

## East Lodge Direct Reviews up to 24 May 2021



These reviews were sent by guests to our e-mail address and are reproduced here in full (most recent first).

\* “Spacious lodge set in a beautiful town park which gave you a lovely view when opening the curtains each morning. Was greeted with a complimentary welcome pack of fruit and biscuits and the kitchen was stocked with everything you would need for self-catering, so no need to bring your tatty peeler or kitchen foil. 😊 Thoroughly recommend this place.” — Adrian, Cumbria, 30 October 2020

\* “East Lodge is like a home from home. We had a wonderful four-night stay during the October break and loved every minute. The attention to detail really impressed us. The communication from Ian was superb, and the welcome treat for us and our dog was a lovely touch. Dog bowls/beds/blankets/poo bags all available for our pup. As a family of four with two teenagers it was the perfect space for us to relax after a day of walking and exploring. Comfortable and extremely clean. Five-minute walk to the high street to local butchers, bakery and Co-op was ideal. Plus having the stunning Grant Park on your doorstep was the icing on the cake. We are delighted we found East Lodge as it will now be an annual booking for us...but next time we will book for longer!!” — Pauline & Colin, Glasgow, 27 October 2020

\* “East lodge is the perfect place for a holiday in the area. And even better if you have a dog! We enjoyed our week so much – we’ll definitely be back and I’ve already recommended it to friends and family. In these unusual times Ian was great at communication and we had so much confidence about heading out on our stay after lockdown and we knew we could have our holiday! Great facilities, perfect location. 11/10!!!” — Jenny, East Midlands, 9 August 2020

\* “We have just returned from a wonderful week in Forres. East Lodge is an ideal base to explore the many fishing villages and picturesque towns etc. in Moray. The cottage is equipped for every eventuality and more. Ian, the owner, is so friendly and he and his partner have carefully thought out the decor and furnishings of the lodge, including some welcome treats for guests including our dogs. Our two dogs settled immediately and especially loved the beach at Burghead. So much so, I think they are missing it today! We would highly recommend it all, but try to book two weeks instead of one as you won't want to leave.” — Robert & Joyce, Dumfriesshire, 15 September 2019

\* “East Lodge is one of the most dog-friendly cottages we have stayed in. Ian left dog and human treats to welcome us and lots of ‘just in case’ items (dog beds, bowls, furniture covers and dog toys). The cottage is beautifully decorated and furnished – a real ‘home from home’. We really enjoyed our week in August 2019 and highly recommend it to others. 5 stars!” — Sue, Leicestershire, 21 August 2019

\* “Spent a great week in the lodge. Perfectly placed for days out and delicious ice cream just two minutes away. Very comfortable and spotless. Safe for our dog and the park makes a great place for a walk. Well kitted out and the welcome pack is very thoughtful; even supplied gluten free snacks for me. Would highly recommend a stay.” — Eleanor, Fife, 8 August 2019

\* “Our experience of East Lodge was great. Ian was very friendly and helpful. The lodge is very well presented and quite spacious. The added little touches were much appreciated (i.e. tea, coffee, sugar and basic cleaning products). The beds are very comfortable. The garden being all fenced off is a bonus for anyone with dogs. The property is well located and close to local shops and beaches. We would most definitely recommend East Lodge and hope to return.” — David & Amanda, South Yorkshire, 28 July 2019

\* “East Lodge is a truly dog-friendly cottage. There were no restrictions on where the dog was allowed and there were plenty of blankets, toys and even treats (thank you!) for Daisy. There is an enclosed garden to the rear of the cottage and the front of the cottage opens directly on the park. The cottage was

spacious, neat and well presented. Thank you for a lovely stay. Would highly recommend and use again if in the area. 10/10. 😊” — Jennifer, Fife, 4 June 2019

\* “We enjoyed a lovely stay at East Lodge in early June and have already recommended it to some friends. The inside was spacious, clean and well-equipped for self-catering. We also enjoyed the views over Grant Park from the living room and main bedroom. Fortunately, we had glorious weather and we were able to make the most of the patio area, as well as the homemade ice cream sold just a matter of yards away! With plenty of maps and information available at East Lodge, we were able to explore Forres and the surrounding areas with ease. Thank you for a wonderful stay!” — Kevin, Liz & Emma, North Yorkshire, 10 June 2018

