The Islands of Orkney

2014 information and travel guide to the smaller islands of Orkney

For up to date Orkney information visit
www.visitscotland.com/orkney • www.orkney.com • www.discover-orkney.co.uk
Approximate driving times
From Kirkwall and Stromness to Ferry Terminals at:
- Tingwall 30 mins
- Houton 20 mins
From Stromness to Kirkwall Airport
- 40 mins
From Kirkwall to Airport
- 10 mins
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VisitOrkney

will be happy to assist you find the most
economic travel arrangements:
www.visitscotland.com/orkney

The Countryside Code

Please:
• close all gates you open. Use stiles where possible
• do not light fires
• keep to paths and tracks
• do not let your dog worry grazing animals
• keep mountain bikes on the paths
• take your litter home or use receptacles provided
• do not park in passing places
• do not pick wild flowers

Remember – the island roads are very often
single track with passing places, so please take care.
The countryside code helps keep the islands
a joy to visit.

Scapa Travel

A managed branch of Barrhead Travel

Experienced local Travel Agent, specialising in travel to Orkney.
We tailor-make each itinerary to suit your individual requirements, using
our local knowledge to create your perfect holiday

Telephone: 01856 889040
E-mail: scapa@barrheadtravel.com
www.scapatravel.co.uk

Island teu-names or nicknames rhymes written
by the late George Scott courtesy of
Mrs. N. E. Bain (Scott).

Cover Picture: Westray – Phil Hellewell
Out among the isles

Be warned, adventuring along Orkney's island fringe can be habit forming. For years now travellers to the jade necklace of isles which surround and illuminate Orkney Mainland have returned with stories of friendly faces, sociable seals and endless horizons. Once bitten by the island bug, Gerald Durrell's strange 'islomania', there is no escape. You will return - as surely as our Arctic Terns reappear every spring after their epic journey from the bottom of the world and archaeologists scramble across a landscape where you are literally tripping over history.

You will return. It is a sweet compulsion.

The ten islands and their attendants featured in the pages following offer a rich experience of breath-taking scenery, secure community life and sense of purpose and togetherness which you may have thought lost in the bustle of a new century's dawning.

The names alone promise adventure and romance - Hoy, Stronsay, Papa Westray, Wyre, each with its own distinctive personality, its own vitality.

In recent years access to most of the islands has been greatly improved with a new roll-on, roll-off ferry service allowing far more people to encounter this world apart, where you are never merely a tourist but, in a very real sense, still a cherished guest. To reach the more remote islands flying with the island hopping Loganair eight-seater Islander is a popular option. Out on the isles be prepared to wave a greeting to almost everyone you meet. It's compulsory. And passing the time of day by the roadside or along the shore track is expected. The pace is slower, the breathing is easier and everything begins to make sense once more.

Emphasising their individuality, every parish in Orkney, including the islands, has an
Out among the isles ancient nickname which, over the years, has become very much a local identification tag. Now as you voyage around our island chain, you have the opportunity to share these labels, to become an honorary Limpet or Gruillie Belkie.

For the record these odd aliases are Scarfs (Eday); Flukes (Flotta); Hawks (Hoy); Selkies (North Ronaldsay); Mares (Rousay); Gruillie Belkies (Sanday); Sheep (Shapinsay); Limpets (Stronsay); Aucks (Westray) and Dundies (Papa Westray).

Reasons for each island being so named are lost in the mists of time.

They may simply be island totems but Orkney folklorist Tom Muir points to a local tradition that these island emblems were perhaps the pooled food supplies brought by islanders working on the construction of St Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall.

More recently, during World War II, the island labels were used to confuse the enemy when they were included in sailings bills to identify destinations.

What precisely can you expect as you journey away from Orkney Mainland and the pattern of isles unfolds along the horizon? First of all you are unlikely ever to have felt quite so close to the natural world. Our islands are a feast for the senses. An opportunity for you to stock up on the feelgood factor for the winter ahead as you get to know the locals, human and otherwise.

Seals, or selkies, are found around all our islands, Common and Grey seals, the former identified by their dog-like faces and the Greys by their horseshaped heads. Despite their name the Common Seal is now less widely found than the Grey Seal.

As you walk the beaches these inquisitive creatures will follow a few yards offshore, skirmish in the surf or watch you lazily from the skerries. The best locations to sealwatch vary with weather conditions and the seasons, so ask locally.

Birds are everywhere - the sometimes raucous, sometimes melodic calls and the flutter of wings are sounds which will live
with you long after leaving these shores. Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Razorbills, Fulmars and Puffins populate the cliffs and rock stacks, on the heaths you’ll find Terns, Skuas, Ducks and Gulls galore. On the wetlands and lochs look out for Ducks and Swans as well as waders such as Redshank, Lapwing and Snipe. The list is as long as the endless summer days which these birds occupy but listen carefully for one very special soundbite – the rasping call of the corncrake, now one of Scotland’s rarest birds.

From the impressive sight of a school of killer whales out in the Sound to the rustle of the tiny Orkney vole stealing through the long grass, you’ll very swiftly appreciate that the human population of these islands only form part of a rich, living tableau.

There are plants too, charming in their simplicity such as the Primula Scotica, so much smaller than you can imagine from the photographs.

From the diminutive Primula Scotica to the simple elegance of the Grass of Parnassus, the wild plants flourish whether on the moors, old stone dykes or on croft roofs and maritime heath. Please do not disturb them for they are all the more beautiful in their natural surroundings.

It is also very easy to lose yourself in time as you walk the shores or trek across the moors. The greystone dwellings and tombs of our earliest settlers are dotted across the landscape; some excavated, others merely green mounds lying tantalisingly unexplored. These are places where the veil between the physical and the spiritual world is at its thinnest.

Erosion along the coast, for these are wild windswept islands in the depth of winter, regularly exposes ancient settlement sites. Look out for tumbled walls and flagstoned passages on your shore walks.

Early Christian hermitage sites are found, usually perched precariously on top of rock stacks in the most remote corners of our isles. These were selected in the Dark Ages for their inaccessibility – please don’t attempt to climb them.

And these islands are filled with mystery and romance. Countless legends are encountered of seal folk and sinister dwellers beneath the hill, of pirates, sea monsters, trolls and horned Vikings, of buried treasure, witches, lost cities and lands behind the fog, rites of birth, marriage and death, strange customs and beliefs. A folklore as rich as any in Northern Europe. Some of the islands are small – struggling to make ends meet with scarcely enough folk to fill a London double-decker – but they are busy places for the islanders with frequent dances and community activities. As an island guest you will always find a welcome at such events; just keep your eye on the notice boards in the shops, post offices and at the air and ferry terminals and you’ll keep abreast of the social whirl.
5. Out among the isles

- Sanderlings in flight - Charles Tait
- Orcas - Charles Tait
- Primula scotica - Charles Tait
- Guillemots at Marwick - Charles Tait
... Heart of the North Isles

The drawing room floor of Carrick House still has a dark stain said to be the blood spilled by the notorious pirate Gow during a failed escape attempt.

Situated centrally among the North Isles of Orkney, 14 miles north-east of Kirkwall, Eday, the isthmus isle, eight miles long and pinched at the waist, according to the novelist Eric Linklater, offers a unique blend of heather-clad hilly moorland with panoramic views over sea and islands, sheer cliffs, sweeping beaches and sand dunes.

Most of the crofts and farms are located on the fertile coastal strip and the numerous derelict houses are clear indicators that Eday’s population was once much greater. There is a wealth of evidence of man’s presence on this island over many thousands of years from the mysterious Standing Stone of Setter, often compared to a giant’s hand and probably the finest stone of its type in Orkney, to 17th century Carrick House and the dwellings of today’s farmers and crofters.

The great outdoors

In all seasons Eday offers a wealth of interest. Spring provides an abundance of birdlife. Below the sea cliffs of the Red and Grey Heads, Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins dive into the clear waters in pursuit of darting fish while high above Fulmars ride the air currents, showing off their white wing flashes, Great Skua and Arctic Skua chase gulls and Arctic Terns until they drop their beakful of fish. Above the heather moors Short-eared Owls hunt their prey and over oat stacks Kestrels hover, targeting unwary mice.

A survey was taken in 1996 and Miss Elaine Bullard states that 120 species of wild plants were recorded.

Seals & dolphins

Both Grey and Common seals can be seen around Eday. The dog-like Common seal frequently hauls out at low tide along the east side of Calf Sound. If you visit Eday in June or July you may see very dark newly-born Common seal pups on the shore or swimming with adults. The heavier Grey seal can be seen anywhere around the coast and both species haul out on Seal Skerry at low tide. The elusive otter is also present in Eday.

Ancient monuments

The first settlers arrived in Eday some 5000 years ago. These early people were farmers and their chambered tombs are the most notable monuments on the island. It is thought that each of these tombs belonged to a small community and served as communal burial places. There were various types of tomb in use over a long period from well before 3000 BC until some time after 2000 BC.

On the Calf of Eday, the group of structures, including prehistoric houses, chambered tombs and traces of field boundaries, is one of the most important prehistoric sites in the British Isles. Also on the Calf there are ruins of 17th century saltworks which are probably the best surviving examples of their type.

Traditional skills

Evidence of the skills and crafts associated with Eday’s traditional way of life can still be found. Peat is a popular fuel on the island and is cut in early summer using a traditional tool called a ‘tuskar’. It also used to be exported widely to whisky distilleries as far away as Edinburgh. Not long ago three century-old cases of whisky from the Shackleton expedition were discovered in the Antarctic and once thawed out, the peaty flavour was identified by experts as coming from Eday. A few fishermen set out their creels amongst the rocks to catch crabs and lobsters and visitors can find the remains of stone walls and structures at the shore edge used for kelp making for factories down south.

Points of interest

1. Carrick House: Standing on the shore the house was built in the early 17th century, a keystone dated 1633 is found on the courtyard gateway. John Gow the pirate was held here in 1725.

2. Cliffs of the Red Head: Red sandstone cliffs with panoramic views of the North Isles and Fair Isle.

3. Prehistoric House and Ancient Field Boundaries: Some of the best preserved field boundaries in Orkney sweeping round a large unexcavated prehistoric house containing a saddle-quern, a stone for grinding grain.

4. Red House Croft Restoration Project: Includes home built water wheel to drive a small craft threshing mill.

5. Vincouy Hill Chambered Cairn: This tomb consists of a central chamber with four small compartments.

6. Huntersquoy Chambered Tomb: This tomb had two chambers one above the other, reached by separate passages. The only other example of this in Orkney is on Rousay.

7. Braeside Chambered Tomb: The roof of this tomb has been removed and its centre dug out but the internal layout can be made out.

8. Fold of Setter: A circular enclosure marked by a low bank and protruding stonework some 90 metres in diameter.

9. Stone of Setter: Probably the finest prehistoric single standing stone in Orkney. Though weathered this monolith is still over 15 feet high and is sited between the Bay of Calf Sound and Mill Loch.

10. Mill Loch: This loch supports numerous pairs of Red-Throated Divers, one of the densest concentrations of this species in the British Isles. Please use bird hide provided. Start of Eday Heritage Walk, information board.

11. Calisound: Sea caves, cliffs, a sheltered cove. Views of cormorant colony on the calf of Eday.

12. Estate Mill: Once used to grind corn for the island.

13. Chambered Tombs: Two well-preserved chambered tombs. Most interesting visible aspects are the horns or spur-walls which extend out from the corners.

14. Mussetter & Doomy Sands: Behind the dunes Birds Foot Trefoil can be found. An excellent beach.

15. Burnt Mounds: Two large hillocks of burnt stones – possibly an ancient cooking station dating from the Bronze Age (1500–500 BC).
16 Whitemaw and Flaughton Hill: Eday sub-mountain heath supporting Orkney's only regular breeding Whimbrel.

17 Castle of Stackel Brae: A small Norse castle dating from 11th, 12th or 13th centuries and Norse burnt mound. At the eroding shore edge can be seen walls and the burnt mound.

18 Muckle Green Holm: The Norse island of Hellisey where Viking Sweyn Asleifsson hid in a cave to escape his pursuers.

19 Faray: This uninhabited island is grazed by sheep and its caves and beaches are a major breeding ground for Grey Seals.

20 Grey Head & Calf of Eday: The Calf of Eday supports 32 species of breeding birds.

21 Saltworks: The ruins of 17th century saltworks and one of the best surviving examples in the UK. These works are thought to have begun operating in the 1630s.

22 Stalled Cairn: A long cairn containing two chambers of different periods.

23 Iron Age Houses: The main house was a large roundhouse with radial internal divisions and dates from the Early Iron Age, the last few centuries BC.

24 Chambered Tombs: Two chambered tombs of the Bookan type, the first built into the hillside. The second is complete except for the hole in the roof through which it was entered in 1855.

25 Cormorant Colony: An important Cormorant colony with over 100 nests.

26 London Airport: Named after its location at the Bay of London.

27 Information Board: Pier Car Park.

28 Heritage & Visitor Centre

ingesting ‘skarfies’ - drew kennedy
John Gow the pirate

The island of Eday and Carrick House are associated with the capture of one of Orkney's most notorious sons, John Gow the Pirate. In February, 1725, Gow in his ship 'Revenge' set out to raid Carrick House, the home of the laird James Fea. Unfortunately for Gow, his ship ran aground on the Calf of Eday. Gow required a large boat to refloat 'Revenge' and sent ashore five fully-armed men to force assistance from the islanders. The pirates were met peaceably and taken to an inn for a drink and subsequently overpowered. Gow was held prisoner in Carrick House until he was transported to London for trial. The pirates were hanged at Execution Dock, Wapping on June 11, 1725. On a visit to Orkney in 1814, Sir Walter Scott collected tales about John Gow which he incorporated into his novel 'The Pirate' published in 1821.

Building blocks

Eday is made up of red and yellow rocks of the Middle Old Red Sandstone, the sandstone magnificently displayed in the cliffs of the Red Head. The quality of Eday stone has long been recognised. Much of the stone used to build St Magnus Cathedral and the Earl's Palace in Kirkwall was quarried at Fersness on Eday.

European Marine Energy Centre EMEC

The European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) is the world's leading test facility for wave and tidal energy converters. The Fall of Warness on the west coast of Eday is home to EMEC's full-scale tidal test site, with an onshore substation sited at Caldaie. With tidal flows of up to 4 metres per second (8 knots) - that's half a billion tonnes of water flowing through an hour - the tidal turbines tested here are truly put to the test.

Some of the world's most innovative tidal energy technologies have been tested at the site, with OpenHydro's Open Centre turbine the first tidal energy machine to generate electricity into the UK grid in 2008. Their test rig, the only permanent offshore structure at the test site, can be seen at the North end of the Fall of Warness. While most devices are installed on the seabed, and therefore not visible on site, one other device to look out for is Scotmewenables' yellow floating tidal turbine which regularly comes and goes from the site.

Services

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

SELF-CATERING

Sties, self catering, sleeps 5 (★★★★★) - Dr W.J. Cormack. t: 02089 415291. www.sties.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

BED and BREAKFAST

Roadside Pub, small public house overlooking the pier offers B&B, lunches and evening meals. One double room, one twin room. Twin room can accommodate 2 extra single beds if required. Both rooms en-suite. Anne Carr, t: 01857 622203


SELF CATERING

The Ruah, beautifully renovated cliff top cottage in stunning secluded location, sleeps 2 Self-catering weekly or short breaks. 'Rockpooling by arrangement. t: 01857 622263 or e: theruah@btinternet.com

Pirate Gow Chalets, Calf Sound. Lovely self-catering chalets in idyllic shoreline setting. Sleeps 1-3. Mandy King, t: 01857 622240, e: willowstreameday@btinternet.com

Fersness Cottage, cozy, traditional Self-catering accommodation with box beds. Sleeps 5. Sandy beach within walking distance. Daily or weekly rates on request. Open all year round. Louise Cockram, t: 01857 622262

Swensday Bothy, small, snug wood lined Self-catering bothy. Sleeps 2. Shore location. Daily or weekly rates on request. Open all year. Louise Cockram, t: 01857 622262

Blackbanks, Eday, Mr M. L. Williams, t: 01777 701605

Eday Youth Hostel, Community run hostel; newly refurbished and modernised. Single or shared rooms available, lounge, kitchen, shower rooms and laundry facilities. For enquiries or to book please call 01857 622283 or 07977 281084. Open all year round.

Camp site - telephone Community Association as above: Most farmers will be pleased to let you camp on their land if you first ask permission.

Other Services

The Eday Ranger. Our island ranger organises events and activities throughout the year including guided walks, bird watching, rockpooling, etc. There are weekly guided walks, where the ranger will meet the lunchtime ferry from Kirkwall. Booking is essential. For up to date information and news please contact the Eday Ranger on 07964 149155 [leave a message if no answer], e: edayranger@hotmail.com or visit: www.facebook.com/edayranger

Shop: Eday Community Enterprises Ltd., general store, fuels and off licence. t: 01857 622283

Post Office: t: 01857 62239

Eday Kirk: Johan Robertson. t: 01857 622251

Doctor: Dr Rodger Neville-Smith, Heatherlea. t: 01857 622243

Eday Tourist Association, For visitor information including transport, tours and accommodation. Contact www.visiteday.com or t: 01857 622262
Visitor Attractions

Eday Heritage & Visitor Centre offers an interesting all weather attraction. The old Baptist Chapel has been carefully renovated to provide exhibition space on two floors showcasing the island’s historical and natural heritage. The centre is run by volunteers.

Occasional functions and events are advertised in advance but a help yourself hot drinks facility is always available in the café area. The exhibition area contains artefacts, models and a range of information, documents and photographs. This includes an interpretation board for the Eday Ranger, a digital display of materials gathered during the Eday Oral History Project and information about the work of the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC), whose Tidal Test site is in the Fall of Warness. If you’re researching your family history you’ll find census data, plans of the old kirkyard, maps and photographs.

Entry is free of charge, although donations towards the upkeep of the facilities are always welcome. The Centre is open daily in summer and by arrangement throughout the winter. The facilities can also be hired for private functions. Please telephone 01857 622263 with any enquiries.

Carrick House - Open occasionally by appointment only. t: 01857 622260.

Redhouse Croft Restoration Project - Ongoing project to restore c.19th century croft complete with kiln, water wheel and byre. Free tours of the croft. Tea Room, at the foot of the hill, serving teas, coffees, homemade soup, sandwiches and homebakes. Lovely garden. Looking forward to meeting you! Open June-Mid September. Tuesday-Friday 11am-5pm. t: 01857 622217, m: 07763 214080.

Old North School Classroom – Old school display, model boats and aircraft. Also, walk through submarine display of the control room of HMS Otter as seen on “Channel 4 Collect’s Lot” Submarine exhibits and display of the control room of HMS Otter as seen on "Channel 4 Collect's Lot" Submarine exhibits and archives. Situated close to Eday shop. Open most days. Entry is free of charge. M Ilett 01857 622225.

Walks on Eday

Wrannex Walk – Arrow on map indicates beginning of walk which takes approximately one hour of easy, flat walking. It embraces panoramic views of the Green Holms, Mainland and Hoy.

Heritage Walk – Arrow marks start of walk which passes through some of the most interesting sites on Eday (see map). The walk takes approximately 4 hrs 30 mins.

Transport Hire

J & J car hire and taxis near to pier. Stackald, Eday. t: 6222260/07526 735350.

Eday Minibus Tours – Please t: 01857 622206 for details, see page 49 for full advert.

