

Onward, Voyager!

to Orkney & Shetland

Maps included



Your 2023
guide to
Scotland's
Northern Isles



www.northlinkferries.co.uk

Operated by **serco**

The Northern Isles are breathtaking and wild, rich in Norse and Scottish history, wildlife, delicious food and drink, unique folklore, music, poetry and prose. Orkney and Shetland are both quite unlike anywhere else in the UK. With NorthLink Ferries they're closer than you think.



MV Hamnavoe sails past the Old Man of Hoy

Discovering the islands has never been easier as NorthLink Ferries operates up to three sailings a day to Orkney and nightly sailings to Shetland.

Sailings routinely depart from Scrabster (near Thurso) to Stromness in Orkney and from Aberdeen to Lerwick in Shetland. Up to four sailings a week from Aberdeen also call in via Orkney's capital, Kirkwall.

For islanders and visitors alike, NorthLink Ferries provides a comfortable and reliable service that is a vital link to and from mainland Scotland. Purpose built for the routes, NorthLink's modern passenger vessels, MV Hamnavoe, MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey, offer the highest standards of safety and comfort. On board, travellers can expect a service that is a testament to the islands' warmth and friendliness.

Whether you are exploring all of Scotland's wonderful wilderness or discovering the Northern Isles for the first time, get in touch by phoning our call centre on **0800 111 4422** (free from UK landlines and mobiles) or by visiting our website on **www.northlinkferries.co.uk** to plan and book your trip.

Why not consider experiencing both Shetland and Orkney during your visit? Our regular sailing schedule makes island-hopping easy!

Travelling from Aberdeen

The Aberdeen ferry terminal is conveniently located in the heart of the city, close to the rail and bus stations at Union Square. NorthLink Ferries has partnered with Stagecoach to offer passengers the 727 Jet Bus service to (and from) Aberdeen International Airport.

...to Lerwick

There is a daily service to (and from) Lerwick, leaving Aberdeen in the evening and arriving at 07:30 the following morning in Shetland's capital.

...to Kirkwall

There is also a direct link to Orkney from Aberdeen. The service to (and from) Lerwick calls into Kirkwall frequently, arriving in the late evening before sailing on to Lerwick (or Aberdeen). The Stagecoach X10 bus service connects with arrivals and departures.

Travelling from Scrabster

Scrabster is located in the far north of mainland Scotland, near Thurso in Caithness. There are road, rail and bus links from Inverness to Thurso.

...to Stromness

NorthLink Ferries operate a 90-minute crossing up to three times a day between Scrabster and Stromness in Orkney. MV Hamnavoe is the only ferry crossing to Orkney which passes the breathtaking sea stack, the Old Man of Hoy.

Services On Board

NorthLink Ferries prides itself on making journeys to Shetland and Orkney as comfortable as possible. Enjoy a range of services on board MV Hamnavoe, MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey including:



The Feast Restaurant

Restaurants

Enjoy a variety of delicious freshly prepared meals, using locally sourced produce in the Feast restaurant.

Bars

All three NorthLink Ferries ships have bars serving a wide range of drinks, many from Orkney and Shetland.

Magnus Lounge

Purchase entry to this premium lounge; a quiet place to work or unwind.

Children's play area

The Viking's Den has a range of fun activities to keep children entertained.

En-suite Cabins with TV

Take it easy in a comfy 2, 3 and 4-bed cabin, accessible cabin, or pet-friendly cabin.

Reclining seats

Comfortable seats which, on MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey, can be reserved at the time of booking.



Sleeping pods

Sleeping pods

(MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey only)

A comfortable reclining chair with footrest, blanket and pillow. Shower facilities are also provided.

Shop and vending machines

Purchase drinks, snacks, a keepsake or gift from your visit to Orkney and Shetland.

Keeping You Entertained

Enjoy the games zone and cinema (MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey only), free wifi, and you can install the PressReader app before traveling to download magazines on your mobile device free of charge.

