

Scrabster, Caithness, Scotland

A rugged working harbour at the top of mainland Scotland, Scrabster opens the door to royal castles, windswept headlands, world-class surf, and some of the freshest seafood you'll ever taste.

 Docked (pier)

 Typical call: 7-10 hrs

 GBP (British pounds)

 English

🚢 MY DAY IN PORT

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

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Docked at St Ola Pier or Queen Elizabeth Pier; very large ships may tender

Best For: History lovers, whisky fans, scenery seekers, birdwatchers

Walk to centre: Thurso town is ~1.8 miles (3 km); free shuttle bus typically provided

Don't Miss: Castle of Mey (Queen Mother's home) and Duncansby Head sea stacks

 Getting around:  **Taxi**  £7–£9

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **Castle of Mey & Royal Gardens** — The Queen Mother's beloved 16th-century castle (now visited by King Charles III each year) sits 25 minutes east of...
- **Duncansby Head & Sea Stacks** — Drive 40 minutes east to the northeastern tip of mainland Britain.
- **Dunnet Head — Mainland Britain's True North** — Dunnet Head (not John o' Groats) is the genuine northernmost point of mainland Britain.
- **Wolfburn Distillery Tour** — One of Scotland's most northerly mainland whisky distilleries sits just outside Thurso — a 5-minute taxi ride or...
- **John o' Groats & the North Coast 500** — The famous journey's-end hamlet 40 minutes east is more legend than landmark, but the harbour and cliff views are...

BEST WALKS

- **Scrabster Pier to Holborn Head Lighthouse** 4 miles round-trip · Moderate · 1.5-2 hrs — Head west from the harbour along cliff-top paths to Holborn Head, where sea stacks plunge into the Pentland Firth and Orkney floats on...
- **Thurso Esplanade & River Walk** 2 miles loop · Easy · 45 mins — From the shuttle bus drop-off at Sir John's Square, stroll down to the beach esplanade for views across the Pentland Firth, then...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

 **CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)**

Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr	49°	40°	14d
Jun	58°	49°	15d
Aug	60°	52°	19d
Sep	58°	51°	17d
Oct	53°	46°	19d

 **DAYLIGHT &  MONEY**

Apr 6:01AM–8:28PM · Jun 4:05AM–10:24PM · Aug 5:35AM–9:00PM · Sep 6:44AM–7:33PM · Oct 7:51AM–6:07PM

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Dress for wind, always. Caithness is one of the windiest places in the UK. Even a sunny forecast means gusts. A windproof and waterproof layer is non-negotiable.
- Pre-book your taxi. Local taxi availability is very limited. If you want Castle of Mey, Dunnet Head, or John o' Groats independently,

Scrabster, Caithness, 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 Mary's Chapel | Historic chapel ruins offering a glimpse into ancient worship. |
| 2 | Castlehill Heritage Centre | Explore local history and flagstone industry heritage here. |
| 3 | Mary Ann's Cottage | Step back in time at this preserved 19th-century croft house. |
| 4 | Old St. Peter's Church, Thurso | Visit the atmospheric ruins of a medieval parish church. |
| 5 | Peedie Sands | Enjoy a small, sheltered sandy beach perfect for families. |
| 6 | RSPB Dunnet Head | Scotland's most northerly mainland bird reserve, home to seabirds. |
| P | Cruise port / terminal | |