By Sea

Eday

Effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014

The services to Eday are carried out by the vessels m.v. Earl Thorfinn (190 passengers and 25 cars), m.v. Earl Sigurd (190 passengers and 25 cars) and m.v. Varagen (144 passengers and 32 cars). Hot/cold drinks and cold snacks are available on all vessels at modest prices. Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872021, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

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A - Vehicles must be booked before 1430 hrs on Saturday.
B - Vehicles must be booked before 1600 hrs the day before sailing.

For full fares please enquire at Ferry Services Offices

By Air

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

A School term only (5 – 26 March, 16 April – 25 June and 20 August – 8 October 2014)
B School holidays only (2 – 9 April, 2 July – 13 August and 15 – 22 October 2014)

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For a thousand years Flotta, the 'flat' isle of the Norsemen, at the gateway to Scapa Flow, slumbered. During those long years, perhaps the most sensational event came in 1725 when the Laird of Flotta Sir James Stewart, an 'irascible and belligerent Jacobite' murdered Captain James Moodie of Melsetter in Hoy, in Kirkwall's Broad Street. Then within the past century, the island suddenly found itself in the spotlight, firstly as a strategic military base in two World Wars and latterly as the location for an oil terminal that has helped keep Orkney's economy afloat.

Like most of the island fringe Flotta's population has been in decline since the turn of the 20th century, despite the sensationally busy War years (the Imperial War Museum holds a remarkable photograph of a First World War boxing match on Flotta with an audience of 10,000!) and the arrival of the terminal. In 1910, the island had two blacksmiths, four carpenters, three dressmakers, a teacher, doctor, minister and postmaster, all serving a population of 431. Flotta has one of the most spectacular 360 degree panoramas in the United Kingdom - the sweep of the Hills of Hoy, the great expanse of Scapa Flow and the hills of Mainland Orkney beyond, to the east Burray and South Ronaldsay, completing the circle by looking out across the Pentland Firth to the Scottish mainland.

Interestingly Flotta is thought to be perhaps the only place in Orkney where you can see Kirkwall and Stromness at the same time.

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**Points of interest**

1. **Flotta Oil Terminal:** The terminal became operational in December 1976 when crude oil arrived from the Piper platform.
2. **Cinema:** Constructed during World War II, this building was designed to hold an audience of 1500. The roof now covers a garage in Kirkwall and after the end wall was removed in the 70s, the building was used as a sand store.
3. **Memorial Seat:** In memory of an islander this bench has proved a welcome resting point on one of the flat island's 'steep hills'.
4. **Rocket Batteries:** This WWII rocket firing battery was designed to protect important targets from low flying enemy aircraft. The 132 now crumbling shelters form a perfect grid and were used to protect the gun crews and store ammunition for the 66 rocket projectors.
5. **Golta:** This part of the island was common grazing for the sheep population, as was the West Hill. Together they form about one third of the island's area. Wartime relics are found.

For access please contact Flotta Terminal Security on 01856 884359 before visiting Gotla.

6. **Y.M.C.A.:** This once magnificent stone-built construction was completed in 1917. Only part of the wall and the huge fireplace now remain. A post-war plan to re-open the building as a hotel fell through.
7. **St. Vincent Pier:** This landing pier was erected by men from H.M.S. St. Vincent and as the foundation stone indicates was finished in 1915. It was used by the navy to land personnel at the Y.M.C.A., where they could enjoy a game of golf.
8. **Boom Net and the Calf of Flotta:** The objects sticking out of the water between Gotla and the Calf may look like rocks but are in fact hundreds of tons of anti-submarine cable dumped here after World War II; a narrow channel allows boats to pass between the two islands.
9. **Community Centre:** There are regular sporting or social activities in the centre and the licensed bar is open on Friday evenings. The putting green and a modern play park are nearby. Teas may be available in the centre if pre-booked. The impressive mural there, depicting life on Flotta, was created and painted as a community project. To book teas or to view the mural if the centre is not open, contact Isobel on 01856 701219.
10. **Buchanan Battery:** The well-preserved coastal defence battery here was built to guard the navy's main entrance to Scapa Flow. Feel free to explore the many shelters, but remember that extreme care is necessary.
11 Magnificent Lane: This steep winding road was built by the men from H.M.S. Magnificent and leads to Stanger Head.

12 Kings Hard: Remains of a stone jetty where on July 9, 1915 King George V landed to inspect troops at Stanger Head.

13 Signal Station: Built for the Royal Navy this large complex was used as a communication centre and connected with other stations around the Flow.

14 Quarry: Most of the stone used in the construction of the oil terminal came from Stanger Head. Much of the army camp that once stood here has been removed.

15 Clets: The name given to the stone stacks which can be viewed from the cliff. This part of Stanger Head can be dangerous because there are also gloop or blow-holes in the vicinity that are extremely dangerous. Keep a close eye on children and pets!

16 Flotta Kirk and Award Winning War Memorial: The kirk is open to visitors. There are also many interesting gravestones surrounding the kirk. Across Kirk Bay is the uninhabited island of Switha, home to a colony of grey seals.

17 NEB Battery: Along both sides of the road are to be found the remains of many buildings and huts which once stood here. The pump house that once supplied water from the burn stands at the edge of the road. There are two dams, the lower was built in the Second World War and the higher dam in the First World War. The battery and ammunition stores are well worth a visit.

18 Airstrip: The airstrip is 2000 feet long and was built to transport workers during the construction of the oil terminal which has meant so much to the prosperity of Orkney.

19 Sutherland Pier: This pier was built during WW II.

20 Gibraltar Pier: Constructed during WWII, this pier was modified in 1983 to accommodate the linkspan for Orkney's first inter-island ro-ro ferry.

21 Peerie Museum: This collection of wartime and oil-related memorabilia is housed in the Silent Cabin (see overleaf). Visitors are welcome to wander in and see something of the island’s history. They are also at liberty to make themselves a cup of tea/coffee in the kitchen and use the toilet facilities. The new Lurdy centre next door is due to open in 2014.

22 The Flotta Trail: The marked trail, with information panels, begins at Gibraltar Pier.

23 Economic Life of Scapa Flow Display: This new exhibition is on display in the Gibraltar Pier waiting room.
History
The first European to be buried in Australia was said to have been a Flotta man, Forbie Sutherland, a member of Cook’s Endeavour expedition. The Flotta Stone, held by the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, is unquestionably Flotta’s most cherished artefact. It is a sculptured slab which was found in the site of a ruin which was supposed to have been an ancient church. After having being in possession of Mr George Petrie of Kirkwall for a number of years it was bought by the Edinburgh museum in 1877. It is thought to date from the 8th century.

As you walk around the island see how many of Tom’s 21st century artefacts you can spot. There are guns, tractors a WWII Doodlebug, and a penny-farthing bicycle that he has made from re-cycled scrap metal. If you go past the Rotten Gutter you may well find penguins that you can walk right up to!

Natural world
Oblivious to the presence of the great industrial enterprise on the north side of the island, Flotta’s bird population nest on cliffs and moor. The colony of seals can be best seen from the southeast corner of the island overlooking the Sound of Hoxa. A wide variety of plants and flowers are also found here. Flotta’s ‘forest’ is a surprise for many visitors. In the vicinity of the old cinema the Royal Navy planted 1000 trees during World War II and about ten per cent survived. Then the oil company planted 40,000 trees and shrubs. There is a scurrilous island legend that rather than becoming victims of Orkney’s balmy breezes many wartime trees disappeared for Christmas decoration. They were a designer’s dream – without branches on the weather side they fitted flush with the wall!

The oil terminal
The flare at the top of its 223-foot stack can be seen all around Orkney and the North of Scotland and has become the symbol of modern Orkney in the way that The Old Man of Hoy represents the island heritage. The majority of the workforce commute daily by fast launch to the terminal from Orkney Mainland.

Silent cabin & the UB116
Joined to the dwelling house of Peerie Lurdy is a First World War hut dragged there by oxen at the end of the War and tagged on as a bedroom/sitting room and dubbed the Silent Cabin because it had served as the hydrophone hut at Quoyness. The observers sat with their headphones listening for submarine activity. From this hut the approach of a so-called ‘suicide’ mission by the UB116 was tracked. The submarine slipped under the boom defences but was destroyed in the minefield. This wreck and that of a German destroyer in deep water just off the Buchanan Battery on the east shore are regularly dived on. Wartime relics are everywhere. One of the most interesting is the rocket battery where probably the world’s first surface-to-air missiles were tested. Folk from Flotta still recall the ‘Whoosh’ and sheet of flame from these rockets under test, although they were never fired in anger.

The wreck of the battleship Vanguard, which blew up at her moorings with the loss of over 840 men, in 1917, lies only a couple of miles from Flotta. As a result of the huge explosion, flaming debris landed on the island and set fire to the heather on Golta.

James Hay
One of the most famous sons of Flotta was islander/poet James Hay who died in 1950. His published works are now cherished by connoisseurs of poetry in the style of the legendary William McGonagall, the Dundee poet. Here is ‘Roon Flotta’s Isle’ by James Hay:

Roon Flotta’s Isle we twa hae gane
Frae Stanger Head by Hanging Stane,
The Flossie Geo and Kirkie Ting,
Then by the Burn o’ the Mill
Past Waster Noust and Langabar,
The Cave o’ Banks and Scatwick’s ware;
The Point o’ Neb and famous Spence,
Warth shore, then onward to the fence.
At Quoy o’ Weddel, then to shore
Where scent of ware’s felt more and more;
This part is called the gutter rotten,
One whiff of it is ne’er forgotten.
Our way now lies by Sutherland Pier,
Past the Boat Noust and Crubb is near,
Next Whanclett’s shore then Golta Hill,
We journey on and on until
The head called Rone is passed, and we
Old Winster’s Well now clearly see;
Then the Red Face and Sinnesting,
Where little birdies blithely sing.
Past Curries firth and Busta Burn
Our way now takes another turn
By Sarraquoy and Lurdy’s shore,
The Pan and Quoyness lie before.
Then Scartan point where sheep is loose
Straight onward to the Giral’s Hoose,
Rinnagie, the King’s Hard too,
And Stanger Head again we view.
Services

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

SELF-CATERING

13 Burnside, self-catering with one double, one twin and one single room, sitting room, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. For bookings and enquiries, please contact either Marina Sinclair on 01856 701252 or Phyllis Gee on 01856 701215.

HOSTEL

14 Burnside, former 3 bedroom council house now a hostel sleeping five. Sitting room, bathroom and fully equipped kitchen. Open all year. For bookings and enquiries, please contact either Marina Sinclair on 01856 701252 or Phyllis Gee on 01856 701215.

Other Services

Post Office and convenience store, petrol and Calor Gas. t: 01856 701252.


By Sea

Flotta and Hoy

Effective from 4 May until 28 September 2014

The islands of Hoy and Flotta are served by the roll-on/roll-off ferries m.v. Hoy Head (125 passengers and 24 cars). All bookings should be made at the Houton Terminal in Orphir on the Orkney Mainland t: 01856 811397, f: 01856 811701, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

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The Sunday runs are effective as follows:
Sunday 1 – 04/05/14 to 01/06/14  •  Sunday 2 – 08/06/14 to 10/08/14  •  Sunday 3 – 17/08/14 to 28/08/14

A – On Request. Customers are requested to make advanced bookings by 1700 on the day before travel. At the very latest (except in emergency) bookings for these services MUST be made by 12 noon on the day of travel.

B – On Request. Bookings for this service MUST be made by 1600 on the day before travel.

NOTES:

1) All vehicle bookings must be made through the Company’s Houton Office. TELEPHONE: (01856) 811397, FAX: (01856) 811701.

2) Vehicles MUST be available for booking fifteen minutes before departure times, and passengers five minutes before departure.

3) No Show charges – All cancellations must be made by 1700 (1600 on Saturday for Sunday and Monday travel) on the day before the intended date of travel or charges may be applied.

4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in Company’s vessels, offices and premises.
Hoy & Graemsay

...The high point of Orkney

From the summit of Ward Hill on Hoy – the highest point in the county at 1570 feet – every island in Orkney can be seen with the exception of Rysha Little – which, ironically, is the nearest.

Hoy means ‘High Island’ from the Old Norse ‘HAEY’. It is the second largest island in Orkney at 57 square miles. The north and west are hilly and more ‘Highland’ in character, the south and east low-lying and fertile, more typical of Orkney in general.

Hoy is steeped in history with sites which date from prehistoric times, through the Viking period and into the 20th century. Here you'll find the only rock-cut chambered tomb in Britain and discover Hoy's key role in British maritime history.

The richness of heritage is equalled by a treasure trove of natural history, for example you'll find plant communities normally associated with mountain areas. An ornithologist’s paradise, a number of northern species can be seen in a natural setting which has few equals in Britain.

Hills and stunning sea cliffs offer excellent hillwalking, the west coast in particular is one of spectacular natural beauty. The dramatic summits of Ward Hill and the Cuilags stand in splendid contrast to the rest of Orkney and can be seen from almost anywhere on Orkney Mainland.

The weather can deteriorate rapidly in the hills. Please ensure you have warm, waterproof clothing and stout footwear. Make sure you have a map and compass if you wish to explore off the footpath network. Take great care around the cliff tops, particularly in windy or foggy conditions.

Geology

Much of Hoy is composed of Upper rather than Middle Old Red Sandstones which have been weathered into a complex of steep and craggy hills. The resulting landscape is unique within Orkney. The upland mass of Hoy generated its own glaciers during the last Ice Age. Evidence of this can be seen in the small corries and wide glaciated valleys of northwest Hoy.

Plants and mammals

Hoy’s upland character, its northern latitude and great exposure has resulted in a plant community which is normally associated with mountain areas. At heights of less than 1500 feet you'll find several arctic-alpine species such as the Least Willow and Yellow Mountain Saxifrage.

General lack of grazing has encouraged native tree growth and in Rackwick Valley, at Berriedale, you'll find the most northerly native woodland in Britain. Look out for the numerous and conspicuous mountain hares in the hills. Otters are common along the Scapa Flow coastline and have been found in the Rackwick Burn.

Birdlife

The RSPB Hoy reserve comprises almost 4,000 hectares of moorland with scattered lochans, woodland and huge seacliffs. The reserve is important for a wide range of birds, including hen harriers, peregrine falcons, red-throated divers, waders and seabirds. Hoy holds around 12% of the World’s breeding great skua population and you can see fulmars, puffins, guillemots, razorbills and shags around the Old Man of Hoy in the summer months.

Points of interest

1. The Dwarfie Stone: Only rock-cut tomb in Britain; according to Sir Walter Scott it was the residence of the ‘Trolfd’, a legendary Norse dwarf.
2. Ward Hill: At 1570 feet (479m) this is Orkney’s highest hill and with the neighbouring Cuilags has a sub-arctic, glaciated environment attracting geologists, botanists and hillwalkers.
3. Rackwick: This crofting township is considered one of the most beautiful places in Orkney. Bounded by towering cliffs and steep heathery hills, Rackwick rests beside a fine sand and boulder strewn beach.
4. Berriedale Wood: The most northerly native woodland in Britain; pollen analysis suggests that woodland of this type was more widespread in Orkney around 5000BC.
5. The Old Man of Hoy: Famous 450 foot sea stack, first climbed in 1967 in a televised assault, is perhaps Orkney’s most famous landmark. Occasionally steep footpath from Rackwick to the stack requires a three-hour round trip.
6. St John’s Head: Highest vertical cliff in Britain, the first direct ascent was made in 1970 by Edward Drummond and companion who spent six nights on the face sleeping in hammocks.
7. Broch of Braebister: This promontory provided protection for an Iron Age fort built some 2000 years ago. Remains are still visible in the form of a six to nine foot high mound.
8. Hoy High & Hoy Low Lighthouses, Graemsay: Completed in 1851 Hoy High’s white 108-foot tower tapers to a balcony supported by Gothic arches. At the foot of the tower are keepers’ houses, built in a style reminiscent of Assyrian temples.
9. Hoy Kirk: Now a community venue, has recently begun a heritage project, visit the Hoy archive and see exhibitions and local films – details at www.hoyheritage.co.uk.
10. Arctic Convoys Memorial, Lyness: To commemorate all who served in the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk and Arkangel in Russia.
11. Betty Corrigall’s Grave: A young girl from Lyness abandoned, pregnant, by a visiting sailor last century, took her own life and was buried away from hallowed ground on the parish boundary. Surely one of Britain’s loneliest graves.
13 Lyness Naval Cemetery: Here rest the heroes from some of the most famous incidents in modern naval history – the Battle of Jutland (1916); HMS Hampshire sunk by a mine off Birsay (1916); explosion of the Vanguard off Flotta (1917) and the Royal Oak torpedoed in Scapa Flow (1939).

14 Scapa Flow Visitor Centre & Museum: (3 star museum) Located a few minutes’ walk from the Lyness ferry terminal the museum is centred around the former fuel oil pumping station at Lyness Naval Base, (HMS Proserpine). The fascinating exhibition illustrates the importance of Scapa Flow as a base for the British fleet throughout history, concentrating on its role during two world wars. It includes photographs, text, artefacts, films and an audio exhibition, plus a collection of large military vehicles, cranes, field artillery and dockyard rolling stock. The museum is open March - October and admission is free. The popular Pump House Café is open from Easter-October.

15 Martello Towers and Longhope Battery: These two towers, constructed between 1813 and 1815 were built as protection for the Baltic convoys. Renovated in 1866 they were used during World War I. Open for visitors.

16 Melsetter House and Chapel: Designed by WR Letheby in Arts and Crafts Style. Visits arranged by appointment only, subject to owner’s convenience – Sunday & Thursday. t: 01856 791352.

17 Osmondwall: This was a favourite Viking anchorage where in 955 Jarl Sigurd the Stout was given his famous choice – baptism into the Christian faith or decapitation. He chose baptism!. The kirkyard contains a stone carved bench depicting the story commissioned by the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership.

18 Longhope Lifeboat Memorial: At Osmondwall the Kirkhope burial ground is dominated by the lone bronze figure of a lifeboat man, erected in honour of the eight-man crew of the T.G.B. which was lost with all hands on March 17, 1969, en route to a rescue.

19 Moodie Burial Place: The Moodie family owned most of Walls parish from the late 16th century until 1820.

20 Cantick Head Lighthouse: First lit in 1858 it was built by David Stevenson to mark the southern entrance to Scapa Flow.

21 Green Hill of Hesti Geo: This large green mound, not far from the Candle of Snelsetter, contains an unusually large broch. There are two gloups nearby.

22 Longhope Lifeboat Station Museum: Situated at Brims in South Walls, Longhope Lifeboat station opened in 1834 and has saved over 500 lives. Boat shed is now being converted into a museum – to view T. 701332. Lifeboat is now afloat at Longhope pier.

23 Wee Fea Viewpoint: Panorama of the South Isles.

24 Gable End Theatre: The Gable End is a 75-seat community theatre, attracting music and drama acts from all over the world. The Gable End Film Society holds fortnightly film screenings. Most music and drama events have a licensed bar; coffee and ice cream are available in the foyer before the films. All our shows are advertised on www.orgkeycommunities.co.uk/IOHDT in local shops and post offices as well as in the passenger lounges of the ferry. Also check out our Facebook page.

