

Local information

Shopping bags

Scotland now charges 5p per bag for plastic and paper bags, so please remember to take bags with you when you shop.

Supermarkets

There is a well-stocked Tesco in Welton Road. Opening hours are 0600 – Midnight Monday to Saturday and 0800 – 2000 on Sunday. Times vary slightly around holidays. The shop has a very broad range of food-stuffs and a moderate selection of non-food. There are bigger branches (open 24hours) at Crieff Road in Perth and Kingsway in Dundee.

Scottish licensing laws are that alcohol can be purchased between 10am and 10pm daily.

There is a branch of the Co-Op, also housing the **Post Office**, which you pass on the way to Tesco, and a couple of other Co-op convenience stores one on the Coupar Angus Road and the other on the Perth Road.

There is a Sainsbury Local on the main Perth Road which is open 0700 – 2300 daily.

Shopping in Blairgowrie

Blairgowrie is very well provided for with local, independent shops. Here are a selection of our favourites:

Fishmonger – Spinks

Located on the Perth Road. Opens Tuesday to Saturday (opening days varying during holiday periods). Sells mainly traditional varieties of fish especially those caught in the North Sea. Great for scallops (in season), Monkfish, haddock, etc. Also sells a range of smoked fish. And Spinks Arboath smokies (Kippers) are highly regarded!

Butchers – Kennedys and Irvines

Blairgowrie is fortunate to have two good butchers, and both to be found on the Perth Road. Irvines specialise in Pork, winning prizes for their white pudding and scotch pies, but sell all the other meats too.

The Farm Shop – Reform Street

The Farm Shop is rated as one of the 50 best farm shops in the UK (and only 4 in Scotland) in the Daily Telegraph. Colin and Jennifer who run the shop are passionate about providing local produce to local people. During the summer months there are local strawberries, raspberries, salad crops and new potatoes. Over the winter there are root vegetables and greens. They also have delicious free-range eggs, and locally produced bread as well as a range of sauces, jams and preserves. Their freezers are well stocked with local organic and game meats such as venison. For up to date information on their products go to www.blairgowriefarmshop.co.uk

Cornerstones Deli

This deli is a great place for foodies! You'll find it opposite M&Co. They have a great range of cheeses, locally produced pates, scotch eggs and hams etc. Like any decent deli, they'll let you have a little try of the cheese before you buy. There are also lovely chocolates and a fabulous range of wines and spirits. If you want something for a treat, special occasion or just something you won't find in the supermarket this is the place to go.

James Crockart & Sons – Allan Street

Sells everything needed for fishing, shooting and country sports generally.

Kate Fleming – Allan Street

Next door to James Crockart's shop, sells pretty much the same stuff, but also sells fishing passes for local salmon beats.

Parking in Blairgowrie

There is limited on-street parking in the town centre. There are a couple of car parks, which are pay and display – behind M&Co and by the Library. There is also free car parking down at the Riverside area – turn left just past the florist and follow the road round. Tesco also has a large car park and there is also free car parking near the Co-op supermarket.

Dentist

Hopefully you won't need to visit whilst on your holiday but if you do the local surgery is:

Blairgowrie Dental Care
64 High Street
Blairgowrie

Tel 01250 875136

Doctors

Likewise we hope you won't need to the Doctor whilst you are here however the details for one in Blairgowrie are as follows:

Ardblair Medical Centre
Ann Street
Blairgowrie
01250 872033

Medical emergencies

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for ambulance. The address is Brooklinn Mill, Oakbank Road, by Lornty Bridge, Blairgowrie. PH10 6TB. Do not end the call until the ambulance service have confirmed the address and location with you.

If you need out of hours medical attention NHS 24 can be reached on 08454 242424.

In addition, there is a minor injuries unit at the Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital (at the junction of Anne Street and the Perth Road) which is useful for times when the doctors are shut. They can speak to the on-call doctor in Perth and will prescribe/ refer/ treat as necessary.

There is an A&E department at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee.

