



## Wilderness Hiking in the Orkney Islands

Discover wild walks, ancient landscapes and spectacularly weathered sea cliffs on the walking holiday of a lifetime, experience the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Orkneys in the company of our knowledgeable guides.



7 days/6 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: Inverness and arrival to the Orkney Islands

Join us on a stunning and unforgettable journey to the **Orkney Isles**, a little-visited archipelago of some 70 small islands and skerries due north of the Scottish mainland. This mysterious place of long days and colourful night skies is home to a wealth of sea life and sea birds, not forgetting the remarkable flora of the islands. The unique situation and environment of the Isles have combined to create a fascinating cultural and historical tapestry of stone circles, countless invasions and occupations, isolation and extremity, all of which have left their mark through the ages. You will enjoy Orcadian hospitality and fresh local produce at our stylish accommodation in a historic guest house and more!

This morning you meet your group in Inverness and travel along the north-east coast of the Highlands and onward over the Pentland Firth. We'll continue by ferry to the Orkney Islands. We reach Orkney in the late afternoon, where we'll visit the Italian Chapel, two Nissan huts converted into a place of worship by prisoners of war. We'll then continue on to our hotel which is situated near the major archaeological sites which add to the intrigue of these islands. This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner and briefing from your guide for what lies ahead.

Meals: (L, D)

#### Day 2: Rousay and the Mid Howe Broch

Today we drive to the Eynhallow Sound where we'll catch a local ferry to the island of Rousay. Here you will enjoy two short hikes – the Westness Walk to the Mid Howe broch and a superb moorland walk around Faraclett Head. Walking details: (8 km, 4 hrs)

Meals: (B,L)

#### Day 3: The Gloup and Mull Head

The hike starts at The Gloup, a partially collapsed sea cave from where you head north along the coast to Mull Head. Tonight we'll enjoy a group dinner at our hotel. Walking details: (9 km, 4 hrs)

Meals: (B,L,D)

#### Day 4: Scapa Flow - The Old Man of Hoy - Rackwick Bay

A short drive along the edge of Scapa Flow takes us to Stromness where we'll catch the ferry to the island of Hoy. Here we'll walk to the famous Old Man of Hoy and marvel at some of Britain's highest sea cliffs before returning to Rackwick Bay. A dinner will be enjoyed at a local pub or restaurant on our way back to our hotel. Walking details: (10 km, 5 hrs)

Meals: (B,L,D)



#### Day 5: Brough Head - Marwick Head - Skara Brae

Today we'll visit the Stone Age village of Skara Brae, which was uncovered in 1850 after a heavy storm blew away the sand dunes covering it. From Brough Head, a superb coastal walk along the south coast leads to Marwick Head - one of the largest seabird colonies in the Northern Isles. Walking details: 6 km, 2-3 hrs) Meals: (B, L, D)

#### Day 6: Stromness - Ring of Brodgar - Sand of Warebeth

Today we visit the historic Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness and Maes Howe. Afterwards, we will walk along a coastal path leading from Stromness to The Ness before turning west towards the Sand of Warebeth. Walking details: (8km, 3 hrs)  
Meals: (B, L, D)

#### Day 7: Return to Inverness

After breakfast we return by ferry to the mainland and Inverness, travelling through the rugged coastal scenery of the Northern tip of Scotland.  
Meals: (B, L)

### Details

#### Trip Code:

007364 - R10

### INCLUDED

- 6 nights accommodation in a 4\* small, family-owned hotel near Scapa Flow
- Most meals as indicated throughout the trip
- Transport throughout the trip, starting and finishing in Inverness
- Private boat and ferry transfers
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable guide/driver

### NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare to/from Inverness
- Accommodation in Inverness
- Personal equipment
- Optional Tours
- Gratuities
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature

### TOUR NOTES

**Rating:** Easy - Green 2

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are physically fit enough to join our hiking holidays. Please note, however, that you can have an optional rest day at any time. If you have any questions regarding your suitability for any of our hiking holidays, please contact our office and speak to one of our team who can offer advice.

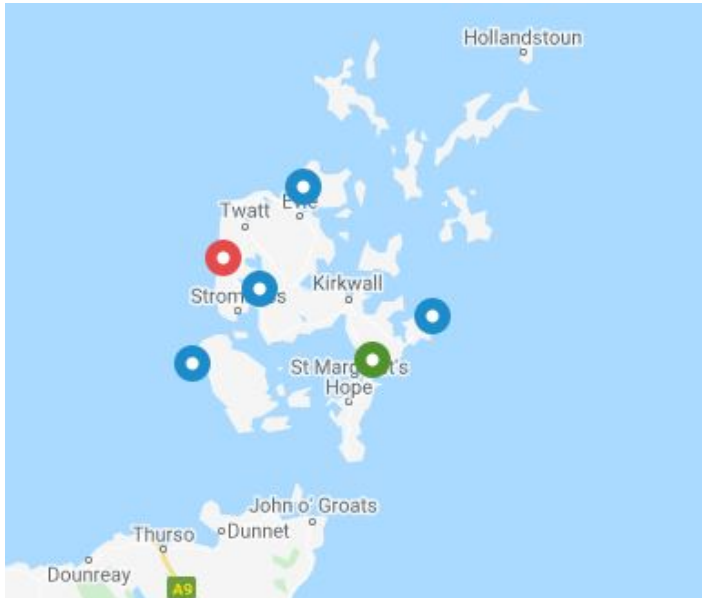
"Easy" hiking holidays involve straightforward hiking, following generally good trails with no major ascents. You will, however, be out hiking for around 5 hours each day so you will need a reasonable level of fitness.

The hikes will be conducted at a leisurely pace in order to allow more time for photography, nature study and looking historical features. The underfoot terrain will usually be on paths or hill trails. However, these trails may still be muddy, or a bit rough in places, so you will need good hiking boots.

*Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.*



## ROUTE MAP



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