

Stromness Golf Course



The Pier Arts Centre



The 'Sooth End' with the Hoy Hills

Keep a look out for the blue plaques. There are 15 to find and they mark points of historical interest.

Points of interest:

- 1 Point of Ness
- 2 Stromness Golf Club
- 3 George Mackay Brown Memorial Garden
- 4 The Canon
- 5 Login's Well
- 6 George Mackay Brown's former home
- 7 Stromness Museum
- 8 Pole Star Pier
- 9 Former Lifeboat Shed
- 10 Stromness Town Hall
- 11 Community Centre
- 12 The Pier Arts Centre
- 13 John Rae Memorial
- 14 Library/Archive/Police Station
- 15 Visitor Information Ctr
- 16 Medical Centre
- 17 Supermarket
- + Chemist/Pharmacy
- † Church
- P Parking
- T Toilets
- £ Cash Point
- Main Retail Area

Hoy Sound/Nethertown (circular) 3.2m - 5.21km
 One of the most popular walks in Orkney through the picturesque streets of Stromness around the Point of Ness with views across Hoy Sound to the islands of Graemsay and Hoy. The hill on Hoy to your left (Ward Hill) at 479ft (146m) is the highest in Orkney. Seabirds are always present around the coast and the gentle climb back into town offers great views out over the town and Scapa Flow.

Stromness Main Street (return) 2.1m - 3.5km
 An easy stroll along the main street in Stromness which takes in most of the shops and points of interest Stromness has to offer. Keep an eye out for the plaques marking points of interest. You may be surprised to know the street is open to two way traffic! The many narrow lanes and alleyways leading off the main street are worth exploring also.

Downie's Lane viewpoint (circular) 1.9m - 3.07km
 A great walk for those willing to climb a bit (70m to viewpoint). The views from the top are worth it though, looking north out over the West Mainland of Orkney and south over the town to the south isles and Scapa Flow.

Copland's Dock (return) 2.24m - 3.62km
 An easy coastal walk around Hamnavoe bay to the new pier of Copland's Dock. Good views back towards the town and the Holms of Stromness. The new pier was constructed to support the emerging renewables industry. Crab fishing boats also land their catches here for the Orkney Fishermen's Society crab processing plant (the biggest in Europe).