Other services available on board

Showers and priority boarding (Stromness only).

Hamnavoe Bed and Breakfast

Board the night before an early sailing from Stromness for a good night's sleep.

Accessible Facilities

A range of accessible facilities are available to allow easy access for all passengers. These include specially designed cabins, accessible toilets, wheelchair access, boarding assistance and Changing Places facilities.

Traveling with Pets

Kennels and pet friendly cabins are available onboard, and MV Hamnavoe has a pet friendly lounge where you can sit with your pet for the sailing.

Please visit www.northlinkferries.co.uk/thejourney for more information about services on board.

For 2023 timetables and fares, please visit www.northlinkferries.co.uk/booking-info

Discover the Shetland Islands

Shetland is a place of drama. "Nature", wrote one visitor, "appears in her wildest dress" in these, Britain's most northerly islands, and it is the wildness and grandeur of the Shetland landscapes and seascapes which inevitably become visitors' most enduring memory.

There are more than 100 islands here, each forged by the waves of the North Atlantic. Everywhere one goes, there are dramatic cliffs, perfect deserted beaches, huge vistas across awe-inspiring voes and inlets, the isles beloved Shetland Ponies and above, the cry of seabirds.

Shetland also has a packed event calendar which begins in January with Up Helly Aa, a fire festival honouring the isle's strong Viking heritage, Shetland Folk Festival in April, and Shetland Wool Week in September. Shetland truly is an unforgettable destination to visit.

Did you know?

- Shetland ponies are the smallest horse breed, but in relation to their size, they are also the strongest and can pull up to twice their own weight. On the island of Foula there are more ponies than people; they outnumber humans there 50 to 1!
- Shetland and Orkney were colonised by the Norse during the 8th and 9th centuries and belonged to Scandinavia until

'Must-see' places in Shetland



St Ninian's Isle

7 on the map overleaf

Beautiful St Ninian's Isle is joined to the Shetland mainland by a thin strip of sand called a tombolo, the largest in the United Kingdom. St Ninian's Isle has featured twice in the BBC's Shetland series. When standing in the middle of the tombolo; experiencing the waves lapping at either side of you is quite unique!



Sumburgh Head

11 on the map overleaf

Sumburgh Head is a 100m high cliff at the southern tip of Shetland. Tidal streams from east and west meet here, and the mixing of water provides food for seabirds and whales. The lighthouse at Sumburgh has recently been converted into a superb visitor's centre, and from May to July, the area is one of the best places to see puffins.



Jarlshof

12 on the map overleaf

Jarlshof is an archaeological site which was occupied for 4,000 years. The site is layered, with later generations of dwellers building with materials from previous houses. Neolithic pottery was found here, an Iron Age broch, and several Norse houses. On top of it all sits a medieval house.

