

Innerleithen, Walkerburn and Traquair: A Dog's Own Guide



Need a Break? Head to the Tweed Valley to get in touch with your Inner Hound

Why Innerleithen area?

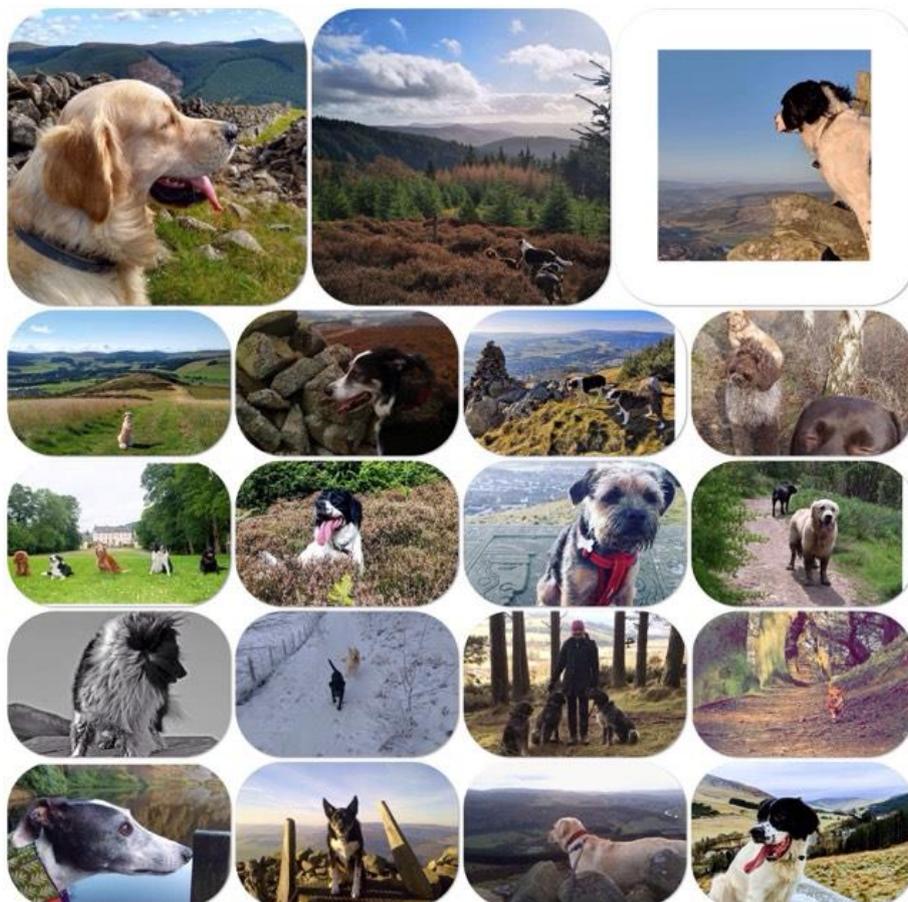
Nestled in the Scottish Borders' hills lies the small rural town of Innerleithen and its close neighbours Traquair and Walkerburn. Around an hour from the hustle and bustle of Edinburgh, it is a super-friendly place for both hounds and their humans. Everyone says "hi" ...and even better some locals have treats in their pockets!

Great Places to Walk:

Innerleithen loves to welcome dogs and their well-behaved humans*.

When we asked local dogs about their favourite places the wonderful walks were high on the list. Here are some photos of local hounds you might meet during your visit. Why not play "Spot the Dog Bingo" while you are here?!

***Top Tip:** The lovely Droopy Dandelion fairies (see shop recommendations below) have placed emergency bag dispensers around the town, so your humans can enjoy picking up after you happy in the knowledge that they are doing their bit to keep the Valley clean.





Take it from a local newshound, Innerleithen's **woodland walks** are second to none. They will test your olfactory system to the max. Check out endless wee-mails and see how many squirrels you can spot. *

***TOP TIP** The area is covered by the [Tweed Valley Mountain Rescue Service](#). They do a fabulous job rescuing humans in distress. Rescuing dogs from trees however is outside their remit.

Head up **Lee Pen**, the highest hill in the town. Be warned, it's an exhausting climb and you might need a snooze at the top!



