

2014 information and travel guide to the smaller islands of Orkney

# The Islands of Orkney



For up to date Orkney information visit  
[www.visitscotland.com/orkney](http://www.visitscotland.com/orkney) • [www.orkney.com](http://www.orkney.com) • [www.discover-orkney.co.uk](http://www.discover-orkney.co.uk)

# The Islands of Orkney

## Approximate driving times

From Kirkwall and Stromness to Ferry Terminals at:

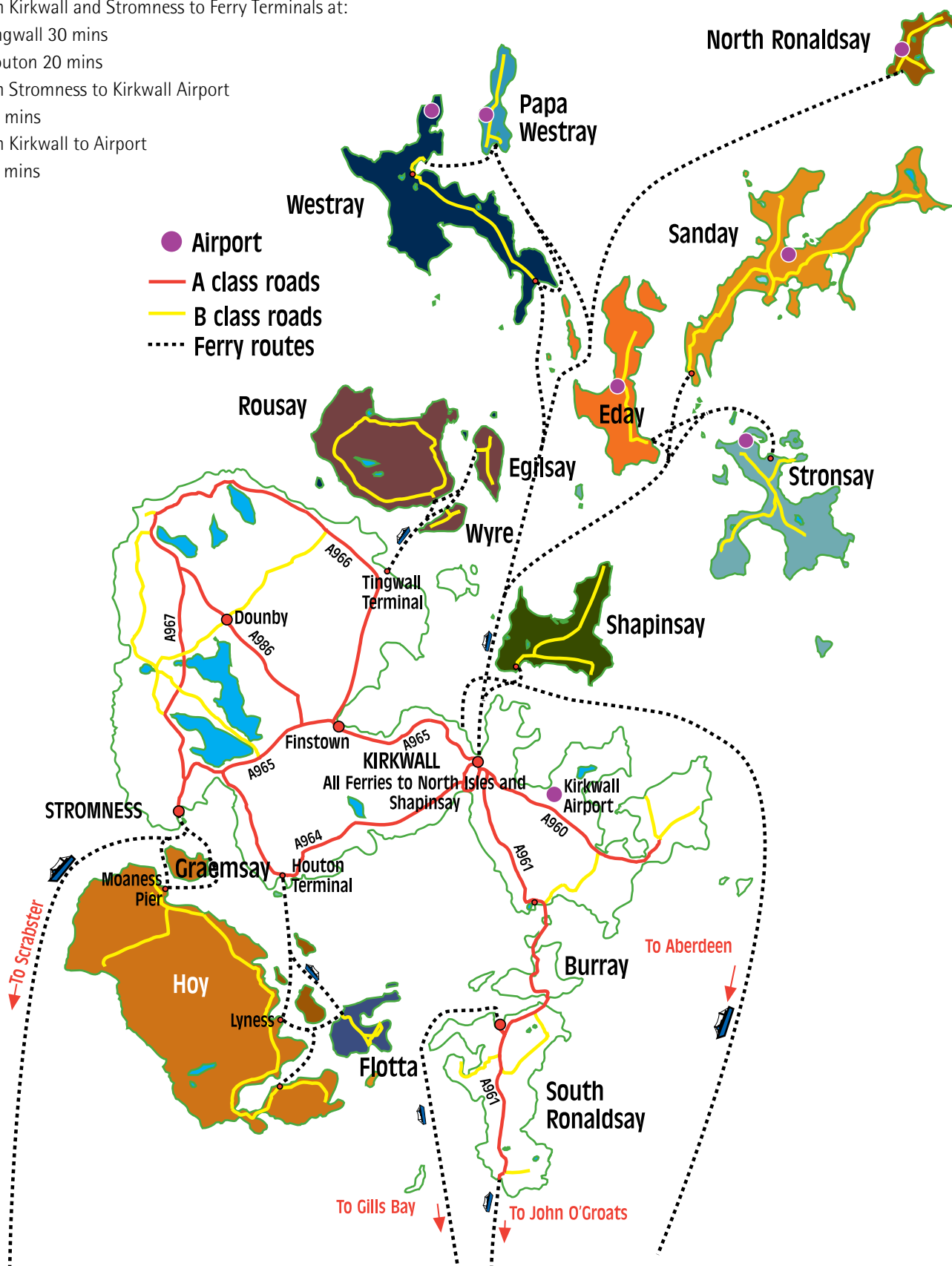
- Tingwall 30 mins
- Houton 20 mins

From Stromness to Kirkwall Airport

- 40 mins

From Kirkwall to Airport

- 10 mins





looking towards evie and eynhallow from the knowe of yarso on rousay - drew kennedy

# Contents

Out among the isles ..... 2-5



At catching fish I am so speedy  
A big black scarfie from **EDAY** ..... 6-9



If you want something with real good looks  
You can't go wrong with **FLOTTA** fleuks..... 10-13



There's not quite such a wondrous thing  
as a beautiful young **GRAEMSAY** gosling ..... 14-17



To take the head off all their big talk  
Just pay attention to the wise **HOY** hawk ..... 14-17



All stand to the side and reveal  
From far **NORTH RONALDSAY** a seal ..... 18-21



When feeling low or down in the dumps  
Just bake some **EGILSAY** burstin lumps ..... 22-25



You can say what you like, I don't care  
For I'm a beautiful **ROUSAY** mare ..... 22-25



I can always set the world on fire  
Because I'm the greatest, a whelk from **WYRE** ..... 22-25



I like my porridge fine and dandy  
For I'm a gruellie belkie from **SANDAY** ..... 26-29



Do not listen to that crusty creep  
But hark to the voice of the **SHAPINSAY** sheep.... 30-33



If you want something to stick all day  
Get yourself a limpet from fair **STRONSAY** ..... 34-37



What's the finest bird in any flock?  
Have you heard of a **WESTRAY** Aak?..... 38-41



Though you look for a month of Sundays  
You'll find naught like **PAPA WESTRAY** dundies ... 42-45

Westray Bus Service, Package Tours and  
Orkney Ferries General Conditions and Notes ..... 46-49



will be happy to assist you find the most economic travel arrangements:

[www.visitscotland.com/orkney](http://www.visitscotland.com/orkney)



## The Countryside Code

- Please
- close all gates you open. Use stiles when 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](mailto:scapa@barrheadtravel.com)

[www.scapatravel.co.uk](http://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

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.*



swans - charles tait

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



# isles

rackwick, hoy - a favourite weekend break destination for orkadians - drew kennedy

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); Auks (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



butterfly at moorfea - charles tait





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



puffins - drew kennedy

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.



gannets - charles tait





sanderlings in flight - charles tait



guillimots at marwick - charles tait



orcas - charles tait



primula scotica - charles tait



# Eday

## ... 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 croft threshing mill.
- 5 Vinguoy 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 Calfsound:** 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).



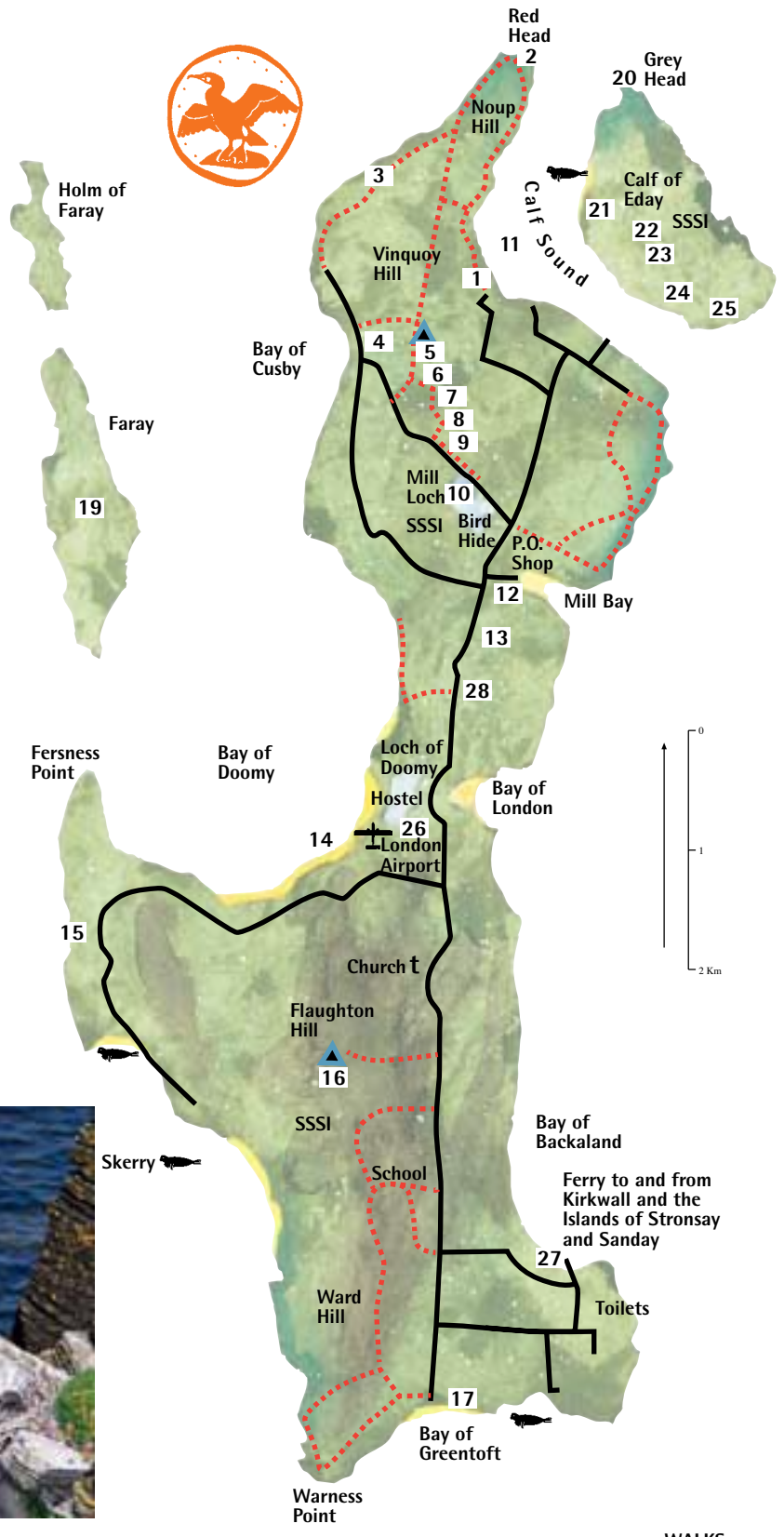


calfsound, eday- charles tait

- 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**



nesting 'skarfiens' - drew kennedy





stone of setter - charles tait

### 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 Caldale. 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 Scotrenewables' 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 (★★★SC) - Dr W.J. Cormack. t: 02089 415291. [www.sties.co.uk](http://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 Cant, t: 01857 622303

**Groatha**, B & B, evening meal, packed lunches. Mrs E. Hewison, t: 01857 622338.

#### 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](mailto:theruah@btinternet.com) [www.orkneyfarm.co.uk](http://www.orkneyfarm.co.uk)

**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](mailto:willowstreameday@btinternet.com)

**Fersness Cottage**, cosy, 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

**Swenstay 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](mailto:edayranger@hotmail.com) or visit: [www.facebook.com/edayscarfs](http://www.facebook.com/edayscarfs)

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

**Post Office**: t: 01857 622339

**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](http://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 archives. Situated close to Eday shop. Open most days. Entry is free of charge. M llett 01857 622225.

## Walks on Eday

**Warness 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: 6222206/07526 735350.

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

## 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)

## 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 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep	0900A		0740B	0700B	0700B		0700B
<b>Sanday</b>	arr			0905				
<b>Sanday</b>	dep			0915B				
<b>Eday</b>	arr							0815
<b>Eday</b>	dep							0830B
<b>Stronsay</b>	arr				0835	0835		0905
<b>Stronsay</b>	dep		0815A		0850B	0850B	0730B	0920B
<b>Eday</b>	arr	1015	0850	0935	0925	0925	0805	
<b>Eday</b>	dep	1025A	0905A	0945B	0940B	0940B	0820B	
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr		1020	1100	1055	1055	0935	1055

<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep		1035		1010		1010	
<b>Sanday</b>	arr	1045	1200					
<b>Sanday</b>	dep	1720A	1210					
<b>Eday</b>	arr	1740	1230		1125		1125	
<b>Eday</b>	dep	1750A	1240		1135		1135	
<b>Sanday</b>	arr				1155		1155	
<b>Sanday</b>	dep				1205		1205	
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr	1905	1355		1330		1330	

<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep	1915A	1600	1700	1600	1600	1600	1600A
<b>Eday</b>	arr	2030	1715	1815	1715	1715	1715	
<b>Eday</b>	dep	2035A	1730	1825	1730	1730	1730	
<b>Stronsay</b>	arr		1805		1805	1805	1805	1735
<b>Stronsay</b>	dep		1815		1815		1815	1745A
<b>Eday</b>	arr							1820
<b>Eday</b>	dep							1835A
<b>Sanday</b>	arr	2055		1845				
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr		1950		1950		1950	1950

**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 one hour before the departure from Kirkwall.

#### NOTES:

- 1) Vehicle check in times: **20 minutes** before departure. Passenger check in times: **10 minutes** before departure.
- 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 Ferry Services Offices

#### MONDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735A	0807A	0812A	0823A

#### WEDNESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0806	0811	0822

1445A	1456A	1501A	1512A
1730B	1741B	1746B	1818B

# Flotta

## ... Key to Scapa Flow

*The island of Flotta took a pounding during World War II air raids on Scapa Flow because, when the ground and ship-based defences put up an incredible curtain of metal, the Germans turned for home dumping their cargo of bombs on the nearest island.*

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.