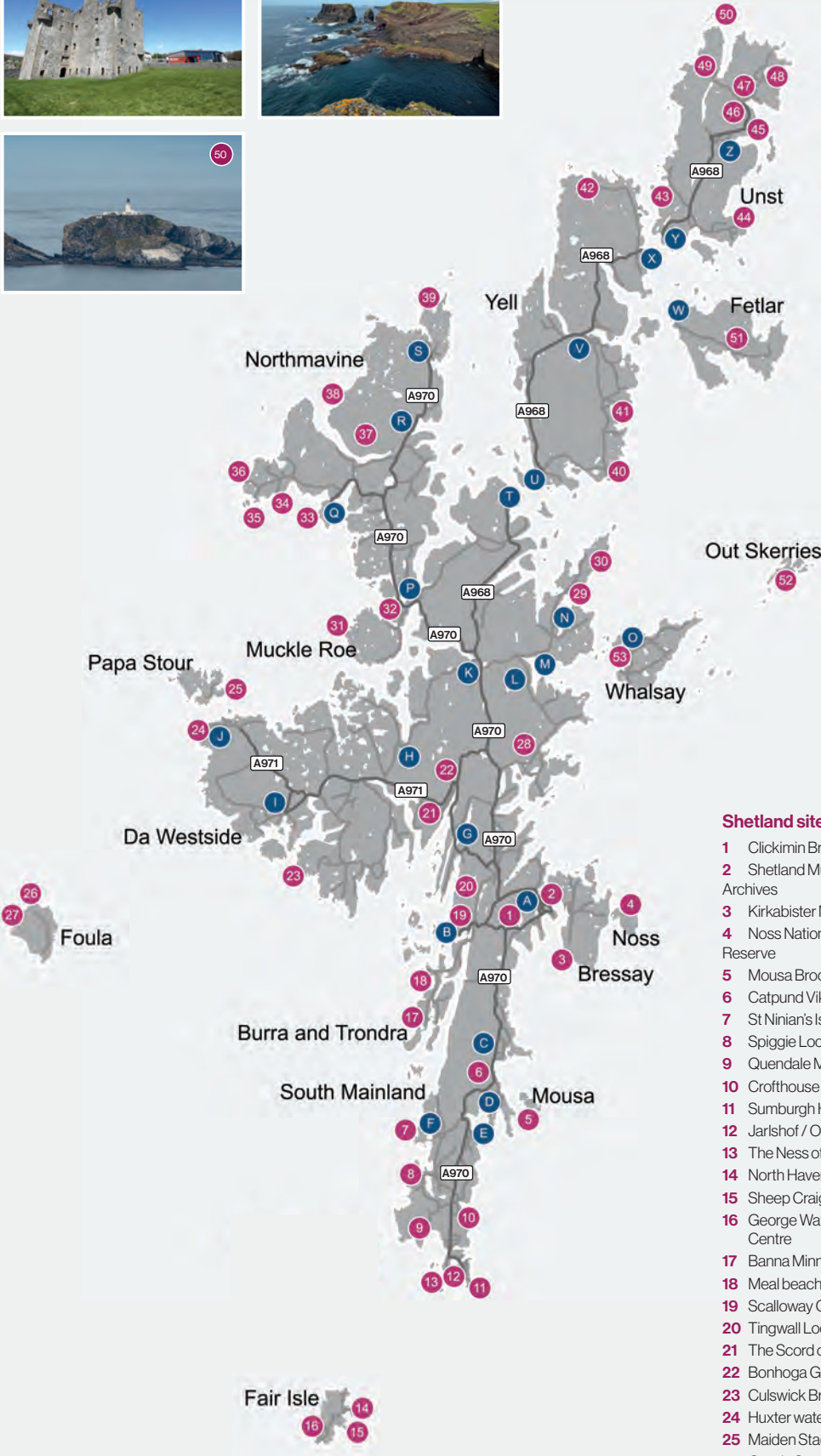
1469, when Princess Margaret of Denmark married James III of Scotland. The islands were part of her dowry.

- Shetland is home to the highest density of otters in Europe. These shy animals are most active at dusk and dawn, so quietly looking for them along Shetland's shores is an enjoyable way to spend an evening.

Places to visit in Shetland



Why not tick all the sites of interest that you visit?



Shetland towns, villages and ports

- A Lerwick
- B Scalloway
- C Cunningsburgh
- D Sandwick
- E Levenwick
- F Bigton
- G Whiteness
- H Aith
- I Walls
- J Sandness
- K Voe
- L North Nesting
- M Laxo
- N Vidlin
- O Symbister
- P Brae
- Q Hillswick
- R Ollaberry
- S North Roe
- T Toft
- U Ulsta
- V Mid Yell
- W Oddsta
- X Gutcher
- Y Belmont
- Z Baltasound