25 Longhope Lifeboat Station: Established in 1874. Alongside the pier you will find the lifeboat “the Helen Comrie” a Tamar class lifeboat. During the summer months a shop run by the Longhope Lifeboat Guild is open Wed, Thurs & Friday to coincide with the times the ‘Hoy Hopper’ Bus is in Longhope (other times by arrangement). http://rnli.org.uk/rnli_near_you/scotland/stations/LonghopeOrkney

26 Hill of White Hamars: A Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve which comprises spectacular coastal walks, overlooking the Pentland Firth. The reserve is one of the few places where you will find the rare Scottish Primrose.
History
In the beautiful valley of Rackwick lies the only prehistoric rock-cut chambered tomb in Britain. The Dwarfie Stane is an isolated block of red sandstone, some 8.5 metres long, which dates from about 3000BC. Vikings used the many sheltered bays of Hoy and Walls as havens to haul their longships ashore. Longhope became the rendezvous point for Baltic convoys during the Napoleonic Wars. The construction of two Martello Towers fortified the hamlet against attack from the navy and privateers of the United Kingdom.

The World Wars
Hoy's major contribution to Orkney's heritage came in the 20th century when in 1914 Scapa Flow became the base of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet, which sailed and engaged the German High Seas Fleet at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May, 1916. The captured German fleet was interned in Scapa Flow and subsequently scuttled on 21 June 1919. During World War II thousands of naval personnel were based at Lyness and the now deserted naval base has been converted to a visitor centre with many exhibits from both world wars and the scuttled German fleet. In addition there is an audio visual display within the remaining giant oil tank. Admission Free.

Services

Accommodation
Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

SELF CATERING
Cliffgate, Rackwick (★★★★☆) - self-catering house, sleeps 8. Mrs Lorraine Buchan. t: 01856 873535 ext 2416. e: info@cliffgate.co.uk www.cliffgate.co.uk

Hoy Centre (★★★★☆) - Hostel - open all year. 8 rooms, sleeps 32. Exclusive and family room rates available. Group bookings welcome. t: 01856 873535 ext 2416. e: leisure.culture@orkney.gov.uk www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/campsites-and-hostels


Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Strombank Hotel, - Small family run hotel with 4 en-suite bedrooms. One suitable for disabled. Children welcome. Bar meals – 6-9pm. Lunches 12-2pm Sundays. (Residents only meals on Thursdays). t: 01856 701494. www.strombank.co.uk

Hoy Hotel, 1 family room, 3 twin rooms, 1 single room. All en-suite. All ground floor. B & B, lunch and evening meals available. Richard & Inez Groat. t: 01856 791377. e: richard@accommodationorkney.co.uk www.accommodationorkney.co.uk

Royal Hotel, Longhope B & B, Mr A. White, traditional bar, fine views overlooking Longhope Pier and Scapa Flow. t: 01856 701276, e: valex76@btinternet.com

Pools, Longhope - Mrs K. Kirkpatrick. Self-catering cottage, sleeps 6. Short lets available, min. 3 nights, open all year. 01856 701271. e: karen@hoy-selfcatering.co.uk

Snelsitter Cottage, Longhope - Sleeps 4 to 6, self-catering, open all year. Coastal location, views across Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve and Pentland Firth. t: 01856 701482, e: admin@snelsittercottagehoey.co.uk

Burnthouse Cottage, Hoy - sleeps 5. New extension 2012, room with a view! Hazel Mackay, Meitala, Cannigall Rd, St Ola, Orkney. t: 01856 870058. m: 07762689225. e: hazel.melita@btinternet.com www.burnhousecottage.co.uk

Quoydale, Hoy, - Mrs F. Clark, double/twin en-suite, evening meal on request. t: 01856 791315. e: quoydale@supanet.com www.orkneyaccommodation.co.uk

Quoydale, Hoy, sleeps 4, all amenities plus linen. Mrs A. Clark. t: 01856 791315. e: quoydale@supanet.com www.orkneyaccommodation.co.uk

Wildheather, B&B, Millhouse, Lyness, Hoy. Mrs Helen Hiscock, 2 double/twin en-suite room with breath taking views over Mill Bay, evening meals and packed lunches on request. t: 01856 791098, e: enquiries@wildheatherbandb.co.uk www.wildheatherbandb.co.uk

Seaview, - contact Sandra Bews, www.seaviewcottageshoey.co.uk, t: 01856 874317.

Old Hall Cottage, - 3 star self-catering, sleeps up to 6. Level entry disabled access. Open all year round. B & B also available. Contact Mark and Sandra t: 01856 701213. e: info@oldhallcottage.co.uk, website: www.oldhallcottage.co.uk

Onedin Cottage, Longhope, self-catering cottage to let; sleeps 5, all amenities, Mrs Kirkpatrick, t: 01856 701206. e: kirkpatrick274@btinternet.com

The Spinning cottage, Melsetter House. Miss E. Seatter. t: 01856 791352.

Cantick Head Lighthouse Cottages, sleeps 1-4. t: 01856 701255. e: cantick@gmail.com www.cantickhead.com

The Orkney Croft, 2 award winning self-catering cottages each sleeping 6, 3 star. Short breaks and nightly lets available. www.orkneycroft.co.uk t: 01856 791119 or 01856 851116

West Linskyn, self-catering – Mrs F. Matheson, t: 01856 851116. e: fionel@fionel.forecd.co.uk www.orkneycroft.co.uk

The Kennels, Brims, Longhope - 1 bedroom cottage, sleeps 2. Anne Robertson. t: 01856 850216.

Lower Rumin, Rackwick, traditional stonebuilt self-catering cottage with spectacular views of Longhope. Open all year. Liz Dennison, t: 01856 771201. e: riahurie@btinternet.com

Shops & Eating Out
Bu Farm – Minibus and Taxi, Mr T. Thomson. t: 01856 791263.


North Hoy Transport, Quoydale - Taxi, minibus, Mr A. Clark, t: 01856 791315.

Hoy and Walls Community Transport – Regular public service between Longhope and Lyness piers, plus on request service between Hoy and Longhope Tuesdays, Thursdays, Tour of South Walls Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. Booking advisable. Please phone before 7pm 01856 701266 (mobile 07914 745142).

Transport

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Shops & Eating Out

Hoy Hotel and Anchor Bar, Lyness, Lunches served 12 till 2.30pm (May-Sept.) Sunday lunches bookings required. Anchor Bar open every evening from 7pm. Evening meals by request, please book. t: 01856 791377/701273. e: richard@accommodationorkney.co.uk www.accommodationorkney.co.uk

Royal Hotel, Longhope – t: 01856 701276

J.M.F. Groat & Sons, Longhope – General Merchants & Grocers, Petrol & oils – Calor and camping gas; off licence; hardware. Open 9-12.30pm and 2-6pm. Open all day July, August and September. t: 01856 701273; t: 01856 701251
Benethill Café, Moaeness Hoy, Open daily 10 till 6.30pm 7 days a week, April to October. Licensed and specialising in local food. A short walk from Moaeness Pier. t: 01856 791119 e: admin@benethillcafe.co.uk

Strombanchak Hotel, Bar Meals daily except Thursday. (6-9pm) Lunches Sat-Sun only 12-2pm. t: 01856 701494

Pump Room Cafe, Scapa Flow Visitors Centre, Lyness – open in summer for hot and cold snacks, souvenirs etc. t: 01856 791300.

Wild Heather Crafts, www.wildheathercrafts.co.uk. Orkney-made gifts, handmade crafts and so much more. Opening 28 March, 2014 all year - 9.30am – 4.30pm Mon-Sat. t: 01856 791098, e: enquiries@wildheathercrafts.co.uk

Post Offices

Longhope – within J.M. Groat’s shop. t: 01856 701273/012152.

Hoy Post Office. t: 01856 791261.

Lyness PO is located in the Hoy Hotel and open Monday only 11am till 1pm.

Other Services


Nurse – Community Nurse. Contact Health Centre. t: 01856 701274.

Healthy Living Centre. t: 01856 791085. Development Trust. www.hoyorkney.com

Leisure & Recreation

Hills of Hoy, Lynness – Island Tours 768 seat minibuses. t: 01856 791240.

Hoy Tours with Albert and visit places of interest. Dwarfile Stane, Martello Tower, Rackwick, etc. Enquiries to Albert Clark. t: 01856 791315. c: quoydale@supanet.com

PIX – Prints, books, cards and hand-made gifts, all exclusive to Hoy. Open Sunday 10am to 6pm, chalet 2, Lyness. t: 01856 701313, e: frangray1@btinternet.com.

Visit Byre Arts, Longhope, Oil paintings, stone/wood carvings and shell crafts at affordable prices. Open May to September 10am - 4pm. t: 01856 701760. e: carol lock@btinternet.com

Tours of Hoy – Mr T Thomson. t: 01856 791263.

South Isles Ranger, free guided walks. t: 01856 791716. c: southislesranger@gmail.com

RSPB Ranger, guided walks on the RSPB reserve with the warden every week in the summer months. t: 01856 830176; e: orkney@rspb.org.uk

North Walls Centre – swimming pool and various sports activities. Mrs M. Groat. t: 01856 701226; Miss S. Firth 01856 791800 (booking clerk).

Moorings available at Longhope pier and mooring buoys just off the pier. Public shower and toilets on the pier. There is a playpark in Longhope, just behind the Royal Hotel.

Hoy Half Marathon held on Sunday 15th June 2014. Longhope Regatta held on Saturday 5th July 2014. All events are now publicised on http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/10HDT

Churches

St Columba’s, Longhope - Church of Scotland. All denominations welcome. Services advertised locally.

The virtual absence of traffic makes walking a pleasure, enabling you to enjoy the abundant wild flowers and appreciate the superb views of Stromness and North Hoy. Relax on the safe coral and sandy beaches at Sandside, within comfortable walking distance of the pier. There are picnic benches around the island.

Explore the rocky shoreline where you can still find small pieces of crockery from the vessel Albion, shipwrecked off the Point of Oxan on New Year’s Day 1866, on its way from Liverpool to New York. Meet seals, terns, Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers, Redshank, Curlew, Lapwing, Fulmar, and Skuas, or just study the exposed rock strata.

There is no shop on the island and the Post Office is on Monday and Friday from 7.30am till 9.30am and on Wednesday from 11.30am till 1.30pm.

Graemsay and Moaness

North Hoy

Departing Stromness to Moaness Pier
Effective from 4 May until 28 September 2014

Passenger and cycle service only to Graemsay and North Hoy are carried out by m.v. Graemsay (73 passengers and 8 tonnes of cargo).

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A - Cargo Sailing - Limited Passenger Numbers – Booking Essential. These sailings may be delayed due to cargo operations.

NOTES:
1) All enquiries to Company main office: TELEPHONE: (01856) 872044.
2) Passengers are requested to be available for boarding five minutes before departure.
3) All cabins to be booked by 1.00hrs (5pm) the day before sailing.
4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in the vessels, offices and premises.
5) Ferry Services/Orkney Ferries Ltd operates a ‘No Show’ charging policy. All cancellations must be made by 1600hrs the day before sailing or full charges may apply.

Graemsay

by Ben Tait

Step back in time with a visit to Graemsay. A fifteen minute sail from Stromness (forty five minutes via Hoy) will bring you to a small, green, unspoilt island lying at the northern entrance to Scapa Flow, between Stromness and Hoy.

Visit Byre Arts, Longhope
Oil paintings, stone/wood carvings and shell crafts at affordable prices. Open May to September 10am - 4pm. t: 01856 701760. e: carol_lock@btinternet.com

By Sea

Graemsay and Moaness

North Hoy

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North Ronaldsay

... The island time forgot

A unique assembly – the ancient sheep court of North Ronaldsay – elected by the traditional townships on the island, manages the flocks of native seaweed-eating sheep.

Although North Ronaldsay is further north than the southern tip of Norway, its climate is far less severe, having winter temperatures which are usually some 5 degrees centigrade higher than most places on this latitude. This is due to the influence of the warm Gulf Stream. Since North Ronaldsay is the most remote of Orkney's North Isles, life is in many ways different from the other islands. Old traditions prevail. Orcadian surnames predominate and the custom of communal sheep grazing on the seashore is still pursued.

Natural history

Though only a small island with a low profile North Ronaldsay supports an extremely rich and diverse population of wild flowers, mammals and birds. It lies on the migration crossroads with birds heading north towards Iceland and Greenland as well as into Scandinavia pausing or being grounded. Thus from late March to early June and middle August to early November there are large concentrations of migrant birds visiting the island. All classes of birds are represented and several national rarities recorded annually. In summer the island is alive with the calls of breeding birds. Areas of land are left uncultivated and corncrake may call from the hayfield. Common and Grey Seals are numerous, both breed around the island and are easily seen and have become quite tame since culling was banned. Other sea mammals are seen offshore and porpoises occasionally accompany the local lobster boats.

Inland the island can broadly be divided into four distinct habitat types: foreshore, grazed links, marshland and agricultural land which together provide a wealth of opportunities for wildlife.

Points of interest

1. Standing Stone: This lone sentinel stone over 13 feet high is unlike most standing stones in Orkney as it has a hole through its upper part. Some think the stone was an out marker for a stone circle which stood on Tor Ness.
2. Holland House: Originally built by the Traill family who purchased the island in 1727 and the house is still owned by their direct descendants. Adjoining gardens have the only sizeable concentration of trees and shrubs on the island; focus for bird migration and ringing.
3. Old Kirk: This church from the early 1800s predates its manse which was built in 1829.
4. Muckle Gersty: According to legend, one of two dykes built of earth and stone by three brothers who apportioned the island amongst themselves. The dykes probably date from before 1000BC.
5. The Old School: Evidence of education dates back to the late 18th century though formal education with a resident schoolmaster is only documented from about 1837 onwards.
6. Sites of Stone Burial Cists: A number of burial cists have been found on the island, the most accessible can be seen at Antabreck and Senness.
7. Matches Dyke: The most northerly of the two dykes described in 4.
8. Turrieness: It is probable that at one time a stone circle stood on this plateau. Dotted over the plain are some 15 circular depressions measuring some nine feet in diameter. They have been identified as either barrow cemeteries or kelp burning pits.
9. Site of Store House: This may have been used as a grain store up to the 19th century when grain was exported from the island as part of the tenant's rent payment. It is also associated with the rendering of whale blubber and the storage of kelp.
10. Senness: Near this spot a stone cist containing human remains was excavated in 1872. There is evidence of a burial ground and chapel known as St Giles in the area.
11. The Fish House: standing west of the pier this former dwellinghouse was, at one time, used for curing fish.
12. Old Beacon: One of the first of the four early lighthouses built in Scotland. About 70 feet high, its fixed light was lit on 10th October 1789. However, ships continued to be lost and the light was extinguished in 1806 and shipped to Start Point in Sanday where it operated until late 1809 when Start Point received a revolving type lantern.
13 **The New Lighthouse**: North Ronaldsay had to wait for another 45 years for the new lighthouse. Lit in 1854, it is the tallest (109 feet) land-based lighthouse in the British Isles.

14 **Water Mill**: Ruins of a mill driven by an undershot weir which ran concurrently with the windmill near Peckhole, until they were replaced by the new mill (see 16) in 1907.

15 **Knowe o' Samilands**: One of several mounds made by the dumping of burnt stones used to heat water for cooking in ancient times.

16 **Mill and Windmill Pillar**: The new engine-driven mill was provided by the Laird, Mr Traill, in 1907 and was used for grinding corn and oats. Nearby stands the pillar which supported a windmill – reputedly one of the last working windmills in Scotland. It was used for grinding corn while the water mill (see 14) ground the oats. The windmill at Verhus Brae predated the water mill and windmill referred to above. Nothing remains of the Verhus mill, which fell into disuse after its unhooped grinding stone split and killed the miller.

17 **Brae of Stennabreck**: The Brae is a small steep hill containing a cluster of small stone huts on its summit. Relics found at this settlement and at Howmae (21) and Burrian (19) are housed in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh.

18 **Site of Burial Ground and Kirk of St. Brides**: Sparse traces remain of this kirk which was contemporary with the kirk at Senness and St Olaf’s near old kirk.

19 **Broch of Burrian**: The Broch tower itself – excavated in the 1880s – is the centre-piece of a very extensive Iron Age settlement which stood on the shore of Strom Ness. The settlement was evidently occupied into the Pictish period – to 800AD or later; among the relics were found several objects which were distinctively Christian. The Burrian Cross found inscribed on a piece of flat stone has been adopted as a motif in modern Orkney jewellery.

20 **Store-House at Noust of Howar**: Used as a grain store pending shipment to Kirkwall when grain was part of the rental payment in the 18th century. It was also used as a hiding place for young men seeking to evade the Press Gang.

21 **Howmae Brae**: Similar to 17 but excavated a few years earlier. Like Burrian, Stennabreck, the Standing Stone and Muckle Gerstly, Howmae is a scheduled monument.

22 **13 mile Sheep Dyke**.

23 **Bird Observatory**: Low energy building, visitors welcome.

24 **Pier**

25 **Airfield**

26 **New Kirk**: (North Ronaldsay Archive Exhibition).
Sheep
There is little evidence of the true origin of North Ronaldsay's seaweed-eating sheep. They live on a narrow strip of beach and foreshore outside the 13-mile stone dyke which surrounds the island, being brought inside the wall only at lambing. When the clipping and dipping seasons arrive the sheep are herded off the beaches into the stone-built 'Punds' by the collective efforts of the island's sheep farmers. The act of punding is perhaps one of the last remaining elements of communal farming in Orkney.

Seaweed
The scarcity of natural resources, together with the island's isolation has taught the inhabitants the value of its abundant supply of seaweed, washed up on the shores by the strong tides. Initially the only use made of seaweed was as a fertiliser (applied untreated to the land) and for burning when supplies of coal and peat were low. The kelp-making industry began in the 1720s generating a huge demand for both seaweed and labour. The seaweed was hauled up and dried on the beaches then burned in shallow stone pits. Look for them on your shore walks. It was further processed in the south to obtain chemicals. North Ronaldsay fishermen are said to have felt the aroma of kelp 'half roads to Foula.'

Shipwrecks
There were many shipwrecks on the island and one of the first recorded was the Swedish East Indiaman 'Svecia' grounded on the Reef Dyke in 1740 with the loss of some 90 lives. Four years later the Danish East Indiaman 'Crown Prince' was wrecked at Savie Geo; on this occasion all the crew and its cargo of silver coins were saved. In 1908, the sailing ship 'Isle of Erin' was lost with all hands off North Ronaldsay. The subsequent Board of Trade inquiry occasion all the crew and its cargo of silver coins were saved. In 1908, the sailing ship 'Isle of Erin' was lost with all hands off North Ronaldsay. The subsequent Board of Trade inquiry led to the installation of the Post Office Wireless Station on the island within a year or two.

Fishing
Before the trawlers came, good hauls of cod, ling and halibut were caught off the shores of North Ronaldsay. In the Firth, saithe were frequently taken though this posed many dangers as the fish were found where tides ran strongest. Lobster and herring were also caught but today there is less fishing from the island.

