



MSC

EXCURSIONS

Discoveries designed for you

Kirkwall (Orkney Is.)

CITY TOUR

STROMNESS EXPRESS (Code: KWL12)

Duration
3.5 h

Take a few hours to discover the second largest town on Orkney - Stromness - and the island's pretty countryside on this appealing half-day outing. You can savour first views of Orkney's verdant landscape on a 40-minute coach ride to Stromness, during which you'll also pass the Ring of Brodgar and the Standing Stones of Stenness - two impressive Neolithic stone circles. Once in town, you can join an optional 10-minute guided walk before then exploring the town at your leisure on your own. Must-sees include buildings with their own pier, Stromness Museum, the collection of 20th-century art at the Pier Arts Centre as well as local shops, cafés, and restaurants. The 40-minute return drive to the ship will then deliver views of Scapa Flow, a naturally sheltered harbour that played a key role in both world wars.

Please note: Guides available in English only. The admission fee to Stromness Museum and the Pier Arts Centre is not included in the price of the tour.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

CULTURE AND HISTORY

SKARA BRAE & SKAILL HOUSE (Code: KWL05)

Duration
3 h

Come and discover the beautiful west coast of Orkney's Mainland and a major prehistoric site: Skara Brae. The scenic coach ride to this UNESCO World Heritage Site - one of the best-preserved Neolithic villages in Northern Europe that even predates Stonehenge - will take you through rich farmland, rolling hills and stark moors. Occupied from c. 3,180 B.C. to 2,500 B.C., Skara Brae remained hidden under a large knoll until a severe storm in 1850 uncovered the outline of several roofless buildings. The collection of Skara Brae artefacts displayed at the visitors' centre includes tools, beads, pottery, and objects made of whalebone that reflect the region's tough seafaring economy. The site still affords a good idea of how the village must once have looked, while the houses themselves illustrate the rigours of prehistoric life. The next stop will then see you visit the nearby Skail House, a lovely residence built in 1620. You will also pass the great Neolithic henge called the Ring of Brodgar and the ancient Standing Stones of Stenness, another Neolithic monument that was erected more than 5,000 years ago. Your prehistoric tour ends with your return to the ship and all the comforts of modern life.

Please note: the number of guides in languages other than English is limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. The walk from the coach car park to Skara Brae and back from Skail House is around 1 km on a good path, although it is sometimes exposed to the harsh weather. Comfortable, non-slip fat shoes and a raincoat recommended. This tour may have multiple departures throughout the ship's time in port. You will receive all information about your specific departure the day before the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

WIDEFORD HILL PANORAMIC HIKE (Code: KWL11)

Duration
4 h

Hike to the summit of Wideford Hill for views of the surrounding landscape and islands. Leaving from the pier on foot, you'll immediately start the 8.3-mile hike to the summit of Wideford Hill (1,010 ft.), passing through Hatston. Once known as HMS Sparrowhawk, this was the first WWII airfield to be built in Orkney, and operational when war broke out in 1939. Passing the old Norse harbour and then the Pickaquoy sports centre, you'll make your way up Muddisdale towards Wideford Hill. As you gain height, you'll enjoy views from the coast first over Scapa Flow to the south and then, at the summit, over Orkney's North Isles - a view nothing short of spectacular. You'll also be able to see your ship, the town of Kirkwall and the Peedie Sea, while your guide recounts the fascinating history of Orkney's Norse era and the saga of St. Magnus. Your return journey will take you into the centre of Kirkwall, finishing on the steps of St. Magnus Cathedral, the magnificent 12th century red sandstone cathedral founded by the Viking Earl Rognvald in 1137. You can then continue exploring at your leisure or return directly to your ship by shuttle.

Please note: This tour is unsuitable for guests with walking problems. We recommend dressing in layers, wearing stout walking shoes, and bringing a raincoat and a wind jacket. Guides available in English only.