Shetland sites of interest

- 1 Clickimin Broch
- 2 Shetland Museum & Archives
- 3 Kirkabister Ness Lighthouse
- 4 Noss National Nature Reserve
- 5 Mousa Broch
- 6 Catpund Viking quarry
- 7 St Ninian's Isle
- 8 Spiggie Loch and Beach
- 9 Quendale Mill
- 10 Crofthouse Museum
- 11 Sumburgh Head
- 12 Jarlshof / Old Scatness
- 13 The Ness of Burgi
- 14 North Haven Pier
- 15 Sheep Craig
- 16 George Waterston Memorial Centre
- 17 Banna Minn Beach
- 18 Meal beach
- 19 Scalloway Castle
- 20 Tingwall Loch
- 21 The Scord of Weisdale
- 22 Bonhoga Gallery
- 23 Culswick Broch
- 24 Huxter water mills
- 25 Maiden Stack
- 26 Gaada Stack
- 27 Da Kame cliffs
- 28 Skellister Standing stone
- 29 Lunna Kirk
- 30 The Stones of Stofast
- 31 The Hams of Muckle Roe
- 32 Mavis Grind
- 33 Da Drongs
- 34 Tangwick Haa Museum
- 35 Dore Holm
- 36 Eshanness cliffs
- 37 Ronas Hill
- 38 Lang Ayre
- 39 Fethaland
- 40 Old Haa Museum
- 41 White Wife of Otterswick
- 42 The Gloop Memorial
- 43 Underhoull Norse house
- 44 Muness Castle
- 45 Bobby's Bus Shelter
- 46 Skidbladner galley and longhouse
- 47 Unst Boat Haven
- 48 Norwick beach
- 49 Hermaness Nature Reserve
- 50 Muckle Flugga
- 51 Fetlar Interpretive Centre
- 52 Battle Pund
- 53 Pier House Museum

Explore the Orkney Islands

With green rolling fields bordered by huge seascapes, Orkney has an incredible allure and huge range of attractions. Visitors can enjoy extraordinary remains of villages, stone circles and tombs and the sunken fleet at Scapa Flow – there is over 5,000 years of human history to uncover here.

Orkney's striking sea cliffs are home to thousands of birds, whilst seals, whales, and dolphins are frequently spotted in the clear waters surrounding the isles. There are tranquil beaches to stroll along and award-winning food and drink to sample. The abundance of entertainment and activities on offer includes festivals and shows, island-hopping, golf at midnight, traditional music, and shopping for crafts handmade in Orkney.

There is always something special going on in the Orkney Islands for you to discover.

Did you know?

- 15% of the world's grey seal population can be found in Orkney. Seals often haul out on quiet island beaches or may follow you in the water as you walk along the shore.
- At the end of World War 1, the surrendered ships of the German Fleet anchored in Scapa Flow were scuttled by Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter. Though many ships were salvaged, three battleships and four light cruisers remain in shallow water, and Orkney is a popular destination for divers.

'Must-see' places in Orkney



Skara Brae

1 on the map overleaf

Discovered under a sand dune after a windstorm in 1850, Skara Brae is a settlement of ten clustered houses which were occupied over 5,000 years ago. The stone-built furniture has been perfectly preserved in the sand; cupboards, beds and boxes are all intact. Skara Brae is one of the must-see attractions of Orkney, offering an amazing glimpse into Neolithic life.



The Italian Chapel

34 on the map overleaf

Built in 1943 by Italian prisoners of war (who were working at the time on The Churchill Barriers), the Italian chapel was built out of two Nissen huts, concrete, and scrap metal. The tabernacle was made from wood obtained from a wrecked ship and the light holders made out of corned beef tins. The interior was exquisitely painted by Domenico Chiochetti.