Services
(see map for locations)

Accommodation
Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

GUEST HOUSE
23 – Bird Observatory, (★★★Hoste) – open all year. Range of accommodation including dormitory, family and en-suite rooms in low energy building. Lounge bar, Café and Restaurant open to non-residents. t: Alison at 01857 633200, e-mail alison@nrbo.prestel.co.uk, www.nrbo.co.uk

Lighthouse. Reservations available throughout the year. Contact either National Trust of Scotland on www.northronaldsay.co.uk or North Ronaldsay Trust on 01857 633257

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

- Dennishill, Self-catering. Renovated crofthouse, fully equipped. Ideal for a quiet stress free holiday. Weekend lets available. Open 10am-5pm daily between May and August. E-mail: island-cottage@hotmail.com, www.island-cottage.co.uk
- Garso Guest House, T & E Muir, B & B, lunch and dinner. T: 01857 633244, e: muri886@btinternet.com
- Brigg Self-catering, fully equipped cottage. Mrs Muir, T: 01857 633244
- The Doll’s House, Roadside, Self-catering and B & B and evening meals. S. Mawson: 01857 633221
- Quoybanks, Self-catering Croft or B & B, fully equipped 3 bedrooms, evening meals supplied. S. Mawson: 01857 633221

Shops & Transport
23 – Obscafé at observatory - lunches, evening meals, free WiFi, camp shop and souvenirs.
28 – Garso No. 1 – taxi, self-drive cars, minibus hire and tours; lunch by arrangement. T. & E. Muir: 01857 633244
28 – Calor Gas, Garso No. 1 – Mr T. Muir: 01857 633244
14 – Petrol – Hooking (near watermill) Mr W. Muir: T: 01857 633257
30 – Roadside Tea Room, soups, snacks and soft drinks available. S. Mawson: 01857 633221
13 – Lighthouse Visitor Centre (★★★) – 4 star visitor attraction. Gift Shop with a wide variety of North Ronaldsay Woollen products, Lighthouse memorabilia and North Ronaldsay artefacts. Open 10am-5pm daily between May and August; for other opening times phone either 01857 633297 or 07768 201651 or www.northronaldsay.co.uk
13 – Lighthouse Café – Lunch, Dinner, Take Away (and deliveries), and bakery available throughout the year. Orkney’s most Northerly licensed premises with both on and off sales as well as Free WiFi. Open 10am-5pm daily between May and August for other opening times phone either 01857 633297 or 07768 201651 or www.northronaldsay.co.uk
13 – Bike Hire – Daily or weekly hire. Adults and childrens bikes. Helmets and Panniers available free of charge. Contact Mark on either 01857 633297 or 07768 201651 or www.northronaldsay.co.uk

Tours
13 – The North Ronaldsay Lighthouse is the tallest, land-based lighthouse in Scotland – 109 feet high with 176 steps to the top. First lit in 1854, it was automated in 1998. The North Ronaldsay Trust organises lighthouse tours, available on Orkney Ferries’ Sunday excursion trips to North Ronaldsay (see timetable) and at other times by arrangement. Transport available – contact W. Muir on 01857 633257 or 0703112224. On the same basis, tours are organised for the Yam Company’s workshops (13) where fleece from the unique, native sheep are spun into yarn. Local crafts on sale and refreshments available in cafe. Contact Mark on either 01857 633257 or 07768 201651 or www.northronaldsay.co.uk

Crafts

23 – Bird Observatory – bird tours by arrangement.

Other Services
34 – Bank – Monthly, please inquire at Post Office.
**By Sea**

**North Ronaldsay**

Effective from 6 May until 26 September 2014

The services to North Ronaldsay are carried out by the vessels

*mv Earl Thorfinn* and *mv Earl Sigurd* [190 passengers and 25 cars].

Hot/cold drinks and cold snacks are available on all vessels at modest prices.

Books should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

**Proposed Sailing Times from Kirkwall for North Ronaldsay and Return**

All North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray departure times are estimates and are subject to alteration due to cargo operations, weather and tide. All arrivals in Kirkwall subject to change due to cargo operations. Sailings are all "weather permitting" and subject to confirmation the day before sailing.

**Subject to change re: Sanday Show**

Sunday sailings to North Ronaldsay (weather permitting) on the following dates only: 1 June (via Eday/Sanday), 15 June (via Stronsay), 29 June (via Westray), 27 July (via Stronsay), 17 August (via Eday/Sanday) and 31 August (via Westray).

**NOTES:**

1) Vehicle check in time: 20 minutes before departure. Passenger check in time: 10 minutes before departure.

2) No Show Charges - All cancellations must be made not less than 24 hours before the intended date of ravel or full charges may apply.

3) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in the Company's vessels, offices and premises.

**By Air**

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

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**Notes:**

A School term only (5 – 26 March, 16 April – 25 June and 20 August – 8 October 2014)

B School holidays only (2 – 9 April, 2 July – 13 August and 15 – 22 October 2014)
Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre

...A calendar of lives

The Yetnasteen or Giant's Stone on Rousay was said to wander down to a nearby loch every New Year's morning for a refreshing drink.

Amidst the great tides of the Atlantic and the North Sea lies a group of islands that encompasses the unique heritage of Orkney. From the Stone Age to the present, the seas have brought to Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre a blend of peoples who have left a calendar of their lives for all to see.

With over 166 sites of archaeological interest and an important crofting history, the three islands provide as rich a spectrum of settlement as can be found anywhere in Northern Europe. The approach by modern car ferry provides the visitor with a first and most impressive memory of the islands. Rousay, the largest of the group is an unusually hilly island scarred by glacial terracing. It contains some of the richest and best preserved monuments in the North of Scotland and in the west the 'Great Ship of Death', as Midhowe has been called, lies along a famous route of cairns and brochs. They are freely open to the public, enabling the visitor to wander through 5000 years of history. The Trumland Orientation Centre/Visitors' Centre and Waiting Room contains detailed information and interpretation of many ancient sites as well as natural history, modern and historical Rousay. Much of Rousay has been officially designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The northwest coast in particular has a range of exciting cliff formations as well as a rich variety of wild flowers. Special seaspray-covered soils harbour a wide range of plants.

The uninhabited island of Eynhallow with its twelfth century monastic settlement can be reached from Rousay by boat. It's an island of beauty, mystique and legend with spectacular tidal roosts on either side.

On Wyre, according to the Orkneyinga Saga, Kolbein Hruga, the giant Cubbie Roo of legend, built the castle here about 1150 and it is the oldest dated square keep castle in Scotland. Close by the castle is the beautifully preserved St. Mary's Chapel which was founded either by Kolbein or his son Bjarni, Bishop of Orkney at the time.

The Norse church of St Magnus on Egilsay stands silhouetted against the sky, a constant reminder of the Vikings and their heritage which still lives on in the farm and place names of the islands. Egilsay secured its place in history when in 1117 Earl Magnus met his cousin Earl Hakon to discuss peace terms. Hakon came with evil intent and had Magnus murdered.

Wildlife

Rousay's richest habitats are its moors (with birds such as Red-throated Divers, Hen Harriers and Merlins) and its maritime heaths which are home to colonies of Arctic Terns and Arctic Skuas while, in addition, the western cliffs hold considerable colonies of Guillemots, Kittiwakes and Fulmars. In contrast, Egilsay is famed for its wetlands, with many breeding ducks and waders, and its traditionally managed farmland which has allowed that increasingly rare species, the Corncrake to survive. Seven calling Corncrakes were present in 1997 and a reserve, newly acquired by the RSPB, is being managed specifically with their needs in mind.

Rousay Lap

Each year the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust hosts the Rousay Lap which is a half marathon 13.1 miles around the island with races for those wishing to cycle, run or walk the course.

Points of interest

ROUSAY

1 Rousay Heritage Centre & Waiting room: Exhibition on all aspects of this group of islands, with waiting room, toilets and picnic area. Just above ferry terminal.

2 Trumland House: This Victorian Scottish Baronial style mansion was designed by the prominent architect David Bryce and finished in 1876. The recently restored grounds and gardens are open to the public from May to October (there is a small charge). There is at present no public access to the house due to ongoing restoration work.

3 R.S.P.B. Reserve: A moorland reserve with a long and a short walk (a separate leaflet is available).

4 Taversoe Tuick: A rare two-storied cairn.

5 Blackhammer Cairn: An easily accessible stalled cairn.

6 Knowe of Yarso Cairn: The highest situated of the famous Orkney tombs with spectacular views out over Eynhallow Sound and south towards Orkney Mainland and Hoy.


8 Westness Walk: Described as the most important archaeological mile in Scotland it spans settlements from the first Stone Age settlers, the Pictish Iron Age, the Viking invaders, the period of the Earls and the troubled crofting times (separate leaflet available).

9 Midhowe Broch & Cairn: A fine example of a fortified dwelling built during the Bronze/Iron Ages; the Stone Age cairn is the largest known of its kind and is protected by a modern building.
10 Quandale Viewpoint: A landscape frozen during the Clearances with traces of runrig farming and the ruins of Tofts, the oldest-known two-storied building in Orkney.

11 Wasbister Loch: This attractive loch is the site of two crannogs or Iron Age fortified settlements built on artificial islands.

12 Saviskaill Beach: A sheltered sandy beach with a nearby seal haul-out.

13 Green Gainty: A rare example of the ancient earth dykes found across the islands.

14 Lecan Viewpoint: Panoramic views from the hillside across to Westray and the Atlantic.

15 Faraclett Head Walk and Yetnasteen: This excursion covers several different habitats and early settlements and offers some stunning views towards the outer isles.

16 Modern megalith at Blossom: Massive modern megalith with inscriptions ‘GODS OF THE EARTH, GODS OF THE SEA’ created by internationally respected ‘Concrete Poet’ Ian Hamilton Finlay, who in his young days worked briefly in Rousay.

17 Kinglarley Hill 900kw Community Turbine: A modern landmark for Rousay is the 900kw Community owned wind turbine. The income from which is used to benefit the communities of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre.

EGILSAY

18 St Magnus Kirk: One of only two remaining examples of the distinctive round towered churches built by the Vikings.

19 Cenotaph: Erected in 1938 it marks the spot where Earl Magnus was murdered.

20 R.S.P.B. Reserve (Three Sections): You may hear and possibly see the rare Corncrake; here also are a large number of breeding waders and meadows rich in wildflowers.

21 Loch of the Graand: A quiet place to watch waders and seals.

WYRE

22 The Taing: Ideal viewing place for both Common and Grey seals.

23 Cubbie Roo’s Castle: The stronghold of the Viking chieftain was built around the year 1150.

24 St Mary’s Chapel: Beautifully preserved chapel founded by either Cubbie Roo or his son Bjarni who was Bishop of Orkney.

25 Wyre Heritage Centre: Exhibition about the life of Wyre, with photographs and memories of bygone years. Special sections on Cubbie Roo and Edwin Muir. Small craft area.

EYNHALLOW

26 The Bu: Home for a time of Edwin Muir, recognised as one of the great Scottish writers of the 20th century.

27 Monastery: Remains of a beautiful 12th century religious settlement.

28 The Lodge: Designed by the architect Lethaby this building is the base for a long-term research project studying Fulmar Petrels.

29 Monkerness: Three prehistoric houses.
Clearances
Quandale and Westness in Rousay is only the area in Orkney to have suffered a major Clearance. Within this wild and open landscape of Quandale are found the relics of traditional crofting - turf dykes, runrig (strip farming) and ruined crofts. This deserted community is now home for some of Rousay's most rare and beautiful flowers and birds. In the mid-19th century 210 people were evicted by George William Traill as part the modernisation of his Westness estate. Traill was succeeded by his nephew General Sir Frederick William Traill Burroughs, the man who commissioned Trumland House. Burroughs, known as the 'Little General' created such difficulties for crofters that he gained the reputation as the 'worst landlord in Orkney. His efforts resulted in troubled times and shaped the recent history of the island.

Treasure house of history
Rousay has a remarkably rich archaeological heritage much of which has been uncovered thanks to the efforts of Walter Grant of Trumland House (1930s). His investments in whisky enabled him to invite some of the most influential archaeologists of the time to excavate sites now in the care of Historic Scotland. The best preserved are signposted and accessible from Rousay Pier.

On Rousay, along the west road from the pier, four well-preserved burial cairns can be visited - Taversoe Tuick, a most unusual two-storied cairn; Blackhammer and Yarso, both stalled cairns and by the cliffs at Scabra Head is Midhowe, the largest known stalled cairn which is protected by its own special building.

Close by is Midhowe Broch, the best of a range of fortified dwellings built along the shore of Eynhallow Sound dating from the Bronze/Iron Age. The Westness Walk, which is just over a mile long, has been described as the 'most important archaeological mile in Scotland'. It spans settlements from the first Stone Age farmers, the Pictish Iron Age, the Viking invaders, the period of the Earls and the troubled crofting evictions.

In this area Earl Paul Hakonson was kidnapped by Swein Asleifson and disappeared from Orkney forever. Earl Paul was hunting otters which are still found along this shore. Rousay's most spectacular relic, the Westness Brooch was found in 1963 in the grave of a Viking woman at Westness. It is thought to be Celtic in origin and may have been obtained on a trade in its own grounds among trees, with panoramic views over farmland to the sea, and beyond, to Wyne, Finstown and the Orkney mainland. Cedarlee has a spacious open-plan sitting room (with sofa bed) and dining kitchen, with cathedral ceiling. There is one twin bedroom and one double, with ensuite, as well as a generous bathroom. Available all year round. Rates per week: £300-£400. Short breaks (minimum 3 nights) may also be available. For further information please visit our website: www.cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk or contact Alison Mainland: alison@cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk, t: 01856 821243.

Rousay has a unique advantage in being situated on the south side of Rousay: accessible lochs and cairns either side of it. At The Taversoe we have an established restaurant offering a selection of locally produced meals using vegetarian and vitality diet options available. Our dining room overlooks the rear garden and provides unparalled sea views. The public bar boasts an extensive selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. Two bedrooms available on a B & B basis and our accommodation facilities include a private residents' lounge with magnificent sea views, sofas, television, DVD and video players. t: 01856 821325, or e: taversoe@hotmail.com

Trumland House Gardens, open from 1st Mon in May to last Fri in Oct, Mon-Fri inclusive, 10am-5pm.

Rousay Tours. Full escorted tours of Rousay. Contact Paddy Maguire t: 01856 821234, m: 07786 169364, e: paddy_maguire@hotmail.com or www.rousaytours.co.uk

The Pier Restaurant and Public House is two minutes walk from the ferry. Tea, coffee, snacks and bar meals served all day. Dinner menu on request, home cooked food using local produce wherever possible. Vegetarians and children catered for. Please ask if you have any dietary requirements and we will do our best to accommodate you. Relax in our Dining Room with beautiful sea views across Wyre Sound. A friendly bar with a selection of Orkney Beers, spirits and soft drinks etc. There is also Internet access. Open daily from 11am May – September. t: 01856 821355, www.pierrestaurantorkney.com

Rousay Heritage Centre. t: 01856 821374 or 01856 821359. Marion’s Shop & Filling Station, Marion’s shop is a Fair Trade outlet with a wide range of Fair Trade products, as well as Orkney beers, wines and spirits are sold here. Attractive gardens and a picnic site, exhibit mature examples of the many hardy containerised plants, which are offered for sale, and grown in the nursery. t: 01856 821360 or e: marion36rousay@gmail.com

Tou Cottage, Sub Post Office. t: 01856 821352.

Brinan, Doctor. t: 01856 821265

VisitRousay (Rousay Tourist Association). Information on local services on Rousay and Orkney products, as well as Orkney beers, wines and spirits are sold here. Attractive gardens and a picnic site, exhibit mature examples of the many hardy containerised plants, which are offered for sale, and grown in the nursery. t: 01856 821360 or e: marion36rousay@gmail.com

Discover Rousay and be inspired. Discover ancient tombs, rare birds and other wildlife, the rare Primula Scotoica, and a location like no other... step off the beaten track and get closer to nature. A perfect day out for children and adults alike, or stay overnight to enjoy Rousay for longer. See what the amazing island of Rousay has to offer, on www.aroundrousay.co.uk

RAFT Services – taxis and minibus hires around the Island of Rousay. Discounts for large groups. t: 01856 821360 m: 07746 838761. www.awroundrousay.co.uk t: 01856 821360 e: e:Taversoe@towers@gmail.com or www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/EGILSAY

Egilsay, Greenock and Wyre Development Trust. The Development Trust has a free Wi-Fi Centre in Egilsay, Egilsay Cottage/Community Centre, an Information Centre, Egilsay Community School and the Trust's offices at The Manse. For opening times, please call 01856 821229, e: helena@rewdt.org.uk or information can be found on our website www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/REWDEVTRUST

The Crabhuf CIC. 2 minutes from the Pier. Open 11-5.30, 7 days-a-week during the summer. t: 01856 821455, www.craftbuhfornirkey.co.uk. Check website for winter opening times and online shop.

Seaside Accommodation

Taversoe Tuick

Trumland Farm hostel, Egilsay (Hostel) 2 dorms, sleeping 11, single and family room available, camp site. Bike hire available. Carol Rae. t: 01856 821325. e: taversoe@hotmail.com

Trumland Farm hostel, Rousay, small, snug and well-equipped. Spectacular views. 1 Double, can provide col/put-u-ups. Pets welcome. Contact: Laura on 01856 821485

Cedarlee Self Catering, Cedarlee is a purpose built, cedar clad, self-catering cottage, situated five minutes walk from Rousay pier. Fully equipped and sleeping 6, Cedarlee is set in its own grounds among trees, with panoramic views over farmland to the sea, and beyond, to Wyne, Finstown and the Orkney mainland. Cedarlee has a spacious open-plan sitting room (with sofa bed) and dining kitchen, with cathedral ceiling. There is one twin bedroom and one double, with ensuite, as well as a generous bathroom. Available all year round. Rates per week: £300-£400. Short breaks (minimum 3 nights) may also be available. For further information please visit our website: www.cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk or contact Alison Mainland: alison@cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk, t: 01856 821243.

Other Services
Rousay Bus Service
On request public transport service, every Thursday, 7am - 7pm. Bookings advisable (by 7pm the day before travel). t: 01856 821360. www.aroundrousay.co.uk/bus, e: bus@aroundrousay.co.uk

Rousay Tours
All Year round – 7 days a week
4–6 hours fully escorted tours
Booked tours will be met on arrival off the 10:40 ferry from Tingwall. Our tour circles the island with numerous stops at archaeological and scenic/wildlife sites and allows time for a picnic lunch (optional) at one of the sites. Booking essential. Tour finishes for departure of the 15:20 or 17:30 ferry to Tingwall. Paddy Maguire  t: 01856 821234 m: 07786 169364
www.rousaytours.co.uk
Tour Prices: Adult £30.00 - Children £10.00 (does not include ferry fare).

By Sea

Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre
Effective from 4 May until 28 September 2014
The modern roll-on/roll-off ferry m.v. Eynhallow (95 passengers and 9 cars) serves the historic islands of Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre on a daily basis. Bookings should be made at the Tingwall Terminal in Evie on the Orkney Mainland. t/f: 01856 751360, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk
www.stagecoachbus.com
KTC = Kirkwall Travel Centre

By Road

Stagecoach
Correct at time of going to print

Kirkwall to Tingwall (Ferry)
MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS
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1335 1357 1443 1505 1710 1732 1812 1834

KTC = Kirkwall Travel Centre
t: Kirkwall (01856) 870555
www.stagecoachbus.com

Midhowe Broch on the west coast of Rousay - Drew Kennedy

NOTES:
1) All vehicle bookings MUST be made through the Company’s Tingwall Office. TELEPHONE/FAX: 01856 751360.
2) Vehicles MUST be available for boarding 15 minutes and passengers 5 minutes before departure times.
3) There is a connecting bus service between Kirkwall and Tingwall for most of these sailings – contact Stagecoach on (01856) 870555.
4) No Show Charges – All cancellations must be made by 1700 (1115 for travel on Sunday’s and Monday’s) on the day before the intended date of travel or charges may be incurred.
5) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in Company’s vessels, offices and premises.

