ONWARD, VOYAGER

to Orkney & Shetland





Your 2026 guide to Scotland's Northern Isles

www.northlinkferries.co.uk

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NorthLink FERRIES

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 Hjaltland docked in Aberdeen

NorthLink Ferries sail from the Scottish Mainland to the islands, with up to four sailings a day to Orkney and nightly sailings to Shetland.

For islanders and visitors alike, NorthLink Ferries provide 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. NorthLink ports, ships and offices are manned by knowledgeable local staff and travellers can expect a service that is a testament to the islands' warmth and friendliness.

If you are planning a visit to Orkney or Shetland, visit **www.northlinkferries.co.uk** or call us on 0800 111 4422 (free from UK landlines and mobiles) to book your journey today.

Travelling from Aberdeen
The Aberdeen ferry terminal is conveniently located in the city centre, close to the rail and bus stations at Union Square. The Stagecoach 727 Jet Bus service connects passengers to (and from) Aberdeen International Airport.

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

…to Kirkwall
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 in Orkney 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.



MV Hamnavoe sailing to the Orkney Islands

If you have accessibility requirements NorthLink ships and ports are built with easy access in mind. Accessible facilities include specially designed cabins, lifts, accessible toilets, Changing Places facilities and boarding assistance.

On board

Enjoy the following range of services on board NorthLink's comfortable ships – MV Hamnavoe, MV Hjaltland and MV Hrossey:



The Feast Restaurant
Enjoy a variety of delicious freshly prepared meals, made using locally sourced produce.



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



Magnus Lounge
Purchase entry to this premium lounge: a quiet place to work or unwind.



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



Comfortable En-suite Cabins
Relax in a 2, 3 or 4-bed cabin. Pet-friendly, accessible or Hamnavoe B&B cabins are also available.



Sleeping Pods (MV Hjaltland & MV Hrossey only)
A premium recliner with footrest, blanket and pillow. Shower facilities are also provided.



Pet Friendly Travel
Pet-friendly cabins and kennels are available on all ships, and MV Hamnavoe has a comfortable dog lounge.



Other facilities include reclining seats, free Wi-Fi, a children's play area, and, on MV Hrossey and MV Hjaltland only, a Games Zone and cinema.

2026 Timetables and Visitor Fares

Fares from 1st January to 31st December 2026

(Prices in £'s) All fares single passage	Scrabster – Stromness			Aberdeen – Lerwick			Aberdeen – Kirkwall			Lerwick – Kirkwall		
	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High	Low	Mid	High
PASSENGERS												
Adult Single (16yrs & over)	£22.10	£23.95	£26.00	£29.00	£37.00	£44.50	£27.50	£35.00	£42.00	£18.55	£21.80	£26.50
Child Single (5-15yrs)	£11.20	£12.00	£12.95	£14.35	£18.15	£21.80	£13.75	£17.15	£20.85	£9.35	£11.00	£13.20
Infant (0-4yrs)	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Concessions	£19.89	£21.56	£23.40	£26.10	£33.30	£40.05	£24.75	£31.50	£37.80	£16.70	£19.62	£23.85
VEHICLES												
Car (< 6m)	£72.00	£74.00	£79.00	£117.00	£149.00	£157.00	£108.00	£141.00	£149.00	£69.00	£98.00	£111.00
Motorhome <= 6m	£72.00	£74.00	£79.00	£117.00	£149.00	£157.00	£108.00	£141.00	£149.00	£69.00	£98.00	£111.00
Long and towed vehicle (supplement per m)	£12.95	£15.25	£16.70	£15.70	£19.35	£23.10	£14.40	£17.15	£19.35	£13.85	£16.70	£18.55
Bicycle	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Motorcycles/Scooters	£21.20	£23.95	£27.00	£30.50	£34.50	£37.50	£23.95	£29.00	£34.50	£23.95	£28.00	£31.50
ACCOMMODATION												
Premium Outer 2 berth	£91.00	£91.00	£91.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00
Premium Outer 2 berth - Pet Friendly*	–	–	–	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00
Executive Outer 2 berth	–	–	–	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00	£136.00	£176.00	£190.00
Outer 2 berth	£69.00	£69.00	£82.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00
Outer 2 berth - Pet Friendly*	–	–	–	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00
Outer 3 berth	–	–	–	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00	£99.00	£139.00	£153.00
Outer 4 berth	£69.00	£69.00	£82.00	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Inner 4 berth	–	–	–	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00
Inner 4 berth - Pet Friendly*	–	–	–	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00
Inner 2 berth	£53.00	£53.00	£59.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00
Inner 2 berth - Pet Friendly*	£53.00	£53.00	£59.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00	£78.00	£96.00	£115.00
Premium Accessible 2 berth inside cabin with hoist	–	–	–	£106.00	£145.00	£159.00	£106.00	£145.00	£159.00	£106.00	£145.00	£159.00
Accessible 3 berth inside cabin	£69.00	£69.00	£82.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00
Accessible 2 berth inside cabin with hoist	£69.00	£69.00	£82.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00	£96.00	£135.00	£149.00
Sleeping Pods	–	–	–	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00	£18.00
Reclining Seats	–	–	–	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50	£3.50
* plus supplement per pet	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00	£15.00
EXTRAS												
Magnus' Lounge	£7.50			£20.00			£20.00			£20.00		
Kennel Small	£9.85			£9.85			£9.85			£9.85		
Kennel Large	£13.10			£13.10			£13.10			£13.10		
Valet Parking	£24.95			£24.95			£24.95			£24.95		
Priority Boarding (Stromness to Scrabster only)	£19.65			–			–			–		

