

KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND

Kirkwall: Ancient Treasures & Skail House

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

Depart Kirkwall and head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island. This tour passes through gentle rolling landscape and into the **Neolithic Heartland of Orkney**; an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. Passing the **Standing Stones of Stenness**, we will stop at the **Ring of Brodgar**; a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5,000 years. We then continue on to the 5,000-year-old village of **Skara Brae**, beautifully interpreted in the visitor's center. See the remarkable dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 150 years ago. There will also be time to see the finest mansion in Orkney; **Skail House** was built in 1620 and in its 400 year history all 12 of its Lairds have been related and all have contributed to the history and collection in the house. The first owner was Bishop George Graham (Bishop of Orkney 1615-1638) who built the house on the site of a farmstead thought to date to the Norse period.

Please note: The ground around the Ring of Brodgar is very soft and not suitable for wheelchairs or people with mobility issues. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

PRICE[£]129

Kirkwall: Distillery & the Churches of South Isles

ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY

You will leave Orkney's biggest island and follow the coast of **Scapa Flow** to the smaller South Isles. Drive over the first of the **Churchill Barriers**, built during the Second World War to protect Scapa Flow. You will visit the beautiful, hand-painted **Italian Chapel**, built by Italian prisoners of war who were interned on this small island during World War II. The chapel stands as a lasting memorial to peace but also to the ingenuity and skill of the prisoners. You will continue your journey to **Highland Park** to discover Orkney's highly acclaimed **12-year-old malt whiskey** at the world's most northerly whiskey distillery. Here there will be an opportunity to tour the distillery and try a wee dram! Returning to Kirkwall you will visit the beautiful 12th century sandstone **St. Magnus Cathedral**, built by the Vikings during their 700-year rule over the islands.

Please note: Guests can stay on the motor coach if the tour becomes too strenuous.

PRICE[£]179

Kirkwall: Sea-Faring Stromness

ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

You will start this tour with a short coach transfer from Kirkwall to Stromness. On arrival in Stromness you will begin a **walking tour** with your informative guide from the picturesque harbor along the pretty flag-stoned street of this seafaring town. Making your way along the twists and turns of the street, you will explore the narrow lanes and tiny piers which intersect the street along its length. **Stromness** is a town of quirky architectural character, with many connections to the famous Hudson's Bay Company. You will hear fascinating stories about Stromness' maritime history as well as learning about its arts and literary heritage. Following your walk you will have the option to visit the **Stromness Museum** and the beautifully refurbished **Pier Arts Centre** (time permitting) with exhibitions by both local and international artists. There will be time to explore the craft shops selling local knitwear, pottery, and art work before your coach returns you to Kirkwall

Please note: This tour is not recommended for those with mobility issues as there are cobblestone walkways with steep inclines.

PRICE\$135