For full fares please enquire at Orkney Ferry Services Offices

25 Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre
History on your doorstep

Sweeping bays with white sandy beaches, an abundance of wildlife and an extraordinary density of historical and archaeological sites.

The attractive island of Sanday is the largest of the North Isles of Orkney and, as the name suggests, its most outstanding features are the beautiful white sandy beaches.

The island lies less than 20 miles northeast of Kirkwall; access by air and sea is comfortable and speedy. Sanday is a peaceful place; time is required to savour its gentle charm. You can fish for trout in the lochs or wander the beaches or eight way-marked walks, visit archaeological sites or watch the basking seals. Sanday offers unlimited opportunities for wildlife enthusiasts both professional and amateur. You can watch fishing boats at Kettletoft and Loth, or farmers tending their fields in the long, light days of summer. You may gather your own thoughts and impressions in one of the island's bars among the friendly and interested local folk. The island has a swimming pool, fitness suite and community centre adjoining the school as well as a nine-hole golf course. Sanday has two hotels, a hostel, a restaurant and several bed and breakfast and self-catering facilities. Look for the Visitor Trail maps as you explore the island, and be sure to visit the new Heritage Centre and The Croft Museum.

Wildlife

The coastline of the island gives easy access to one of Sanday's principal wildlife attractions – seals. Harbour (Common) Seal pups can be seen swimming at Otterswick in June and Grey Seals are born on secluded beaches in November. Sightings of Killer Whales and Basking Sharks have been increasing in recent years.

There are plenty of Otters on Sanday, but you need to be patient or lucky to see them. Their tracks in the sand and 'spraint' (droppings) on prominent knolls or rocks are frequently found, and the animals prefer habitats within fairly easy reach of both seawater and freshwater habitats.

Sandy has all the seabirds found elsewhere in Orkney, but the low altitude and vast shallow coastline is particularly attractive to wading birds. The numbers of wintering Bar-tailed Godwits, Purple Sandpipers, Sanderling, Knot and Turnstone are of international significance. Vagrant birds such as Hoopoe, Red-Breasted Flycatcher and Melodious Warbler have all been seen in recent summers; and in June 2011 an Asian Red-Rumped Swallow, a first for Britain, appeared on the island. Keen ornithologists visiting in autumn have discovered several American birds among the regular birds of passage in the fields; in 2013 Pectoral and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden Plover, and a Laughing Gull.

Another delight of the beaches is the profusion of shells – the Faroese Sunset, Pelican's Foot, and Hungarian Cap are beautiful species with evocative names; while the Groatie Buckie (the local name for the Cowrie) is relatively easily found and reckoned to bring you luck.

Archeology

At least 6,000 years ago, farmers were settling here, attracted by the light sandy soils, which were easy to cultivate. Great stone tombs were erected, Quoyness being among the finest. The groups of hundreds of prehistoric mounds at Tofts Ness and Els Ness are among the most extensive and important funerary landscapes in Britain. Sanday offered the best conditions in Orkney for arable farming, reflected in the extraordinary density of prehistoric, Viking-age and later settlement. This wealth is indicated by Medieval taxation rolls which valued Sanday land higher than elsewhere in Orkney. Rich farmsteads usually remained in occupation for thousands of years resulting in massive accumulations of successively deserted buildings and midden deposits several metres thick.

Many archaeological treasures have been found on the island. Pool was a major excavation site in the 1980s when a succession of Neolithic, Pictish and Viking-age deposits was revealed. In 1991 a spectacular Viking-age find was made near Scar in Burness. This boat burial, which contained three human skeletons, was also richly endowed with ornaments, household goods and weapons. Another site of a Viking boat burial was rediscovered by a Time Team investigation in 1997; as suspected, the area was found to have been investigated in the 19th century, almost certainly by Sanday's famous folklorist Walter Traill Dennison. Winter storms, and a rescue dig, revealed a series of intricate and connected water features in a Burnt Mound at Meur in 2004. In 2011, an eagle-eyed builder who was renovating an old farmhouse made a remarkable discovery. While taking up the flagstone floor, he noticed what looked like a cross inscribed on another flagstone lying beneath. The county archaeologist was alerted, and renovation work was halted until experts could examine and remove the artefact, which has been identified as the earliest Pictish Christian symbol stone ever found in Orkney – dating back to the 7th or 8th century.

Most sites on Sanday are under grass with structures hidden from view, but Quoyness chambered tomb has been reconstructed and is open to the public. Of the many other archaeological sites on the island, most striking and accessible are those affected by coastal erosion. Take a walk around the coastline and you may come across one of the 100-odd sites currently being eroded by the sea. This can reveal buildings, artefacts and midden deposits. Finds are often made by visitors and can be reported to the museum in Kirkwall. Alternatively, contact the local archaeology group who can help with any finds you make. The group also carry out organised archaeological fieldwork activities most months and often have spaces for visitors to join in.

Points of interest

1. Elness-Quoyness Chambered Tomb: Neolithic chambered tomb, at least 2000 BC, one of Orkney's archaeological showpieces. It has a main chamber, six cells and served a whole community. Admission free, open all year.

2. Cata Sand: Tidal sandy bay flanked by a unique series of spectacular dunes. Waders and Common Seals can be seen here and in nearby Newark Bay.
7 Start Point Lighthouse: First tower was erected in 1802; in 1806 it was fitted with the first revolving light in Scotland by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson. Visited by Sir Walter Scott in 1814, the tower was rebuilt in the 19th century.  
9 Belsair Hotel: Lunches & Teas.  
10 Kettletoft Hotel: Lunches & Teas.  
11* Lettan – War-time Radar Station: Remains of part of the 1940 air-defence chain constructed along the east coast of Britain.  
12 Meur Burnt Mound  
13 Northwa – Site of special scientific interest: Botanically this area of shallow lochans and wet machair is very rich. Waders, breeding ducks, swans and migrants can all be seen.  
14 Tofts Ness: Prehistoric Funicery Complex.  
15 Otterswick/Stove Bay/Peedie Sea: Feeding habitat for waders.  
16 Northskaill– eroding archaeological site.  
17* Ortie: Abandoned 19th century Crofting Township. Arranged in a remarkably long straight ‘kloss’, the village at one time housed more than 60 people.  
18 Orkney Angora: Craft Shop.  
19 Scar: Viking-Age Boat Burial.  
20* Scar: 19th century Westove Estate House; extensive house steadings and garden wall indicate the size and importance of this estate. Close by are the remains of a circular stone windmill used for grinding meal.  
22 Holms of Ire – St Colm Chapel and Wreck: On Inner Holm are the remains of a chapel while Outer Holm is where the steamer trawler ‘Alex Hastie’ was wrecked in 1939.  
23 Ritchie Taing: Burial Mound.  
24 Ness of Brough: Site of ‘Time Team’ Viking excavation.  
25 Ayre’s Rock : Hostel, Camp Site, Craft Shop and Take Away Chip Shop.  
26* Boloquoy Mill: Early 19th century meal mill.  
27 Kaye’s Chocolates.  
28 Pool: Eroding archaeological site.  
29 Braesswick B&B.  
30 Spurness Wind Turbines: Generate electricity for the grid and a community fund for the island.  
31 Loth Terminal: Otters can occasionally be seen, even from parked cars.  
32* Stove: (Unfortunately no access to building): Ruined buildings of 19th century industrialised ‘model farm’ with steam engine house, red-brick chimney and boiler-house.  
33 Artist’s Studio – Rosey Priestman.  
34 Hackness: A favourite breeding site of the grey seal, which pups October-November.  
35 Neolithic Settlement: eroding archaeological site.  
36 Backaskaill Farmhouse: restaurant & accommodation.  
37 Cross Kirkyard, Lady Kirkyard and Burness  
38 Belsair Hotel: Lunches & Teas.  
39 Belsair Hotel: Lunches & Teas and Belsair Take-away.  
40 Kettletoft Pier.  
41 Sanday Ranger’s Office.  
42* The Croft Museum.  
43 Heritage Centre – Opening in 2014.  
44 Spinners’ Corner.  
45 Swimming Pool – Fitness suite, Play-park.  
46 West Manse apiary: Sanday honey available.  
47 Artist’s Studio: Carolyn Dixon.  
48 Quivils. Luxury Self Catering.

* Social History Sites
Local events
Sanday Heritage Group plans a special event on the third weekend of April to mark the opening of the new Heritage Centre in Lady Village.

Sanday Souk (www.sandaysouk.org) weekends are now well-established, and two are planned in 2014. June 27th – 29th and August 1st – 3rd are the dates – for a mixture of talks, outings, special events, and music – all celebrating island life. The August weekend follows the highlight of the Farming year; Sanday Agricultural and Industrial Show, which gives an opportunity to view island cattle, sheep, ponies and poultry. Home-bakes, knitting, embroidery, craftwork, fruit and vegetables are also displayed and sold.

The annual Harvest Home is held in October or early November when a meal is followed by a dance with traditional and modern music.

Throughout the year, the island’s Community Association as well as many other interest groups host concerts, dances, talks and other activities. Local posters and a monthly news magazine “The Sanday Souk” give details of such events, and the monthly ‘What’s On’ calendar is also published on the website www.sanday.co.uk. Visitors are always made very welcome at any island events, just as they are at the local Golf course and at other sports practices.

Services
The roll-on roll-off ferry from Kirkwall takes less than an hour and a half and berths at Loth in the southwest of the island, where there is a waiting room, toilets and information board. You can travel with your car, or as a foot passenger, and then take the Sanday Bus – make sure you book in advance (Tel: 01857 600438 or 07513 084777).

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

Ayre’s Rock Hostel: Self-catering or B&B and evening meal. Based in VisitScotland’s quality assurance scheme (★★★Hostel). Campsite with shower/toilet block, campers kitchen, communal lounge, static caravan, 3 two-berth pods, washing and laundry facilities. Free continental breakfast for hostel guests. Satellite TV in rooms and free wifi, Paul Allan. t: 01857 600410. e: allanpaul67@gmail.com www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.co.uk

Braeswick: B&B (Awaiting Grading); all rooms en-suite. Contact Alan Trott, t: 01857 600708, m: 07549 041334 e: alan@braeswick.co.uk & www.braeswick.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Backaskill Farmhouse: B&B & restaurant (open to non-residents – please book in advance); 1 king-sized room & 1 twin room (both en-suite); residents’ lounge with Sky TV. Menus can be arranged to specific requirements. t: 01857 600206. Claire and Matt Woodgate e: info@thebelsair.co.uk www.thebelsair.co.uk

Kiltiarne on Sanday is a newly renovated self-catering cottage sleeping 6 in a fantastic location on the high tide mark. Superb views from large picture window. Boat and bike hire available. Pets welcome. Please see our comprehensive website, www.kiltiarne.org or phone Brendan on 07597 777172

Ladybank: Bed & Breakfast and Self Catering, en-suite available. Evening meals cooked with local produce when available, and Ladybank meat. Denise Thomson, t: 01857 600339. e: ladybank@btinternet.com

Scarriga: Self Catering cottage, 1 double room, sofa bed, camp bed, (sleeps 5 max.) Angela Lennie: t: 01857 600234 m: 07754 910430.

Newquoy: Newquoy Guest House. Located in the historic Burness area, enjoy a touch of class and elegance at our bed and breakfast accommodation. Newquoy stands in two acres of private walled gardens and picturesque surroundings. Lunch and evening meals are available on request. t: 01857-600284 www.newquoy.com

The Belsair Hotel, Kettletoft: All rooms ensuite, free WiFi. Licensed premises, foods served all day with local produce where possible. Open to non residents, special dietary requirements can be catered for, as well as occasional caios. t: 01857 600206. Claire and Matt Woodgate e: info@thebelsair.co.uk www.thebelsair.co.uk

Kettletoft Hotel: meals available, Wednesday and Saturday evenings 5pm-8pm Fish and Chip Shop, eat in or take away- t: 01857 600217. www.kettletofthotel.com

Anchor Cottage, Lady Village: Self Catering, sleeps 6 t: 01857 600206.

Greystone: Self Catering – 2-bedroom cottage, full weeks or short breaks: t: 01862 892229 e: greystone-sandyco.co.uk

Quivuals: Self Catering – 3 bedroomed (double and one twin) Luxuriously refurbished house, centrally located. t: 01856 874479 or 07754 416163 e: bookings@orkneyvillas.com www.orkneyvillas.com

Quoyarey: Self Catering (everything included), sleeps 4/6. Jacqueline Seatter. t: 01857 600348 or e: jacqlnsttr@aol.com

Springwell: Cottage, sleeps 4, contact David & Betha Work, t: 01857 873235, e: enquiries@selfcateringorkney.co.uk www.selfcateringorkney.co.uk


Local Crafts
Orkney Angora craft shop, Upper Brecan. t: 01857 600421. Email: info@orkneyangora.co.uk www.orkneyangora.co.uk

Ayre’s Rock Craft Shop: selling mostly local crafts, Paul Allen. t: 01857 600410. e: allanpaul67@gmail.com. www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.co.uk

Working Landscape Studio: paintings and prints by Carolyn Dixon. Small range of fine art materials and cards for sale. Kirkhall, Sanday. Open most days or ring to arrange. t: 01857 600282.

Stove House Art Studio: Rosey Priestman, viewing by appointment - t: 01857-600283.

Spinners’ Corner - the ultimate in environmentally-friendly gifts; hand-spun yarn is back. Call in for a cuppa and watch Sarah spin – even have a go yourself. Visit: orkneysarah on Facebook. t: 01857-600704.

Kaye’s hand-made chocolates: a selection of individually hand-crafted chocolates, made to order; for more info; t: 01857-600323.

West Manse apiary: Sanday is varroa-free, so the honey is not chemically or pharmacetically treated. Sweet, tasty, natural honey available.

Artist’s Studio: Northa Gallery 3 Lettian, Bill McArthur seascapes.

Churches
Cross Kirk, Church of Scotland Sunday service 11.30 am. Roman Catholic Church, Saville Sunday service 10.00 am.

Recreation
Ayers Rock: Sanday Tours, for one to six people, half day or full day tours, lunch optional; Boat cruise and kite, windsurf, twin kayak available for hostel guests.

Cycle Hire, pick up and drop off from and to any point on Sanday. Ayres Rock t: 01857 600410.

Newquoy Writers’ Retreat, Gallery and Exhibition Centre. Located in the historic Burness area, brand new attraction for 2014! Set in a truly educational environment and providing bespoke talks, presentations, displays and exhibition [with monthly changing themes]. The ideal place to visit during your stay on Sanday. Open throughout the year. Admission by ticket only, purchase from The Retreat Tea & Coffee Shop. t: 01857 600284. www.newquoy.com

Swimming pool and fitness suite – adjacent to community school with play park opposite. See shop notices for opening times.

Nine-hole golf course – open to visitors (day-fee £5). Tuesday evenings are the regular competition nights. Golfers play at their own risk and enjoy amazing island wildlife including the Club’s own Arctic Skuas. t: 01857 600341.

Sea-angling & Loch-fishing: enquire locally.

Visitors’ trail: enquire locally.

Cricket practice in May & June on Monday and Wednesday evenings. All welcome on School field.

Internet Access Point – Heilsa Fjöð, Ayre’s Rock and Belsair Hotel.

Heritage Centre – between the War Memorial and Community Shop in Lady village; open 1000-1700 during the summer.

Sanday Ranger: walks, activities & expeditions advertised on monthly posters. Roderick Thorne t: 01857-600341 e: rjtor2023@gmail.com

Sanday Archaeology Group. t: Cath Parker 01857-600413 e: cparker235@hotmail.net

The Sanday Experience: see box advertisement.
Transport
Taxi service, Cycle hire, Information Centre at Ayre's Rock, Paul Allan: t: 01857 600430, e: allanpaul67@googlemail.co.uk
Garage - Vehicle and machinery repairs, Andrew Rae: t: 01857 600366.
Fuel - Petrol and diesel available from Sinclair Licensed Grocer and Sanday Community Shop: Gas cylinders from Andrew Rae’s garage.
Bryan Willing Services, Annabrase for all mechanical repairs. t: 01857 600365.
Sanday Bus to and from the ferry Terminal: see box advertisement below.

By Sea

Sanday
Effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014
The services to Sanday are carried out by the vessels m.v. Earl Thorfinn (190 passengers and 25 cars), m.v. Earl Sigurd (190 passengers and 25 cars) and m.v. Varagen (144 passengers and 32 cars). Hot/cold drinks and cold snacks are available on all vessels at modest prices. Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

By Air

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

MONDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0940 1002 1007 1021
1630 1644 1649 1711

TUESDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0830 0852 0857 0911
1530 1544 1549 1611

WEDNESDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0840 0902 0907 0921
1530 1544 1549 1611

THURSDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0830 0852 0857 0911
1530 1544 1549 1611

FRIDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0830 0852 0857 0911
1530 1544 1549 1611

SATURDAY
Dep Kirkwall Arr Dep Arr Kirkwall
0930 0952 0957 1011

SUNDAY

Sanday Bus
Sanday Bus – Regular service to and from the ferry terminal to meet Orkney Ferries sailings.
Booking strongly recommended. t: 01857 600438 or 07513 084777.

The Sanday Experience
– an island tour
Every Wednesday throughout the summer. Pick up from the ferry terminal, lunch provided, followed by presentation by the Island Ranger. Tour of the island’s historic and natural heritage sites with local island guides, visit to the Heritage Centre, and tea and cakes before you are returned to the evening ferry.
Adults £30.00, children (16 and under) £20.00, fully inclusive. t: 01857 600438 or 07513 084777 to book.
Shapinsay

...The Viking sanctuary

Dealing with the sometimes mischievous, even malevolent, Orkney fairy folk in centuries past was always a problem and each island had one or more fairy doctors. In Shapinsay, according to the tradition, one such 19th-century 'trowie doctor' could be seen dancing and flapping his arms by night on a hilltop. The tiny folk did not, alas, make themselves visible on these occasions.

The green and fertile island of Shapinsay lies a pleasant 25-minute crossing by ferry from Kirkwall. The MV Shapinsay, commissioned in 1989 operates a regular service throughout the day.

As you sail out of the shelter of Kirkwall Bay, old gun emplacements can be seen along the Point of Carness while on the left lies Thieves Holm. Tradition has it that this little isle was home to banished thieves and witches but now it is the haunt of Cormorants, Kittiwakes and seals.

Crossing The String, the deep water exit from Kirkwall Bay, the Victorian turrets of Balfour Castle loom ahead. To the right is the uninhabited island of Helliar Holm with its automatic lighthouse.

Approaching Shapinsay Pier and ro-ro terminal the scene is one of warm stone colours of traditional drystone walls and the pleasing symmetry of the village street. Balfour village was built in the late 18th century as a home for smiths, carpenters and masons employed on the Balfour estate.

Much further back in time the calm waters of Elwick Bay echoed to the bustle of the 100-vessel Viking fleet of King Hakon which sheltered here in 1263 before setting off for the Battle of Largs.

Landscape

Shapinsay is low-lying with its highest point being Ward Hill at 210 feet (64 metres) from where on a clear day a breathtaking view of almost all the other Orkney isles is possible. The island is six miles (10 km) at its longest and in common with most of Orkney the island is made up of Middle Old Red Sandstone.

Interesting features of the island are its storm beaches or as they are known locally 'ayres' a name rooted in the Old Norse meaning a strip of sea water completely shut off from the ocean by narrow necks of land. Look for these at Vasa Loch, Lairo Water and for the natural process near completion at the Ouse.

