



Things to see and do in Caithness and Sutherland

Caithness

Wick

Museums and heritage centres

Wick Heritage Museum

Wick Heritage Centre, 18-27 Bank Row, Wick
01955 605393 | museum@wickheritage.org
<https://www.wickheritage.org>

The Wick Heritage Centre is a local history museum which presents the story of the town. It houses a Kipper kiln, a cooperage, Harbour scene, a restored fisherman's house, art gallery, the famous Johnston collection of photographs of 115 years history and a working lighthouse.

0.2 mile

Nucleus: The Nuclear and Caithness Archives

Wick Airport, Wick KW1 4QS
+44 (0)1955 606432 | north.highlandarchive@highlifehighland.com
<https://www.highlifehighland.com/nucleus-nuclear-caithness-archives/>

Nucleus, the Nuclear and Caithness Archives is the national archive of the British civil nuclear industry and the archive for the County of Caithness. The archives were constructed by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and opened in 2017.

0.9 mile



Historic attractions and ancient sites

Castle of Old Wick

March Rd, Wick KW1 5TY

Discover one of Scotland's oldest castles, perched on a narrow promontory on the far north-eastern tip of the mainland. The Castle of Old Wick was probably built in the 1100s. It shares quite a few similarities with Cubbie Roo's Castle on Orkney, built in about 1150 – indeed, it may have been built by the half-Norse Earl Harald Maddadson.

1.6 miles

Sinclair Girnigoe Castle

<http://www.castlesinclairgirnigoe.org/index.html>

Located five miles north of Wick the Castle is dramatically situated on a long narrow peninsula projecting into Sinclair Bay and the North Sea with perpendicular sides of between fifty and sixty feet. This stronghold was built as one Castle in the late 14th century and adapted regularly over time until abandoned and partially demolished in the mid-17th Century.

4.1. miles

Yarrows Archaeological Trail

<http://www.yarrowsheritagetrust.co.uk/>

The Yarrows Trail is a circular archaeological trail that begins and ends at a car park. The area of the Yarrows basin has one of the richest unbroken sequences of prehistoric remains, from the Mesolithic site at Oliclett, the Neolithic chambered tombs of Yarrows itself, Bronze Age hut circles and stone rows, a broch on the water's edge and more discoveries coming to light each year.

7.5. miles



Keiss Castle

Keiss Castle, KW1 4XB

Keiss Castle was a 'Z' plan Tower House built in the late sixteenth/early seventeenth century by George, Earl of Caithness but was seized when he defied the King. The structure was ruinous by the eighteenth century and was replaced by an ellobate mansion house. The beach and grounds were heavily fortified during WWII.

8.8 miles

Canisbay Kirk

Wick KW1 4YJ

Like many churches, Canisbay Kirk stands on the site of an older building mentioned in texts as early as 1222. An Iron Age broch possibly stood on this site before then. The present kirk was built in the 17th Century. Canisbay Kirk was where the Queen Mother worshipped on Sundays during her holidays in Caithness. There is now a lovely slate memorial to her at the church.

16.8 miles

Distilleries

Old Pulteney Distillery

Old Pulteney Distillery, Huddart Street, Wick, KW1 5BA

+44(0)1955 602 371

<https://www.oldpulteney.com/>

Pulteney distillery is one of the most northerly distilleries on the Scottish mainland. The extreme location and unique stills have resulted in a Single Malt Scotch Whisky that is bursting with the power and subtlety of the sea. The distillery is open to visitors and offers tours of the facility which must be booked in advance.

0.7 mile



Other activities and attractions

Caithness Seacoast

Caithness Seacoast, South Quay, Wick Harbour, Wick, KW1 5HA
+44 (0)1955 609 200 | enquiries@caithness-seacoast.co.uk
<https://www.caithness-seacoast.co.uk/>

Enjoy breathtaking sea tours around the fascinating East Caithness coastline. This tour company operates from Wick harbour. The Geo Explorer is their exciting purpose-built twin engine boat. On the tours you can see castles, sea caves and stacks, harbours and various lighthouses. There is also a variety of wildlife which can be seen tern and puffin colonies and occasionally dolphins and whales.