Minimum number of participants required: 25



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SCENIC ROUTE



ANCIENT STANDING STONES & DRAMATIC CLIFFS (Code: KWL07)

⌚ **Duration**
2 h



Treat yourself to a tour that will take you to discover some of Orkney's natural wonders and UNESCO World Heritage Sites - from wild cliff-top seascapes to ancient stone circles set within the peaceful countryside. On leaving the quayside in Kirkwall, your tour begins with a panoramic drive through the pastoral landscape along the west coast of Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands, to reach the magnificent red sandstone cliffs of Yesnaby. Some of the island's most spectacular scenery can be enjoyed from this vantage point high above the rugged coastline of the Atlantic Ocean. On a clear day, the sea stack known as the "Old Man of Hoy" and even the Scottish mainland can be seen in the distance. Continuing on to the "Heart of Neolithic Orkney" - an area designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 - you will first pay a visit to the ceremonial stone circle known as the Ring of Brodgar, which is situated on a strip of land separating Lochs Harray and Stenness that is known as the Ness of Brodgar. This astonishing Neolithic monument is the third largest of its kind in the British Isles and was created roughly 4,500 years ago. Once thought to have formed a perfect circle made up of 60 stones, the 27 remaining stones are an impressive reminder of the ingenuity and endeavour of these ancient islanders. On the return drive back to Kirkwall and your ship, you will also pass by the imposing Standing Stones of Stenness, one of the earliest henges in Britain dating back around 5,000 years. Please note: the number of guides in languages other than English is limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. This tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. Comfortable, non-slip flat shoes and a raincoat recommended. This tour may have multiple departures throughout the ship's time in port. You will receive all information about your specific departure the day before the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

MSC BIKE ADVENTURES



NEOLITHIC ORKNEY BY E-BIKE (Code: KWLBK2)

⌚ **Duration**
6 h

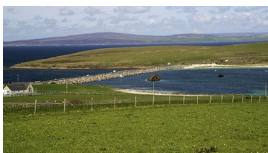


This appealing cycling tour will see you visiting three of Orkney's Neolithic sites - the Standing Stones of Stenness, the Ring of Brodgar and the Ring of Bookan - while enjoying plenty of wonderful scenery at the same time. You'll be taking this trip back in time riding a modern e-bike, which provides electrically powered assistance up to a speed of 25 km per hour. The route will first take you out of Kirkwall and alongside the Bay of Firth to the west, then on through bucolic countryside to reach the Loch of Harray, the Loch of Stenness and the famous Standing Stones, the first of the three Neolithic henges on the itinerary. Leaving the impressive stones behind, you'll continue cycling between the lochs to reach first the Ring of Bookan and then the Ring of Brodgar, with photo stops included on the way. Leaving the Neolithic era behind, you'll cycle on to Scapa Flow, a natural bay that was key during WWII. A further break follows at the historic beach, after which you'll head back to the ship via the Highland Park distillery and Kirkwall's St. Magnus' Cathedral.

Please note: the distance covered on this biking tour totals approx. 45 km with a 300-m gain in elevation. Children who are at least 155 cm tall are welcome to take part in this tour with the parent's/guardian's written consent.

Minimum number of participants required: 1

SOMETHING SPECIAL



SAGAS, WAR STORIES & WHISKY (Code: KWL03)