Archaeology

On the archaeological front Shapinsay has its share of mounds, cists, underground structures and brochs, partially or totally unexcavated. Burroughston Broch, which dates back to the Iron Age was excavated in the 1860s and is one of the finest examples in Orkney. Open throughout the year there is a small car park at the site.

Please remember that almost all other antiquities are on privately owned land and permission to visit must be sought. The careful visitor is always welcome.

Points of interest

1. Balfour Castle: 5 star exclusive use venue. Victorian castle built around the existing house of Cliffdale.
2. The Douche: Dates from the mid 19th century. Reputedly used at one time as a salt water shower and is topped with a doocot.
3. Balfour Village: Formerly called Shoreside it was built in the late 1700s as home for workers on the Balfour estate.
4. The Smithy: Originally the village smithy with a sail loft above. Now the heritage centre, craft shop and restaurant.
5. The Gatehouse: Former estate entrance to Balfour Castle and residence of the gatekeeper, now houses the island's pub.
6. Gas House: All that remains of former gas works; dates from the mid 19th century.
7. School – Community Centre – Playing Fields – Childrens’ Playground.
8. Elwick Mill is a former corn mill now in the process of conversion restoration. A solid stone constructed building built in 1893 and last used as a corn mill in the fifties. Future proposals are for a pottery workshop and gallery on the ground floor, living accommodation on first and second floors and restoration of the mill workings and wheel. A temporary pottery workshop and studio is in the original single storey mill dating back to the 17th century which is situated next to the large mill. Shapinsay clay is now being used for certain items and is a rich firing terracotta clay. Visitors are welcome to see the goods being made. Open 10 - 4.30. Closed some Mondays.
9. Mill Dam, RSPB Reserve: A hide overlooks this wetland reserve giving spectacular views. The reserve is home to many breeding birds including pintails and other ducks, waders, black headed gulls and the secretive water rail. In winter hundreds of ducks are joined by whooper swans and greylag geese.

...
10 Helliar Holm: Uninhabited with automatic lighthouse. Contains broch, chapel site and cairn.

11 Old Church & Kirkyard: First church on the site dated from 1559. Present building was constructed in 1802 and the churchyard contains the Balfour family burial site.

12 Bay of Sandgarth: Sandy beach.

13 Interesting Walk: Including views of ruins, bird life and rock formations such as the ‘Foot of Shapinsay’.

14 Standing Stone: Megalithic monument known as Mor Stein.

15 Castle Bloody: Chambered Cairn; origin of name unknown. Stands on Shapinsay’s only remaining heather moorland, an ideal site for birds and wildlife.

16 Linton Chapel: Probably dates from 12th century, although little remains at ground level. It’s said that a lintel from the chapel was used in building a byre on a nearby farm in the early 1900s. The lintel was promptly returned when two of the farmer’s cattle were discovered hanged in the byre.

17 Broch of Burroughston: Archaeological site excavated in the 1860s. Good point for viewing seals.


19 Odin’s Stone: Large black stone lying on beach below tide line. (6’6” x 4’6”) noticeably different from surrounding stones on the beach. Origin unknown but traditionally associated with Norse god ‘Odin’ or ‘Woden’.

20 Lairo Water and the Ouse: Examples of sea water enclosed by ‘ayres’. Easily accessible for walking and birdwatching.

21 The Galt: Good walk, bird life and seals sometimes visible. Access by prior arrangement please. t: 711350.

22 Gun Emplacements: Former battery used in World War II.

23 Vasa Loch: Third example of water enclosed by an ‘ayre’. Good site for birdwatching.

24 Shapinsay Community Wind Turbine: generates electricity to the grid and funds for the local community.
Wildlife

Bird life abounds on Shapinsay but this island is particularly noted for its gull and tern colonies, courting Shelducks, hunting Hen-Harriers and Arctic Skua. Most of the locally abundant waders can be seen at close quarters. The R.S.P.B. has recently built a hide overlooking the Mill Dam on the west side of the island. From here, many species of nesting birds and wildfowl can be viewed. Best places for observing the island’s wildlife which includes an otter colony at the Ouse, Lairo Water and Vasa Loch, the craggy east coast.

In spite of considerable cultivation in summer Shapinsay’s verges and waysides are carpeted with wild flowers.

Balfour castle

Balfour Castle was the creation of David Balfour, who, in 1847, commissioned his new home to be built in the exciting new “baronial” style. The building of the Castle and the growth of its associated estate were funded from a fortune made in India. Agricultural improvement on the estate resulted in the grid pattern of fields that you see across Shapinsay today.

Heritage centre

The Shapinsay Heritage Centre, located in the Smithy, Balfour village, has a fascinating and impressive display of photographs, documents and artefacts relating to the island’s history. A restaurant and craft shop are housed in the same building.

The land

Visitors will immediately notice how green and lush this intensively cultivated island is. Shapinsay’s medium and small farms specialise in quality beef and lamb, exporting over 1500 cattle and over 2000 sheep annually. These animals go mainly to Aberdeenshire farms for further fattening and frequently go on to win prizes at major agricultural shows through Britain. A feature of Shapinsay, most obvious from the air, is its square ten-acre fields and straight roads. These result from the activities of the ‘improvers’ in the 1850s under the guidance of Col. David Balfour who completely changed the face of farming on the island. In the 26 years between 1848 and 1874 the area under cultivation went from 700 acres to over 6000 acres. Now all the farms are owner-occupied with modern steadings and the latest equipment alongside some crofting activity in traditional Orkney stone steadings.

Crafts

Traditional and modern crafts including painting, pottery, knitting, needle-felting, weaving and photography have been carried out on the island in recent years and may be purchased at the Heritage Centre shop upstairs in the Smithy.

Services

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

HOTEL

Balfour Castle (★★★★★ Exclusive Use Venue) - www. balfourcastle.co.uk, t: 01856 711282.

SELF CATERING

Iona Cottage (★★★★★SC) - Spacious, modern yet traditional Orkney holiday cottage accommodates six people. Three bedrooms en-suite, family kitchen, lounge, porch, wonderful views. WiFi. One mile from Shapinsay pier, castle, shop, post office and heritage centre. Contact Brenda McDonald, t: 01224 867184, enquiries@islandselfcatering.co.uk, www. islandselfcatering.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Hilton Farmhouse - High quality bed & breakfast only 1 mile from the ferry terminal and Balfour village and 25 mins by ro-ro ferry from the main town of Kirkwall. South facing comfortable bedrooms all with sea views with a large conservatory with panoramic sea views of the the main shipping lane and Kirkwall. Relax and savour in our large conservatory area where we specialise in high quality home cooked food using local or our own produce. Contact Catherine Bews. t: 01856 711239, e: catherinannb@aol.com, www.hiltonorkneyfarmhouse.co.uk

15 Balfour Village, self-catering cottage, sleeps 4. Mrs Leslie, t: 01856 711203, e: oldlodge@btinternet.com

Peedie Whites Cottage, 18 Balfour Village, Shapinsay, Orkney. Modern self-catering unit. 2 double bedrooms (1 en-suite). 2 toilets with showers. Kitchen(living) Dining room has all modern facilities. Walking distance from shop, post office, restaurant & ferry. Contact Sheena Bews. t: 01856 711300 day or 301 evening. e: sheenasinclair@ tiscali.co.uk www.holidayorkneyselfcatering.co.uk

Haughland House, Shapinsay B&B and full board. Peaceful, comfortable, relaxing and creative environment to unwind and explore. Also reflective retreats, courses and craft weekends. www.orkneyretreat.org.uk. Contact Lesley McKown. t: 01856 711750, e: lesleymckow@ hotmail.com

Leisure Activities


The Gatehouse Bar: small friendly pub only a short stroll from the ferry. Family friendly, with baby changing facilities. Free WiFi. See facebook page for details of local events and opening hours. t: 01856 711317.

Community Centre, for indoor sports and games during the school holidays; for details see local information boards.

David Holmes, Elwick Mill, Pottery workshop and studio, open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm April-September.
Fine porcelain including, Crystalline Ware, Chinese Copper Reds and low fired Raku. Come and see the big earthware pots, made from the clay dug here on the island, in the open Studio. t: 01856 711211.

Other Services

General Merchant, T. Sinclair, Balfour village, licensed grocer, petrol, calor gas and bakery. t: 01856 711300
Hilton Farmhouse Bed and Breakfast, t: 01856 711239, e: catherinannb@aol.com
www.hiltonorkneyfarmhouse.co.uk
Shop & Post Office, Thomas Sinclair/Balfour Bakery. Groceries & fresh goods, hot drinks & snacks, fuel, Calor gas etc. Open daily. See us on facebook. t: 01856 711300 e: thomassinclair@tiscali.co.uk
The Smithy Restaurant, Balfour Village. A meal out with a difference; lunches, evening meals and a’ la carte in stylish licensed restaurant. Sea food specialties. Relaxed lunches or an evening cruise. Bookings advisable. t: 01856 711269
Church of Scotland, service Sunday 11am from May to Sept, 12 noon the rest of the year.
Heilendi Surgery
Heilendi Surgery t: 01856 711284
Sept, 12 noon the rest of the year.

Masage & Resonance Kinesiology Therapist. Gentle guided energy work helps you to understand and heal the root causes of physical pain or muscular tension, and emotional & spiritual distress. t: 01856 711239 or the root causes of physical pain or muscular tension, guided energy work helps you to understand and heal

Shapinsay Tourism Group website: www.shapinsay.org
Healthy Living Centre, t: 01856 711346

Tours & Visits

Guided Tours. A selection of guided tours of Shapinsay are available throughout the year. To find out more and to book a tour please visit www.visitshapinsay.co.uk
MV Charles Ann for Sea Fishing, Diving and Island Trips. Mr Harvey Groat, Housebay, Shapinsay. t/f: 01856 711239, e: catherinannb@aol.com
www.balfourcastle.co.uk
Shapinsay is also available if the driver has a D1 category driving licence and if disabled passengers are carried, a relevant Midas certificate.

33 Shapinsay

By Sea

Shapinsay Effective from 4 May until 28 September 2014
The daily service to the island of Shapinsay is operated by the modern roll-on/roll-off ferry m.v. Shapinsay (91 passengers and 14 cars).
Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

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A - Vehicles must be booked before 1430 hrs on Saturday. B - Vehicles must be booked before 1600 hrs the day before sailing. All other vehicle bookings must be made at least one hour before departure.
No Show Charges - All cancellations must be made not less than 24 hrs before the intended date of travel or full charges may apply.
* Sight alterations may be made to these sailings on a few Sundays in June, July and August to allow connections with the other ships - details will be advertised by separate notices.

NOTES:
1) All vehicle bookings must be made through the Kirkwall Office. Telephone 01856 872044.
2) Vehicles MUST be available for boarding 15 minutes before departure and passengers 5 minutes before departure.
3) No Show Charges – All cancellations must be made by 1600hrs the day before the intended date of travel or full charges may apply.
4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in Company’s vessels, offices and premises.

For full fares please enquire at Orkney Ferry Services Offices

Looking to gainisay from shapinsay with rousay and egilsay in the distance - drew kennedy
Stronsay

...All arms and legs

Some of the bristles from a 55-foot 'sea monster' which came ashore on Stronsay in 1808 were kept as a curiosity by Lord Byron. Scientific opinion name the creature as a basking shark but others hae their doots.

Stronsay is about seven miles long from north to south and is often described as being "all arms and legs" resulting from the three larger bays which bite into the Island. It is a place which prides itself on its friendliness and tranquillity, welcoming walkers, cyclists and motorists alike. Low-lying, the highest point is Burgh Hill which is only 46 metres (154 feet) above sea level and the Island boasts several lovely sandy beaches. Along its east coast between Lamb Ness and Odiness is a magnificent cliff-coast which includes the famous Vat of Kirbister, a dramatic opening or "glopu" spanned by the finest natural arch in Orkney.

A nature walk in the southeast corner of the Island takes in the scenery and history of cliff, hill and bay.

Birdlife

Stronsay abounds with birds throughout the year and sea bird colonies can be found on the cliffs to the southeast and southwest of the island. The island's fine loch and marshes are havens for ducks and waders including Pintail ducks. The island is now known throughout Europe as one of the best sites for rare migrants and several species new to Orkney have been recorded recently including Cretzschmar's Buntin in 1998. Stronsay Bird Reserve is owned and run by bird artist John Holloway and his family.

The wild places

The moorland peninsula of Rothiesholm is purple with Heather and Bell Heather during the late summer and the wetter areas are dominated by Rushes, Sedges, Cotton Grass and Cross-Leaved Heath. Burgh Hill on the other hand provides a fine example of northern maritime heath. There are also many lochs and associated wetlands providing rich flora and fauna.

Points of interest

1. **Whitehall**: The village took its name from a house built here in the 1670s by Patrick Fea. The village is the terminal for the roll-on, roll-off ferry service.
2. **Lower Whitehall**: Now almost deserted this little community was built to house the families of herring fishermen.
3. **Ayre of the Myres**: This beautiful sandy beach is ideal for a picnic, seal watching and swimming.
4. **Well of Kildinguie**: Water from this fresh spring located just below the high water mark, when taken, was reputed to be a cure for all known ailments except the Black Death.
5. **Mill Bay**: Nestling within this horse-shoe shaped bay is one of Stronsay's finest sandy beaches overlooked by a variety of grassy slopes, low cliffs and sand dunes which are home to a diverse flora of mosses and flowering plants.
6. **The Muckle Water**: The Meikle or Muckle Water as it is known locally is one of Stronsay's largest freshwater lochs where bird and plant life abound. Merganser and Shoveler Duck are found and it's an excellent site for marsh plant communities. The loch has been stocked with Brown Trout and the fishing is free.
7. **Blithers Geo and the Malme**: Adjacent to the geo there is a natural swimming pool and the setting is ideal for a picnic. Nearby on a stack called the Malme a grass-covered mound is an early Christian hermitage site.
8. **Vat of Kirbister**: This nature walk affords easy access to the Vat. Cliff scenery in the area is breathtaking – a must for every visitor. But take care. From Whitehall, a round trip of 10 miles, however, length of walk can vary to suit ability.
9. **Tam's Castle**: On the summit of this stack is a hermitage ruin within the shelter of a high parapet wall.
10. **Iron Age Fort**: A small promontory fort dating from the Early Iron Age has a stone-faced rampart across the narrow isthmus.
11. **Broch of Burgh Head**: This is the largest of Stronsay's hermitage sites. Running along the landward side of the stack is a stone wall, the 'Vallum Monasterii', a symbolic barrier against the outside world.
12. **Burgh Hill**: This is part of the Nature Walk and the area abounds with plant life including a variety of mosses and lichens.
13. **Lamb Ness & Lamb Head**: This beautiful promontory, home to myriad seabirds, is also dotted with interesting archaeological sites including 'Pict Houses'. At the neck of the isthmus the so-called Danes Pier, a natural rock structure said to be the site of a Norse harbour is a haven for seals. From Whitehall, a round trip of 12 miles.
14. **The Pow**: The pow or pool is a safe anchorage used by a local fisherman which ebb's dry at low water. Along the track beside the Pow is an unusual population of White Thistles and an area of Patagonian Ragwort, a naturalised plant belonging to Southern Chile and Patagonia.
15. **Lea-shun and the Sand of Crook**: The large Lea Shun loch attracts a large variety of breeding wildfowl and along the adjacent beach can be found the lovely blue-flowered Oyster plant.
16 **Rothiesholm Sand:** On this beautiful sandy beach stretching to over a mile some of Orkney’s rarest shells can be found. To the west of the bay is an area of wet dune slack where a wealth of plants are located.

17 **Rothiesholm Head:** Pronounced locally as Rousam Head this large tract of heather moorland attracts many breeding birds. Here, by tradition, crofters are afforded ‘Peat Rights’ and many backbreaking but happy hours have been spent on the Hill.

18 **Hillock of Baywest:** A mound containing a broch tower and the broad platform conceals the remains of an extensive iron age village. To the north an elongated mound just above the shoreline, an unexcavated site which contains a burial chamber of the stalled type dated from 3000BC or earlier.

19 **Chambered Tomb:** Similar to Tomb of the Eagles.

20 **St Catherine’s Bay:** A fine sandy stretch with very low tides which make it a popular ‘spoot’ or razor fish beach; this edible shellfish is dug out of the sand. Access road to parking area and beach.

21 **Linga Holm:** Now owned by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and is an important breeding site for Atlantic Grey Seals and for Greylag Geese.

22 **Holm of Huip:** Important breeding site for Atlantic Grey Seals in October and November.

23 **Wreck:** A concrete barge built in France in the early 1900s used to store coal to supply herring drifters. It sank in the 1930s and for many years local men ‘salvaged’ the coal from her in small boats in the dead of night.

24 **Moncur Memorial Church:** This is the island’s only church and was built in 1955 to a design by Edinburgh architect Leslie Grahame MacDougall. A large building of cruciform design, it is architecturally unique in Orkney while still retaining many of the traditional Orcadian features in its construction.

25 **Papa Stronsay:** Home of Orkney’s Monks, as a monastery island it was first settled by the Papari, the monks of St. Columba. The Vikings gave the island its Papa name. The monastic life returned to Papa Stronsay in 1999. The monks welcome visitors and may be contacted by e-mail on contact@the-sons.org.

26 **Auskerry.**

27 **Stronsay Community Wind Turbine:** generates electricity to the grid and funds for the local community.
Archaeology
Recent archaeological investigations have revealed the presence of several settlements and field systems on Stronsay. Fortunately these sites remain very much intact and near the Hillock of Baywest lies one of Orkney’s earliest chambered tombs, dating from 3000BC or earlier. Of the several small islands surrounding Stronsay, Auskerry is particularly interesting, being rich in archaeological remains. Also the St Nicholas Chapel which dates from the 12th century has been recently excavated on Papa Stronsay.

Seals
Grey seals were comparatively rare in Orkney during the 19th century but now form perhaps a fifth of the British population. They are seen in numbers during the autumn when they come ashore for breeding and can be seen hauled out on Linga Holm, the Holms of Spurness, Huip and on Auskerry. Common seals haul out on Papa Stronsay, Linga Holm and the Bay of Holland.

Whitehall village
This was once one of the major herring ports in Scotland with several curing stations which, during the 1800s, employed hundreds of men, women and children. During its heyday the harbour’s skyline was criss-crossed with the masts of up to 300 boats. On a Sunday it was sometimes possible to walk from Whitehall to Papa Stronsay across the decks of the anchored fleet. Unfortunately the industry entered a decline during the 1930s. There are local folk who still remember these boom years and the old Stronsay fish market has been renovated and features an interpretation centre, cafe facilities and hostel.

The kelp industry
Kelp production was a major industry in Stronsay during the 18th century. In Orkney kelp was first produced in 1722 by James Fea of Whitehall, Stronsay. By the end of the 18th century the processing of seaweed was employing some 3000 people and providing large profits for Orkney’s lairds.

Lighthouse
The construction of the 112-foot lighthouse on Auskerry began in 1865 and although progress was slowed by storms it was operational by March 1867. The lighthouse was manned for nearly 100 years but was finally automated in 1961.

Services
Accommodation
Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Hotels
Stronsay Hotel, under new ownership, situated near ferry terminal, 3 double rooms, 1 family, use of cot if required, all rooms en-suite. T.V. tea & coffee facilities, B & B, evening meals, lunches, picnics available. Special diets catered for on request. Disabled facilities, wheelchair access, pets welcome. All credit cards accepted. T: 01857 616213. F: 01857 616465. E: cjdbuk@hotmail.net

Bed & Breakfast

Transport
Self Drive and Taxi – D. S. Peace, Samson’s Lane, Stronsay. T: 01857 616335

Shops & Post Office
Olivebank General Merchant, butcher and off sales (petrol sold), motor spares and repair. Open 8.30am-6.30pm Monday – Saturday. M&S. Williamson, T: 01857 616255

Post Office. Contact Lisa DeGeer. T: 01857 616278. Open 8.30-12 noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9am-12noon on Saturday.