\* “We had our usual good break in Forres and are really pleased to have found East Lodge. Ian and Bea have really thought of everything; it is so well equipped. We have been to many cottages/gîtes in the UK and France as we don't do hotels and East Lodge is unequivocally the best we have come across.” — Bryan, Jan & Lorna, The Wirral, 28 April 2018

\* “As a large party visiting Forres for a family wedding, we can confirm that East Lodge was top notch and was up with the best on offer. We would go along with what many of the other guests have said; there wasn't anything that hadn't been thought of; it is a comfortable home from home and its central Forres location is very convenient. Not being dog owners, we also appreciate the efforts made to cater for both those who do and those who don't have four-legged members in their party. Given that clearly a lot of visitors do have dogs you'd never have known it; no dog hairs or heavy wear and tear to soft furnishings. We very much hope to stay at East Lodge again.” — Sue, Pembrokeshire, 15 April 2018

\* “What a fantastic find: well-equipped, perfect location and everything we needed (and for the dog too). A warm welcome and a cosy cottage. We shall return.” — Janet & Peter, Derbyshire, 4 April 2018

\* “Having visited East Lodge before, towards the end of 2016, we were delighted to be back – and once again we thoroughly enjoyed our stay. The opportunity to have a cottage within the park grounds that accepts (and really accommodates) dogs is a combination we just love. Once again the Forres microclimate was in evidence – with reports of poor weather at home we were out every day in the sunshine (although well wrapped up!) and Fergus once again staggered onto his dog bed (provided) in front of the fire at the end of each day. I can see us having an annual trip to East Lodge to recharge the batteries, and would encourage others to do the same!” — Justine, Glasgow, 23 February 2018

\* “We had a lovely fortnight at East Lodge. The cottage is lovely and Ian and Bea very welcoming. It was a wonderful base from which to visit my son who lives up there. Ian and Bea have thought of everything we could need to make our stay comfortable, even some dog treats for Maisie. The house is lovely and well equipped. I love the outlook onto Grant Park and enjoyed my local walks and sitting on Findhorn beach in the sun, where I saw lots of seals. Forres is an attractive town and the house is very central. Thanks for the fruit and biscuits and making it so comfortable.” — Debbie, Gloucestershire, 3 October 2017

\* This review was originally posted on our Booking.com page (we no longer use this listing) – we were rated 10/10 in all categories (Staff/Facilities/Cleanliness/Comfort/Location/Value for money): “Relaxing stay in Forres – Pros: Wonderful location on the edge of the park. The lodge is fully equipped. The owners are very nice and speak good German. Would definitely stay here again. Cons: Nothing to complain about.” — Detlef & family, Germany, 13 August 2017 ++++ (*Translated from the German – the original text reads as follows: "Erholsamer Aufenthalt in Forres – Für: Total super Lage direkt am Park. Wohnung komplett ausgestattet. Vermieter sehr nett und sprechen auch gut deutsch. Würde immer wieder diese Unterkunft wählen. Wider: Nichts zu bemängeln."*)

\* “We stayed at the lodge whilst on an art school trip. It was a perfect location for relaxing after a hard day’s work. It is super well equipped, clean and modern and has everything you could want. Waking up in the morning to the birds singing in the trees outside in the park helped start the day! Highly recommended – Ian and Bea could not be more helpful and friendly.” — Saoirse, Glasgow, 13 May 2017

\* “Really enjoyed our stay at East Lodge cottage – what a great find! Very well equipped; had everything we needed. Great location, plus having park right outside was an added bonus. Would highly recommend! Ian and Bea were very good. Would come back.” — Mary & family, Edinburgh, 14 April 2017