While you are catching your breath, tell your humans to pop a note in the visitors' book hidden in the wall.



Water loving pets among you will enjoy a dip in the Leithen Water and the Tweed. Just remember both rivers can run faster than a greyhound so take care not to get out of your depth.

The town's **Victoria Park** is the perfect spot for wearing out your human's throwing arm. There are also fields at the edge of the town where you can run off lead. Just remind your people to avoid fields where there are livestock and to always keep you on a lead when sheep, cows and alpacas are close by. Even if you are perfectly behaved, the other animals don't know that! Here is a link to the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) for dog owners.



The **Pirn Hill Cairns** are well worth a trip too, with carvings depicting the story of the Tweed Valley. It's a short, gentle climb with great views. The Broom bushes en-route make for great scratching stops, and the wind in your hair as you head downhill is sure to whip you up like an excitable puppy.



If you or your humans prefer level, smooth-surface walks then the paths along the **Tweed Valley Railway Path** (leading to Walkerburn in one direction and Peebles in the other) are ideal.



The walks mentioned above are just a few of many options. Scottish Borders Council has produced a great guide to 14 local walks. Get your humans to check them out [here](#)

Places of Interest:

Robert Smail's Printing Works



You will be made most welcome in the gift shop at [Robert Smail's Printing Works](#) (a National Trust for Scotland property), but as it is a working, living museum only your humans can do the full tour.



St Ronan's Wells



One of the bonuses of a visit to [St Ronan's Wells](#) is that it's a great photo shoot setting for 4-legged super models. Take a look/sniff round the garden ...and see if you can escape without a fuss from Christine who looks after the museum (you won't!) The waters at the Wells are renowned for curing everything so it's a great place for a trip even if you are feeling under the weather!

Traquair House

There are sniffs aplenty in [Traquair House](#) grounds! Just ask your humans to keep you on a lead and you will be most welcome throughout the year. Open every day from 1st April until 31st October, and weekends in November, the grounds provide a wonderful array of woodland paths, plants, trees and open spaces for you and your human. The tracker dogs among you can put your skills to the test in Traquair's maze*



***Top Tip:** Make sure the humans pack plentiful supplies of gravy bones in case you lose your bearings in the largest hedged maze in Scotland.

The Garden Café at Traquair House



Run by dog lovers, the [Garden Café](#) will make you most welcome in their courtyard. Dog treats are available for purchase. Admiring looks and refreshment in the form of water are provided on the house.



Local Dog Friendly Events and Activities:

Loulabelle's Paw Parties (various dates)



Loulabelle's Paw Parties are fun evenings out for you and your human. Check out their [Facebook page](#) for dates. Local businesses [Dug and Bitch](#) and Scallywags support the events. There are generally goodies for each hound and prizes up for grabs too.



Pet Photo Walks and Pet Pawtraits

Fancy yourself as a super model? Then a session with [Graham Riddell Photography](#) is what is called for.



In a studio or with the beauty of Tweed Valley as your backdrop, your humans are bound to succumb to buying a special souvenir of their holiday...and as we all know there can never be too many pawtraits of you!

Ruff Dugger Traquair Estate Saturday May 18th 2019

Enjoy getting muddy with the bi-peds? Then the [Ruff Dugger](#) is the trail run for you. This will test your fitness and team working skills to the max, so get the people in training prior to the event. Run through technical trails, river crossings and best of all navigate that famous maze!



Traquair House's annual "Dogs' Day Out" Sunday 21st July 2019



A [celebration of all things doggy](#). This is a great opportunity to come along, take part in one of the activities including the Companion Dog Show, to meet other dog owners and to persuade the humans to buy you gifts!

Local Shops:

Many of the shops in Innerleithen will welcome you. Some like the butcher's and bakers are just great for canine window shopping**

The Allotment



Follow your nose to find the treat shelves at the [Allotment fruit and veg shop](#). Owners Hazel's and Susan's dogs have advised them on the tastiest pet snacks available. The sprats are to die for. You are welcome in the shop but just remember all treats have to be paid for before consumption.

Caldwell's Ice Cream Parlour

A top stop for local hounds! We advise a sharp tug at the lead as you walk past. Regulars know where the biscuit box is kept. While your people are enjoying a coffee and tray bake try your doe eyes on the counter staff; they'll melt faster than an ice cream. Talking of which [Caldwell's ices](#) are famous in the Borders. It must be down to their serious quality testing.