Ebenezer Stores – grocery, general store, frozen food, off sales and souvenirs. Mike and Viv Erdman. Bike hire available. T: 01857 616339

Redhouse Plants Market Garden. Seasonal vegetables available daily. Bedding plants and perennials available in season. Opening hours: 9am-5pm Mon-Sat. T: 01857 616377

Crafts
Auskerry Sheepskins – Hand cured North Ronaldsay sheepskins. Rugs in natural colours. KW17 2AU. T: 07778-358029

Bird books available from the author/illustrator at Castle. Contact John Holloway T: 01857 616363

Orkney Star Island Soap – Traditionally crafted quality soaps, handmade in Stronsay. Every bar infused with a little bit of island magic. Available from island shops and our website, www.orkneystarislandsoap.co.uk

Doctor – Dr Roger Neville-Smith Geramount House. T: 01857 616321

Bank – Royal Bank (every Thursday)

Moncur Memorial Church, Stronsay. Church of Scotland. Elsie Deminson, Session Clerk. T: 01857 616331. Sunday Worship: 11am

Our Lady’s Catholic Chapel, The Pier, Stronsay. Daily Mass 7am; Sunday Mass 9.00am. T: 01857 616210 E: contact@the-sons.org

Community Centre – Hall bookings. Caretaker: Colin McAlpine. T: 01857 616446

Public toilets open daily at rear of Community Centre.
Walks & Tours

Rothiesholm Walk. Coastal walk from the car park near Mount Pleasant to the back of the Bu.

Vat of Kirkister and Nature Walk over Burgh Hill to Lamb Head.

Leisure & Recreation

Two play area facilities suitable for children up to the age of 12, one at Stronsay Community Centre and the other in Whitehall Village.

Stronsay Swimming Pool – details of opening times available in local shops.

Stronsay Healthy Living Centre – opening times and further details available in local shops. t: 01857 616449

The services to Stronsay are carried out by the vessels m.v. Earl Thorfinn (190 passengers and 25 cars), m.v. Earl Sigurd (190 passengers and 25 cars) and m.v. Varagen (144 passengers and 32 cars). Hot/cold drinks and cold snacks are available on all vessels at modest prices. Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

Stronsay

Effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014

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A - Vehicles must be booked before 1430 hrs on Saturday.
B - Vehicles must be booked before 1600 hrs the day before sailing.
All other vehicle bookings must be made at least one hour before the departure from Kirkwall.

NOTES:
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2) No Show Charges – All cancellations must be made not less than 24 hours before the intended date of travel or full charges may apply.
3) In order to accommodate certain local events these timetables will be subject to change. (See page 47).
4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in the Company’s vessels, offices and premises.

For full fares please enquire at Orkney Ferry Services Offices

By Sea

By Air

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

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Westray

... Queen o' the isles

Westray is sprinkled with wonderfully atmospheric locations for you to explore. Spectacular sea cliffs, sandy beaches, rocky shores and undulating hills offer spirit-swelling locations for photographers, artists and lovers of empty places.

A voyage out along the old Viking sea route to Westray is an essential element in any Orkney adventure.

Here the unique flavour of Orkney's island fringe can be experienced to the full. The exquisite workmanship and artistic talent of the ancient peoples we have encountered on other islands is illustrated by the Westray Stone, a rock carving found in a tomb at Pierowall, the island’s largest settlement, in 1981. The spiral and lozenge design is the finest of its kind in Scotland and is permanently on display in the Westray Heritage Centre, alongside the Westray Wife - the earliest human representation from Scotland. Of the earliest Christian settlers the best evidence is again found in the lonely rock-stack or island hermitages such as at the Castle o’ Burrian (also a marvellous place to see Puffins) and on the Holm of Aikerness. The Orkneyinga Sagas, the tales of the Viking occupation of Orkney paint a vivid picture of the Norse ancestors and the island has developed a modern fishing industry which includes white fish trawling and creel fishing for crab and lobster. Velvet crabs provide a significant contribution to the local economy and are exported to Europe. The modern factory at Gill Pier exports processed crabs throughout Britain and Europe, and visitors are welcome to look around the facility. W. F. M. Brown is a family-run bakery at Gill Pier, which supplies daily bread and other baked products to local and mainland Orkney shops and also exports their shortbread, biscuits and cakes to shops further afield. W. F. M. Brown is a family-run bakery at Gill Pier, which supplies daily bread and other baked products to local and mainland Orkney shops and also exports their shortbread, biscuits and cakes to shops further afield. Westray's tourist industry plays a vital part in the local economy, providing facilities for camping and caravans, one hostel, two hotels, several B & Bs and self-catering cottages. The Craft and Heritage Trail tempts visitors to explore the island and see the varied shops, galleries, jewellery makers, knitters and straw-backed chair making, returning to Pierowall village to the newly enlarged Heritage Centre next to the Pierowall Hotel.

Points of interest

1. St. Mary's Medieval Parish Church, Pierowall: This ruined church is one of two Middle Ages kirk in Westray; most of the structure dates from the 17th century but the south wall is a remnant of the original 13th century structure.

2. Noltland Castle: This fortress was erected in the second half of the 16th century by Gilbert Balfour who held high office under Mary Queen of Scots.

3. Links of Noltland Prehistoric Settlement & Wild Flowers: Excavations here are uncovering an extensive Neolithic and Bronze settlement complete with wonderful artefacts, including the famous ‘Westray Wife’ figurine. Sand dune and dune pasture supports Eyebright, Felwort, Cowslip and Sandwort – this site has been re-opened for further examination.

4. Knowe of Queena Howe: Deriving its name from the old Norse kvi ‘enclosure’ and haugr ‘mound’ this conspicuous mound probably contains a broch tower which is surrounded by extensive settlement. Stenowerk can be seen in the eroded shoreline. Nearby excavation has exposed a settlement pre-dating Skara Brae. (see 3 above).

5. Locks – Breeding Wildlife and Waders: Westray’s two largest lochs, Burness, and Sainesare are rich in breeding wildfowl and waders and are also popular with anglers for trout fishing. Mute swans breed in both lochs and Whooper swans overwinter here.

6. Noup Head Lighthouse: This lighthouse was constructed in 1898 to warn ships off the North Shoal. First lighthouse to use a system of mercury flotation in the revolving carriage. Automated in 1964.

7. Noup Head R.S.P.B. Reserve: Cliffs extend here to five miles and the northernmost section is the reserve which in terms of number of breeding seabirds is second only to St Kilda. A 1978 survey revealed over 40,000 Guillemots, 1,200 Razorbills, 1,000 Fulmars and almost 25,000 pairs of Kittiwakes. Gannets now breed here.

8. The Gentlemens’ Cave: Place of refuge for Orkney lairds who supported the 1745 uprising, said to be linked by an underground passage to Noltland Castle. Access is now too dangerous to visit.

9. North West Coast and North Hill: West-facing cliffs are very exposed; Thrift, Sea Plantain, and Buck’s horn Plantain are abundant and immediately inland from the cliffs nest Skuas and Arctic Terns.

Plant & animal life

The western cliffs and hills behind support a rich variety of northern maritime vegetation. The spray-sweep has created unusual clifftop salt marshes and behind this the maritime heath. Vikings are thought to have brought angelica to the island and it can still be found growing around Pierowall Bay. Seals, of course, are plentiful around Westray but whales, dolphins and porpoises are occasionally seen. Other attractions are the otter families and tell-tale tracks through rough vegetation will indicate the presence of the indigenous Westray vole.

Birdlife

Noup Head cliffs are first port of call for birdwatchers. Huge numbers of nesting seabirds can be seen between April and July. It is also possible to see Peregrine Falcons on the island’s cliffs and Ravens successfully breed each year, raising their young in nests often built from barbed wire. The rare corncrake with their characteristic call has been heard on summer evenings. Among the smaller birds the Wheatear can be seen skipping along the drystane dykes. Puffins are a great attraction at the Castle of Burrian and at Noup Head. Gannet numbers have increased dramatically in recent years at Noup.

Industry

Westray is one of the most productive farming areas in Orkney with beef cattle a main contributor to the island’s economy. Sea-faring is also deep rooted, a trait inherited from the Norse ancestors and the island has developed a modern fishing industry which includes white fish trawling and creel fishing for crab and lobster. Velvet crabs provide a significant contribution to the local economy and are exported to Europe. The modern factory at Gill pier exports processed crabs throughout Britain and Europe, and visitors are welcome to look around the facility. W. F. M. Brown is a family-run bakery at Gill Pier, which supplies daily bread and other baked products to local and mainland Orkney shops and also exports their shortbread, biscuits and cakes to shops further afield. Westray's tourist industry plays a vital part in the local economy, providing facilities for camping and caravans, one hostel, two hotels, several B & Bs and self-catering cottages. The Craft and Heritage Trail tempts visitors to explore the island and see the varied shops, galleries, jewellery makers, knitters and straw-backed chair making, returning to Pierowall village to the newly enlarged Heritage Centre next to the Pierowall Hotel.
10 Heritage Centre: A permanent exhibition of Westray’s history, flora and fauna can be seen here next to the Pierowall Hotel. In addition to the permanent exhibition, each year sees a new exhibition on a specific local topic. Local crafts can be purchased; limited opening hours. Now has an extensive database of churchyards and houses and a growing genealogy section.

11 Fitty and Skea Hills: Very rich maritime sedge-heath. Several of the plants found here are such as typically occur at high altitudes in mountain environments. The Primula Scotica can also be found.

12 Bay of Kirbest: On this storm beach Sea Mayweed, Sea Campion and Scottish Lovage can be found.

13 Knowe o’ Burristae Broch: This large mound contains a broch tower partly destroyed by the sea. Part of the curved wall is still standing and the entrance to a mural cell or passage can be seen.

14 Tuquoy – Cross Kirk Medieval Parish Church and Norse Settlement including Heritage Walk: Cross Kirk is one of the best constructed churches in Orkney and a large Norse settlement lies to the west where massive walls are being exposed in the shoreline.

15 Bay of Tuquoy: A localised area of saltmarsh occurs at the head of this large sandy bay.

16 Castle o’ Burrian & Stanger Head: Precipitous rock stack was an early Christian hermitage; possibly the best place in the isles to watch the comings of the cliffs, the Puffins. No attempt should be made to climb the stack. Great care should be taken on these clifftops. Stanger Head is a favourite haunt of the entire range of Orkney’s seabirds.

17 Holm of Faray & Rusk Holm: Important breeding site for Grey Seals. Each autumn large numbers concentrate here to mate, the pups being born in October. Rusk Holm is inhabited by native sheep, descendants of the original sheep brought from Norway by the Vikings 1000 years ago. Visits are possible by arrangement locally.

18 Holm of Aikerness: A good site to see Common Seals which pup in June, and home to 150 North Ronaldsay Sheep.

19 West Westray Walk: from Kirbest to Noup Head, this walk displays nature at its best. Estimated time to complete = 3½ hours.

20 Quoygrew: archaeological site, seasonally excavated in recent years, now consolidated and open to the public. Considered to be one of the finest examples of Viking archaeology in Orkney.

21 Pontoons: floating facilities and showers are situated at Gill Pier for use by visiting yachts etc.

22 Knowe o’ Skea: Intriguing site containing the remains of a prehistoric cemetery and shrine, reused in the early Christian and Viking periods.

23 Tourist Information Point: Leaflets and guidance on all aspects of Westray’s visitor services. Café serving light lunches, breakfasts and early evening meals. Local crafts for sale.
Westray 40

Services

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

HOTEL

Pierowall Hotel (4-*** Inn) - Alan and Alison Drever, t: 01857 677472/677208. e: enquiries@pierowallhotel.co.uk www.pierowallhotel.co.uk

BED & BREAKFAST

Braehead Manse, (4-*** B&B) - Contact Linda Sharp on 01857 677861/07796998410.

No. 1 Broughton (4-*** B&B) - waterfront bed and breakfast overlooking Pierowall Bay. 3 double and 1 twin rooms, all en-suite and with sea views. Single occupancy welcome. Packed lunches available. Guest lounge, conservatory and sauna. Free Wi-Fi. Prices from £30.00. Sheila and Jerry Wood. t: 01857 677726. e: swaledale45@hotmail.co.uk, www.no1broughton.co.uk

SELF-CATERING

Sand o’ Gill (4-**** Self-catering) - self-catering, sleeps 6. t: 01857 677374

Daisy Cottage (4-**** Self-catering) - sleeps 4/S. Netta Harcus, e: netta@cubbigoe.freeserve.co.uk t: 01857 677398

HOSTEL & CAMPING

The Barn (4-*** Hostel) - Chalmersquoy. Isabell Harcus. t: 01857 677214. e: info@thebarnwestray.co.uk www.thebarnwestray.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Braehead Manse, self-catering. Contact Linda Sharp on 01857 677861/07796998410.

Sequoys self-catering. Karen Oddie, Cranfield, Canningal Road, St Ola. t: 01856 871169 e: kjoddie@hotmail.com www.sequoyswestray.co.uk

Daybreck - self-catering cottage in the village, on the shoreline, sleeps 6. t: Suzie Rendall, 01856 876579. e: raymond.rendall@btopenworld.com, www.daybreckwestray.co.uk

West Kirbest self-catering in a renovated croft. Living room, 1 double bedroom, 1 twin bedroom, also sofa bed and cot. Wonderful sea and island views. Contact Catherine Ewen. t: 01383 413713

Bis Geos self-catering. Three cottages, sleeping 2-8. t/f: 01857 677420. e: bisgeos.co.uk


SA Gill Pier, Pierowall. Sleeps 2. Mrs S. Stout, t: 01857 677490

Sand o’ Gill, B & B. t: Dorothy Groat, 01857 677374

Sand o’ Gill Caravans. t: 01857 677374


Transport/Car Hire

M. & J. Harcus, Ferry bus service (see bus timetable on page 46. t: 07789 034289, 01857 677758

D. Groat, car hire. t: 01857 677374

Taxi: Kathy and Graham Maben, t: 01857 677777 and mob: 07766073088

Shops/Post Offices

Peter Miller, General Merchant, Sub Post Office, Groceries - Hardware - (OFF License 10am-6pm Mon-Sat) Drapery – Homebakers inc. the famous Fatty Curties. Shop hours 9am-6pm, Mon-Sat. From May-Sep also open on Sundays from 2-4pm. Wheel Chair access. t: 01857 677351, e: wilma.stout@btconnect.com

J. C. Tulloch, Pierowall, general merchant and post office, groceries, drapery, butchery, hardware; newspapers and books, fruit and vegetables, souvenirs, gifts, etc. Wheelchair access. Open 9am-9pm Mon to Sat. and 2-4.30pm on Sundays from May until September. t: 01857 677373. e: jctulloch@tiscali.co.uk

W. I. Rendall, Pierowall, general merchant, grocery, butchery, fruit and veg, newspapers, hardware, souvenirs, gifts, petrol, diesel & bio-diesel, Calor and camping gas. Wheelchair access. Open Mon-Sat; Sundays 2.00-4.30pm May-Sept. t: 01857 677389

Hume Sweet Hume, Pierowall, designer soft furnishings, knitwear and gifts. t: 01857 677259, e: info@humesweethume.com, www.humesweethume.com

Recreation

Golf course information from Stewart Rendall, t: 01857 677303

Cycle Hire: Dorothy Groat, Sand o’ Gill. t: 01857 677374

Boat Trips, Tom Rendall, Harbour-master, Gill Pier, trips to and from Papa Westray daily and as required. t: 01857 677216

Swimming Pool, opening times and information from Kimberley Patterson, m: 07917 002074 or check the local noticeboard

Community Centre, sports field, football, netball, badminton, snooker, pool, darts, weight training; Community Centre, Pierowall. (4-star rating 2. Local craft and publications. Children’s visitor attraction). VisitScotland disabled access rating 2. Local craft and publications. Children’s activities, genealogy, local history. t: 01857 677414 e: office@westrayheritage.co.uk

R. Leslie, Woodturner, 9 Lastigar. t: 01857 677297 e: raymondleslie@hotmail.co.uk

Westray Heritage Centre, Pierowall. (4-star visitor attraction). VisitScotland disabled access rating 2. Local craft and publications. Children’s activities, genealogy, local history. t: 01857 677414 e: office@westrayheritage.co.uk

R. Leslie, Woodturner, 9 Lastigar. t: 01857 677297 e: raymondleslie@hotmail.co.uk

Sailing Club, June 1 to August 31, Tues. and Thurs. evenings, Sam Harcus, t: 01857 677860

Marina – dedicated visitor berthing, shower facilities at Gill Pier. Bred available from the bakery at Gill Pier and other supplies from the shops in Pierowall village. A leisurely stroll to Pierowall village. Tom Rendall, harbour master, t: 01857 677216

Traditional cooking & writing courses at the West Manse. Contact Sandy on t: 01857 677482, www.millwestray.com

Camping & Caravanning Facilities

Sand o’ Gill, Dorothy Groat. 01857 677374

Other Services

www.westraypapawestray.com

Westray Tourist Information Centre at Haff Yock Cafe. t: 01857 677777. e: info@westraak.co.uk

Doctor, t: 01857 67729

Church of Scotland, Iain MacDonald, t: 01857 677357

Baptist Church, Gavin Hunter. t: 01857 677265

Gospel Hall. Mr A. Bews, t: 01857 677376

Westray and Papa Westray Quaker Meeting, Sandy McEwen, t: 01857 677482

Jack’s Chippy, Broughton. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays 5-9. t: 01857 677471

Haff Yock Cafe, Pierowall, tea/coffee, home baking and light lunches. t: 01857 677777

Richans Retreat Café, open daily, tea/coffee/snacks and gift shop selling locally made crafts

Healthy Living Centre, t: 01857 677568

Industry/Crafts/Archaeology

Westray Heritage Centre, Pierowall. (4-star visitor attraction). VisitScotland disabled access rating 2. Local craft and publications. Children’s activities, genealogy, local history. t: 01857 677414 e: office@westrayheritage.co.uk

R. Leslie, Woodturner, 9 Lastigar. t: 01857 677297 e: raymondleslie@hotmail.co.uk

noltland castle - drew kennedy
Westray/Papa Westray
Effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014

The services to Westray and Papa Westray are carried out by the vessels m.v. Earl Thorfinn (190 passengers and 25 cars), m.v. Earl Sigurd (190 passengers and 25 cars) and m.v. Varagen (144 passengers and 32 cars). Hot/cold drinks and cold snacks are available on all vessels at modest prices. Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk

### By Sea

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**Westray – Papa Westray – The World’s Shortest Scheduled Air Service.**

This year join the flight at either island and you may qualify for a unique Certificate commemorating your World Record Flight!

Further information on the connecting ferry/bus service in Westray can be found on page 47.
Papa Westray

... Where oceans meet

Travellers to Papa Westray come from the five continents for an experience which lasts only a couple of minutes. They want to fly on the shortest scheduled air flight in the world between Westray and Papa Westray – a distance shorter than the main runway at Heathrow which has been completed in less than a minute and is featured in the Guinness Book of Records.