## 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 Golta.*
- 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 Golta 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 Cletts:** 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 ghoups 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 linksman 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.



gun emplacement - charles tait

## 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 Sarraqooy 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.*



flotta - charles tait



## 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.

**Doctor:** Stromness Surgery.

**Island Nurse:** 01856 701769.

## By Road



# Stagecoach

Correct at time of going to print

### Kirkwall to Houton (Hoy & Flotta)

#### MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

	Kirkwall Depart	Houton Arrive	Houton Depart	Kirkwall Arrive
FC	0735	0755	0800	0845
FC	0920	0940	0945	1005
FC (Fsch)	1235	1310	1315	1335
FC (NF)	1250	1310	1315	1335
FC	1435	1455	1505	1525
NF Sch	1515	1555	1555	1615
F & Nsch	1530	1550	1555	1615
FC	1710	1730	1735	1800

#### SATURDAYS

	Kirkwall Depart	Houton Arrive	Houton Depart	Kirkwall Arrive
FC	0915	0935	0935	0955
FC	1350	1410	1410	1430
FC (Fsch)	1545	1605	1605	1625

FC This service will wait up to 15 minutes for a ferry connection, and from the terminal may run up to 15 minutes later through every timing point for the remainder of the journey.

FSch During School Term  
NF Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday only  
Sch School days  
NSch School holidays

t: Kirkwall (01856) 870555  
[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)

## 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](mailto:info@orkneyferries.co.uk)



		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
								1	2	3
<b>Longhope</b>	dep	0625	0625	0625	0625	0625	0800	0830	0730	0830
<b>Lyness</b>	dep		0650	0650	0650					
<b>Flotta</b>	dep	0650	0710	0710	0710	0650	0830		0755B	
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	0710				0710	0900	0900	0815	0900
<b>Houton</b>	arr	0745	0745	0745	0745	0745	0935	0935	0850	0935
<b>Houton</b>	dep	0800	0800	0800	0800	0800	0950	0945	0900	0945
<b>Lyness</b>	arr							1020		1020
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	0845				0845	1030		0945	
<b>Flotta</b>	dep	0910	0845	0845	0845	0910	1055			
<b>Lyness</b>	dep		0910	0910	0910					
<b>Houton</b>	arr	0945	0945	0945	0945	0945			1020	
<b>Houton</b>	dep	1015	1000	1015	1000	1015			1030	
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	1100	1040	1100	1040	1100			1105	
<b>Flotta</b>	arr								1125	
<b>Flotta</b>	dep								1150	
<b>Houton</b>	arr	1135	1110	1135	1110	1135	1130			
<b>Houton</b>	dep	1145	1120	1145	1120	1145				
<b>Flotta</b>	dep		1200		1200					
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	1230	1230	1230	1230	1230			1500	
<b>Houton</b>	arr	1305	1305	1305	1305	1305			1535	
<b>Houton</b>	dep	1315	1315	1315	1315	1315	1415		1545	
<b>Flotta</b>	dep					1400				
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	1400	1400	1400	1400	1425			1630	
<b>Flotta</b>	dep	1425	1425	1425	1425		1500			
<b>Houton</b>	arr	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500			1705	
<b>Houton</b>	dep	1515	1515	1515	1515	1515			1715	
<b>Flotta</b>	dep	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600			1750	
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	1640	1640	1640	1640	1640	1530	1600	1815	1600
<b>Houton</b>	arr	1715	1715	1715	1715	1715	1605	1635	1850	1635
<b>Houton</b>	dep	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730	1615	1650	1900	1650
<b>Lyness</b>	dep	1810	1810	1810	1810	1810	1700	1730	1935	1730
<b>Flotta</b>	dep	1830A	1830A	1830A	1830A	1830A	1720A			
<b>Longhope</b>	arr	1850	1850	1850	1850	1850	1740	1750	1955	1750

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 28/09/14

**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:

- All vehicle bookings must be made through the Company's Houton Office. **TELEPHONE: (01856) 811397, FAX: (01856) 811701.**
- Vehicles **MUST** be available for boarding **fifteen minutes** before departure times, and passengers **five minutes** before departure.
- 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.
- 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 Rysa 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.



the 'dwarfie stane' on the road rackwick - drew kennedy

## Points of interest

- 1 The Dwarfie Stone:** Only rock-cut tomb in Britain; according to Sir Walter Scott it was the residence of the 'Troll', 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 Ward 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](http://www.hoyheritage.co.uk). The pulpit has wooden panels believed to be from the Spanish Armada.
- 10 Arctic Convoys Memorial, Lyness:** To commemorate all who served in the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk and Arkangel in Russia.
- 11 Betty Corrigan'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.
- 12 Scad Head Viewpoint:** A bench by Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership overlooks a wonderful panorama of Scapa Flow and the Orkney Mainland.





west face of hoy - drew kennedy

**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 Pumphouse 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.

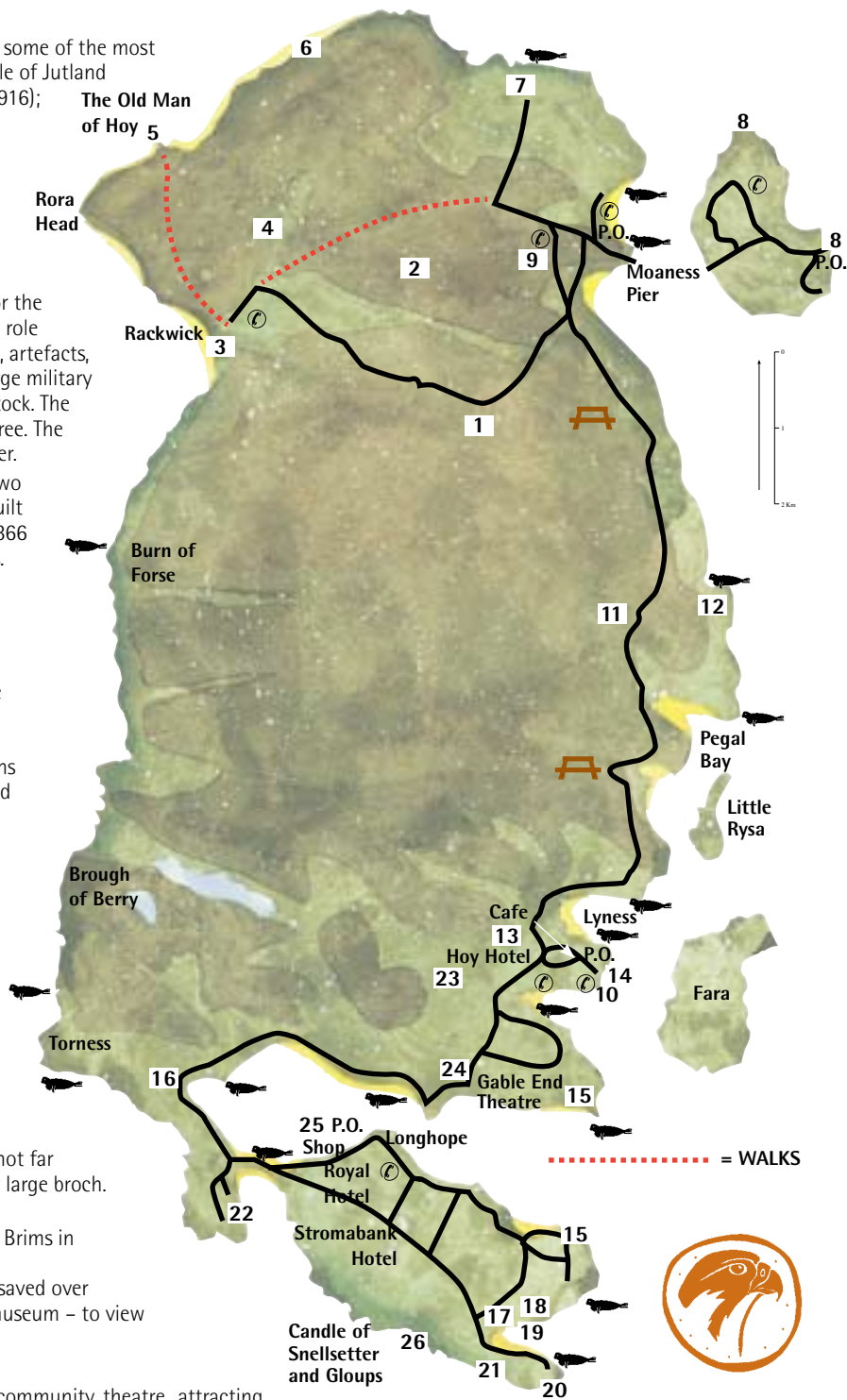
**22 Longhope Lifeboat Station Museum:** Situated at Brims in South Walls, Longhope Lifeboat station opened in 1834 and has saved over 500 lives. Boat shed is now being converted into a museum – to view T. 701332. Lifeboat is now afloat at Longhope pier.

**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.orkneycommunities.co.uk/IOHDT](http://www.orkneycommunities.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](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.



..... = WALKS

## 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 States.



martello tower, longhope, drew kennedy

## 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 navy 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 (★★★★SC)** - self-catering house, sleeps 8. Mrs Lorraine Buchan. t: 01856 771231. e: info@cliffgate.co.uk www.cliffgate.co.uk

#### HOSTELS

**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

**Rackwick Outdoor Centre (★★★Hostel)** - hostel. Sleeps 8. Family & exclusive rooms available. t: 01856 873535 ext 2416 e: leisure.culture@orkney.gov.uk http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/campsites-and-hostels\_2.htm

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.

**Stromabank 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.stromabank.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@accommodationinorkney.co.uk www.accommodationinorkney.co.uk

**Royal Hotel**, Longhope B & B, Mr A. White, traditional bar, fine views overlooking Longhope Pier and Scapa Flow. t: 01856 701276, e: walex76@btinternet.com

**Pools, Longhope** - Mrs K. Kirkpatrick. Self-catering cottage, sleeps 6. Short lets available, min. 3 nights, open all year. 01856 701211. e: karen@hoy-selfcatering.co.uk www.hoy-selfcatering.co.uk

**Snelsetter 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@snelsettercottagehoy.co.uk

**Burnhouse Cottage, Hoy** - sleeps 5. New extension 2012, room with a view! Hazel Mackay, Melfea, Cannigall Rd, St Ola, Orkney. t: 01856 870058. m: 07762689225. e: hazel.melfea@btinternet.com www.flickr.com/photos/100833914@N05/

**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 Hiscoke, 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.seaviewcottagehoy.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. Scatter. 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 Linksness**, self-catering - Mrs F. Matheson, t: 01856 851116. e: fioneil@fioneil.force9.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 Rackwick. Open all year. Liz Dennison. t: 01856 771201 e: rehaurie@btinternet.com

## Transport

**Bu Farm - Minibus and Taxi**. Mr T. Thomson. t: 01856 791263.

**Taxi & island tours** by local Orcadian. Pick-up by arrangement from Moaness & Lyness. Hills of Hoy, Lyness - Island Tours 7 & 8 seat minibuses: 24 seat coach with PSV driver and Taxi Service. Mr W. Hill. t: 01856 791240.

**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, Tours of South Walls Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays. Booking advisable. Please phone before 7pm 01856 701266 (mobile 07914 745142).

## 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@accommodationinorkney.co.uk www.accommodationinorkney.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. f: 01856 701251



**Benethill Café**, Moaness Hoy, Open daily 10 till 6.30pm 7 days a week, April to October. Licensed and specialising in local food. A short walk from Moaness Pier. t: 01856 791119 e: admin@benethillcafe.co.uk

**Stromabank 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.F. Groat's shop. t: 01856 701273/701251.

**Hoy Post Office**. t: 01856 791261.

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

### Other Services

**Doctor** - Hoy and Walls Surgery, Health Centre, Longhope. t: 01856 701209.

**Nurse** - Community Nurse. Contact Health Centre. t: 01856 701224.

**Healthy Living Centre**. t: 01856 791085.

**Development Trust**. www.hoyorkney.com

### Leisure & Recreation

**Hills of Hoy, Lyness** - Island Tours 7&8 seat minibuses. t: 01856 791240.

**Hoy Tours with Albert** and visit places of interest, Dwarfie Stane, Martello Tower, Rackwick, etc. Enquiries to Albert Clark. t: 01856 791315. e: 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 70131, 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 791176, e: southislesranger@gmail.com.