Chemists

Boots the Chemist, Allan Street, Blairgowrie
Davidsons, Wellmeadow, Blairgorie

Vets

There are two practices in Blairgowrie:

Thrums,
Terminus Street
01250 871010

Blairgowrie Veterinary Surgeons
Castle Street
01250 872061

Filling stations (petrol/ fuel)

There are two filling stations (Jet on the Perth Road and Tesco). Prices are slightly lower in Dundee and Perth especially at Tesco or Asda on the Kingsway in Dundee and at Morrisons or Asda in Perth.

There aren't many filling stations north of Blairgowrie if you are going out over Glenshee, or up the A9 (the one in Pitlochry is expensive) so its worth getting fuel in Blairgowrie.

Tourist information centre

The Tourist Information Centre at 26 Wellmeadow has information about places to visit and things to do in the local area and further afield. They can help arrange coach trips and activities, and also sell a range of local maps and books. They also provide an accommodation booking service. Tel 01250 872960.

Play Parks

There are three notables in the local area: Davie Park in Blairgowrie, New Alyth and Coupar Angus (on the road to Glamis, turning on right just past East of Scotland Farmers). There are a number of soft play venues in the area:

Noah's Ark in Perth(www.noahs-perth.co.uk.) They offer soft play, indoor karting and bowling.

Pirate's Island Dundee (www.piratesisland.co.uk) has a soft play area.

Swimming Pools

The pool at Blairgowrie High School is available for public use outside of school hours and at weekends during term time, and during holidays. Please telephone 01250 873724 for up to date opening times.

There is also a pool at Perth.

The Olympia Pool in Dundee has flumes and wave machines as well as a 50 metre training pool and diving. Information about opening hours, prices etc www.leisureandculturedundee.com or tel 01382 432300

Ice-skating

There an ice rink at Dundee with regular public skating sessions. Current times and prices can be found at www.dundeeicearena.co.uk or telephone 01382 889369. The rink is also the venue for ice hockey matches, often on a Saturday or Sunday evening during the season (November to March)

Tennis

There is a tennis club in Blairgowrie on the Coupar Angus road. Telephone 01250 874304 for details and information on court times, coaching etc.

Places to eat

There are a number of places for eating and drinking in Blairgowrie and the surrounding area. Where possible we've given an indication of price. So starting with Blairgowrie and then moving out, these are some of our favourites/ tried and tested:

The Wee Coffee Shop, Allan Street. Serves good coffees, teas, cakes etc. Closed on Mondays

Bradberries, Perth Road. serving teas, coffees and cakes. Good for lunches with home-made soup, sandwiches, ice-creams etc. Closed Mondays

The Ericht Ale House – Specialises in European beers and has a cosy, cheery atmosphere. The bar is run by Kenny. His dog, Charlie, usually puts in an appearance and is quite a character.

Sampan – Indian restaurant.

01250 876076.

Serves delicious Indian food in the restaurant (the naan bread is fantastic) and also provides a valuable takeaway service. It can take time to prepare food for takeaways especially on a Friday or Saturday night so its worth phoning ahead and allowing up to an hour for your food. But its worth the wait! We never manage to eat more than a curry, naan and a few popadums, which with beer comes to about £20 each.

Littles

01250 875358

Littles is a popular choice in Blairgowrie for dinner. It is located at the traffic light junction in the centre in town. As well as locally sourced game and meats, they have a fish menu, pizzas and a specials menu.

Cargills Restaurant and Bistro

Tel 01250 876735

Cargill's is at the end of the path into town from the Jute Store. If you aren't up to climbing the fence/ going on the detour because of the landslip, there is parking at the restaurant. Turn left just past the florist and the restaurant is set back from the road, on your left. They offer a good range of meals from salads and steak to fish and chips and haggis (in season).

