



John Muir's Birthplace Fact Sheet

Number 1.1 - The Essential John Muir

Who was John Muir?

He was a farmer, inventor, botanist, geologist, explorer, mountaineer, writer and pioneer of nature conservation.

John Muir was born in Dunbar, Scotland, on 21st April 1838. As a child he developed a deep love of the natural world. This grew into a lifelong journey, both physical and spiritual, of exploration, revelation, hardship and wonder. His introduction to Yosemite Valley, California, resulted in his campaign to preserve wilderness for wilderness' sake. This led to the establishment of the world's first national park system. Today he is remembered as a pioneer of the modern conservation movement.

Where can I find out more about John Muir?

Further reading

- Branch, Michael P (Ed). John Muir's Last Journey, South to the Amazon and East to Africa. Washington D.C./Covelo, California; Island Press, 2001.
- Browning, Peter. John Muir in His Own Words, A Book of Quotations. Lafayette, CA; Great West Books, 1988.
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- Gisel, Binnie Johanna (Ed). Kindred & Related Spirits, The Letters of John Muir & Jeanne C. Carr. University of Utah Press, 2001.
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- Muir, John. Steep Trails. San Francisco; Sierra Club Books, 1994.
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- Muir, John. The Yosemite. New York; Modern Library, 2003.
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- Muir, John. The Proposed Yosemite National Park – Treasures and Features. Colorado; Outbooks, 1986.
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- White, Graham (Ed). Sacred Summits, John Muir's Greatest Climbs. Edinburgh; Canongate Books Ltd, 1999.
- Wolfe, Linnie Marsh. Son of the Wilderness. Wisconsin; The University of Wisconsin Press, 1945.

Websites

- John Muir's Birthplace www.jmbt.org.uk
- Dunbar's John Muir Association www.djma.org.uk
- John Muir Trust www.jmt.org
- East Lothian Council Museums Service www.eastlothian.gov.uk/museums
- The Sierra Club www.sierraclub.org/john_muir_exhibit
- US National Park Service www.nps.gov
- John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez www.nps.gov/jomu
- Dunbar website www.dunbar.org.uk

Places to visit in Scotland

- John Muir's Birthplace, 126 High Street, Dunbar EH42 1JJ.
- John Muir Country Park, Dunbar, East Lothian.
- The John Muir Clifftop Trail – a walk around Dunbar's coastline (around 3km one way); booklet produced by Dunbar's John Muir Association, available at JMB.
- John Muir's Dunbar – a walk around the town of Dunbar; booklet produced by Dunbar's John Muir Association, available at JMB.
- The John Muir Way – around 40 km of continuous paths around the scenic coastline of East Lothian; leaflets available.
- Loch Lomond National Park. Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Headquarters, The Old Station, Balloch, Scotland, G83 8SS. Tel +44 (0) 1389 722199. www.lochlomond-trossachs.org
- Cairngorms National Park. Cairngorms National Park Authority, 14 The Square, Grantown on Spey, PH26 3HG. Tel 01479 873535. www.cairngorms.co.uk