

Ports & Excursions



Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland

Just north of Scotland lay the Orkney Islands. Washed by the furthest reach of the Gulf Stream, this chain of over 70 islands offers dramatic landscapes that range from sea cliffs rearing 1,000 feet above the waves to sweeping white sand beaches. Bird watchers flock to the Orkney Islands, drawn by the multitudes of sea birds. Divers explore the wrecks lying in the clear waters of Scapa Flow, the Royal Navy's fleet anchorage in two world wars. And most fascinating of all, the Orkney Islands boast the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites in all Europe, including the mysterious Ring of Brodgar and 5,000-year-old Skara Brae.

Vikings - Norsemen - ruled the Orkney Islands from the 9th to 13th centuries, leaving in their wake such monuments as St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall. This hint of Scandinavian influence can be heard in the lilting accent with which Orcadians speak.

Points of Interest

1 Skara Brae

This Neolithic village dates back 5,000 years and has such well-preserved features, including beds and dressers in the houses. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.

2 Italian Chapel

A lovely chapel simply constructed with two nissen huts during World War II, is a symbol of peace and reconciliation. Built by Italian prisoners of war, among them, an artist and sculptor named Domenico Chiochetti who stayed to finish it once the war ended.

3 Scapa Flow

This stretch of water links the North Sea to the Atlantic and is famous for its role in both World Wars as a natural harbor offering shelter for the British naval fleet.

4 St. Magnus Cathedral

Known as the "Light in the North," this cathedral was founded in 1137 by Viking Earl Rognvald in honor of his uncle St. Magnus.

5 Ring of Brodgar

Perhaps, once used to study the stars, this perfect circle of immense standing stones is an impressive vision and one of Orkney's most popular attractions. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.

6 Maeshowe

Dating back to prehistoric times, this chambered tomb hidden beneath a grassy mound is a marvel of ancient architecture. It also contains the largest concentration of runic writing (Viking "graffiti") outside of Scandinavia. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.

7 Distillery

Highland Park is the most northerly Scotch whisky distillery in Scotland and produces arguably the most respected single malt in the world.

8 Balfour Castle

Britain's most northerly inhabited castle and its two-acre Victorian gardens form part of the private Balfour Estate on the Island of Shapinsay. Magnificent Balfour Castle has stood overlooking Kirkwall Bay for more than 160 years.

Special Child Pricing Available!

Children age 12 and younger, savings up to 50%. For actual pricing information, click on tour title or Reserve button.

Sightseeing & City Tours



Most Popular World Heritage Site

Skara Brae & Skail House

KOI-200 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland | Group Size: 45

You will visit:

1

You will see:

3



3.5 hours

from \$119.95

Visit the best-preserved prehistoric site in Europe: Skara Brae and tour Orkney's finest manor at Skail House.



World Heritage Site

Ring of Brodgar & Maeshowe

KOI-215 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland | Group Size: 40

You will visit:

5

6



2.5 hours

from \$109.95

Encounter Orkney's mysterious past at two of the finest Neolithic sites in Northern Europe. Built circa 2800 B.C., Maeshowe Tomb is a chambered, stone burial cairn some 115 feet in diameter and the nearby Ring of Brodgar is a circular henge of standing stones.



World Heritage Site

Orkney Island Drive

KOI-290 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland

You will visit:

2

You will see:

3



2.5 hours

from \$79.95

This tour is designed for passengers who prefer to see some sights from the motorcoach with little or no walking involved. Take in the sights on a leisurely drive. Visit the Standing Stones of Stenness, a Neolithic circular stone henge that's part of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Travel along Scapa Flow and visit the Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners during World War II.

Special Interests



The Italian Chapel & Highland Park Distillery

KOI-210 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland | Group Size: 45

You will visit:

2

4

7

You will see:

3



3.5 hours

from \$99.95

A drive around Orkney's south coast includes a visit to one of the island's most popular attractions, a chapel built by Italian prisoners of war, as well as a tour and tasting at a revered Scottish distillery on this half-day tour.



Off the Beaten Path

Balfour Castle & Orkney Tea

KOI-225 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland | Group Size: 50

You will visit:

8

M

Apple

4.75
hours

from \$129.95

Board a ferry and travel to the Isle of Shapinsay for a tour of Balfour Castle and enjoy a traditional Orkney tea during this half-day tour.



St. Magnus Cathedral & Earl's Palace Walk

KOI-380 | Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland | Group Size: 25

You will visit:

4

S

3
hours

from \$65.95

Explore Kirkwall on a guided walking tour through the town. Visit St. Magnus Cathedral and view the ruins of the Earl's Palace and the Bishop's Palace on this approximately 3-hour tour.