⌚ **Duration**
3.5 h



The first stop on this tour is the northernmost producer of Scotch whisky, the Highland Park Distillery founded in 1798. From humble beginnings as an illicit still, Highland Park has grown from strength to strength producing its prize-winning spirits. The guided tour of this distillery includes a brief film presentation and fittingly concludes with 3 traditional drams. A scenic drive along Scapa Flow then follows while your guide relates wartime stories of the time when Scapa Flow was the chief base of the British naval fleet in World Wars I and II. You will also cross the first of the four Churchill Barriers. These causeways were built during WWII to protect Scapa Flow to the east and connect the South Isles to the Orkney mainland. You will also visit the lovely hand-painted chapel on the tiny island of Lamb Holm. Built by Italian prisoners of war during WWII, the chapel stands as a symbol of peace and Orkney's enduring friendship with the soldiers from Italy. You will also have time to explore Orkney's capital of Kirkwall, which is dominated by the magnificent 12th-century St. Magnus' Cathedral, known as the "Light of the North". You will then return to the ship. Please note: limited number of guides in languages other than English. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. On special events, the visit to the Italian Chapel may be cancelled. During calls falling from July to mid-August, the production of whisky is stopped at Highland Park Distillery; guests will enjoy a short film. Guiding inside the distillery is only in English. This tour is not suitable for guests using a wheelchair. Guests must be 18 years old to take part in this tour. The tour may have multiple departures during the day. Once on board, please contact the Shore Excursions' Desk for information about the precise departure time.

Minimum number of participants required: 25



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MSC BIKE ADVENTOURS



KIRKWALL AND ITS ISLAND COUNTRYSIDE (Code: KWLBK1)

⌚ Duration
4.5 h



The Orkneys are perfect for cycling, thanks to their mainly flat landscape, quiet roads, and heart-stealing scenery. This tour takes place in and around Kirkwall - the capital and biggest town. First, you'll pedal through the town past the airport, continuing slightly uphill into the countryside and on to the Churchill Barriers - the roads linking the tiny islands, which you'll cross to Lamb Holm. On this island, you'll visit the pretty Italian Chapel and enjoy a short break. Refreshed, you'll freewheel back past the village of St. Mary's and climb the hill there to admire sweeping views over Kirkwall and Scapa Bay, which played a key role in both World Wars. You'll then make your way back down, stopping at the UK's northernmost distillery, the Highland Park distillery founded in 1798. Back in the saddle, you'll pedal into Kirkwall's town centre to view St. Magnus Cathedral. This 12th-century church is the most northerly cathedral in the British Isles and worth a visit for the impressive red sandstone columns flanking its narrow nave. After a short stop there, a leisurely ride will take you back to your ship.

Please note: guests will have to cycle 37 km with some hills. Children who are at least 155 cm tall are welcome to take part in this tour with the parent's/guardian's written consent.

Minimum number of participants required: 1

NATURAL WONDERS



ORKNEY SIGHTSEEING TOUR (Code: KWL02)

⌚ Duration
3.15 h



Experience a haven of wildlife, breathtaking panoramas and fascinating history during this scenic island exploration. On leaving Kirkwall, you will head north via Finstown and the Parish of Evie to then enjoy stunning views across Eynhallow Sound to the island of Rousay. Skirting the nearby Birsay Moors RSPB Reserve (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), the next stop for a picture is the sandy beach at Birsay Bay with views of the imposing cliffs at Marwick head. Travelling inland we make our way to the "Heart of Neolithic Orkney", which was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. The tour concludes by taking you along the beautiful coastline of the historical bay of Scapa Flow while your guide relates the sort of dramatic wartime stories that have made this one of the best-known stretches of water in the world. You will then return to Kirkwall and your ship.

Please note: limited number of guides in languages other than English. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. Depending on the weather, the ground at the Ring of Brodgar may be uneven, muddy, and slippery. Walking, non-slip fat shoes recommended. This tour may have multiple departures throughout the ship's time in port. You will receive all information about your specific departure the day before the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

CITY TOUR



KIRKWALL WALKING TOUR (Code: KWL01)

⌚ Duration
2.5 h



This walking tour offers an opportunity to explore some of the architectural sites on the Orkney Isles on foot. Transfer to Kirkwall town and then start at Kirkwall pier a leisurely stroll will take you through the historical old town of Kirkwall, the Viking capital of the Orkney Islands. The magnificent 12th-century, red sandstone cathedral of St. Magnus, known locally as the "Light of the North", is the first stop on the tour. Nearby there are many narrow, winding streets and lanes, which have hardly altered at all over the centuries. Afterwards, the tour continues to the ruined Bishop's Palace and then to the Earl's Palace, one of Scotland's most elegant Renaissance buildings. The tour concludes at Tankerness House Gardens, where you will have time to visit the museum or take a stroll around the town before returning to the ship.