**RSPB Ranger**, guided walks on the RSPB reserve with the warden every week in the summer months. t: 01856 850176. e. orkney@rspb.org.uk

**North Walls Centre** - swimming pool and various sports activities. Mrs M. Groat. t: 01856 701226; Miss S. Firth 01856 701800 (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 published on <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/IOHDT>

### Churches

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



hoy high lighthouse, graemsay - charles 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.

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.

## By Sea

### 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).



		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>Stromness</b>	dep	0745	0745	0745	0745	0745	0930	0930
<b>Hoy</b>	dep	0810	0810	0810	0810	0810	1000	1000
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep	0825	0825	0825	0825	0825	1015	1015
<b>Stromness</b>	dep	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000		
<b>Hoy</b>	dep	1030	1030	1030	1030	1030		
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep	1045	1045	1045	1045	1045		
<b>Stromness</b>	dep		1200A	1200A		1200A		
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep		1230A	1230A		1230A		
<b>Hoy</b>	dep		1240A	1240A		1240A		
<b>Stromness</b>	dep	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600		
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep	1615	1615	1615	1615	1615		
<b>Hoy</b>	dep	1630	1630	1630	1630	1630		
<b>Stromness</b>	dep	1745	1745	1745	1745	1745	1800	1800
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep	1800	1800	1800	1800	1800	1815	1815
<b>Hoy</b>	dep	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1830	1830
<b>Stromness</b>	dep					2130		
<b>Graemsay</b>	dep					2145		
<b>Hoy</b>	dep					2200		

**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 cargo must be booked before 1700hrs (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.

# 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.



old beacon - charles tait

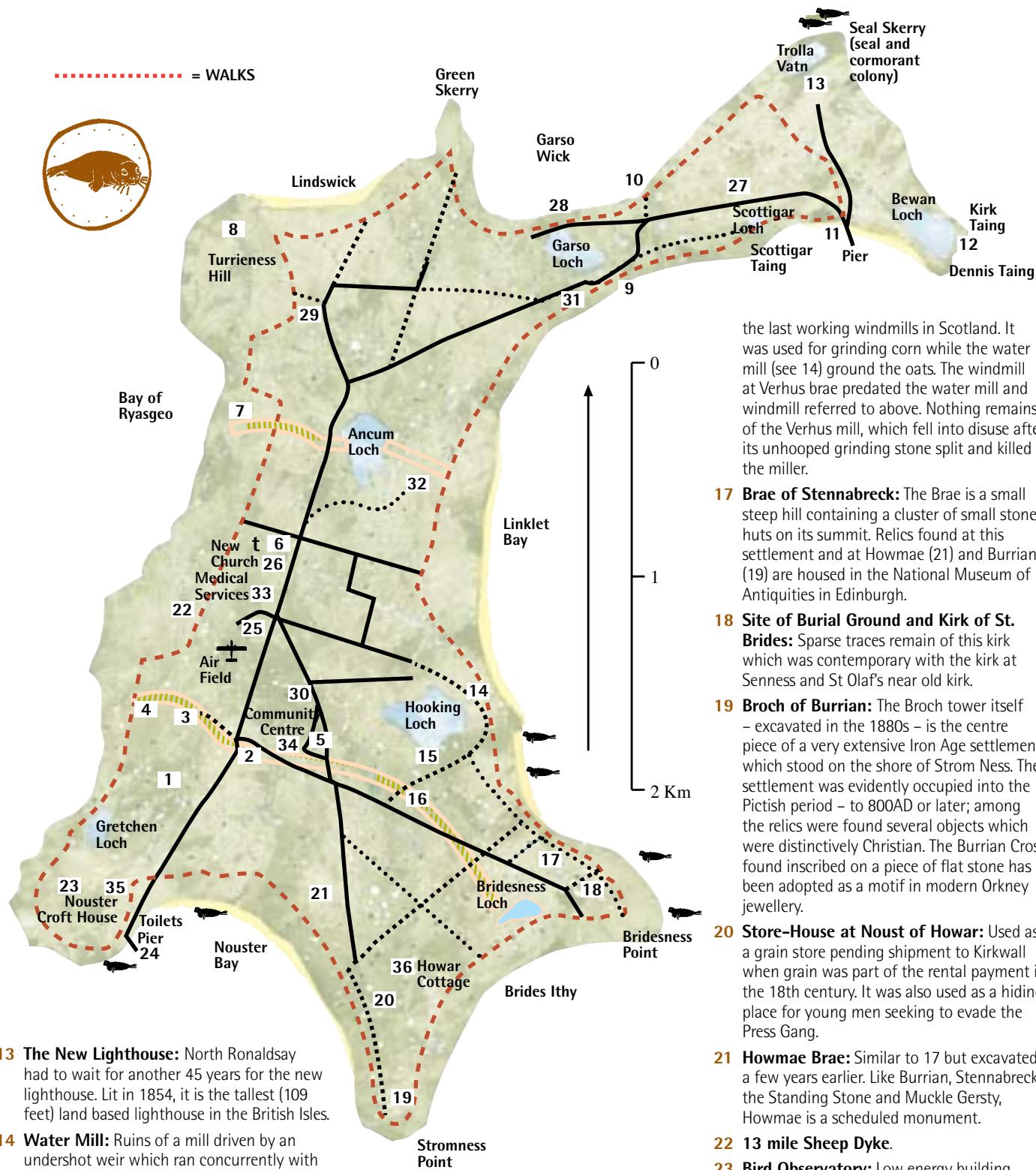
## Points of interest

- 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.





old beakon at Kirk Taing - charles tait



- 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 Trail, 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 Sennes 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 Gersty, 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 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, (★★★Guest House)** - 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](mailto:alison@nrbo.prestel.co.uk), [www.nrbo.co.uk](http://www.nrbo.co.uk)

### HOSTEL

**23 - Hostel and Camping (★★★★Hostel)** - annex to the Bird Observatory with self-catering kitchen, etc. Ten bed spaces in three dormitories. Adjacent camping ground. Contact details as for Observatory Guest House above.

### SELF CATERING

**35 - Nouster Crofthouse (★★★★SC)**. Overlooking Nouster Bay with its seals and seaweed-eating sheep. J. Morris. t: 01857 633253, [howar.cottage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:howar.cottage@hotmail.co.uk), [www.howar.co.uk](http://www.howar.co.uk)

**36 - Howar Cottage (★★★SC)**. Overlooking Nouster Bay. Alpacas and 5 ancient breeds of sheep. J. Morris. t: 01857 633253, [howar.cottage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:howar.cottage@hotmail.co.uk), [www.howar.co.uk](http://www.howar.co.uk)

**13 - Lighthouse Keepers Cottages (★★★★SC)**. Two recently refurbished self catering Lighthouse Keepers Cottages at the New

Lighthouse. Reservations available throughout the year. Contact either National Trust of Scotland on [www.ntsholidays.com](http://www.ntsholidays.com) or North Ronaldsay Trust on 01857 633257

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.

**27 - Dennishill**, Self-catering. Renovated crofthouse, fully equipped. Ideal for a quiet stress free holiday. Weekend lets available. Free cycles provided. Jennifer Smith, t: 01856 874486. e: [island-cottage@hotmail.com](mailto:island-cottage@hotmail.com), [www.island-cottage.co.uk](http://www.island-cottage.co.uk)

**28 - Garso Guest House**, T & C. Muir, B & B, lunch and dinner. t: - 01857 633244. e: [muir886@btinternet.com](mailto:muir886@btinternet.com)

**29 - Brigg Self-catering**, fully equipped cottage. Mrs Muir, t: 01857 633244

**30 - The Doll's House**, Roadside, Self-catering and B & B and evening meals. S. Mawson t: 01857 633221

**31 - Quoybanks**, Self-catering Croft or B & B, fully equipped 3 bedrooms, evening meals supplied. S. Mawson t: 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. & C. Muir. t: 01857 633244

**28 - Calor Gas**, Garso No. 1- Mr T. Muir. t: 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. t: 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 07703112224. On the same basis, tours are organised for the Yarn Company's workshops (13) where fleeces from the unique, native sheep are spun into yarn. Local crafts on sale and refreshments available in cafe. Contact Mr W. T. Muir. t: 01857 633257. e: [wtmuir@yahoo.com](mailto:wtmuir@yahoo.com) Credit card facilities available. View webcam on [nl.org.uk](http://nl.org.uk)

**23 - Bird Observatory** - bird tours by arrangement.

## Crafts

**30 - Roadside**. Knitted, handmade garments and jewellery. S. Mawson. t: 01857 633221.

**32 - A Yarn from North Ronaldsay Ltd.** Local knitwear and yarn spun from the unique North Ronaldsay sheep available on the island. Contact Mrs J. Donnelly. t: 01857 633242 or visit website [www.northronaldsayyarn.co.uk](http://www.northronaldsayyarn.co.uk)

## Other Services

**33 - Medical Services** - Linklet House. t: 01857 633226.

**34 - Bank** - Monthly, please inquire at Post Office.





north ronaldsay sheep - kerry scott

30 - Post Office - Roadside. t: 01857 633221.

34 - Community Centre - contact K. Scott t: 01857 633236 or A. Duncan t: 01857 633333.

### Further Reading

*A Window on North Ronaldsay*, by P.A. Tulloch. Island Saga, by M. Scott.

*Orkney Days*, by C. Muir.

*The Way We Were*, by J. Cutt and *Life of an Island G.P.* by R. Ditchburn.

## By Air



**LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457**

### MONDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0753	0758	0823
1050	1108	1113	1144
1730	1748	1753	1811

### TUESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0753	0758	0816
1030	1101	1106	1124
1730	1748	1753	1811

### WEDNESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0753	0758	0822
1335	1354	1359	1430
1730A	1748A	1753A	1811A
1730B	1755B	1800B	1818B

### THURSDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0753	0758	0816
1420	1438	1443	1514
1730	1748	1753	1811

### FRIDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0735	0753	0758	0816
1420	1451	1456	1514
1730	1748	1753	1811

### SATURDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1030	1048	1053	1111
1420	1438	1443	1501
1600	1618	1623	1704

### SUNDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1030	1101	1106	1124
1730	1748	1753	1827

**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)

## 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.

Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: [info@orkneyferries.co.uk](mailto: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.

### Tuesday Sailings

Kirkwall		North Ronaldsay		Papa Westray		Kirkwall	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
1030	1310	1340	1455	1525	1715		

However on the following dates: 20 May, 3 June, 10 June, 1 July, 8 July, 22 July and 19 August 2014 it will be replaced by:

Kirkwall		Papa Westray		North Ronaldsay		Kirkwall	
Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
1030	1220	1250	1405	1435	1715		

### Friday Sailings

	Kirkwall		North Ronaldsay		Kirkwall	
	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
09 May 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
16 May 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
23 May 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
30 May 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
06 June 2014	0700	0940	1010	1250		
13 June 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
20 June 2014	0900	1140	1210	1450		
27 June 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
04 July 2014	0800	1040	1110	1450		
11 July 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
18 July 2014	0900	1140	1210	1450		
25 July 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
02 August 2014 (Sat)**	0900	1140	1210	1450		
08 August 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
15 August 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
22 August 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
29 August 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
05 September 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
12 September 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
19 September 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		
26 September 2014	0800	1040	1110	1350		

\*\* 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 travel 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.

For full fares please enquire at Ferry Services Offices

**North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory:** Wind and solar powered buildings. Lunches, teas, evening meals, lounge bar and beer terrace, information; Visitors welcome. **Roadside Tearoom:** Teas, Snacks. Visitors Welcome. **Lighthouse Café:** Orkney's most northern licensed premises, offering fresh food daily. Visitors Welcome.

# 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.

crowd gathers for the rousay regatta - drew kennedy



## 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.
- 7 Westness House:** Historic laird's house (17th century). Private house, not open to the public.
- 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.



# Wyre

north of rousay looking towards faraclett head - drew kennedy



- ..... = WALKS
- 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 Gairsty:** A rare example of the ancient earth dykes found across the islands.
  - 14 Leean 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 Kinglarly 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.
- 26 The Bu:** Home for a time of Edwin Muir, recognised as one of the great Scottish writers of the 20th century.

## EYNHALLOW

- 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 the only 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 of the modernisation of his Westness estate. Traill was succeeded by his nephew General Sir Frederick Willaim 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 but many more lie on privately owned land and permission for access should first be sought from the landowner.

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 raid around 750AD. It is now in the National Museum in Edinburgh but silver replicas can be bought in the craft and jewellery shops.

Faraclett Head Walk is an exciting new route covering several different habitats and early settlements.

## 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.

**The Taversoe (★★★Inn)** - Rural Inn with on-site restaurant and public bar. Offering two double rooms with panoramic sea views and one en-suite twin room. Private residents lounge with TV, DVD, books and games. On-island courtesy bus available to residential guests. t: 01856 821325, e: taversoe@hotmail.com

**Trumland Farm hostel, (★★★Hostel)** 2 dorms, sleeping 11, single and family room available, camp site. Bike hire available. Carol Rae. t: 01856 821252. e: trumland@btopenworld.com

**Trumland Farm (★★★Self Catering)**, Trumland Farm has 3 fully equipped self-catering units (all graded at three star) in renovated farm buildings, two with patios with south-west sea views. The Wyre (1 king, 1 sofa bed); The Rousay (2 doubles, 1 sofa bed, spa bath); The Egilsay (small studio with 1 sofa bed). Daily and weekend rates also available. Seasonal farm produce may be available. Courtesy transport to and from pier. Bikes for hire. Contact Carol Rae. t: 01856 821252. e: trumland@btopenworld.com

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.