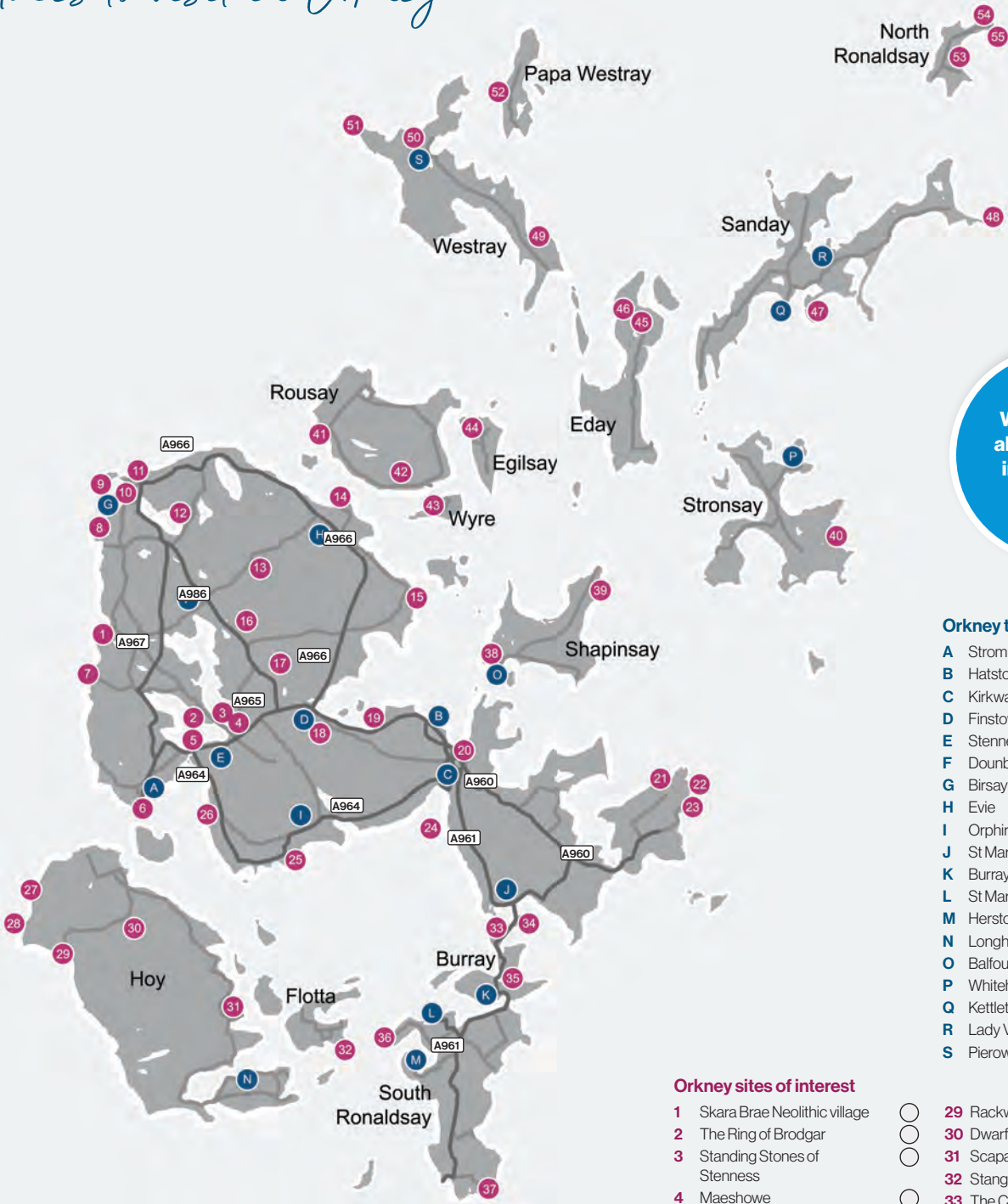


The Ring of Brodgar

2 on the map overleaf

On a dark moor between the Loch of Harray and the Loch of Stenness, there is a vast circle of 36 standing stones. When the Ring of Brodgar was built 4,000 years ago there may have been over 60 stones. The reason why the Neolithic people erected this monument remains a mystery. Just as churches today are used for various events, it is possible that the stone circles served a number of roles.

Places to visit in Orkney



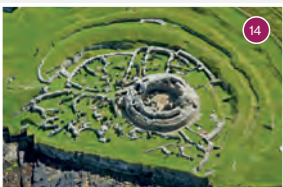
Why not tick all the sites of interest that you visit?