Papa Westray, or Papay as it is known through the North Isles, is home to the oldest house in northern Europe at the Knap of Howar. Farmers, incredibly, were busy here before the pyramids were built in Egypt.

In the Dark Ages the island took on great religious significance and St Boniface kirk, one of the oldest Christian sites in the north of Scotland, was a pilgrimage site and missionary out station. Now lovingly restored it is once again attracting visitors.

Papay is famous for its birds and the North Hill is a top-rated nature reserve. Airborne visitors who land on Westray en route for Papay will experience the shortest scheduled flight in the world – don’t blink or you’ll miss it (under 2 minutes).

While on the island you must visit the farm of Holland and its amazing complex of agricultural buildings adjacent to Holland House which was the seat of the Traill lairds of Papay for three centuries. The farm includes a splendid mill tramp where horses provided the pulling power.

One of the farm workers’ bothies has been converted into a compact museum displaying a fascinating range of artifacts from the island’s history including the parish handcuffs!

Geography

Lying roughly on the same latitude as Stavanger in Norway the island is one of the most remote of the Orkney group. Just over four miles long by a mile wide the scenery ranges from impressive cliffs, through wide sandy bays to rolling agricultural land.

The cliffs at the northern tip, heavily eroded by the fearsome seas, are steep and densely populated by seabirds. The North Hill (next stop the Arctic Circle!) is a lonely and inspiring location – a must for anyone still with a love of empty spaces and a bit of poetry in their soul.

Off Mull Head right at the northern tip of the isle is the Bore, a fearsome tidal race where the Atlantic crashes into the North Sea – under certain tidal conditions this is a boiling cauldron with waves breaking many fathoms below the surface.

Points of interest

1. Beltane: The heart of the island. Location of the community co-operative shop & hostel and venue for community events.
2. Church/Surgery & School: St Ann’s Centre, Church of Scotland and Doctor’s Surgery and just along the road, the community school; third building in this complex is School Place, the Free Church school in use until 1877.
3. The Water Mill: On an isolated headland, this building was last used for milling oats about 100 years ago. Remains of the undershot wheel and millstones can be seen.
4. St Tredwell’s Chapel: On a small peninsula are traces of an Iron Age fortification and the walls of a Medieval chapel and beehive cells . . . a place of pilgrimage as late as the 18th century.
5. Bronze Age Landmarks: Between St Tredwell’s Loch and the farm of Cuppin the remains of a gairisty or treb-dyke, a Bronze age boundary, can be traced.
6. Bothican: A fine sandy bay close to the New Pier where the ferry from Kirkwall and the link service with Westray calls. In summer the area of machair is rich in orchids and other wild flowers.
7. Minister’s Flag: At one time the minister from Westray had to land here and walk below the high tide line to St Boniface kirk because the Traill laird would not let him on his land. The laird and the kirk were often at loggerheads.
8. Burnt Mound: Just to the east of Backaskaill lies a large, grass-covered knoll created by the accumulation of burnt stones which had been heated and immersed in tanks to cook meat.
9. Holland Farm: Formerly the home of the Traill family, lairds of the island for three centuries, this is perhaps the most extensive traditional stading in Orkney. It features a doo’cot, mill tramp and corn-drying klin. Don’t miss John o’ Holland’s Museum.
10. Knap of Howar: Earliest standing house in Northern Europe. These well preserved buildings were occupied by neolithic farmers over 5000 years ago.
11. St Boniface Kirk: One of the oldest Christian sites in the North of Scotland. The old kirk, with stonework dating from the 12th century, has been restored in recent years.
12. Munkerhouse: Exposed on the shore below the kirk (see 11) are the remains of a settlement dating from the Bronze Age to the Medieval Period.
13 **North Hill:** A wild and windswept nature reserve managed by the people of Papay in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and Scottish Natural Heritage. There is a summer warden on this important site.

14 **Fowl Craig:** A spectacular cliff nesting site. Care is required. Puffins may be seen April-July, occasionally first two weeks in August. Back from the cliff edge is Papay's famous colony of Primula Scatica.

15 **South of Fowl Craig:** As the land levels out to the south of Fowl Craig there is a huge area of sea-turned stones and remains of many small, walled enclosures or crues used for growing vegetables or penning geese.

16 **North & South Wick:** Lovely bays of sparkling white sand and the best locations on the island for viewing the colony of Common and Grey seals which bask on the taings or tidal reefs.

17 **Cott:** A number of fishing boats used to be beached here as can be seen from the keel marks on the stone and the unusually tall boat nausts or shelters in the banks.

18 **The Old Pier:** The steamer from Kirkwall called here once a week before the New Pier was built in 1970. It is now used by local lobster boats and for access to the Holm of Papay.

19 **No suster:** Excellent examples of boat nousts. These can be traced all round the island shore indicating the presence of hundreds of boats in time gone by.

20 **The Holm of Papay:** One of the most impressive chambered cairns in Orkney can be seen on this deserted isle also another smaller stalled cairn.
Wildlife
With its wide variety of habitats Papay is particularly rich in seabirds with the best known being the elegant Arctic tern as well as Guillemots, Kittiwakes, Razorbills and Puffins on the cliffs. A range of waders are found along the island's shoreline, and Snipe, Curlew and Lark are commonplace in the fields, whilst Papay also supports the highest breeding population of Corncrackers in Orkney. Storm Petrels and Black Guillemots breed on the Holm, Papay's calf island. Papa Westray, sadly was the home of the last Great Auk in the United Kingdom, killed in 1813. A wide range of wildflowers are rooted in Papay, including the Scottish Primrose, and the local seal colony is always interested in wanderers along the east shore. Basking sharks, porpoises and whales also occur at times through the summer months.

History
Papay has traces of many early buildings, the most spectacular being the Neolithic farmstead at the Knapp of Howar. Pictish brochs (fortified round towers) have been identified at several sites, notably at Munkerhouse and St Tredwell's Chapel on an artificial peninsula in the loch of the same name. At the Chapel during excavations the bones of a woman were uncovered and it has been speculated that this may be St Tredwell herself.

Munkerhouse, adjacent to St Boniface, is now regarded as a significant location. Much lies buried beneath the kirkyard and a settlement site has been exposed by erosion on the shore. Viking sites are less easily identifiable but the Scandinavian links can be traced, as elsewhere, through the farm names. Only in 1472 did Papay along with the rest of Orkney become part of Scotland – pledged as a royal marriage dowry. There are interesting burial sites, including the impressive chambered cairn on the Holm, a lonely, atmospheric place.

Lifestyle
The pace of life of Papa Westray’s farmers and fishermen is very much ordered by the changing seasons and community life centres around the arrivals and departures of ferry and plane. Cars still take second place to walkers on the few miles of metalled roads.

At the centre of the island is the only shop, run by the islands community co-operative, it is the focal point of community life. Adjoining the shop is the Beltane House, run by the community as a hostel and a venue for community social events. This building is part of a row of renovated farm workers cottages formerly belonging to Holland Farm and offers magnificent views out towards Eday and Sanday.

Unquestionably 1980 was a watershed year for the island with the opening of the facilities at Beltane and the arrival of mains electricity via an underwater cable, however there is still a constant battle to keep the island’s mini-economy afloat.

Local Services
The Papay Community Co-op Shop, licensed general merchants and information exchange. Community shop, well stocked with a wide selection of fresh, frozen and general groceries. Fairtrade, vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free products also available. Local crafts, books and postcards. Petrol/diesel pumps, coal and gas. t: 01857 644321 e: papacoop@gmail.com. Open Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat, 10am-12 noon & Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri, 3-5pm, Sat, 6-7pm.

Post Office, Daybree. Open Tues, Wed, Thur, 2-4pm. t: 01857 644275

Transport/Tours
‘Peedie Package’ Island Tour; guided tours of Papay. Wildlife, history & culture, great scenery and more. Lunch & refreshments provided. Papay Community Co-op. t: 01857 644321 e: beltanepapay@aol.co.uk, www.papawestray.co.uk See page 47 for details.

Airport Building. t: 01857 644252
Nooster Pier; mooring for visiting yachts. t: 01857 644282

Boat Service, between Papa Westray and Westray; see separate timetable for schedule. hires. Tommy Randill. t: 01857 672716

Art, Crafts and Heritage
Daybreak Craft Shop. Handknitting, Papay socks, felting, wood turning, pictures, postcards. Margit. t: 01857 644275


Papay Gyro Nights Art Festival takes place around the first full moon of February, an international contemporary art festival based around an ancient Papay tradition, featuring experimental film, video and visual art, performance, music and architecture. www.papagyronights.papawestray.org

Island Felt – Recycled by Design. Unique creations from recycled felted wool. Bewan Gallery and Workshop. Jan, t: 01857 644245. e: jan@hippyhats.com

Papay Bothy Museum, Holland Farm.

Papay Listskiu (Papay Arts Centre) is a not-for-profit art project developing exhibitions, concerts and art events in unique island settings. Events advertised or open by appointment, www.islandart.papawestray.org

Recreation
Children’s Play Park, access through school car park.


Community Centre gym, table tennis, pool, badminton, computer facilities

Cyclogym, challenging bike course for all the family, pyramid and see-saw ramps, find it behind the kirk and school.

Papay Fun Weekend 18-20 July 2014: music, dance, picnic sports,arty races and more. Tim. t: 01857 644224

Papay Community Events, dances, suppers, cinema, workshops and events held throughout the year. www.papawestray.co.uk or see the Papay Facebook page for details.
Saturday Pub. The bar cupboard is open at Papa Westray Hotel, Beltane House on Saturday nights from 9pm. Friendly atmosphere, often with live local music. Darts and other games available.

Self service tea/coffee facilities available to the general public at Papa Westray Hotel.

**Other Services**

- **Church of Scotland** Iain MacDonald. t: 01857 677357. Services every Sunday, 2.00pm at St Anne’s Kirk. Bookings to Iain or Marina, t: 01857 644242
- **Gospel Hall** Alan Hourston. t: 01857 644253
  - Bookings to Iain or Marina, t: 01857 644242
  - Services every Sunday, 2.00pm at St Anne’s Kirk. Church of Scotland. Iain MacDonald. t: 01857 677357.
- **Other Services**
  - Westray Hostel, Beltane House on Saturday nights from 9pm. Darts and other games available. 9pm. Friendly atmosphere, often with live local music.

**By Air**

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

**MONDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**By Sea**

**Westray - Papa Westray**

**Passenger Service**

**Summer Timetable effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014**

See page 47 for connecting Westray ferry bus

This passenger only service linking the islands of Westray and Papa Westray is operated by m/v “Golden Mariana” (40 passengers). This service is free only to passengers between Pierowall and Papa Westray making a direct connection with the ro-ro ferry at Rapness. All other passengers will be subject to the normal inter-island fares. All enquiries for request calls, hires etc. to be made through Tommy Rendall, t: 01857 677 216.

**By Sea Timetable**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pierowall</th>
<th>dep</th>
<th>Papa Westray</th>
<th>arr</th>
<th>Pierowall</th>
<th>dep</th>
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</tbody>
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A. Are available ON REQUEST only (must be booked 24hrs in advance)  
B. Will not operate between 2 July to 18 August inclusive  
C. From 2 July to 18 August inclusive sailings will be replaced by (dep Pierowall 1625 arr Papa Westray 1650)  
D. Additional sailings from 2 July to 14 August inclusive  
E. From 4 July to 15 August inclusive sailings will be replaced by (dep Pierowall 1705 arr Papa Westray 1730)  

**NOTES:**  
1) All enquiries to Mr Tommy Rendall, Telephone (01857) 677216  
2) Passengers must be available for boarding ten minutes before departure times.  
3) No Show Charges - All cancellations must be made by 1600hrs the day before sailing or full charges may apply.  
4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in the vessels, offices and premises.

See page 41 for Westray (Rapness/Pierowall) connection for Papa Westray.  
See page 47 for Papa Westray Package Tour and details of special air fares on page 48.
In Orkney's big sky country, out among the isles, colour, light and the purest air on God's earth await you.

Special Sunday Excursions – Outer Isles (additional to scheduled sailings)

Take one step beyond and visit Orkney's enchanted island fringe. The spell will last a lifetime.

**M & J HARCUS**
Bus Operators, Westray, Orkney
(t: 07789 034289)

**Westray Bus Service**

**Departure Times**

This service offers a connection between ferry arrivals/departures at Gill Pier and Rapness via Pierowall village. Timetable is effective from the first Sunday in May until the last Monday in September each year. Outwith these dates the service operates on an ‘on-request’ basis.

### Departure Times

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Rapness</th>
<th>Pierowall</th>
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</table>

* Must be pre-booked.
* Non-day-return passengers are advised to pre-book departures from Pierowall.
* Pierowall Bus Stop – Pierowall Hotel Car Park, although other pick-up points may be arranged.

Contact: Kenneth Harcus • m: 07789 034289 • t: 01857 677758

---

**Papa Westray 'Peedie Package' Tour**

*Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7th May to 30th August 2014*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prices</th>
<th>Full Day Adult</th>
<th>£40.00</th>
<th>Children (under 16)</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Half Day Adult</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
<td>Children (under 16)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Children under 5 are free, or £5 if having lunch.

All prices are for tour only. Ferry and Westray Bus Service Fares are not included. The full day tour takes in the main archaeological and historical sites (including the Knap of Howar, Holland Farm and St Boniface Kirk), the North Wick beach and North Hill Nature Reserve. It includes a two course lunch, afternoon tea/coffee and scone, and all transport on the island. The half day tour includes the morning tour and lunch.

Prices do not include ferry fares. Advance booking is essential. Tours only go ahead when a minimum of 3 people are booked on. Tours will not operate on some dates due to isles events and related ferry timetable changes.

For Bookings and further information contact: 01857 600321/224. e: beltanepapay@aol.co.uk

---

**Alterations to sailings**

N.B. In order to accommodate certain local events timetables will be subject to change on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 May 2014</td>
<td>Flotta 10k Run</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 June 2014</td>
<td>Hoy Half Marathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 June 2014</td>
<td>North Isles Sports (Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 July 2014</td>
<td>Westray Regatta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 August 2014</td>
<td>Sanday Agricultural Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>05 August 2014</td>
<td>Shapinsay Agricultural Show</td>
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<tr>
<td>09 August 2014</td>
<td>Annual County Show, (Kirkwall)</td>
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</table>
NORTH RONALDSDAY & PAPA WESTRAY
In conjunction with Orkney Islands Council, Loganair offers special fares of £21 return for passengers whose journeys include a stay of one night or more in North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray.

INTER-ISLAND SERVICES
A wide range of connections between the smaller islands of Orkney using Loganair air services. Fares start from £17 one-way or £21 return. For details of the available services, please visit Loganair’s website at www.loganair.co.uk or call Loganair reservations.

ORKNEY SIGHT-SEER
Loganair operates the world’s shortest scheduled flight between Westray and Papa Westray. Sightseer trips can be booked on the day of departure if seats remain available on the same flight’s outward and return journeys from and to Kirkwall. Passengers will receive a commemorative certificate.

For full details of all fares and booking conditions call our reservation staff at Kirkwall Airport.
(01856) 872494/873457
orkneyres@loganair.co.uk

Special Tickets available on Orkney’s Inter-Island Air Service
www.loganair.co.uk

Kirkwall to Houton (Hoy & Flotta)
Mondays to Fridays
(This service runs until 5 June 2013, thereafter please refer to timetable on page 13 of this brochure)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Flight</th>
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FC – This service will wait up to 15 minutes for a ferry connection and from the terminal may run up to 15 minutes through every timing point for the remainder of the journey.
W – Wednesdays only
NW – Monday, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays only
Sch – School days
Nsch – School holidays

t: Kirkwall (01856) 870555

By Road

Stagecoach
Correct at time of going to print

Stagecoach in the Highlands
Are pleased to support ‘The Smaller Islands of Orkney 2014’
Timetables available for: Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Hoy
For timetables and ticket info visit www.stagecoachbus.com
Eday Minibus Tours

Monday – Wednesday – Friday • 5th May - 19th September, 2014 – other days by arrangement
All tours pre-booked. Minimum of 2 persons. Packed lunches available on request at time of booking. t: 01857 622206.

Take this opportunity to visit the beautiful island of Eday, with its rich bird life and great archaeology sites of interest. You will be driven around the island, where you will see some of the outstanding unspoilt beaches and wonderful panoramic views of the many islands that surround Eday.

The minibus will collect you at the terminal when the ferry arrives. The tour will take you to the south end of the island to see if we can spot the seals, then on round the island. We will be happy to stop on request at any point to take photos or for a short time to walk down to the beaches or any point of interest. As the tour proceeds you will be told many facts and interesting stories about Eday.

At the end of your tour, which is approx 2½ hours, you can be dropped at the bird hide by Mill Loch to either watch the water fowl or walk to the nearby archaeological sites or at the Eday Heritage Centre which contains displays and information about the island. Alternatively, we can drop you at any place of your choice.

Towards the end of the afternoon you will be collected and taken back to the ferry terminal, on the way calling in at the Shetland Pony Stud where you can view these adorable tiny ponies at close quarters and hopefully see the new born foals.

Liquid refreshments will be available at this point if required, before being taken to the ferry for your return trip to Kirkwall.

Fares: £14.00 Adults £12.00 Senior Citizens £12.00 Children 12yrs and under – (ferry fares not included in price). Taxis, Car hire also available. t: 01857 622206 – Mr J. Booth, Stackald, Eday

www.orkneyferries.co.uk
info@orkneyferries.co.uk

GENERAL DISCREPANCY

Thank you

Kerry Scott
Roderick Thorne
Charles Tait
Moya McKenzie McDonald
Drew Kennedy
Leonard Bain
Orkney Media Group

Orkney Museum and Archive.

www.orkneyferries.co.uk
info@orkneyferries.co.uk

General Conditions and Notes

Passengers, luggage, vehicles, goods and livestock are carried subject to the Conditions of Carriage of Orkney Ferries as exhibited and available in the Company’s vessels, offices and premises.

Vehicle lengths are charged as per manufacturers specification or overall length including towbars, bicycle racks, overhanging roof rack items etc., where fitted, whichever is greater.

Vans which exceed the dimensions declared at the time of booking will be subject to a surcharge and may not be able to be accommodated on board.

Accompanied dogs other than support dogs are restricted to certain areas on board. Dogs may be left in vehicles but passengers wishing to visit their animals during the voyage must be accompanied by a crew member.

All ferries have a disabled cabin and toilet facilities at deck level with the exception of m/v Varagen.

Liberty is reserved to alter sailing arrangements as the necessities of trade may require.

All fares may be subject to alteration. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that information in this brochure is correct at time of going to press, all information is subject to alteration (in whole or in part) without notice.

Orkney Ferries accepts no liability for any inaccuracy in the information supplied.

Orkney Ferries is not responsible for any consequential costs or for any consequences arising therefrom.

ACCOMMODATION DISCLAIMER

Accommodation providers who are members of VisitScotland’s Quality Assurance Scheme have been graded as part of the national scheme. Those businesses may be booked by telephoning 0845 22 55 121 (national booking line).

Accommodation providers who are not members of the national Quality Assurance Scheme can be booked by contacting them directly. VisitOrkney and the producers of this brochure cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information provided or the quality of accommodation listed.

By Sea, By Air and By Road timetables displayed within this brochure are for Summer Travel only. Please refer to the transport provider for Winter Travel information.

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For further information and timetables pick-up the Islands Brochure or visit our website:
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Orkney Islands Council Ferry Services
Shore Street
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1LG

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