**Faraclett Cottage**, Rousay, small, snug and well-equipped. Spectacular views. 1 Double, can provide cot/put-u-up. 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 Wyre, Gairsay and the Orkney mainland. Cedarlee has a spacious open-plan sittingroom (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](http://www.cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk) or contact Alison Mainland e: [alison@cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk](mailto:alison@cedarleeselfcatering.co.uk), t: 01856 821243.

### Other Services

### The Taversoe Inn, Bar and Restaurant

The Taversoe is ideally situated on the south side of Rousay with accessible lochs and cairns either side of it. At The Taversoe we have an established restaurant offering a selection of good home-cooked meals with vegetarian and speciality diet options available. Our dining room overlooks the rear garden and provides unparalleled sea views. The public bar boasts an extensive selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. We have three 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](mailto: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: [patrick\\_maguire@hotmail.com](mailto:patrick_maguire@hotmail.com) or [www.rousaytours.co.uk](http://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 whenever 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 821359, [www.pierrestaurantorkney.com](http://www.pierrestaurantorkney.com)

**Rousay Heritage Centre**. t: 01856 821374 or 01856 821359.

**Marion's Shop & Filling Station**, Marion's shop is a Fair-Trade shop with a wide range of local food 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/f: 01856 821365 e: [marion365rousay@gmail.com](mailto:marion365rousay@gmail.com)

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

Brinian, **Doctor**. t: 01856 821265

**VisitRousay** (Rousay Tourist Association). Information on facilities and services on Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre, go to [www.visitrousay.co.uk](http://www.visitrousay.co.uk), t: 01856 821234, m: 07786 169364.

**AroundRousay.co.uk** - A local website, featuring a *What's On* calendar of events and all of the essential information for your visit to this magical island. t/f: 01856 821360. e: [info@aroundrousay.co.uk](mailto:info@aroundrousay.co.uk) w: [www.aroundrousay.co.uk](http://www.aroundrousay.co.uk)

**Discover Rousay** and be inspired. Discover ancient tombs, rare birds and other wildlife, the rare *Primula Scotica*, 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 [DiscoverRousay.co.uk](http://DiscoverRousay.co.uk)

**RAFT Services** - taxis and minibus hires around the Island of Rousay. Discounts for large groups. t: 01856 821360 m: 07746 838761. [www.aroundrousay.co.uk/taxi](http://www.aroundrousay.co.uk/taxi) e: [taxi@aroundrousay.co.uk](mailto:taxi@aroundrousay.co.uk)

**Healthy Living Centre**. t: 01856 821443

**Egilsay** - Egilsay Community Association extends a warm welcome to visitors and will provide access to the community facilities and light refreshments on request. Visiting groups can also arrange to hire the community hall and facilities. Contact: t: (01856) 821301 or 821238 or e: [egilsayinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:egilsayinfo@yahoo.com) or [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/EGILSAY](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/EGILSAY)

**Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust**

The Development Trust has a free Wi-Fi Centre in Egilsay Community Centre, Wyre Heritage Centre, Rousay Community School and the Trust's offices at The Manse. For opening times, please call 01856 821229, e: [helen@redwt.org.uk](mailto:helen@redwt.org.uk) or information can be found on our website [www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/REWDEVTRUST](http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/REWDEVTRUST).

**The Crafhub CIC**. 2 minutes from the Rousay Pier. Open 11-5.30, 7 days-a-week during the summer. t: 01856 821455, [www.crafhuborkney.co.uk](http://www.crafhuborkney.co.uk). Check website for winter opening times and online shop.





midhowe broch on the west coast of rousay - drew kennedy

## 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 e: patrick\_maguire@hotmail.co.uk or www.rousaytours.co.uk

Tour Prices: Adult £30.00 - Children £10.00 (does not include ferry fare).

Picnics Lunches. Gourmet: £8.00 - Standard: £6.00. (Please check the bus timetable as a bus leaves Kirkwall Travel Centre at approx. 09:35 going to Newton Road End, then drops down to the Tingwall Ferry Terminal on its way back arriving at approx. 10:26 allowing passengers to catch the 10:40 ferry from Tingwall to Rousay).

## By Road



Stagecoach

Correct at time of going to print

### Kirkwall to Tingwall (Ferry)

#### MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS

Kirkwall KTC Depart	Tingwall (Ferry) Arrive	Tingwall (Ferry) Depart	Kirkwall KTC Arrive
0745	0807	0809	0831
—	—	1026	1048
1335	1357	1441	1503
1520	1547	1610	1632
1710	1732	1820	1842

#### SATURDAYS

Kirkwall KTC Depart	Tingwall (Ferry) Arrive	Tingwall (Ferry) Depart	Kirkwall KTC Arrive
—	—	0810	0834
—	—	1028	1050
1335	1357	1443	1505
1710	1732	1812	1834

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

## 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

		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rousay	dep		0650	0650	0650	0650	0650	0650
Egilsay	dep		0710	0710A	0710A	0710A	0710A	0710A
Wyre	dep		0730	0730A	0730A	0730A	0730A	0730A
Rousay	dep		0745	0745	0745	0745	0745	0745
Tingwall	dep		0820	0820	0820	0820	0820	0840
Rousay	dep		0850	0850	0850	0850	0850	
Wyre	dep		0900	0900	0900	0900	0900	
Rousay	dep	0915	0910	0910	0910	0910	0910	0910
Egilsay	dep	0935B	0930	0930	0930	0930	0930	0930A
Wyre	dep	0955B	0950	0950	0950	0950	0950	0950
Rousay	dep	1010	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005
Tingwall	dep	1045	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040
Rousay	dep	1120	1115	1115	1115	1115	1115	1115
Tingwall	dep	1155	1150	1150	1240	1150	1150	1150
Rousay	arr	1220	1215	1215	1305	1215	1215	1215
Rousay	dep	1315	1315	1315		1315	1315	1315
Egilsay	dep	1335B	1335A	1335A		1335A	1335A	1335A
Wyre	dep	1355B	1355A	1355A		1355A	1355A	1355A
Rousay	dep	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410
Tingwall	dep	1445	1445	1445	1445	1445	1445	1445
Rousay	dep	1520	1520	1520	1520	1520	1520	1520
Wyre	dep	1530	1530	1530	1530	1530	1530	1530
Tingwall	dep	1605	1605	1605	1605	1605	1605	1605
Rousay	dep	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	1635	
Egilsay	dep	1655B	1655	1655	1655	1655	1655	
Wyre	dep	1715B	1715	1715	1715	1715	1715	1715B
Rousay	dep	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730
Tingwall	dep	1805	1805	1805	1805	1805	1805	1805
Rousay	arr	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830	1830
Rousay	dep		1835B	1835B	1835B	1835B	1835B	1835B
Wyre	dep		1845B	1845B	1845B	1845B	1845B	1845B
Egilsay	dep		1905B	1905B	1905B	1905B	1905B	1905B
Rousay	arr		1920B	1920B	1920B	1920B	1920B	1920B

A = On request **TO and FROM** Egilsay and Wyre. Customers are requested to make advanced bookings by 1700 on the day before travel, except for travel on Monday which must be made by 0900 on Monday.

B = On request **TO and FROM** Egilsay and Wyre. Customers are requested to make advanced bookings by 1200 on the day of travel, except for travel on Saturday or Sunday which must be made by 1115 on Saturday.

In the event of an urgent need for "on request" sailings outside of the above please contact the Company's Tingwall Office during normal office hours.

#### 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

# Sanday

## ... 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 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.

Sanday 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.

### Archaeology

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 Elsness-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.



Doun Helzie

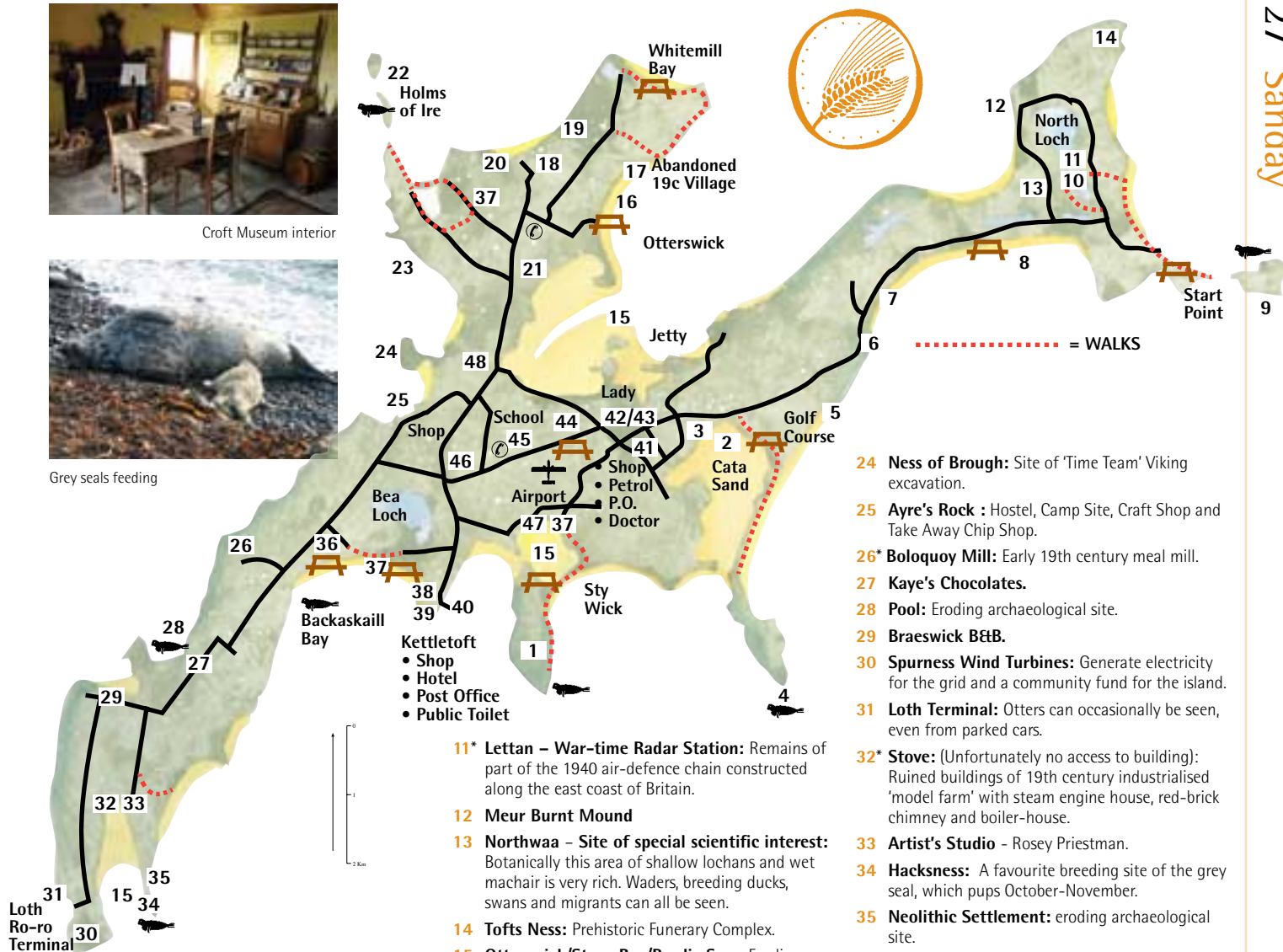




Croft Museum interior



Grey seals feeding



- 3 **Brickie Hut:** Disused control room for a wartime dummy airfield.
- 4 **Tresness – Wasso Broch and Chambered Tomb:** Part of the wall of the broch can be seen and at the end of the Ness lies an eroding chambered tomb.
- 5 **Sanday Golf Club:** 9 hole Golf Course.
- 6 **Kiln Barn –** self catering cottage.
- 7 **Newark-** eroding archaeological site.
- 8 **Bay of Lopness – Wreck of German Destroyer:** At low tide the remains of WW1 destroyer B98 which went ashore in 1919 can be seen; picnic site and information board.
- 9\* **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 1870 and subsequently painted with distinctive vertical black and white stripes.
- 10 **Artists Studio :** Nortwa Gallery -3 Lettan, Bill McArthur seascapes.