Orkney towns, villages and ports

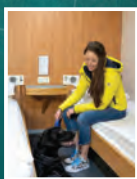
- A Stromness
- B Hatston
- C Kirkwall
- D Finstown
- E Stenness
- F Dounby
- G Birsay
- H Evie
- I Orphir
- J St Mary's
- K Burray
- L St Margaret's Hope
- M Herston
- N Longhope
- O Balfour
- P Whitehall
- Q Kettletoft
- R Lady Village
- S Pierowall

Orkney sites of interest

- 1 Skara Brae Neolithic village
- 2 The Ring of Brodgar
- 3 Standing Stones of Stenness
- 4 Maeshowe
- 5 Unstan Cairn
- 6 Stromness Museum
- 7 Yesnaby cliffs
- 8 Marwick Head
- 9 The Brough of Birsay
- 10 Barony Mill
- 11 Skiba Geo whalebone
- 12 Kirbuster Farm Museum
- 13 The Click Mill
- 14 The Broch of Gurness
- 15 The Rendall Doocot
- 16 Corrigan Farm Museum
- 17 The Knowes of Trotty
- 18 Cuween Chambered Cairn
- 19 Rennibister Earth House
- 20 St Magnus Cathedral
- 21 Covenanters Memorial
- 22 The Brough of Deerness
- 23 The Gloup
- 24 The Royal Oak wreck site
- 25 Orphir Round Kirk
- 26 The Hall of Clestrain
- 27 St John's Head
- 28 The Old Man of Hoy
- 29 Rackwick valley
- 30 Dwarfie Stane
- 31 Scapa Flow Visitor Centre
- 32 Stanger Head cliffs
- 33 The Churchill Barriers
- 34 The Italian Chapel
- 35 Orkney Fossil & Heritage Centre
- 36 Hoxa Head cliffs
- 37 The Tomb of the Otters
- 38 Balfour Castle
- 39 Burroughston Broch
- 40 The Vat of Kirbister
- 41 Midhowe Broch and Cairn
- 42 Blackhammer Cairn
- 43 Cubbie Roo's Castle
- 44 St Magnus Kirk
- 45 The Stone of Setter
- 46 Vinquoy Chambered Tomb
- 47 Quoyness Chambered Cairn
- 48 Start Point Lighthouse
- 49 Castle O'Burrian
- 50 Noltland Castle
- 51 Noup Head cliffs
- 52 The Knap of Howar
- 53 The sheep dyke
- 54 The New Lighthouse
- 55 The Old Beacon



Highlights of travelling with NorthLink Ferries



Pet friendly cabins

Let your four-legged friend enjoy the open spaces of Orkney and Shetland! NorthLink ships have comfortable cabins available which are ideal for your pet. MV Hamnavoe also has a pet friendly lounge.



The Old Man of Hoy

One of the most iconic sea stacks in the UK, the Old Man of Hoy stands at 137m high. Make sure you travel to Orkney on MV Hamnavoe to see it for yourself!



Facilities for those with accessibility requirements

NorthLink ships and ports are built with easy access in mind. Accessible facilities include cabins, lifts, boarding assistance and Changing Places.



Local food and drink

NorthLink Ferries use delicious food and drink from Orkney and Shetland on board wherever possible. Enjoy a taste of the isles before you even arrive!



Friendly local staff

NorthLink ports, ships and offices are manned by knowledgeable local staff who are more than happy to assist you with your sailing.



The Heart of Neolithic Orkney

The prehistoric Skara Brae, Maeshowe and the Ring of Brodgar are an easy cycle ride from Stromness. Bicycles are free of charge on NorthLink Ferries.



Your dream holiday is closer than you think...

Simply travel to Aberdeen and catch the teatime ferry. You will be in Orkney before midnight or in Shetland by the following morning.



Download our app now. Available for iOS and Android

0800 111 4422

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