

Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland

Capital of the Orkney Islands and keeper of 5,000 years of history — from Neolithic stone circles older than the Pyramids to a Viking cathedral built in Norse red sandstone. This is Scotland like nowhere else in Scotland.

🚢 Pier — Hatston (2 miles from town) ⌚ Typical call: 8-10 hrs 💷 British Pounds (GBP) 🗣️ English (with a Norse lilt)

👉 MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Hatston Pier, ~2 miles from town center — free shuttle provided

Walk to center: Not walkable from Hatston; shuttle takes 7-10 min

Best For: Prehistoric archaeology, Norse history, Scotch whisky

Don't Miss: St Magnus Cathedral (free) and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site

🚗 Getting around: 🚕 **Taxi** ✅ £8–11 to city center · 🚲 **Rideshare** ❌ not available · 🚏 **Hop-on hop-off** ✅ Hop-on hop-off

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Heart of Neolithic Orkney** — The UNESCO World Heritage package: Skara Brae (5,000-year-old village preserved in sand), Maeshowe (Viking-inscribed Neolithic tomb), the Ring of...
- **St Magnus Cathedral & Kirkwall Old Town** — The 12th-century Romanesque cathedral built by a Viking earl from striking red and yellow sandstone — admission is free.
- **Highland Park Distillery Tour** — The world's most northerly Scotch whisky distillery, making complex peaty-floral single malts since 1798.
- **Scapa Flow & Italian Chapel** — Scapa Flow — the great wartime anchorage where the German fleet scuttled itself in 1919 — is ringed by Churchill Barriers built by WWII Italian POWs...
- **Orkney Coastal Walk & Scapa Beach** — Scapa Beach — a sweeping sandy bay overlooking Scapa Flow — is about 1.5 miles south of town, reachable by the scenic Crantit Trail coastal path.

BEST WALKS

- **Kirkwall Town Center Loop** 1.5 miles · Easy · 45-60 min — From the shuttle drop at Kirkwall Travel Centre, walk down Broad Street to St Magnus Cathedral and the adjacent Bishop's and Earl's Palaces.
- **Cathedral to Highland Park Distillery** 1.2 miles each way · Easy · 40 min walk — A straightforward walk from the cathedral south along Holm Road to Highland Park Distillery at the edge of town.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)			
	Mon	High	Low
Apr		47°	41°
Jun		56°	50°
Aug		59°	53°
Sep		57°	52°
Oct		53°	48°
			Rain
			12d
			14d
			17d
			18d
			20d

🌅 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY	
Apr 5:58AM–8:26PM · Jun 3:59AM–10:25PM · Aug 5:31AM–8:59PM · Sep 6:41AM–7:31PM · Oct 7:49AM–6:04PM	