- 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 **Northwaa – 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 Funerary 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.
- 21 **Newquoy:** Newquoy Guest House, The Retreat Tea Et Coffee Shop and Newquoy Writers' Retreat, Gallery and Exhibition Centre.
- 22 **Holms of Ire – St Colm Chapel and Wreck:** On Inner Holm are the remains of a chapel while Outer Holm is where the steam trawler 'Alex Hastie' was wrecked in 1939.
- 23 **Rethie 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 **Braeswick 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 **Hacksness:** A favourite breeding site of the grey seal, which pups October-November.
  - 35 **Neolithic Settlement:** eroding archaeological site.
  - 36 **Backaskaill Farmhouse:** restaurant Et accommodation.
  - 37\* **Cross Kirkyard, Lady Kirkyard and Burness Kirkyard:** ruins at Cross date from the 16th century but probably stand on the site of a Viking settlement.
  - 38 **Kettletoft Hotel:** Lunches Et Teas.
  - 39 **Belsair Hotel:** Lunches and 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.** Heilsa Fjold – Drop-In Centre.
  - 46 **West Manse apiary:** Sanday honey available.
  - 47 **Artist's Studio:** Carolyn Dixon.
  - 48 **Quivals.** 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 Soulka ([www.sandaysoulka.org](http://www.sandaysoulka.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 the island's own monthly news-magazine 'The Sanday Sound' give details of such events, and the monthly 'What's On' calendar is also published on the website [www.sanday.co.uk](http://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. Graded in Visit Scotland'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@googlemail.com](mailto:allanpaul67@googlemail.com) & [www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.com](http://www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.com)

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

**Backaskail Farmhouse:** B & B and 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. Daily specials using local produce cooked by resident Chef. t: 01857-600305 Jane & Geoff. e: [janey4geoff@btinternet.com](mailto:janey4geoff@btinternet.com) [www.bedandbreakfastsandayorkney.com](http://www.bedandbreakfastsandayorkney.com)

**Kilbarn** 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 view our comprehensive website. [www.kilbarn.org](http://www.kilbarn.org) or phone Brendan on t: 07597 77172

**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](mailto:ladybank@btinternet.com)

**Scarrigar:** 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 for all. 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](http://www.newquoy.com)

**The Belsair Hotel, Kettletoft:** All rooms ensuite, free WiFi. Licenced premises, foods served all day with local produce where possible. Open to non residents, special dietary requirements can be catered for, as well as occasion cakes. t: 01857 600206. Claire and Matt Woodgate e: [info@thebelsair.co.uk](mailto:info@thebelsair.co.uk) [www.thebelsair.co.uk](http://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](http://www.kettletofthotel.com)

**Anchor Cottage, Lady Village:** Self Catering, sleeps 6. t: 01857 600296.

**Greystone:** Self Catering: 2-bedroom cottage, full weeks or short breaks: t: 01862 892209 e: [greystone-sanday.co.uk](mailto:greystone-sanday.co.uk)

**Quivals:** Self Catering - 3 bedroomed (2 double and one twin) Luxuriously refurbished house, centrally located. t: 01856 878477/07795 574116 e: [bookings@orkneyvillas.com](mailto:bookings@orkneyvillas.com) [www.orkneyvillas.com](http://www.orkneyvillas.com)

**Quoyayre:** Self Catering (everything included), sleeps 4/6. Jaqueline Seatter. t: 01857 600348 or e: [jqqlnstr@aol.com](mailto:jqqlnstr@aol.com)

**Springwell:** Cottage, sleeps 4, contact David & Bertha Work, t: 01856 873235, e: [enquiries@selfcateringorkney.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@selfcateringorkney.co.uk), [www.selfcateringorkney.co.uk](http://www.selfcateringorkney.co.uk)

**Park:** Self Catering Cottage, sleeps 3. Richard Corser, t: 01857 600403.

## Shops & Post Offices

**Ayres Rock Take-away:** (Chip shop Saturday 4-7pm & Pizzas Tues 4-7pm during summer) t: 01857 600410.

**Sinclair General Stores, Cross.** t: 01857 600312.

**Belsair Takeaway:** baguettes, fish & chips and burgers available 9 am - 9 pm. Tel 01857 600206.

**Newquoy, The Retreat Tea & Coffee Shop.** t: 01857 600284 Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 - 4 pm.

**Sanday Community Shop** (Lady Village). General store, petrol, other fuels, off-licence. t: 01857 600483.

**Sinclair Licenced Grocer, Kettletoft:** fresh & frozen food, off-licence. t: 01857 600455.

**Fresh vegetables** throughout the year; callers welcome. Rendall, Neigarth, t: 01857 600327.

**Sanday Post Office, Kettletoft** t: 01857 600206.

**Lady Post Office:** Cards, postcards. t: 01857 600367.

**Re-Use Centre, Kettletoft** (Community Enterprise Company) open Tues & Sat mornings.

## Local Crafts

**Orkney Angora craft shop,** Upper Breckan. t: 01857 600421. Email: [info@orkneyangora.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneyangora.co.uk) [www.orkneyangora.co.uk](http://www.orkneyangora.co.uk)

**Ayre's Rock Craft Shop:** selling mostly local crafts, Paul Allan t: 01857 600410. e: [allanpaul67@googlemail.com](mailto:allanpaul67@googlemail.com). [www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.com](http://www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.com)

**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](https://www.facebook.com/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 pharmaceutically treated. Sweet, tasty, natural honey available.

**Artist's Studio:** Nortwa Gallery 3 Lettan. Bill McArthur seascapes.

## Churches

**Cross Kirk,** Church of Scotland Sunday service 11.30 am.

**Roman Catholic Church, Saville** Sunday service 10.00 am.

## Recreation

**Ayres Rock:** Sanday Tours, for one to six people, half day or full day tours, lunch optional; Blow cart and kite, windsurfer, 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](http://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 Fjold, 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: [nearhouse@triscam.co.uk](mailto:nearhouse@triscam.co.uk), [www.sandayranger.org](http://www.sandayranger.org).

**Sanday Archaeology Group.** t. Cath Parker 01857-600443 e: [cparker23@fsmail.net](mailto:cparker23@fsmail.net)

**The Sanday Experience:** see box advertisement.



## Transport

**Taxi service, Cycle hire, Information Centre** at Ayre's Rock, Paul Allan t: 01857 600410. e: allanpaul67@googlemail.co.uk

**Garage** - Vehicle and machinery repairs, Andrew Rae. t: 01857 600366.

**Fuel** - Petrol and diesel available from Sinclair Licenced Grocer and Sanday Community Shop: Gas cylinders from Andrew Rae's garage.

**Bryan Willing Services**, Annabrake for all mechanical repairs. t: 01857 600365.

**Sanday Bus to and from the ferry Terminal:** see box advertisement below.

## Other Services

**Doctor** - t: 01857 600221

**Nurse** - t: 01857 600221

**Minister** - t: 01857 600429

**Airfield Hut** - t: 01857 600346

**Pier Master** - t: 01857 600227

**Sanday website:** www.sanday.co.uk

**Sanday Tourism & Business Group:** Jane Taylor, Backaskail Farmhouse e: allanpaul67@googlemail.com. www.ayres-rock-hostel-orkney.com

**Fitness Suite.** t: 01857 600795.

**Jo Walker: Sanday's Resident Hairdresser:** Precision cutting, colour specialist, 25 years experience in a city centre salon. Also Indian Head Massage, Appointments 9 - 5 pm in Community Room t 01857 600262 or 07754 149042.

**Sealcam** - From late Oct. 2014 for 4 weeks, a webcam will stream live action from two remote Grey Seal breeding beaches. Watch the newborns on www.sandayranger.org

## 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



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep	0900A		0740B		0740B		0740B
<b>Sanday</b>	arr			0905		0905		0905
<b>Sanday</b>	dep		0800A	0915B	0730B	0915B		0915B
<b>Eday</b>	arr	1015		0935				
<b>Eday</b>	dep	1025A		0945B				
<b>Sanday</b>	arr	1045						
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr		0925	1100	0855	1040		1040

<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep		1035		1010		1010	
<b>Eday</b>	arr				1125		1125	
<b>Eday</b>	dep				1135		1135	
<b>Sanday</b>	arr		1200		1155		1155	
<b>Sanday</b>	dep	1720A	1210		1205		1205	
<b>Eday</b>	arr	1740	1230					
<b>Eday</b>	dep	1750A	1240					
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr	1905	1355		1330		1330	

<b>Kirkwall</b>	dep	1915A	1640	1700	1640	1500	1640	1640A
<b>Eday</b>	arr	2030		1815				
<b>Eday</b>	dep	2035A		1825				
<b>Sanday</b>	arr	2055	1805	1845	1805	1625	1805	1805
<b>Sanday</b>	dep		1815		1815	1635	1815	1815A
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr		1940		1940	1800	1940	1940

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:

- 1) Vehicle check in times: **20 minutes** before departure. Passenger check in times: **10 minutes** before departure.
- 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 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

### 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.**

### SUNDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1730	1800	1805	1827

### 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 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, Laird Water and for the natural process near completion at the Ouse.



the smiddy, balfour village, shapinsay - drew kennedy

## 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.

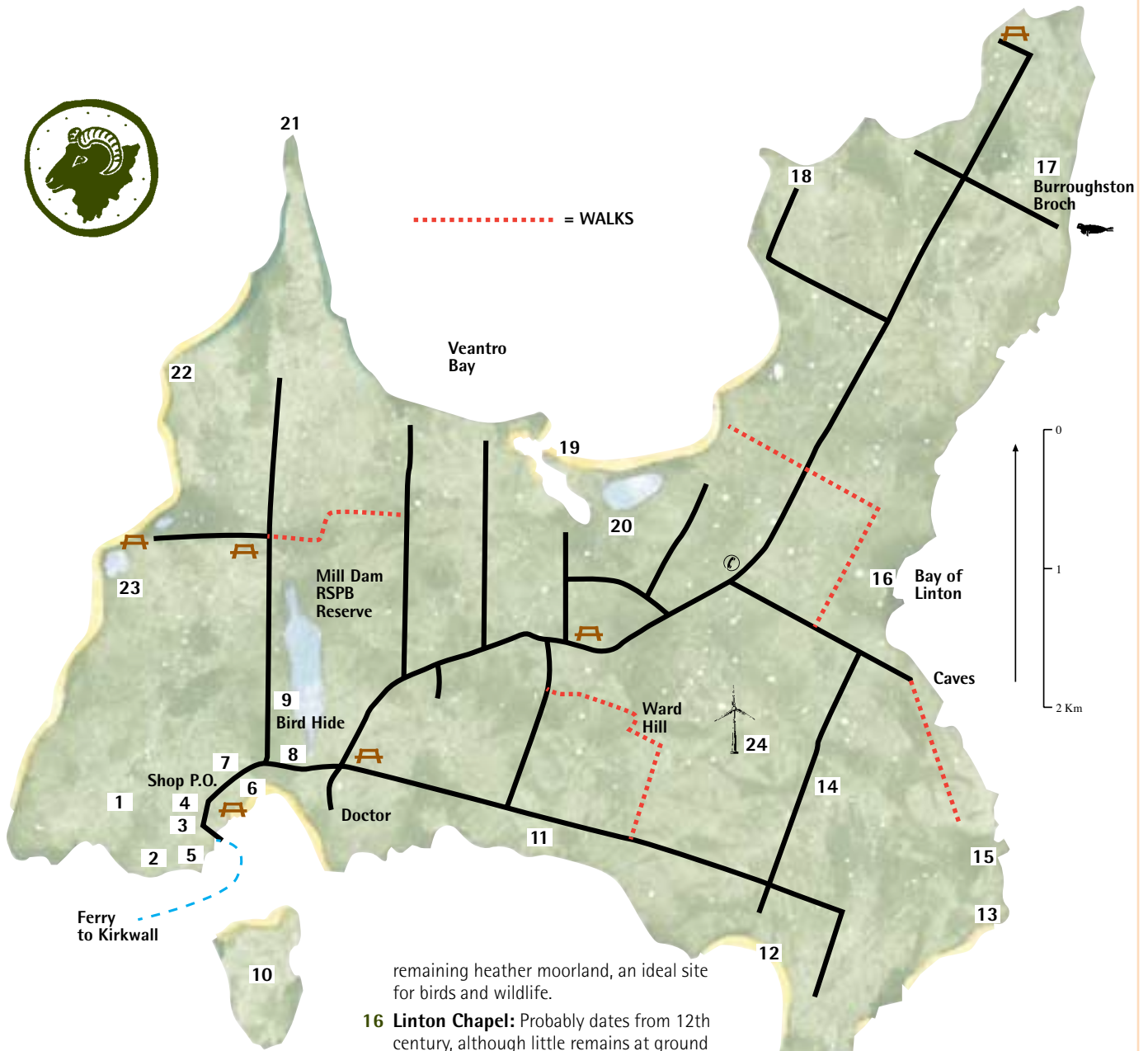
## Points of interest

- 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 doo'cot.
- 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.





shapinsay pier and village - drew kennedy



- 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.
- 18 Quholme:** Birthplace of American writer Washington Irving's father.
- 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 Laird 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, Laird 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.



seals near to burroughston broch - drew kennedy

## 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 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 t: 01856 711300 day or 301 evening. e: sheenasinclair@tiscali.co.uk www.holidayorkneysselfcatering.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 McKeown. t: 01856 711750, e: lesleymckeown@hotmail.com

### Leisure Activities

**Heritage Centre and Craft Shop**, The Smithy, Balfour Village. Open daily May - September.

**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.





shapinsay pier - drew kennedy

Fine porcelain including, Crystalline Ware, Chinese Copper Reds and low fired Raku. Come and see the big earthenware 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 specialities. 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** t: 01856 711284

**Massage & 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 711321 or visit www.orkneyhealing.com

**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 711254, m: 07884470600

**Hilton Farmhouse**, Special 2 night all inclusive tour package with dinner, bed and breakfast and farmhouse fare lunch. (Extra nights at a reduced rate) with two sharing a twin or double room.