0.4 mile

Wick Golf Club

Wick Golf Club, Wick Golf Club, Reiss, Wick, KW1 4RW
+44 (0)1955 602 726 | secretary@wickgolfclub.org.uk
<http://www.wickgolfclub.org.uk/>

In September 1870 Wick Golf Club was established to organise competitions, set and administer rules and handicaps for its members. Access to the course does not normally require pre-booking and information is available on the competitions including walk on opens. Fees are reasonable, and an honesty box is used to collect green fees. A small practice putting area is provided adjacent to the clubhouse. Nearby are 2 practice nets and a large practice area.

3.7 miles

Lyth Arts Centre

Lyth Arts Centre, Lyth, Nr Wick, KW1 4RX
01955 641 434 (Office Hours: 10am – 4pm, Mon – Fri)
<http://www.lytharts.org.uk/>

Lyth Arts Centre is a multi-arts centre in Caithness, presenting a year-round programme of live performance. From some of the most exciting small-scale touring companies in Scotland to internationally acclaimed artists, the programme includes music, theatre, dance, comedy and much more. Lyth Arts Centre is a hidden gem between Wick and Thurso, just a short detour off the NC500 route. Pop in for teas, coffees, homemade cakes and local produce in our cosy lounge and garden.

10.3 miles



Duncansby Stacks

Wick KW1 4YS

The Stacks of Duncansby are some of the finest in the British Isles. The Great Stack towers at 60m high. As well as the incredible view you can enjoy seeing a varied amount of wildlife and seabirds including Fulmars, kittiewake, guillemots, razorbills and the Skua and also a few puffins.

18.5 miles

John O' Groats Ferries

Ferry Office, John O'Groats, KW14YR
+44 (0)1955 611353 | contact@jogferry.co.uk
<http://www.jogferry.co.uk/Home.aspx>

The John O'Groats Ferry operates all summer from 1 May to 30 September specialising in Day Tours to the Orkney Islands. 40 mins sea crossing. A large, quality coach awaits your arrival in Orkney. Enjoy some tales of the Islands from our local driver guide. Cross the Churchill Barriers to visit 5 Orkney Islands. See Churchill Barriers, Italian Chapel, Stromness, Skara Brae (stone age village), Standing Stones, Ring of Brodgar and Kirkwall with its Cathedral, shops & harbour.

17.1 miles

[Other areas](#)

Museums and heritage centres

Clan Gunn Heritage Centre

Clan Gunn Heritage Centre, Latheron, KW5 6DR
+44 (0)1593 528 798 | queries@clangunnsociety.org
<https://www.clangunnsociety.org/>

The Clan Gunn Heritage Centre tells the story of one of Scotland's oldest clans, from its Norse origins to the present day. Explore the history and heritage of Clann Gunn and discover where it fits into the Highland history of Scotland. The heritage centre is housed in the old Parish Church, Latheron which was built in 1734.

17.1 miles



Castlehill Heritage Centre

Harbour Road, Castletown, Caithness, KW14 8TG
01847 821120 | castletown.heritage@talk21.com
<http://www.castletownheritage.co.uk/centre.htm>

Castlehill Heritage Centre is operated by Castletown Heritage Society as a visitor experience and educational resource. Themed exhibitions are held throughout the year featuring the history, heritage, biodiversity and social history of Castletown and the parish of Olrig.

16.6 miles

Caithness Horizons Museum

High Street, Thurso, KW14 8AJ
+44 (0)1847 896 508
<http://caithnesshorizons.co.uk/>

The Museum covers the history of the county of Caithness. Permanent displays explore the Picts, Vikings, the Dounreay Nuclear Research Establishment and Robert Dick. Our latest permanent exhibition opened in the Summer of 2017 and focuses on The Flow Country, the largest expanse of blanket bog in Europe. Giving a lovely feel for the area, it's a must see for all visitors. Caithness has a fascinating story to tell and we love sharing it with the world.

21.1 miles

Dunbeath Heritage Centre

Address: The Old School, Dunbeath, Caithness, Scotland, KW6 6ED
01593 731233 | info@dunbeath-heritage.org.uk
<https://www.dunbeath-heritage.org.uk/>

Exhibitions featuring the history, heritage, and culture of Dunbeath, presenting manuscripts, photographs and data relating to the area.

21.4 miles



Laidhay Croft Museum

Dunbeath KW6 6EH

Standing directly beside the busy A9 a mile north of Dunbeath stands a picturesque 18th century thatched crofter's cottage. The cottage has been restored and illustrates the long history of this type of dwelling in northern Scotland. A few metres away from the main cottage is a free-standing thatched stone barn with a cruck roof.