Elly, Caldwell's Quality Controller

Droopy Dandelion



Head into [Droopy Dandelion](#) for gifts made with a sprinkling of fairy dust. Dogs are warmly invited to join their owners in the shop. Reports are that the head scratches and ear rubs are top notch.

FINDRA

All doggies are very welcome at FINDRA. Alex Feechan the founder designs and sells innovative stylish outdoor clothing. She and the rest of the staff love to get outdoors and spend time in nature: more often than not with friends of the 4-legged variety. FINDRA staff are a friendly bunch, half of the team are owned by dogs themselves so are very welcoming to furry visitors, especially enjoying a nice houndie cuddle while the humans are distracted by all the lovely clothes in the shop. Alex is owned by Horace, a very handsome black Labrador. If you ever pop by and Horace is there, be prepared for a very friendly welcome and big slobbery Horace kiss!



Pucker up...here's Horace!

The Flower Bee



At the point of writing [The Flower Bee](#) florist and gift shop is Innerleithen's latest addition. It is definitely worth a browse and you might even get to meet this very gorgeous shop assistant!

Hatch Burn Carve



Not exactly a shop, but still worth a mention, [Hatch, Burn Carve](#) are based in the town and produce stunning, bespoke slate artwork. Martin Wilson, the artist, has been commissioned for pet memorials but also creates pieces like Luna, the moon-gazing hound, which will add to the interesting places to sniff in your garden back home.

The Hub on the High Street

The main attraction in the [Hub](#) is of course Belle, the Boxer. As the shop is her territory, only your humans will be allowed to go in to say hello. Your people will love to browse the fabulous selection of local goods on offer, including local beers, jewellery, soaps and much, much more. The Hub only recently opened its doors and the owners plan to add dog hooks very soon (the windows are big so you will be able to keep a close eye on them!)



Lou Lou's Vintage Emporium

[Lou Lou's](#) not only welcomes dogs- they actively encourage your visits. You are free to come in and browse around with your owners. The staff can't resist those cute wee faces and wet noses and they promise they will give you hounds a big fuss too! Make sure you look your best as Louise the owner is often on hand with her camera. You might even end up on their Facebook page. Louise is owned by lovely Lurcher Tia. She has a soft spot for all Sighthounds and also cunningly lures in humans with carefully placed hound related ornaments.



Tia, Lou Lou's owner



Some Wally Dugs

MB Bespoke Glass



Maureen the owner and her team at [MB](#) welcome dogs into their lovely gallery. Among the many beautiful goods on sale are some fantastic dog related crafts. Your humans might even spot something that resembles you! While they eye up the wonderful array, you should stare meaningfully in the direction of the back room. Ruby here found it can pay off!

Scallywags

If you are a pampered pooch looking for a pawsonal hairdresser, then [Scallywags](#) dog groomers are at your service. Owners Becki and Beverley know a thing or two about dogs. Becki's lovely Bedlington Terriers, Suki and Bailey, and Beverley's two labs, Gemma and Jake are all dogs about town.

The salon has regular clients and also special customers like Bruce who visit while on their holidays. * There is also a wide range of other pet related items available for purchase.



* **Top Tip:** It might be worth hinting to your people that Bruce's owners like to treat him to a toy for being a good boy during his bath and groom.

Tweeddale Thrift Shop



Guide dogs are of course welcome in the [Thrift Shop](#) but as space is limited other dogs are asked to remain outside. Make sure your people pop in though, there will almost certainly be something just pawfect on sale for you.

****The most Tip Top Top Tip:**

Customers in overalls leaving **John Adam's Bakery**, the **Pound Bakery** or **Shaw's Butchers** carrying white paper bags may well be carrying sausage rolls. Keep your nose open and cross your paws for a timely mishap!

Where to Eat:

Caberston Coffee Shop



Just a couple of miles from Innerleithen is the village of Walkerburn. You can head there along the flat and smooth Tweed Valley Railway path or if you are feeling energetic over the hills. The [coffee shop](#) is the perfect stop for dogs and humans alike. Dogs are warmly welcomed in the front of the café and at the outside tables. By prior arrangement the back room can be booked for parties including dogs. Water bowls are provided and ample compliments are made to make a dog feel good.