Low season: 7 January to 23 March; 1 November to 17 December.

Mid season: 1 to 6 January; 24 March to 14 June; 1 September to 31 October; 18 to 31 December.

Peak season: 15 June to 31 August.

LERWICK – KIRKWALL – ABERDEEN (SOUTHBOUND)

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
DEP LERWICK	1730[1]	1900	1730	1900	1730	1900	1900
ARR KIRKWALL	2300[2]	–	2300	–	2300	–	–
DEP KIRKWALL	2345[2]	–	2345	–	2345	–	–
ARR ABERDEEN	0700	0700	0700	0700	0700	0700	0700

[1] Departure Lerwick 19:00 from 2 Jan–31 Mar & 1 Nov–30 Dec
[2] No Kirkwall call from 2 Jan–31 Mar & 1 Nov–30 Dec

ABERDEEN – KIRKWALL – LERWICK (NORTHBOUND)

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
DEP ABERDEEN	1900	1700[1]	1900	1700	1900	1700	1700
ARR KIRKWALL	–	2300[2]	–	2300	–	2300	2300
DEP KIRKWALL	–	2345[2]	–	2345	–	2345	2345
ARR LERWICK	0730	0730	0730	0730	0730	0730	0730

[1] Departure Aberdeen 19:00 from 2 Jan-31 Mar & 1 Nov–30 Dec
[2] No Kirkwall call from 2 Jan–31 Mar & 1 Nov–30 Dec

From 5th to 17th January, 2nd to 15th February, and 3rd to 15th March 2026 ships will undergo scheduled maintenance and operate to an amended timetable.

On Tuesday 22nd December 2026 and Tuesday 29th December 2026 there will be additional (festive) northbound Kirkwall calls.

2026 Scrabster to Stromness Timetable

Timetable subject to change

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monday						1						
Tuesday						2			1			1
Wednesday				1		3	1		2			2
Thursday	1			2		4	2		3	1		3
Friday	2			3	1	5	3		4	2		4
Saturday	3			4	2	6	4	1	5	3		5
Sunday	4	1	1	5	3	7	5	2	6	4	1	6
Monday	5	2	2	6	4	8	6	3	7	5	2	7
Tuesday	6	3	3	7	5	9	7	4	8	6	3	8
Wednesday	7	4	4	8	6	10	8	5	9	7	4	9
Thursday	8	5	5	9	7	11	9	6	10	8	5	10
Friday	9	6	6	10	8	12	10	7	11	9	6	11
Saturday	10	7	7	11	9	13	11	8*	12	10	7	12
Sunday	11	8	8	12	10	14	12	9*	13	11	8	13
Monday	12	9	9	13	11	15	13	10	14	12	9	14
Tuesday	13	10	10	14	12	16	14	11	15	13	10	15
Wednesday	14	11	11	15	13	17	15	12	16	14	11	16
Thursday	15	12	12	16	14	18	16	13	17	15	12	17
Friday	16	13	13	17	15	19	17	14	18	16	13	18
Saturday	17	14	14	18	16	20	18	15	19	17	14	19
Sunday	18	15	15	19	17	21	19	16	20	18	15	20
Monday	19	16	16	20	18	22	20	17	21	19	16	21
Tuesday	20	17	17	21	19	23	21	18	22	20	17	22
Wednesday	21	18	18	22	20	24	22	19	23	21	18	23
Thursday	22	19	19	23	21	25	23	20	24	22	19	24
Friday	23	20	20	24	22	26	24	21	25	23	20	25
Saturday	24	21	21	25	23	27	25	22	26	24	21	26
Sunday	25	22	22	26	24	28	26	23	27	25	22	27
Monday	26	23	23	27	25	29	27	24	28	26	23	28
Tuesday	27	24	24	28	26	30	28	25	29	27	24	29
Wednesday	28	25	25	29	27		29	26	30	28	25	30
Thursday	29	26	26	30	28		30	27		29	26	31
Friday	30	27	27		29		31	28		30	27	
Saturday	31	28	28		30			29		31	28	
Sunday			29		31			30			29	
Monday			30					31			30	
Tuesday			31									