Please note: limited number of guides in languages other than English. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. On special events or in case of religious celebrations, the visit to the Cathedral may be cancelled; guides will give information outside the venue. Guests are requested to wear appropriate attire for religious visits. This tour is unsuitable for guests with walking difficulties. This tour may have multiple departures throughout the ship's time in port. You will receive all information about your specific departure the day before the excursion. In case the ship is at anchor, the tour will start directly on foot. Comfortable, non-slip fat shoes and a raincoat recommended. The Museum is closed on Sunday.

Minimum number of participants required: 25



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SCENIC ROUTE

ISLAND DRIVE (Code: KWL09)

Duration
2.5 h


This scenic drive takes us on leisurely exploration of Orkney, from fascinating First World War and Second World War relics on the South Isles to remarkable West Mainland World Heritage. Discover an island haven abounding with captivating history and astonishing ancient wonders. Departing quayside Kirkwall, we travel through the pastoral landscape of Orkney's East Mainland and along the southeast shore of historic Scapa Flow, the chief base of the British naval fleet in World War I and World War II, that you can see from a distance during a short bus stop. We cross the first of the four Churchill Barriers, causeways built during World War II to protect the eastern approaches of Scapa Flow and to connect the South Isles to the Orkney Mainland. On the tiny island of Lamb Holm, we visit the beautifully hand-painted Italian Chapel. Built by Italian prisoners of war during World War II, the Chapel has been preserved as a symbol of peace and hope in times of strife, and Orkney's enduring friendship with the soldiers from Italy. We continue to the West Mainland and into the Heart of Neolithic Orkney designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999, passing by the imposing Standing Stones of Stenness. Dating back more than 5.000 years, this archaeological treasure is one of the earliest stone circles in Britain. Finally, we return to our ship at Kirkwall. Please note: the number of guides in languages other than English is limited. Should a tour guide for your language be unavailable, the tour will be in English only. This tour may have multiple departures throughout the ship's time in port. You will receive all information about your specific departure the day before the excursion.

Minimum number of participants required: 25

KEY TO SYMBOLS



Possibility of swimming



Tasting included



Lunch or dinner included



Drink included



Snack included



No guide available



Long route by bus



Shooting videos and/or taking pictures is not allowed or subject to fee



Shopping



Mini Tours



Limited seat



Best seller



New



Wheelchair and disabled-friendly tour

As guests in wheelchairs must be accompanied by their own helper, please inform Excursions Desk staff promptly so they can help make arrangements

DIFFICULTY LEVEL



Easy

May involve a limited quantity of steps, uneven surfaces and/or periods of standing



Moderate

May involve inclines, steps, uneven surfaces and/or extended periods of standing



Strenuous

Active excursions recommended only for guests in good physical health

OUR EXCURSION CATEGORIES

ACTIVE & ADVENTURE

Head ashore in search of adventure! Opportunities for sport and fun range from trekking and snorkelling to kayak tours and 4x4 vehicle adventures. The active choice.

CITY TOUR

Explore the city centre with a guided tour and soak up the local scenery with a comfortable coach ride. The easy way to get to know your destination.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Learn all about the history and culture of your destination, with visits to must-see locations and guided tours of key sites. The ideal route to local knowledge.

NATURAL WONDERS

Immerse yourself in spectacular scenery and discover the fascinating flora and fauna of your destination. Your passport to the wonders of the natural world.

SCENIC ROUTE

Admire your destination in total comfort, with a scenic coach tour taking in the best views and the main places of interest. The relaxing road to discovery.

SEA & SUN

Treat yourself to some pure relaxation, basking on a beautiful beach or enjoying the stunning views on a scenic boat trip. A winner for sea and sun lovers.

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Pursue your interests in new places! From gastronomic tours and guided shopping trips to religious visits, there's a world of pastimes and passions to explore.



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