**Guided tours of Shapinsay**. Historical, scenic and cultural. Bird and wildlife watching with experienced guide. t: Catherine 01856 711239, e: info@hiltonorkneyfarmhouse.co.uk www.hiltonorkneyfarmhouse.co.uk

**Balfour Castle Tours** may be arranged by appointment. Please contact info@balfourcastle.co.uk. For dinner bookings (minimum 10 guests) please e-mail or t: 01856 711282. Special events throughout the year are advertised on the website at www.balfourcastle.co.uk

**Shapinsay Development Trust** operates a minibus service and electric car for inter-island transport. This

service operates on a pre-booked arrangement through coordinators. Bookings can be made one day in advance either by text, email or phone between 9am - 5pm. Booking numbers are as follows. t: 07901575162. e: transport@shapinsay.org.uk

Group hires for the minibus are also available with a trust registered Midas and D1 category driver. Self-drive is also available if the driver has a D1 category driving

licence and if disabled passengers are carried, a relevant Midas certificate.

Fees for Hire are as follows: Volunteer/Self Driver (D1) Half Day £40; Volunteer/Self Driver (D1) Full Day £70; Half Day with SDT Driver (up to 4 hours) £70; Full Day with SDT Driver (over 4 hours) £150; Single inter-island journey (max 3 passengers Bus/Car) Free; Single inter-island journey (min 4 passengers Bus) £2 per person.

## 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



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Shapinsay	dep		0730A	0730B	0730B	0730B	0730B	
Kirkwall	dep		0815A	0815B	0815B	0815B	0815B	
Shapinsay	dep	0900A*	0900A	0900B	0900B	0900B	0900B	0900B
Kirkwall	dep	0945A	0945	0945	0945	0945	0945	0945
Shapinsay	dep	1030A	1030	1030	1030	1030	1030	1030
Kirkwall	dep	1130A	1130	1130	1130	1130	1130	1130
Shapinsay	dep	1330A	1330	1330	1330	1330	1330	1330
Kirkwall	dep	1415A	1415	1415	1415	1415	1415	1415
Shapinsay	dep		1515	1515	1515	1515	1515	1515A
Kirkwall	dep		1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	1600A
Shapinsay	dep		1645	1645	1645	1645	1645	1645A
Kirkwall	dep		1730	1730	1730	1730	1730	1730A
Shapinsay	dep	1730A						
Kirkwall	dep	1815A						
Shapinsay	dep	1900A						1900A
Kirkwall	dep	1945A*						1945A

**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.

\* Slight 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 times 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 gairsay 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 Kurbister, a dramatic opening or "gloup" 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 Bunting 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.



vat of kurbister - kerry scott

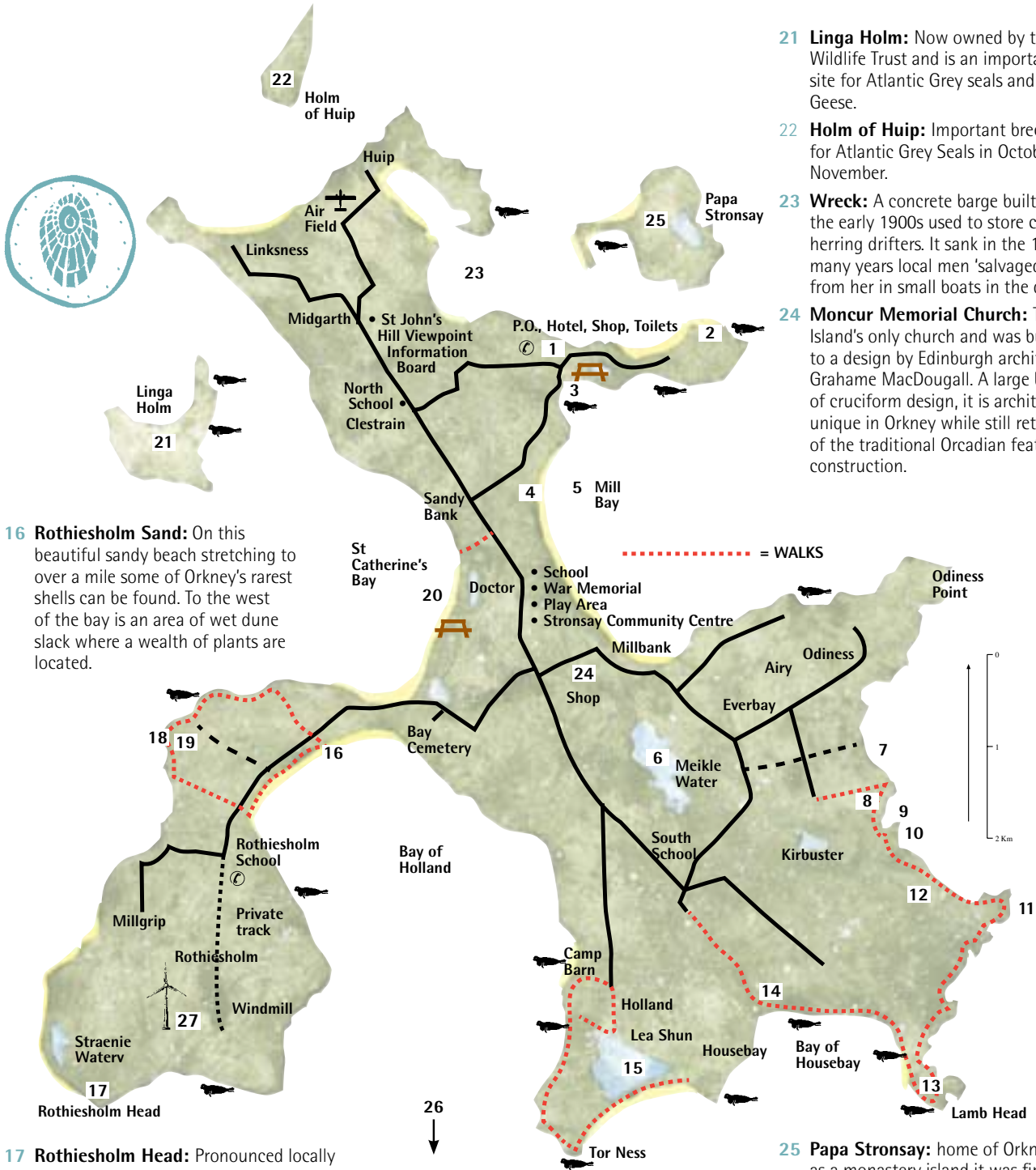
## Points of interest

- 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 Bluthers 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 Kurbister:** 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 ebbs 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.





whitehall village -moya mackenzie mcdonald



**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](mailto: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.



common seals - charles tait

## 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 to 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@fsmail.net

#### BED & BREAKFAST

**Storehouse B & B, Whitehall Village.** 4 en-suite rooms with T.V., WiFi, tea and coffee facilities. Evening meals and lunches available. Guest lounge and dining room. Disabled facilities, wheelchair access. Anne-Maree Carter. t: 01857 616263, e: annemaree.carter@btinternet.com

### 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 8.30am-12 noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 8.30-12 noon and 1pm-3pm on Thursday and 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.orkneystarsoap.co.uk](http://www.orkneystarsoap.co.uk)

### Services

**Doctor** – Dr Roger Neville-Smith Geramont House. t: 01857 616321

**Bank** – Royal Bank (every Thursday)

**Moncur Memorial Church, Stronsay.** Church of Scotland. Elsie Dennison, 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](mailto:contact@the-sons.org)

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

**Public toilets** open daily at rear of Community Centre.



## By Sea

### Stronsay

Effective from 4 May until 29 September 2014

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



seabirds - drew kennedy

#### Walks & Tours

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

**Vat of Kirbister 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

		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kirkwall	dep	0840A		0720B	0700B	0700B		0700B
Eday	arr							0815
Eday	dep							0830B
Stronsay	arr	1015		0855	0835	0835		0905
Stronsay	dep		0815A	0910B	0850B	0850B	0730B	0920B
Eday	arr		0850		0925	0925	0805	
Eday	dep		0905A		0940B	0940B	0820B	
Kirkwall	arr		1020	1045	1055	1055	0935	1055
Kirkwall	dep		1010		1040			
Stronsay	arr		1145		1215			
Stronsay	dep	1710A	1155		1225			
Kirkwall	arr	1845	1330		1400			
Kirkwall	dep	1855A	1600	1620	1600	1600	1600	1600A
Eday	arr		1715		1715	1715	1715	
Eday	dep		1730		1730	1730	1730	
Stronsay	arr	2030	1805	1755	1805	1805	1805	1735
Stronsay	dep		1815	1805	1815		1815	1745A
Eday	arr							1820
Eday	dep							1835A
Kirkwall	arr		1950	1940	1950		1950	1950

**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:

- 1) Vehicle check in times: **20 minutes** before departure. Passenger check in times: **10 minutes** before departure.
- 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 Air



LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

#### MONDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0940	0951	0956	1021
1630	1655	1700	1711

#### TUESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0830	0841	0846	0911
1530	1555	1600	1611

#### WEDNESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0840	0851	0856	0921
1530	1555	1600	1611

#### THURSDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0830	0841	0846	0911
1530	1555	1600	1611

#### FRIDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0830	0841	0846	0911
1530	1555	1600	1611

#### SATURDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0941	0946	1011

#### SUNDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1730	1811	1816	1827

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

# 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 Westray during the early 12th century and Westray families operating from power bases at Rapness, Pierowall and Tuqouy played important roles in the political life of the isles.

## Plant & animal life

The western cliffs and hills behind support a rich variety of northern maritime vegetation. The spray-sweep has created unusual cliff-top 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 drystone 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.

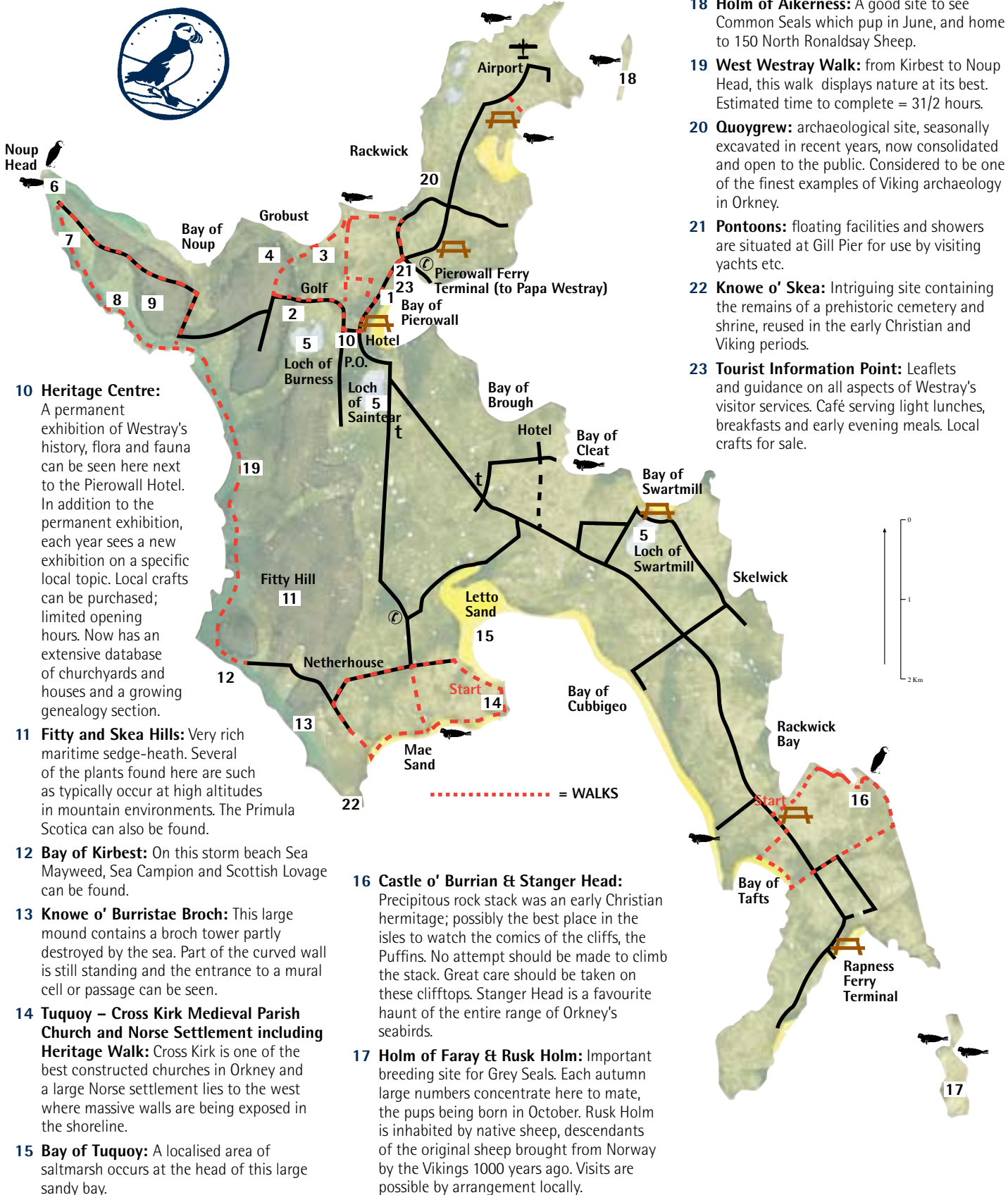
Westray's tourist industry plays a vital part in the local economy, providing facilities for camping and caravans, one hostel, two hotels, several B & Bs and self-catering cottages.