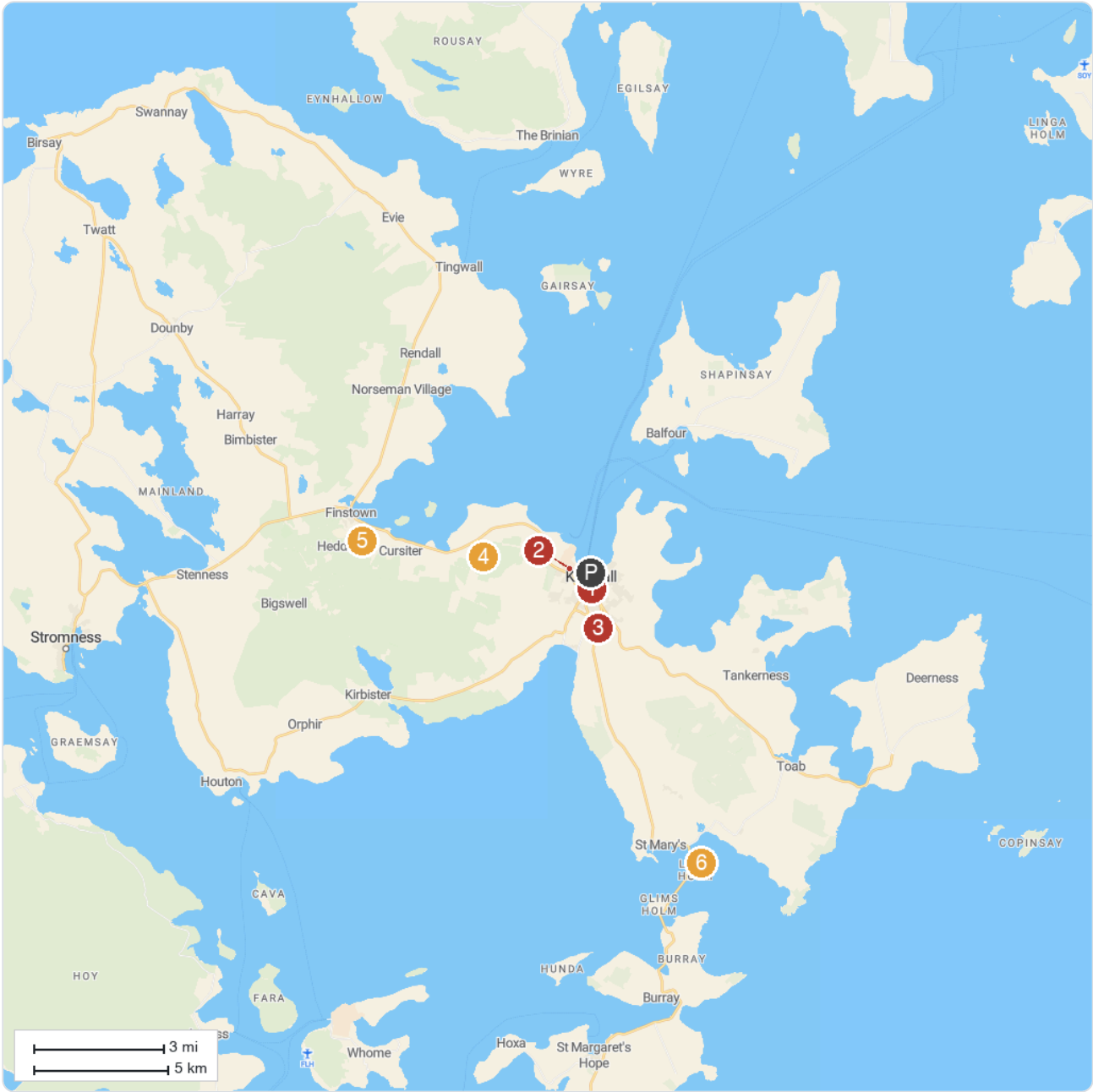
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Layer up, always. Orkney weather is changeable at any time of year. Bring a windproof, waterproof jacket regardless of the forecast — it can switch from sunshine to horizontal rain inside 20 minutes.
- Pre-book taxis and rental cars. Orkney's limited transport gets snapped up the moment ships are announced. If you're going to Skara Brae or the standing stones independently, arrange transport before you sail — not when you land.
- St Magnus Cathedral is free. One of the finest medieval buildings in northern Scotland costs nothing to enter. The Bishop's Palace next door charges ~£8 — worth it for history fans.
- Book Highland Park early. Tours sell out fast on cruise days. Check the distillery website before your sailing date and reserve a slot — walk-ins are often turned away.
- Free shuttle from Hatston. Don't walk the 2-mile industrial road from Hatston Pier — the free council shuttle runs to the Travel Centre and back. Watch the last departure time so you don't miss ship.
- Skara Brae needs time. The Neolithic village is 30 minutes from port and easily takes 2-3 hours with the visitor center. Pair it with the Ring of Brodgar next door if you're on a longer call.

Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|--|---|----------------------------------|--|
| 1 St Magnus Cathedral | Kirkwall's stunning red sandstone medieval cathedral, still active. | 2 Grain Earth House | An ancient, mysterious underground Iron Age dwelling. |
| 3 Highland Park Whisky Distillery | Famous distillery offering tours and tastings of Orkney whisky. | 4 Wideford Hill Cairn | A Neolithic chambered tomb with panoramic views of Orkney. |
| 5 Cuween Hill Chambered Cairn | Neolithic chambered tomb, famous for ancient dog skulls. | 6 Italian Chapel Orkney | Beautiful chapel built by WWII Italian prisoners of war. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |