

GREAT BRITAIN-ORKNEY ISLANDS



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++44

VisitOrkney: Kirkwall Visitor Information Centre, 6 Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NX, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 1856 872856, E-mail: info@visitorkney.com, website: www.visitorkney.com

Capital: Kirkwall

Background: Orkney's pre-history, of the megalithic, bronze and Pictish ages, provides a colourful backdrop but has little genealogical relevance. In contrast, much of Orkney's recorded history, whether it concerns the earls, the clergy, lairds, townfolk, udallers, or tenants, is full of genealogical interest. The Norse arrived towards the end of the 8th century and the islands were ruled from Norway, and later Denmark, until 1468, when sovereignty passed to Scotland. Scot had started to settle in Orkney in the previous century, but it remained a semi-autonomous Earldom until 1614. The union of the Scottish and English parliaments in 1707 saw political control pass to London, but many powers were devolved back to Scotland in 1999 with the restoration of the Scottish parliament.

Location: The Orkney Islands lie off the northern tip of Scotland where the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean meet. Lying on latitude 59deg. North – which is only 50 miles south of Greenland – Orkney is, at its widest, 30 miles from east to west and 53 miles north to south.

Map References: United Kingdom

Area: With a total coastline of approximately 570 miles, the islands cover an area of 974 square kilometers (376 square miles), more than half of which is taken up by the Mainland, the group's largest island.

Population: Of the islands, less than one-third are inhabited, the islands having a total population of 20,000 (2002 census).

Nationality: Scots.

Ethnic Groups: 99.7 percent White (1991 census)

Religions: Roman Catholic

Languages: Scottish Language, dialect of the English language, Scottish Gaelic.

Currency: 1 British pound = 100 pence

Ports and Harbors: Hatston Ferry Terminal, is located 2-3 miles from the centre of Kirkwall

Airports: Kirkwall Airport

Visa: see Visa in UK section.

Duty Free: see Duty Free in UK section.

Health: see Health in UK section

HOTELS / MOTELS / INNS

KIRKWALL

ALBERT HOTEL, Mounthoolie Lane, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1JZ, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 876000, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 (0) 875397, E-mail: enquiries@alberthotel.co.uk, website: www.alberthotel.co.uk

AYRE HOTEL, Ayre Road, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1QX, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 873001, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 876289, website: www.ayrehotel.co.uk, info@ayrehotel.co.uk

FOVERAN, St. Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SF, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 872389, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 876430, website: www.foveranhotel.co.uk, foveranhotel@aol.com

KIRKWALL HOTEL, Harbour Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LF, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 872232, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 872812, website: www.kirkwallhotel.com, enquiries@kirkwallhotel.com

THE LYNNFIEL HOTEL & RESTAURANT, Holm Road, St. Ola, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1SU, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 872505, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 870038, website: www.lynnfieldhotel.com

THE ORKNEY HOTEL, 40 Victoria Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, UK, KW15 1DN, Tel: +44 (0) 1856 873477, Fax: +44 (0) 1856 872767, info@orkneyhotel.co.uk, <http://www.orkneyhotel.co.uk>

WEST END HOTEL, KIRKWALL, T:01856 872368 ,F: 01856 876181, info@westendkirkwall.co.uk, <http://www.westendkirkwall.co.uk>

BIRSAY

THE BARONY HOTEL, Birsay, Orkney, KW17 2LS, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 721327, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 721302, website: www.baronyhotel.com, info@baronyhotel.com

HARRAY

MERKISTER HOTEL, Harray Loch, Harray Orkney, KW17 2LF, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 771366, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 771515, E-mail: merkister-hotel@ecosse.net, <http://www.merkister.com>

ST. MARGARET'S HOPE

CREEL RESTAURANT AND ROOMS, Front Road, St Margaret's Hope, Orkney KW17 2SL, Tel: +44 (0) 1856 831311, alan@thecreel.freeserve.co.uk, <http://www.thecreel.co.uk>

THE MURRAY ARMS HOTEL, Back Road, St. Margaret's Hope, Orkney, KW17 2SP, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 831205, website: www.murrayarmshotel.com, info@murrayarmshotel.com

STROMNESS

THE FERRY INN, John Street, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3AA, Tel. +44 (0) 850280, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 851332, website: www.ferryinn.com

WESTRAY

CLEATON HOUSE HOTEL, Westray, Orkney, KW17 2DB, Tel. +44 (0) 1857 677508, Fax. +44 (0) 1857c677442, website: www.cleatonhouse.co.uk, info@cleatonhouse.co.uk

CRUISE & SHIPPING LINES

NORTHLINK FERRIES, Tel. +44 (0) 8456 000449, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 879588, E-mail: info@northlinkferries.co.uk, website: www.northlinkferries.co.uk

ORKNEY FERRIES, Shore Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1LG, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 872044, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 872921, website: www.orkneyferries.co.uk

PENTLAND FERRIES, Pier Road, St. Margaret's Hope, Orkney, KW17 2SW, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 831226, website: www.pentlandferries.co.uk

TOUR OPERATORS/EXCURSIONS

DISCOVER ORKNEY TOURS, 44 Clay Loan, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1QD, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 1856 872865, website: www.discoverorkney.com

EXPLORER FAST SEA CHARTERS, Office 5 Harbour Terminal, Kirkwall Pier, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW16 1HU, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 871225, website: www.explorercharters.co.uk

ORKNEY ARCHAEOLOGY TOURS, Bayview, Birsay, Orkney, KW17 2LR, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 721450, website: www.orkneyarchaeologytours.co.uk

DIVING SCHOOLS

ORKNEY ISLAND CHARTERS, Northolme, Dounby, Orkney, KW17 2JB, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 771314, website: orkneyislandscharters.co.uk

SCAPA SCUBA, Lifeboat House, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3DA, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 851218, website: www.scapasuba.co.uk

STROMNESS DIVING CENTRE, Barkland, Cairston Road, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3JT, Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1856 850624, website: www.orknet.co.uk/scapa/triton.htm

MUSEUMS/GALLERIES

CORRIGALL FARM MUSEUM, Harray, Orkney, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 771411

KIRBUSTER MUSEUM, Kirbuster, Birsay, Orkney, KW15 1NY, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 1856 771268, E-mail: museum@orkney.gov.uk

THE ORKNEY MUSEUM, Tankerness House, Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 873191, Fax. +44 (0) 1856 871560

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

BRITISH AIRWAYS, Waterside PO Box 365 Harmondsworth, UB7 0GB Tel: 0044 208 875 95 51 (Local 08457 79 99 77) Fax: 0044 208 562 99 30 Web site: www.britishairways.com

KIRKWALL AIRPORT, Orkney, Kirkwall, United Kingdom, KW15 1TH, Tel: +44 (0)1856 872421, Fax:+44 (0)1856 875051, Email: info@hial.co.uk, Website: www.hial.co.uk

