



*Relaxed  
tailor-made  
wildlife and  
culture  
holidays for  
small groups of  
4 to 8 people*

*contact  
Steve Sankey  
01856 831240*



# ORCADIAN

# wildlife

birds

small groups  
(maximum 8)

island hopping

history

professional ornithologists

walking

photography

wildlife

4 star accommodation

short breaks



We offer relaxed, tailor-made wildlife and activity holidays for small groups of people (maximum 8 guests).

Wildlife, walking, photography and of course Orkney's superb 5,000 year old Neolithic (new stone age) sites always feature in our itineraries. Whatever you want to do in the Orkney outdoors please give us a call and we'll try and do it with you.

Groups are purposefully kept small in order to see more and focus on your wishes.

Your guides Steve Sankey and Andy Mitchell are both experienced environmentalists and are professional ornithologists.

Steve Sankey has lived in Orkney for 10 years and knows its habitats and moods well. A lifelong birdwatcher he is also an experienced whale and dolphin spotter, and has recorded many cetaceans over the last decade in Orkney waters.

Andy Mitchell also lives on South Ronaldsay and is an environmental adviser and consultant, having spent 10 years with RSPB, including the management of the reserves on Egilsay and Rousay.

Accommodation is in a comfortable 4 star hotel at half board.

Lunch is usually a picnic overlooking a seabird cliff, bay or loch. Unfortunately any meal may sometimes be disturbed by a passing short-eared owl, hen harrier, and even killer and minke whales....

# orkney tours

We like to pride ourselves on no two days ever being the same. Orkney's shifting skies and seas help, as does the weather – frequently all four seasons in one day. So it's best to bring your waterproof jacket and trousers, and your boots. Wildlife doesn't stop for the weather and neither do we (unless with your agreement!).



## A typical week's tour might comprise:

**Two or three days spent exploring Orkney mainland and our own island of South Ronaldsay.**

*One or two days spent on other islands of your choice (Eday, Egilsay, Hoy, Rousay, Shapinsay or Stronsay), or perhaps even one of the remote northern isles of North Ronaldsay and Papa Westray or Westray if timetables and weather permit (please note a surcharge applies if air is used for travel).*

**A day spent exploring locally, just pottering on our local beaches and cliff tops. Our guests say that this is bliss....**

*A free day in Kirkwall for shopping and sightseeing (cathedral, distillery, shops, museums).*

**Our normal practice is to seek ideas from you as to your wishes and aspirations. We can then suggest options based on the weather forecast, the previous week's sightings, and your preferences. Some ideas for tours are given on the right.**



## mainland west

We concentrate on the western seaboard, calling at Yesnaby, Marwick Head and Brough Head for the endemic Scottish primrose, broughs and seabirds. RSPB wetland and moorland reserves and hides offer opportunities to see and hear breeding wildfowl, red-throated divers, skuas, hen harrier and short-eared owl. No trip to Orkney is complete without a visit to the stunning 5,000 year old village of Skara Brae and the associated standing stones of the Ring of Brodgar - this tour provides the opportunity to visit these spectacular sites.



Photo John Anderson

## mainland south and east

Here we look at the wildlife and history of Scapa Flow and its surrounding nature reserves. Its importance in naval history is marked by the eerie display of old boats wrecked to prevent entry to the fine natural harbour in the second World War. Early in the season long-tailed duck and great-northern divers are resplendent in their breeding plumage. Later, breeding puffins adorn the cliffs at the Brough of Deerness, a wild spot reached only by a narrow ledge. The nearby sea cave of the Gloop is a spectacular chasm won from the sea. Another much-loved Orkney feature we visit is the baroque Italian Chapel on Lamb Holm, built by prisoners of war working on the Churchill Barriers.

## island tours

The hills of Hoy, the highest in the archipelago, and especially the Old Man of Hoy form the backdrop for many famous Orkney views. Much of the northern end of the island is a RSPB reserve and a good place for raptors (including merlin, peregrine, hen harrier and short-eared owl), bonxies and red-throated divers. The Dwarfie Stane, the Old Man himself and the incomparable Rackwick Bay will complete a day of enjoyment on this island.

The Westness Walk on Rousay's south coast is the most important historical mile in Scotland north of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh's Old Town. Most impressive is the "Ship of Death", or Midhowe broch and cairn.

Across on the eastern tip of Shapinsay lies a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve of coastal heath, alive with the colour of lichens and two species of breeding skua. Castle Bloody is an evocative spot, as is the mesmerising sea stack of the Holm of Burghlee nearby. The Mor Stein is an impressive - and very large - standing stone.



Photo Colin Speedie



"Thank you, Steve & Sarah, for sharing your incredible knowledge of birds & Neolithic sites. My trip to the Orkney Islands was wonderful!!!"

Shelley Young, Chico, California.

# the peedie house: self-catering

*The Peedie House is a stone steading at Gerraquoy Organic Farm that was converted to self-catering accommodation, and which is suitable for two persons. It features:*

**Full accessibility for disabled persons**  
**A double bedroom with en suite bathroom and shower**

**Excellent kitchen facilities**

**A large conservatory overlooking Grimness Head and the nature reserve island of Copinsay**

**100% renewable energy saving solar power and wind energy.**

The Peedie House uses green tourism principles including high energy insulation and solar panels. It is also part of the cyclist and walkers welcome schemes.

As part of Orcadian Wildlife we are also pleased to offer:

*Excellent local knowledge of Orkney's wildlife and 5,000 year old Neolithic sites*

*Day tours (at additional cost) with Orcadian Wildlife*

*Organic beef for sale produced on the farm by our small herd of native Shetland cattle*

*Organic eggs for sale produced on the farm by our (very!) free range chickens*



## Travel to Orkney: Closer than you Think

### **By air:**

Fly to Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Inverness and then onto Kirkwall.  
[www.flybe.com](http://www.flybe.com)

### **By bus or train and ferry:**

Travel to Thurso or Wick via Inverness and catch scheduled service buses to the Pentland Ferries terminal at Gills Bay. There are 3 or 4 ferries a day. John O'Groats Ferries also operate a **passenger only** ferry which connects with the Orkney Bus in the summer months between John O'Groats and Burwick on South Ronaldsay.

### **By Orkney Bus:**

Between 1 May and early September take the Orkney Bus (see [www.jogferry.co.uk](http://www.jogferry.co.uk)) from Inverness Bus Station which connects with the Jogferry)

### **By car:**

Travel via Wick to the Pentland Ferries terminal at Gills Bay and either leave your car at Gills Bay or take it on the ferry if you are staying longer on Orkney following your tour with Orcadian Wildlife. Alternatively drive to John O'Groats and take the Jogferry to Burwick (**passenger only** in the summer months). Northlink Ferries also operate to Orkney from Scrabster (near Thurso) to Stromness. Three ferries a week also sail from Aberdeen to Kirkwall but note that this is a 6 hour crossing.

### **Pentland Ferries**

**Tel: 01856 831226**  
[www.pentlandferries.co.uk](http://www.pentlandferries.co.uk)

### **Northlink Ferries**

**Tel: 01856 885500**  
[www.northlinkferries.co.uk](http://www.northlinkferries.co.uk)

### **John O' Groats Ferries:**

**tel: 01955 611353**  
[www.jogferry.co.uk](http://www.jogferry.co.uk)

*We will be pleased to collect you from the airport or ferry terminals and may be able to assist with your travel arrangements. Please contact us for suggestions.*

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