\* “Well, what can we say that's not been said already, except we can't wait to return to East Lodge and Forres? Slept like logs, managed to see a dolphin from Findhorn beach, great fish and chips at the Lossie chippy, and the best was the dog-friendly Mosset Tavern. Thanks Bea & Ian. See you soon, from Nelson & Annie, woof woof! 🐾🐾” — Linda & David, Perth and Kinross, 27 March 2017

\* “The cottage was the perfect place to stay and we cannot think of any improvements. It was very welcoming and the fruit and doggy treats very generous. We would definitely stay again for any future house-hunting excursions. Thank you once again for the recommendations of places to walk and for the advice on buying a property in Scotland.” — Lisa & Nick, Cumbria, 27 February 2017

\* “We can only echo what others have said, East Lodge was such a great find. We stay in holiday cottages in Scotland frequently, but rarely have we found such a well-equipped, comfortable and welcoming property. Ian was just so helpful; the cottage has everything you could want and more besides. That it is also dog-friendly is just the icing on the cake! To have the lovely Grant Park on your doorstep and so many wonderful walks within very easy reach made our short holiday very special. We loved Forres too, such beautiful architecture and friendly people. We are members of a local dog group, and people are always looking for suggested dog-friendly destinations. We will certainly be recommending East Lodge! Thank you, Ian, for being a lovely host. We will be back for sure.” — Kath, Aberdeen, 17 February 2017

\* “Absolutely delightful stay in this lovely property. Terrific location on the edge of Grant Park and close to all facilities. Lodge has everything you require – very comfortable and warm. Hopefully will be back.” — Robbie & Margaret, Wick (Scotland), 13 February 2017

\* “East Lodge is a gem. What a find! Everything about it is just wonderful. The interior, the location, the area, the proprietors. It is the most beautiful and best self-catering accommodation I have ever stayed in. Top notch all round!” — Betty, North Yorkshire, 24 December 2016

\* “Having stumbled across the website while looking for a short holiday with our dog, we decided to have a few days’ holiday before the madness of Christmas descended on us! With relatives from Forres and the surrounding area, we knew exactly where the lodge was, and were really excited about having our own base, not only in Forres, but right inside the Grant Park! We were not disappointed! On arrival, Ian and Bea were waiting for us and showed us round the lodge which has been really nicely refurbished and extremely well equipped and very comfortable. There was fresh fruit, tea, coffee and biscuits available, and a bag of biscuits for Fergus, our dog! Dog bed, bowls, throws (not that our dog ever comes up on the bed or the sofa...) were also provided. The lodge is ideally based for a wander through the park and up the High Street, or for runs out to Findhorn Beach, Roseisle Beach, Elgin, Nairn, and further afield if required. So pleased we found this, and we will definitely be back (once Fergus has recovered from his four long walks each day!).” — Justine, Glasgow, 15 December 2016

\* “We really enjoyed our week’s stay in the spacious East Lodge. The setting within Grant Park is unique. The accommodation is well-equipped and modern. There’s even a dishwasher and washing machine for guest use. Extensive information is available for guests about Forres and the surrounding area. There is also a large collection of (English language) DVDs. We were pleased that one of the proprietors spoke

very good German. We would gladly visit again." — Uschi & Dirk, Germany, 2 October 2016 ++++ *(Translated from the German – the original text reads as follows: "Wir haben unseren 1-wöchigen Aufenthalt in der geräumigen East Lodge sehr genossen. Die Lage direkt im Grant Park ist einmalig. Die Wohnung ist modern eingerichtet und komplett ausgestattet. Sogar eine Spül- und Waschmaschine sind vorhanden. Umfangreiche Informationsmappen über den Ort Forres und die Umgebung stehen zur Verfügung. Eine große DVD-Sammlung (englisch-sprachig) gehört ebenfalls zum Inventar. Sehr angenehm war es für uns, dass der Vermieter sehr gut deutsch spricht. Wir kommen gerne wieder.")*