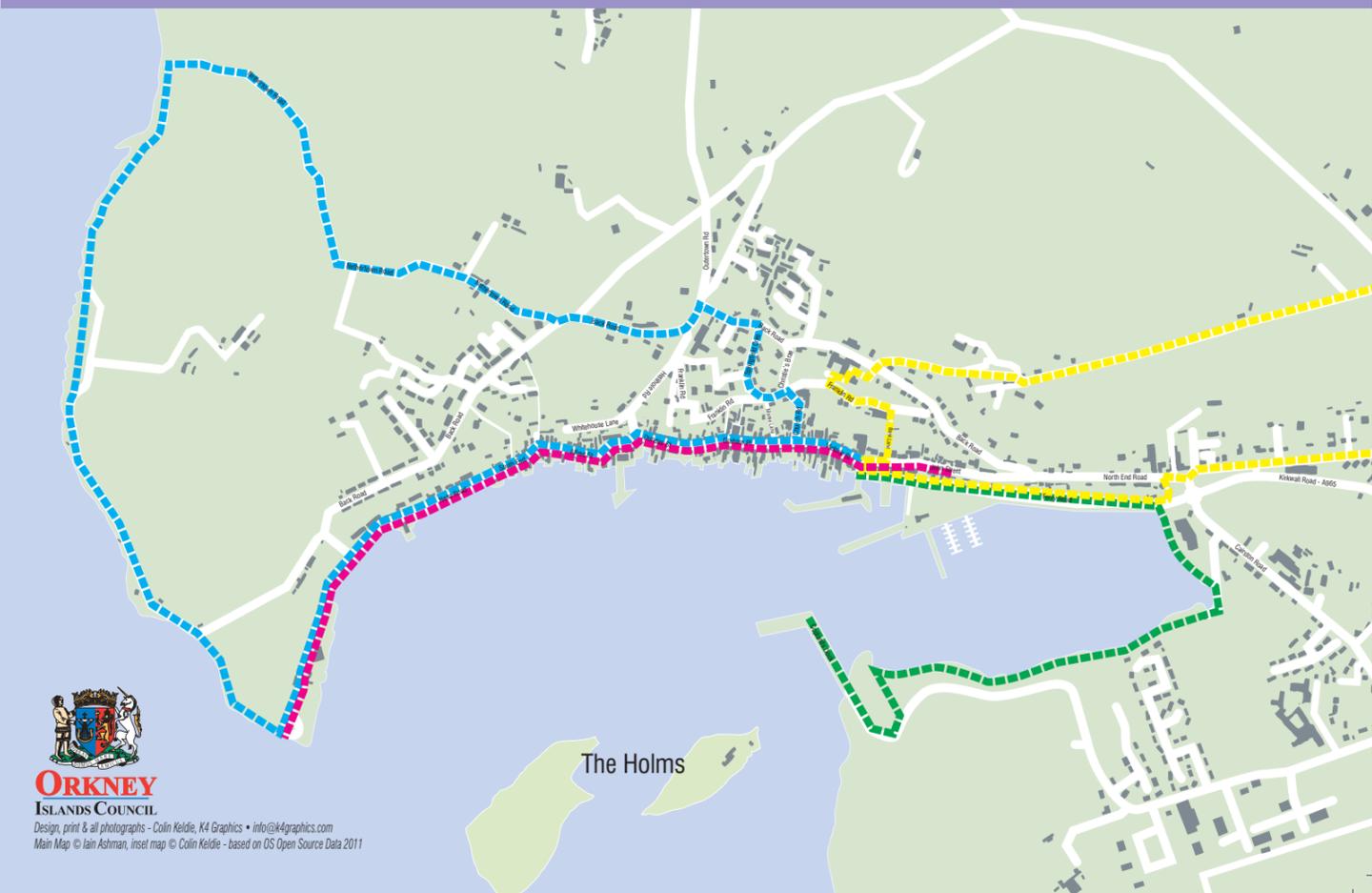
The Canon

Stromness Museum

The Holms

4 popular walks around the town of Stromness

- - - - - Hoy Sound/Nethertown (circular) 3.2m - 5.21km
- - - - - Downie's Lane viewpoint (circular) 1.9m - 3.07km
- - - - - Stromness Main Street (return) 2.1m - 3.5km
- - - - - Copland's Dock (return) 2.24m - 3.62km



14 New Library and Archive offers a wide range of fiction and non-fiction titles as well as audio books, music CDs and a bright, well stocked children's section. It also has a reference collection, housed in the George Mackay Brown Room. In the main library you will find an up-to-date selection of local and national newspapers and magazines which you can enjoy in our foyer seating area, or upstairs on our comfy sofas, which offer a fantastic view over Stromness harbour. Free WiFi.
t: +44(0)1856 850907
e: stromness.library@orkney.gov.uk
open: Monday & Thursday 1000-1900
 Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 1000-1700
 Saturday 1100-1700



The new Stromness Library

Some of Stromness' Main Attractions (see map overleaf):

15 Visitor Information Centre and Bus Terminal information on all things Orkney from travel and accommodation to sites of interest, nature & environment and much more. Busses arrive/depart from here and the NorthLink ferry to Mainland Scotland departs here also.
t: +44(0)1856 850716 **w:** visitscotland.com **open:** May-Aug 0900-1700

12 The Pier Arts Centre was established in 1979 to provide a home for an important collection of British fine art. As well as hosting a range of exhibitions throughout the year the permanent collection includes works by major 20th Century artists Barbara Hepworth, Ben Nicholson and Alfred Wallis and others.
t: +44(0)1856 850209 **w:** pierartscentre.com **e:** info@pierartscentre.com
open: Tues-Sat 1030-1700 & Jul-Aug Mondays 1030-1700 **free entry**