Humans can enjoy great value, simple, tasty fare and a fabulous selection of tray bakes.

The Corner House



The [Corner House Hotel](#) very much welcome dogs in the bar area. The staff have even been known to speak to the doggy guests before the humansfair enough in our opinion! The hotel door overlooks the street and is a grand look-out spot for the more inquisitive hounds among you.

Loulabelle's Sweet Treats

You can't get much more dog friendly than [Loulabelle's](#). Owners Lou and Phil love the outdoors and everything that comes with it. They know that often means mud, pet hair and even horsey hay!



Loulabelle's will go out of their way to welcome you. Being mountain bikers and trail runners themselves, they know that hungry humans often have their 4-legged better halves in tow. Their trail dog Sprocket the German Short Haired Pointer loves to join their adventures while Molly, their Jack Russell Terrier prefers the refined life. Visitors to the café range from Miniature Dachshunds to Burmese Mountain Dogs and everything in between.

Let your humans know that some regular pups get toast, sausages or (drop heavy hints here) even the Venison Scotch Eggs!

Loulabelle's know how important you are to your humans, so you won't be left out in the cold. There are even towels available for everyone from muddy mountain bikers to soggy doggies! The towels also come in handy as makeshift beds for hounds who like their home comforts. Loulabelle's is another must visit for those of you on the dog biscuit trail and complimentary water is always available.

No. 1 Peebles Road Café



On a warm day [No. 1](#) is the perfect spot for sunbathing, while the humans rest their two legs and enjoy a tasty bite to eat. The café itself has limited floor space but dogs are made most welcome outside and water bowls are provided.



No. 1 café co-starring with Luke the greyhound in [Narrative Ark's](#) fabulous linocut

The St. Ronan's Hotel



Known locally as the Top Pub, the [St. Ronan's Hotel](#) is a small family run hotel with a traditional bar downstairs. The bar area is dog friendly and the hotel has several regular doggy customers.

The Traquair Arms Hotel

You will be made most welcome at the [Traquair Arms](#), both in the bar and in the beautiful beer garden. Water bowls are provided. Many local regulars bring their pets into the bar to enjoy a snooze in front of a roaring fire.

***Top Tip:** Humans drinking beer can be clumsy with their crisps. Keep a close eye on the floor. You might even be praised for your excellent vacuuming skills



A greyhound Christmas gathering in The Traquair Arms

Where to Stay:

Start to work on the humans as soon as possible. You want to make sure that they book the perfect accommodation where you can put your paws up after an exhausting day in the Valley.

Dog friendly accommodation in Innerleithen includes:

Cosaig cottage.

[Cosaig](#) is VERY dog friendly. Right beside a park providing excellent zoomie opportunities, it also has an enclosed garden for those of you whose humans think you won't come back. Cosaig provides dog tags, spare rugs for Bambi-legged hounds, lots of cosy throws, fluffy dog towels, doggy treats in the welcome pack and the option to borrow a crate if that is something you like. Jennifer the owner may even be able to dog-sit by arrangement. When rescue dogs come to stay Cosaig donates the charge for dogs to the Scottish Greyhound Sanctuary.



Cleikum Mill Lodge.

When guests book the entire building, Graham the owner will welcome dogs by arrangement. [The lodge](#) accommodates up to 12 people (ideal for 2 families as it has 2 kitchens, 2 bathrooms etc.) There is plenty of space for relaxing too. Accommodation is close to the park and is practical for outdoorsy types so no worries about muddy paw-prints on white carpets!



I-lets



[I-lets](#) allow up to 2 dogs and provide dog bowls and towels for 4-legged guests.

The St. Ronan's Hotel (see above)

St. Ronan's Hotel is pet friendly with 7 en-suite rooms

The Traquair Arms Hotel (see above)

The Traquair Arms has pet friendly rooms with treats provided!

Impawtant Information:

Border Vets

Dog forbid that you get pawly during your stay in the Tweed Valley, but if you do you will be in good hands with Mel, Carla and team at [Border Vets](#). Whether your humans need to speak to a member of the team for some free advice or want you to see a vet urgently they are available to help. The **24 hour emergency number is (01896) 752 156**

