selected a few historical sites and given a brief outline on them, to make your visit more enjoyable. Should you wish to learn more about any given location, visit the Maltings Interpretation Centre (loc 13). Here you will find more of the history of the village from Mesolithic and Roman times through to today. The Maltings is open Sat & Sun **from April to October, 14.00 - 17.00hrs** and daily at these times during the Edinburgh Festival (find it next to the Bistro).

Bishop’s Tower (5) The early Tower House was a summer residence of the Bishops of Dunkeld from the 12th century. Richard de Prebenda, second Bishop of Dunkeld, and John de Leicester, seventh Bishop, died at Cramond in 1173 and 1214 respectively. There is good evidence of the Bishops being active in the Church of Cramond and of the Church making donations to the developments taking place at Inchcolm Abbey, which was also under their control. The old tower stood ruinous for over 300 years before it was sensitively restored to become a private dwelling in 1982.



Cramond House (3)

This was built in 1680 for the Laird, Sir James Inglis, when he upgraded his family home and was developed between 1772—78. At that time the Inglis family negotiated an exchange of land from the Church and agreed that they would build a new school-house (19) should the Church agree to have a new roadway to the west of the burial grounds that led to the village. This meant that some 32 homes at the south of Old Street (23) were demolished to allow the then Laird to develop the walled gardens and woodlands around his modernised home. The house was further extended by Lady Torphichen in 1826 and yet more housing was demolished at the north of Old Street to set out her private lands. Both of these developments significantly changed the old village (11) leaving only the Inn and the whitewashed houses around the harbour.



Cramond Kirk, Kirkyard and Manse (18, 20 and 21) Cramond Kirk is of ancient origin, is built upon the Principa of the Roman Fort and has a number of chiselled Roman stones visible within its walls. The patronage of Cramond Church was vested in the Bishops of Dunkeld until 1579 when it was resigned into the hands of King James VI, who transferred the patronage to the owner of the lands of Over Barnton. The current building stands on the site of its predecessors and can be traced back to 1656. There are two relics in the present structure: the first is the 15th century tower, the second, the mausoleum for the former owners of Cramond House.



The Kirk has had many restorations, notably by Robert Burn, William Burn and Robert Bell. The Tower is the oldest part of the building and was heightened in 1811 and the parapet added. This contains the 1619 Dutch bell, which was removed by Oliver Cromwell’s troops but later returned by General Monk. The last major renovation and extension of the Church was in 1911. It is worth spending a moment or two in the kirkyard. The oldest tombstone, that of John Stalker, owner of the estate of Easter Drylaw, dated 1608. There are a number of burial vaults to the families of the Heritors and also some cast iron memorials that help recall the days of the iron mills along the River Almond. Adjacent you will find the Manse built in 1649 and rebuilt in 1745, with the north wing in 1770 and the south wing in 1857. It was home to Raeburn’s ‘Skating Minister’, the Rev Robert Walker who lived here from 1776 - 1784.

Roman Remains (4, 8 and 14) The presence of Roman remains at Cramond has been known for centuries. The archaeological evidence suggests the Roman army first took possession of the area between 142—160AD during the campaigns of Emperor Antoninus Pius. There is also evidence of a later reoccupation of the fort in AD208 when the Emperor Septimius Severus led armies against the Caledonian tribes. The river estuary at Cramond lent itself as a good supply base and harbour to service those working on the Antonine Wall and subsequently for those who defended the northern frontier.



Although there had been many finds of Roman coins and artefacts, the actual archaeological searches did not take place until 1954 - 61 when Mr and Mrs Rae cut exploratory trenches and a number of the internal buildings of the Fort were uncovered. Further excavations in 1975 - 8 when the well preserved Roman bathhouse was found during preparatory work to create the foreshore public car park. Frustratingly, it has been back-filled and covered up until, if and when, funds are found to have it safely on show. The National Museum of Scotland and the City Museum hold many of the artefacts uncovered, including the sculpture of the Cramond Lioness, mauling the head of a bound prisoner, that was found in the bed of the River Almond in 1997 (14). Each of the sites has a good information board.



Mesolithic Remains (6) The earliest known evidence of a human settlement in Scotland - dating from ca 8,500BC has been found at Cramond. During an archaeological dig, tiny fragments of burnt hazel-nut shells were uncovered along with more than 3,000 artefacts, including about 300 stone tools. Examination of the finds provided crucial evidence that the inhabitants of the site were the earliest known people to have lived in Scotland. The information gained helped to prove the theory that people began to recolonise Scotland almost immediately after the Last Glacial Maximum which ended about 12,500 years ago. Cramond, therefore, contains links to all periods of human occupation in Scotland.

Cramond Village (11) is a vibrant place during the spring and summer months and offers many good walks along both the River Almond and the Firth of Forth throughout the year. Many visitors equally take advantage of the low tides of the Firth of Forth and the clear causeway to visit Cramond Island.



How to Get to Cramond

- By Bus:** Take the Lothian Region Bus, number 41, from Edinburgh to Cramond. Get off at the top of Cramond Glebe Road and walk downhill towards the riverside.
- By Car:** Follow the A90 to Barnton then take the B9085 to Cramond. Go down Cramond Glebe Road where you will find a (free) Public Car Park.

The Cramond Association

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

Visit Cramond

Locations around Cramond

1. Children's Play Area

2. Kirk Halls

3. Cramond House

4. Roman Remains

5. Bishop's Tower

6. Mesolithic Site

7. Public Car Park

8. Roman Bathhouse Site

9. Cramond Inn

10. Public Toilets

11. Cramond Old Village

12. Bistro (T)

13. Maltings Interpretation Centre

14. Cramond Lioness (site of find)

23. Route of Old Street

22. No 41 Bus Stop

21. The Manse

20. Kirkyard

19. The old Schoolhouse

18. Cramond Kirk

17. River Almond Walkway & Old Mill Trail

16. Cramond Sailing Club

15. Cobble Cottage

For further information visit www.cramondassociation.org.uk, or visit the Maltings on Cramond Foreshore.

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