7 Stromness Museum is crammed full of fascinating historic detail, telling the stories of Orcadians at home and abroad. These include unique displays about the life and work of the explorer Dr John Rae and an amazing array of objects recovered from the German High Seas Fleet after it was scuttled in Scapa Flow. The Museum was founded by the Orkney Natural History Society in 1837, and still houses the most extensive natural history collection in the islands, featuring rocks, shells, birds and sealife. **t:** +44(0)1856 850025
e: custodian@stromnessmuseum.co.uk
w: orkneycommunities.co.uk/STROMNESSMUSEUM/index.asp
open daily: April-October 1000-1700 Nov-March 1100-1530 (closed on Sundays)
Tickets (valid for 7 days, visit as often as you like) **Adult £5.00 (concessions £4.00)**
Family (2 adults+2 children) £10.00 School pupil £1.00



Stromness waterfront



The 18th century brought great prosperity to the town, with many local people setting up businesses to supply the ships and their crews. A whaling boom and later a hectic, though short-lived, herring fishery also attracted hundreds of seasonal workers from elsewhere in Orkney and beyond to work with the 'silver darlings'.
 The First and Second World Wars brought another huge influx of people, this time of servicemen and women. The command Centre for the British Home Fleet was based in Stromness.

Each period of history has left its mark and has helped to shape the town you see today. These days the fishing is mainly for brown crab and lobster and the harbour is busy with dive charter boats and vessels serving the marine renewables industry.

www.stromnessorkney.com



Waterfront Gallery

Stromness Museum

Travelling out of Town

The gently rolling landscape of Orkney has been a crossroads and safe haven for travellers for many thousands of years.

Here you will find some of the most important archeological sites in Europe - Skara Brae, Ring of Brodgar, Standing Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe and the newly discovered 'Neolithic Temple' at the Ness of Brodgar - to name but a few.

Nature and the elements dictate the pace of life here. Summer brings a flush of green to the fertile fields and the clear waters which sweep through the 70 or so islands teem with life.

It is this attractive landscape and natural bounty that brought settlers here thousands of years ago and continues to see over 200,000 visitors returning to our shores each year.

Take a little time to discover why our islands are so special; you can be sure that a warm welcome awaits you. The chart below gives distances from Stromness to help you plan your own visit to some of the bigger attractions.

Destination	From Stromness
Firsttown	7.5m 12km
Maeshowe	4.7m 7.5km
Standing Stones of Stenness	4.8m 7.7km
Ring of Brodgar	5.8m 9.3km
Skara Brae & Skaili House	7.4m 12km
Brough of Birsay	14.1m 22.7km
Corrigall Farm Museum	10.6m 17km
Kirbuster Farm Museum	11.5m 18.5km
Broch of Gurness	17.1m 27.5km
Churchill Barriers	22m 35.4km
Italian Chapel	22.5m 36.2km
Orkney Fossil Centre	25m 40.2km
St Margaret's Hope	29m 46.7km
Tomb of the Eagles	36.4m 58.5km



Ring of Brodgar

The long street wends its way along the shore, with steep steps leading up the hill towards the larger houses, built above the town by wealthy merchants and sea captains in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Later, council schemes and private dwellings have filled the gaps on the hillside above the old town.

The first recorded development on the shore of Hamnavoe was in the year 1595, when William and Marion Clark opened an inn at the north eastern corner of the bay. The inn was built in response to the increasing number of Northern European vessels - explorers and merchants - heading for the Atlantic to develop trade with America and the Far East.



Ashore in

STROMNESS

Stromness lies in the west of Orkney, huddled around the sheltered bay of Hamnavoe. The town owes its existence to this natural harbour and its history reflects changes in maritime life over the centuries.

Arriving by sea, the entrance lies between the Holms and the Point of Ness. A dramatic setting - the buildings crowd around the harbour, creeping upwards towards the ridge of Brinkie's Brae.

Town Guide for Cruise Passengers