The Dalmore Inn & Restaurant

Tel 01250 871088

Situated on the A93 between Blairgowrie and Perth the Dalmore is a popular restaurant so booking for dinner is advisable. It has a spacious bar area and

comfortable dining room too. The food is good, using a range of local ingredients – when we went there was excellent beef from the Dunkeld/ Pitlochry area. Prices are quite competitive – expect to pay £25 - £30 per head for three courses and a glass of wine.

The Meikleour Inn

Tel 01250 883206

This lovely old inn is about 5 miles from Blairgowrie towards Perth, just off the A93. Meikleour is a pretty little village and takes its name from the large estate that takes in the beech hedge and the Tay. The Inn was the hunting lodge for the estate. The Meikleour Hotel and Inn offers good food produced from local ingredients. They do excellent fish and chips, steaks and fish dishes in the evening as well as offering sandwiches/ burgers etc for lunch. The bar area is quite cosy and has a lively atmosphere. There is also a dining room with open fire. Booking is strongly advised for dinners – especially on Friday and Saturday nights during the summer. If you have a preference for eating in the bar area make sure you specify when booking.

Peel Farm, Lintrathen

Tel 01575 560718

The coffee shop at Peel Farm is open daily from 10 – 5. It serves lovely homemade cakes, freshly prepared lunches with toasties/ paninis/ soup etc. It is a popular place with the locals so there is usually quite a good atmosphere and a bit of chat. There is also a wildlife trail and an antiques and craft hall. Peel Farm makes a good stopping point for a trip in the Glenisla area.

The Apron Stage, Stanley

Tel 01738 828888

Hidden away on a side street (King Street) in the village of Stanley is this treasure of a restaurant. Like the Anglers at Guildtown it is owned by former owners of a successful Perth restaurant, in this case, Lets Eat. The dining room is tiny, only seating 14 or so, and the kitchen a surprisingly small space at the back of the room. We are always amazed at the kitchen because it is very much part of the dining room, but always a place of calm and virtual silence. Forget all images of Gordon Ramsay in the kitchen!!! The menu is small and very carefully chosen. There are usually two starters, two mains and a couple of puddings to choose from all of which is superb, all freshly cooked, and a sheer delight! This really is our favourite restaurant. It is excellent value for money – although not cheap – and well worth it for a treat. Booking is absolutely essential and the restaurant is open for dinner between Wednesday and Saturday evenings. Prices around £35 per head.

Stewart Tower Dairy, nr Bankfoot

Tel 01738 710044

www.stewart-tower.co.uk

This is a great place for home made lunches such as pate and toast, filled baguettes, toasties and the like. But the real attraction is the ice-cream. They produce a wide variety of delicious home-made ice-creams which are regularly winning awards. You can have just about any combination you can think of and its available either to eat in or takeaway. Open daily between 10.00am and 4.30pm and located 1m from the A9 Bankfoot junction.

Café Breizh, 28 – 30 High Street, Perth

Tel 01738 444427

A lively French restaurant in the heart of Perth which has a lively buzz all day long. If you go in for morning coffee, the croissants and patisserie are a real treat – although you have to get there early to avoid disappointment! There are extensive lunch/ dinner menus with daily specials as well as staples such as pizzas cooked in the wood-fired oven.

Scottish Arts and Antiques Centre, Abernyte

Tel 01828 686044

If you like browsing round antiques shops then this is for you. The centre at Abernyte is bit like an antiques mall and like any mall these days food and drink is all part of the experience. The Circa café is open daily between 1000am and 4.30pm and serves delicious cakes as well as snacks and more substantial dishes. It's a very popular place, so booking is advisable either by telephone or turning up and reserving a table before you go for a wander round the rooms.

Ballathie House Hotel – 01250 883268

Ballathie House is a gorgeous hotel in a stunning location on the banks of the River Tay. The food here is superb and although obviously not cheap does make for a great treat. If you want to go somewhere which is a classic Scottish Country House then this is it. The dining room is not huge and service is attentive without being intrusive, and formal without being stuffy. They like their guests to be well-turned out so they say no shorts please, but do not require jackets and ties as some others do. Dinner is around £50 per head, and the restaurant is also open for lunch.