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.

## Points of interest

- 1 St. Mary's Medieval Parish Church, Pierowall:** This ruined church is one of two Middle Ages kirks 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. Stonework can be seen in the eroded shoreline. Nearby excavation has exposed a settlement pre-dating Skara Brae. (see 3 above).
- 5 Lochs - Breeding Wildlife and Waders:** Westray's two largest lochs, Burness, and Saintear 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 Gentlemen's 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 Northwest 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.





- 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 = 31/2 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.

## 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 (★★★★INN)** - Alan and Alison Drever, t: 01857 677472/677208. e: enquiries@pierowallhotel.co.uk www.pierowallhotel.co.uk

#### BED & BREAKFAST

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

**No. 1 Broughton (★★★★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.com, www.no1broughton.co.uk

#### SELF-CATERING

**Sand o' Gill (★★★SC)** - self-catering, sleeps 6. t: 01857 677374

**Daisy Cottage (★★★SC)** - self-catering, sleeps 4/5. Netta Harcus, e: netta@cubbigoe.freeserve.co.uk t: 01857 677398

#### HOSTEL & CAMPING

**The Barn (★★★★Hotel)** - 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.

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

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

**Orcadee,** Pierowall, self-catering bungalow. Uninterrupted views of the bay. Sleeps 4/6. Marlene and Geoff Bagley, t: 01952 727814

**5A 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

**West Manse,** Westside. Large warm, sustainable former Manse in quiet location. Sleeps 6+, ideal for families, writers and artists. Exhibitions and courses. Sandy McEwen, t: 01857 677482, www.westmanse.co.uk

### 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 Cutties. 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; contact Caroline Kerr m: 01837 677775

**Westraak,** Guided tours of Westray. Explore Westray's scenery, history, archaeology and wildlife with experienced guide. 3 Course lunch included. t: Kathy or Graham Maben 01857 677777, m: 07766 073088, e: info@westraak.co.uk, www.westraak.co.uk

**Children's Play Park** opposite school in Pierowall Village.

**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. Bread 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 & Caravaning Facilities

**The Barn,** Chalmersquoy. Isabell Harcus. t: 01857 677214 www.thebarnwestray.com, info@thebarnwestray.co.uk

**Sand o'Gill.** Dorothy Groat. 01857 677374

### Other Services

www.westraypapawestray.com

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

**Doctor.** t: 01857 677209

**Nurse.** t: 01857 677706

**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 Yok 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



nollan castle - drew kennedy





gill pier, westray - drew kennedy

**Hume Sweet Hume.** Designer soft furnishings.  
t: 01857 677259. e: info@humesweethume.com,  
www.humesweethume.com

**The Wheeling Steen Gallery** (4-star tourist shop)  
- A family run art and craft gallery with tearoom.  
Inspirational space, serving excellent coffee and home  
bakes. Open Monday-Saturday 12-5pm. t: 01857  
677292. www.wheeling-steen.co.uk

**Pierowall Fish Ltd, Broughton.** Open Monday-Friday  
9-5, Saturday 9-1. t: 01857 677471 f: 01857 677451

**Crab Processing** - Westray Processors, The Manager,  
Gill Pier. t: 01857 677273

**Westray and Papa Westray Craft Assoc.** Contact Peter  
Brown, The Gallery, Pierowall. t: 01857 677770

**Westray Cards,** Lightcost, Hand-made cards, bookmarks  
and gifts, original artwork, prints and a bespoke framing  
service. t: 01857 677287. e: jfcable@btinternet.com

**W. F. M. Brown.** Family run bakery at Gill Pier. t: 01857  
677349

**Aak Work.** Printed Souvenirs etc. Contact Linda Drever.  
t: 07711 577682 or 01857 677877, www.aakwork.co.uk

**Westray Pottery.** A wide range of utility stoneware  
pottery with natural high quality glazes. Contact  
Martyn Terrell. t: 01857 677776. e: martinandsasha@  
firenet.uk net

**Art Studio** at No 1 Broughton. Jerry Wood. Working  
studio with oil paintings, prints and cards to view and buy.  
t: 01857 677726. www.no1broughton.co.uk

**The Gallery,** Pierowall - Artists Studio and Gallery.  
Ongoing exhibitions of contemporary art work. Peter  
Brown t: 01857 677770

**Westray Digital Art,** Links House. Digital photography  
and artwork. Open and limited edition prints available  
online at www.westraydigitalart.co.uk, e: enquiries@  
westraydigitalart.co.uk

For all tourist information see the Westray and  
Papa Westray Tourist Association website: www.  
westraypapawestray.com

## By Air



LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

### MONDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0840	0856	0901	0924
1530	1553	1558	1612

### TUESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0944	0949	1012
1630	1653	1658	1714

### WEDNESDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0940	0956	1001	1024
1630	1653	1658	1714

### THURSDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0944	0949	1012
1630	1653	1658	1714

### FRIDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0944	0949	1012
1630	1653	1658	1714

### SATURDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0830	0844	0849	1012

### SUNDAY

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1530	1553	1558	1612

## By Sea

### 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



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kirkwall	dep	0920A		0700B	0720B	0720B	0720B	0720B
Westray	arr	1045		0825	0845	0845	0845	0845
Westray	dep		0830A	0840B	0900B	0900B	0900B	0900B
Kirkwall	arr		0955	1005	1025	1025	1025	1025
Kirkwall	dep		0940	1300	1110	1300	1045	
Westray	arr		1105	1425	1235	1425	1210	
Westray	dep	1800A	1115	1435	1245	1435	1220*	
P. Westray	arr						1300	
P. Westray	dep						1320**	
Kirkwall	arr	1925	1240	1600	1410	1600	1510	
Kirkwall	dep	1935A	1620		1620	1620	1700	1620A
Westray	arr	2100	1745		1745	1745	1825	1745
Westray	dep		1755		1755	1755	1835	1755A
Kirkwall	arr		1920		1920	1920	2000	1920

**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.

\*Not available for vehicle bookings Westray to Kirkwall. \*\*This sailing may be delayed due to cargo operations.

#### NOTES:

- 1) Vehicle check in times: **20 minutes** before departure. Passenger check in times: **10 minutes** before departure.
- 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

Please see Page 21 for additional Papa Westray Cargo Sailings in conjunction with North Ronaldsay on Tuesdays.

**Sunday sailings** direct to Papa Westray will operate on 1 June, 20 July and 24 August.

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

**WESTRAY - PAPA WESTRAY - The World's Shortest Scheduled Air Service. The scheduled two minute flight between Westray and Papa Westray has held the record as the World's Shortest Scheduled Air Service for almost thirty years. This year join the flight at either island and you may qualify for a unique Certificate commemorating your World Record Flight!**

# 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.



st boniface kirk - charles tait

## Points of interest

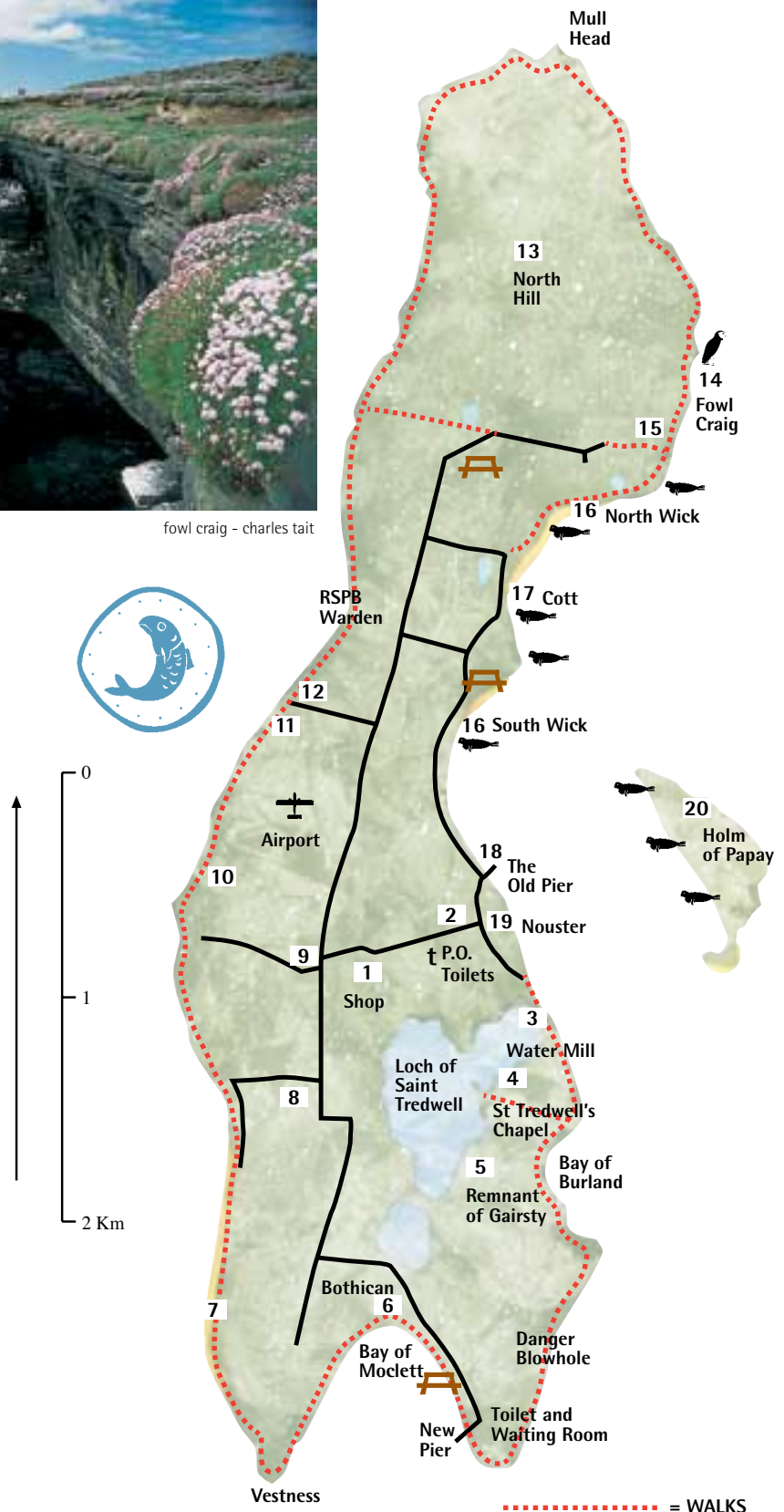
- 1 Beltane:** The heart of the island. Location of the community co-operative shop & hostel and venue for community events.
- 2 Church/Surgery & School:** St Ann's Centre, Church of Scotland and Doctor's Surgery and just along the road, the community school; third building in this complex is School 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 gairsty 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 Backaskail 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 steading in Orkney. It features a doo'cot, mill tramp and corn-drying kiln. 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 Munkerhoose:** Exposed on the shore below the kirk (see 11) are the remains of a settlement dating from the Bronze Age to the Medieval Period.





fowl craig - charles tait

- 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 Scotica.
- 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 Nouster:** Excellent examples of boat nousters. 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 Corncrakes 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 Knap 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.

## 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 before booking.

#### HOSTEL

**Papa Westray Hostel** (★★★Hostel), **Beltane House**, comfortable, friendly hostel run by Island community co-operative. Private en-suite rooms with sea views, 2 twin, 2 double & 2 family/dorm rooms, single rooms available, bed linen and towels included, wi-fi available, evening meals by arrangement. Within walking distance of shop, beaches and archaeological sites. Open year round. t: Papay Co-op Shop, 01857 644321 or Jennifer 01857 644224, e: beltanepapay@aol.co.uk, www.papawestray.co.uk, www.syha.org.uk, www.hostel-scotland.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.