SAILING TIME 90 MINUTES	OFF PEAK		PEAK			WEEKEND	
STROMNESS TO SCRABSTER	0630	1645	0630	1100	1645	0900	1645
SCRABSTER TO STROMNESS	0845	1900	0845	1315	1900	1200	1900

No sailing

* On **Monday 5th to Saturday 17th January 2026** MV Hamnavoe will be away for scheduled maintenance at dry dock. There will be extra AB-KI-LE and LE-KI-AB sailings during dry dock.

* On **Saturday 8th August 2026** (County Show day), the afternoon sailings will take place at 1745 and 20:00.

* **Sunday 9th August 2026** (the day after County Show) is a 3 trip day.

The 'Landbridge' offer
This offer enables passengers to travel from Caithness to Shetland, routing via Scrabster to Stromness, and then onwards from Kirkwall to Lerwick, for a reduced fare.

Concessions
10% discount available on standard fares to senior citizens (aged 60 years and over), those in full-time education and disabled passengers.

Final check-in is 30 minutes prior to published departure.

Kids Go Free
With the 'Kids Go Free' promotion children can travel for free on direct Lerwick to Aberdeen and Aberdeen to Lerwick routes. The offer is open for travel all year round and is available to families who book a car and a cabin.

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 events calendar which begins in January with Up Helly Aa, a fire festival honouring the isle’s strong Viking heritage, Shetland Folk Festival in May, and Shetland Wool Week in September. Shetland truly is an unforgettable destination to visit.

‘Must-see’ places in Shetland



St Ninian’s Isle

1 on the map

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 features often 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

2 on the map

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

3 on the map

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.

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 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.



Shetland Museum and Archives – A fascinating place on Lerwick's waterfront.



Mousa Broch – One of the best preserved Iron Age brochs.



Meal beach – A lovely sandy beach.



Scalloway Castle – A castle with a brutal history built in 1599.



Eshaness and Dore Holm – Dramatic cliffs and volcanic scenery.



Muckle Flugga – Britain's most northerly lighthouse.

Shetland towns, villages and ports

- **A** Lerwick
- **B** Scalloway
- **C** Cunningsburgh
- **D** Sandwick
- **E** Aith
- **F** Walls
- **G** Voe
- **H** Vidlin
- **I** Brae
- **J** Toft

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

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

2 on the map

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 Chiocchetti.



The Ring of Brodgar

3 on the map

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.



Stromness – Picturesque port for MV Hamnavoe.



Standing Stones of Stenness – Four imposing standing stones.



Maeshowe – Large Neolithic tomb with Viking runes.



The Brough of Birsay – Walk to this island when the tide is low.



The Broch of Gurness – Iron Age circular stone tower and settlement.



St Magnus Cathedral – A Viking cathedral built in 1137.

Orkney towns, villages and ports

- A Stromness
- B Kirkwall and Hatston
- C Finstown
- D Stenness
- E Dounby
- F Birsay
- G Evie
- H Orphir
- I St Mary's
- J St Margaret's Hope



Aberdeen Ferry Terminal, Jamieson's Quay, Aberdeen, AB11 5NP
https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/port/aberdeen/



Hatston Ferry Terminal, Hatston Quay, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RQ
https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/port/hatston/



Lerwick Ferry Terminal, Holmsgarth Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0PR
https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/port/lerwick/



Scrabster Ferry Terminal, Queen Elizabeth Pier, Scrabster, Caithness, KW14 7UW
https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/port/scrabster/



Stromness Ferry Terminal, Ferry Road, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3BH
https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/port/stromness/

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