\* "We were really impressed with everything about East Lodge. The location is perfect in the lovely Grant Park and it's just a short walk to peaceful woodlands and the amazing views from the top of Cluny Hill and Nelson's Tower. It's also convenient for nearby shops, cafes, restaurants the local museum and heritage sites and the railway station. It's a great place to stay with children, there is lots to do including a playground close by. The lodge itself is fantastic; lovely furniture, cosy, warm, comfortable and well equipped with everything we needed. Ian and Bea were extremely helpful and welcoming and we found the extensive collection of local information leaflets and maps they have put together really helpful. We will definitely be recommending both Forres and East Lodge to friends and family and hope to return some day." — Matthew, Angela and Liam, London, 15 August 2016

\* "We arrived at East Lodge, Forres half expecting it to look nothing like the photo, but it is exactly like that, if not better! It's situated inside Grant Park and is a close to shops and restaurants. We were 15 minutes' drive away from white water rafting, canoeing, cliff jumping and river tubing. There are beautiful walks so close by and great mountain biking too. Ian couldn't have been more helpful. He met us at East Lodge and showed us around. We had everything we needed, with thoughtful extras like semi-skimmed milk in the fridge, fresh fruit and chocolate too. The bed linen was crisp and fresh and the beds were so comfortable (actually more comfortable than mine at home). The shower had new shampoo, conditioner and shower gel, fluffy towels and plenty of hot water on demand. As we were doing lots of water activities, we came back at the end of the day exhausted and chilly. Relaxing in the cosy lounge watching one of the many DVDs supplied was just the ticket! I cannot recommend East Lodge highly enough; we will definitely return." — Samantha & Ryan, London, 6 August 2016

\* "One of the most comfortable beds I've ever slept in – I even took note of the brand of pillow for my own bed at home! A rare treat waking up to a backdrop of this beautiful park and I would heartily recommend a walk through the woods up to the Nelson Tower. A few pints at the nearby Red Lion pub and a meal out – a fine way to spend a weekend. Hoping to do the local whisky tour next time round. Thank you to Ian and Bea for making me so welcome. Would definitely stay here again!" — Russell, West Midlands, 28 May 2016

\* "A really lovely stay – East Lodge is very comfortable, and it is not every holiday place that comes with a park and woods attached! Dog Sam thought East Lodge was fine, but was not so sure about being taken on walks every day – home now for a rest." — Peter & Anna, London, 20 May 2016

\* "As a Forres exile I was well aware in advance of the lovely setting for the lodge and close proximity to the town. This is the perfect place for a quiet break in a lovely setting of the town park, but less than five minutes away from the High Street on foot. It was nice on arrival to be received by the owners, who were tending to the lovely garden and took time to show us round the lodge and make us feel welcome. The property was in immaculate condition – the mixture of period features and contemporary furniture made for a cosy feeling. A nice touch was the provision of tea and coffee in canisters rather than sachets, along with some fresh food. We had our dog with us and as advertised it was nice to know we didn't need to bring bowls, bedding etc. for her as all this was provided and all we had to do at the end was identify what we had used so that it could be properly cleaned for the next canine visitor. There is a good selection of games and DVDs to keep you entertained on wet days or dark nights. Due to the property

being on one level with parking to the rear this is an ideal property for people with limited mobility. Highly recommend and will be back.” — Moray & Joyce, East Lothian, 10 May 2016

\* “Thanks for a lovely stay, we would definitely recommend to others! Thanks also for the well-stocked condiments/fresh fruit/tea/coffee and biscuits – those touches really make a difference. It was great to find the lodge was clean, well equipped and freshly decorated, and the bed was very comfortable. We really didn't need for anything. It is well located being on the edge of the park and we particularly enjoyed being able to walk into town to enjoy the museum, coffee shops/restaurants, footpaths etc. Good communication with Bea and Ian – which always brings peace of mind before a visit. Good luck with future bookings – we're sure you'll do well!” — Mr & Mrs Wilkie, Herts, 18 April 2016

\* “East Lodge is the perfect retreat after a day enjoying the glorious countryside of Moray which is, literally, right on your doorstep. I found it ideal to escape from the noise and pressure of work and to unwind and gather my thoughts while walking. The people I met in Forres were warm, friendly and helpful. And the public transport was good with frequent services.” — Philip, Doncaster, 25 March 2016