#### SELF CATERING

**Holm View** - modern, well furnished self-catering cottage, close to beach and local amenities, sleeps 4. t: 07723 367443. e: jimwalker@hotmail.com www.papawestray.co.uk

**Peatwell**, renovated, traditional self catering cottage, overlooking Westray and the sea, 15 minutes walk from the island centre, sleeps 2-4. e: nove.john@gmail.com, www.papawestray.co.uk

**Midhouse**, traditional croft house, 2 bedrooms with original box beds, sleeps 2-4, ideal for quiet stress free holiday, close to beach and seals at the South Wick, lan or Marina t: 01857 644242, e: ianandmarina@btpopenworld.com, www.papawestray.co.uk

## 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**, Daybreak. 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

**Nouster Pier**; mooring for visiting yachts. t: 01857 644282.

**Boat Service**, between Papa Westray and Westray; see separate timetable for schedule, hires. Tommy Rendall. t: 01857 677216

## Art, Crafts and Heritage

**Daybreak Craft Shop**. Handknitting, Papay socks, felting, wood turning, pictures, postcards. Margit. t: 01857 644275

**The Papay Co-op Shop**, prints and cards by "The Waterline", Tidal Treasures jewellery, Holmie wool, knitted scarves and crafts, Papay Westray books & publications.

**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.papaygyronights.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.

**Papey Listskjul** (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.landart.papawestray.org

## Recreation

**Children's Play Park**, access through school car park.

**Community Coffee Morning**. Wed 10.30-11.30am. St Ann's Centre. Fresh coffee & homebakes.

**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, carty 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 opened at Papa Westray Hostel, 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

**Nurse & NHS Surgery.** 01857 644227

**Westray & Papa Westray Tourist Association.** www.westraypapawestrays.co.uk

**More Local information** available at www.papawestrays.co.uk

# 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 Air



LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

**MONDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0840	0903	0908	0924
1050	1123	1128	1144
1530	1546	1551	1612

**TUESDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0951	0956	1012
1030	1046	1051	1124
1630	1646	1651	1714

**WEDNESDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0940	1003	1008	1024
1335	1409	1414	1430
1630	1646	1651	1714

**THURSDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0951	0956	1012
1420	1453	1458	1514
1630	1646	1651	1714

**FRIDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0930	0951	0956	1012
1420	1436	1441	1514
1630	1646	1651	1714

**SATURDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0830	0851	0856	0912
1600	1633	1638	1704

**SUNDAY**

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1030	1046	1051	1124
1530	1546	1551	1612

		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Pierowall	dep		0700A	0700A	0730	0730	0730	0730
Papa Westray	arr		0725	0725	0755	0755	0755	0755
Papa Westray	dep		0730A	0730A	0800	0800	0800	0800
Pierowall	arr		0755	0755	0825	0825	0825	0825

Pierowall	dep		0845B	0800B	0915	0915	0915	0915
Papa Westray	arr		0905	0820	0940	0940	0940	0940
Papa Westray	dep		0910B	0825B	0945	0945	0945	0945
Pierowall	arr		0930	0850	1010	1010	1010	1010

Pierowall	dep	1115	0945	0855	1115	1305		
Papa Westray	arr	1140	1010	0920	1140	1330		
Papa Westray	dep	1145	1015	0925	1145	1335		
Pierowall	arr	1210	1040	0950	1210	1400		

Pierowall	dep		1135	1305	1305	1455D		
Papa Westray	arr		1200	1330	1330	1520		
Papa Westray	dep		1205	1335	1335	1525D		
Pierowall	arr		1230	1400	1400	1550		

Pierowall	dep	1630	1545C	1455D	1545C	1545C	1500E	1625
Papa Westray	arr	1655	1610	1515	1610	1610	1525	1650
Papa Westray	dep	1700	1655	1520	1655	1655	1735	1655
Pierowall	arr	1725	1720	1545	1720	1720	1800	1720

Pierowall	dep	2130A	1815	1550B	1815	1815	1855	1815
Papa Westray	arr	2155	1840	1610	1840	1840	1920	1840
Papa Westray	dep	2200A	1845	1615B	1845	1845	1925	1845
Pierowall	arr	2225	1910	1640	1910	1910	1950	1910

- 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)**
- All of these sailings with the exception of those marked A/B/C/D/E are scheduled and are timed to connect with the arrivals and departures of the ro-ro vessels at Rapness - normal fares will therefore apply. Any sailings outwith these times will be treated as hires and charged accordingly.

- NOTES:**
- 1) All enquires 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)



ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL  
**Ferry Services**  
t: (01856) 872044

### 01 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Papa Westray	arr 1150
	dep 1200
Pierowall	arr 1225
	dep 1530
Papa Westray	arr 1555
	dep 1605
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 01 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
North Ronaldsay	arr 1155
	dep 1520
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 08 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Westray	arr 1145
	dep 1530
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 15 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
North Ronaldsay	arr 1215
	dep 1540
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 22 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Stronsay	arr 1130
	dep 1625
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 29 JUNE 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0920
Westray	arr 1045
	dep 1055
North Ronaldsay	arr 1215
	dep 1620
Westray	arr 1740
	dep 1800
Kirkwall	arr 1925
	dep 1935
Westray	arr 2100

### 06 JULY 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0920
Westray	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Sunday	arr 1145
	dep 1155
Eday	arr 1215
	dep 1620
Sunday	arr 1640
	dep 1650
Westray	arr 1740
	dep 1800
Kirkwall	arr 1925
	dep 1935
Westray	arr 2100

### 13 JULY 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1100
	dep 1110
Eday	arr 1130
	dep 1545
Sunday	arr 1605
	dep 1615
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 20 JULY 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Papa Westray	arr 1200
	dep 1210
Pierowall	arr 1235
	dep 1440
Papa Westray	arr 1505
	dep 1515
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 27 JULY 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
North Ronaldsay	arr 1155
	dep 1520
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 03 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Westray	arr 1145
	dep 1610
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 10 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0920
Westray	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Kirkwall	arr 1220
	dep 1615
Westray	arr 1740
	dep 1800
Kirkwall	arr 1925
	dep 1935
Westray	arr 2100

### 10 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0840
Stronsay	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Kirkwall	arr 1200
	dep 1515
Stronsay	arr 1650
	dep 1710
Kirkwall	arr 1845
	dep 1855
Stronsay	arr 2030

### 10 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Kirkwall	arr 1220
	dep 1540
Sunday	arr 1705
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 17 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
North Ronaldsay	arr 1215
	dep 1540
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 24 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0900
Eday	arr 1015
	dep 1025
Sunday	arr 1045
	dep 1055
Papa Westray	arr 1150
	dep 1200
Pierowall	arr 1225
	dep 1530
Papa Westray	arr 1555
	dep 1605
Sunday	arr 1700
	dep 1720
Eday	arr 1740
	dep 1750
Kirkwall	arr 1905
	dep 1915
Eday	arr 2030
	dep 2035
Sunday	arr 2055

### 31 AUGUST 2014

Kirkwall	dep 0920
Westray	arr 1045
	dep 1055
North Ronaldsay	arr 1215
	dep 1620
Westray	arr 1740
	dep 1800
Kirkwall	arr 1925
	dep 1935
Westray	arr 2100



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.



- \* 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

SUNDAY			
Gill Pier		*1825	
Pierowall	1030	*1730	2048
Rapness	1050	*1745	2105
Pierowall	1102		2117
MONDAY			
Gill Pier	*0753	1042	1722
Pierowall	*0755	1045	1725
Rapness	*0815	1110	1750
Pierowall		1122	1802
TUESDAY			
Gill Pier	0807	1402	
Pierowall	0810	1405	
Rapness	0830	1430	
Pierowall	0842	1442	
WEDNESDAY			
Gill Pier	0827	1212	1722
Pierowall	0830	1215	1725
Rapness	0850	1240	1750
Pierowall	0902	1252	1802
THURSDAY			
Gill Pier	0827	1402	1722
Pierowall	0830	1405	1725
Rapness	0850	1430	1750
Pierowall	0902	1442	1802
FRIDAY			
Gill Pier	0827		1802
Pierowall	0830	1155	1805
Rapness	0850	1215	1830
Pierowall	0902		1842
SATURDAY			
Gill Pier	0827		1722
Pierowall	0830		1725
Rapness	0850		1750
Pierowall	0902		1802

### Papa Westray 'Peedie Package' Tour

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

Prices: <b>Full Day</b>	Adult	£40.00
	Children (under 16)	£20.00
<b>Half Day</b>	Adult	£25.00
	Children (under 16)	£15.00

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

WEDNESDAY			SATURDAY		
	Kirkwall	dep		Kirkwall	dep
		0720			0720
<b>Rapness (Westray)</b>	arr	0845	<b>Rapness (Westray)</b>	arr	0845
<b>Pierowall (Westray)</b>	dep	0915	<b>Pierowall (Westray)</b>	dep	0915
<b>Papa Westray</b>	arr	0940	<b>Papa Westray</b>	arr	0940
<b>Papa Westray</b>	dep	1655	<b>Papa Westray</b>	dep	1655
<b>Rapness (Westray)</b>	arr	1725	<b>Pierowall (Westray)</b>	dep	1725
<b>Rapness (Westray)</b>	dep	1755	<b>Rapness (Westray)</b>	dep	1755
<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr	1920	<b>Kirkwall</b>	arr	1920

### Alterations to sailings

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



18 May 2014	Flotta 10k Run
15 June 2014	Hoy Half Marathon
28 June 2014	North Isles Sports (Sunday)
26 July 2014	Westray Regatta
01 August 2014	Sunday Agricultural Show
05 August 2014	Shapinsay Agricultural Show
09 August 2014	Annual County Show, (Kirkwall)



westray - leonard bain



**Special Tickets available on Orkney's Inter-Island Air Service**

[www.loganair.co.uk](http://www.loganair.co.uk)



### 1 NORTH RONALDSAY & 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.

### 2 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](http://www.loganair.co.uk) or call Loganair reservations.

### 3 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**



puffins, drew kennedy

## By Road



*Correct at time of going to print*

### 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)*

	Kirkwall	Houton	Houton	Kirkwall
	Depart	Arrive	Depart	Arrive
FC	0735	0755	0800	0840
FC	0920	0940	0945	1005
FC	1240	1300	1305	1325
W Sch	1420	1500	1500	1520
NW & Nsch	1435	1455	1505	1525
Sch	1515	1555	1555	1615
FC	1710	1730	1735	1800

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**



rackwick, hoy -drew kennedy



Are pleased to support  
**'The Smaller Islands of Orkney 2014'**

Timetables available for:  
Rousay • Eglsay • Wyre and Hoy

For timetables and ticket info visit  
[www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)







the shapinsay at shapinsay slip

## 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 unspoiled 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 2 1/2 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**



**ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL**

## Acknowledgements

Produced by the Island Community Councils, Ferry Services and Orkney Islands Council.

Foreword/Intro writer and brochure editor Jim Hewitson

Pictures: Leonard Bain  
Drew Kennedy  
Moya McKenzie McDonald  
Orkney Media Group  
Charles Tait  
Roderick Thorne  
Kerry Scott  
Orkney Museum and Archive.

Printed at The Orcadian, Hatston, Kirkwall, Orkney. [www.orcadian.co.uk](http://www.orcadian.co.uk)

As design and production co-ordinator, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the production of this brochure. Every single effort has been invaluable and I hope the brochure reflects everyone's enthusiasm.

Thank you

Morag Robertson  
Development Officer OIC

[www.orkneyferries.co.uk](http://www.orkneyferries.co.uk)  
[info@orkneyferries.co.uk](mailto: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.

There are credit card facilities on board most vessels. Check with Company for details.

No Show Charges: All cancellations must be made not less than 24 hours in advance or full charges may apply.

### Safety on Board

- Passengers are requested to pay attention to safety announcements and/or notices.
- Passengers are not allowed on vehicle decks of certain vessels while they are at sea - vehicle occupants must be prepared to leave their vehicles as soon as they are parked on board.
- Smoking is not permitted on any of the Company's Vessels or Property.
- Dangerous goods must be declared, and may be carried only by prior arrangement.
- Carriage of unaccompanied Young Persons. Any person under the age of twelve years must be accompanied by an adult whilst travelling on any Company operated vessel, an adult for these purposes being any person at least sixteen years old.

**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.

**GENERAL DISCLAIMER:** The producers of this brochure cannot accept any responsibility or liability for errors in or omissions from any information given, 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.

# Orkney

*'by sea or by air our islands we share'*



*Taking you further*



Thirteen beautiful island destinations in Orkney served by 9 dedicated Inter-Island Ferries.

Foot passengers are carried on all routes and vehicles on most.

For further information and timetables pick-up the Islands Brochure or visit our website: [orkneyferries.co.uk](http://orkneyferries.co.uk)

t: 01856 872044 f: 01856 872921 e: [info@orkneyferries.co.uk](mailto:info@orkneyferries.co.uk) w: [orkneyferries.co.uk](http://orkneyferries.co.uk)  
Orkney Islands Council Ferry Services • Shore Street • Kirkwall • Orkney • KW15 1LG

*Fly Orkney's air road to the isles and make a great North Isles Holiday really special!*



Join one of our regular scheduled flights to Eday, North Ronaldsay, Sanday, Stronsay, Westray and Papa Westray and in minutes you can be on a magical island in a 'world of its own' – with some great sightseeing on the way! For full details of all our services call the people with over thirty years experience in serving the Orkney Isles. For Special Offers see page 48.

**LOGANAIR** (01856) 872494/873457 • [orkneyres@loganair.co.uk](mailto:orkneyres@loganair.co.uk)  
SCOTLAND'S AIRLINE