19.9 miles

Mary Ann's Cottage

Westside Dunnet, Caithness KW14 8YD, Scotland, UK
+44 (1847) 892303 | mary-ann.calder@outlook.com

Mary Ann's Cottage presents a history of one family's life on a croft from the 1850s until 1990.

19.3 miles

Strathnaver Museum

Address: Clachan, Bettyhill, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7SS
01641 521418 | projectmanager@strathnavermuseum.org.uk
<http://www.strathnavermuseum.org.uk/>

Insight into the social and cultural heritage of the area, with objects depicting life in the north Highlands from prehistoric to modern times.

49.8 miles

Historic attractions and ancient sites

Achavanich Standing Stones

Near Latheron, KW5 6DG

Achavanich is an unusual megalithic horseshoe-shaped structure near Loch Stemster in Caithness, Scotland. Meaning "field of the stones", 36 of the original 54 remain today, mostly on the western side of the structure.

20.7 miles



Cairn of Get

Lybster KW2 6AA

Cairn o'Get is an impressive chambered burial cairn set amid a landscape rich in prehistoric and later monuments. When it was first built, Cairn o'Get's walls would have risen over 3m high, sealed by massive lintel stones. The entrance to the tomb would have been through a small antechamber, defined by two pairs of large upright stones. Today the tomb and upright stones are still clearly visible in the landscape.

8.0 miles

Dirlot Castle

Unnamed Road, Halkirk KW12 6UP

Dirlot castle is believed to have been built during the 14th century by Sir Reginald de Cheyne. It later passed to the Gunns, Sutherlands, and the MacKays. Although small by comparison with other Caithness strongholds, Dirlot's position on a high pinnacle of rock beside the River Thurso is without doubt the most unusual and picturesque of all the counties castles.

18.9 miles

Dunbeath Castle Gardens

Dunbeath Castle Gardens, Dunbeath, Caithness, KW6 6EY

01593 731308 | enquiries@dunbeathestate.com

<https://www.dunbeathgardens.co.uk/>

Dunbeath Castle has two outstanding walled gardens which are open by appointment all year round. The Northern garden consists of ornamental grasses, Iris, Primula, Libertia and other tough plants, along with ponds and a substantial water feature. The Southern garden is less exposed and hosts a wide range of plants. The best time to visit the gardens in order to catch them in full bloom is between May and October.

23.0 miles



Grey Cairns of Camster

Roster, Caithness, Scotland

Stand among two of the oldest stone monuments in Scotland – a pair of Neolithic tombs originally built more than 5,000 years ago. Although they have been reconstructed in modern times, the Grey Cairns of Camster provide a fascinating insight into Neolithic funerary practices.

15.4 miles

Hill o' Many Stanes

A99, Lybster KW3 6BA

The Hill o' Many Stanes consists of about 200 small stones arranged in rows running down a low hill. They were erected about 4,000 years ago, possibly for gatherings and religious ceremonies. Large arrangements of stone rows like this are rare, and comparable sites are only found in a few places in Europe.

10.1 miles

The Castle and Gardens of Mey

The Castle of Mey, Thurso, KW14 8XH

<https://www.castleofmey.org.uk/>

The Castle and Gardens of Mey have held Visit Scotland's highest award of a 5 Star quality assurance grading every year since their first unannounced visit in 2007. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother first saw what was then Barrogill Castle in 1952. Falling for its isolated charm and hearing it

was to be abandoned, she decided to save it. The visitor centre, tearoom, shop, grounds and animal centre are open every day during the normal season from 10am until 5pm.

21.4 miles

Whaligoe Steps

Whaligoe Steps, The Square, Whaligoe, Caithness,, Ulbster, Lybster KW2 6AA

The Whaligoe Steps are 365 steps that descend to what was a naturally formed harbour between two sea cliffs built by Captain David Brodie who also built the harbour and village of Sarclet some 3 miles north of the steps which was once a landing place for fishing boats.



Although a popular attraction today, 'Whaligoe Steps' is notoriously difficult to find as the steps are not signposted on the main road, however the turning is opposite the signpost for the "Cairn of Get" 8 miles south of Wick on the A99.

7.5 miles

Distilleries

Dunnet Bay Distillery

Rock Rose Gin Distillery, Dunnet Bay Distillery, Ribbon House, Dunnet, Thurso, KW14 8YD
+44 (0)1847 851 287 | hello@rockrosegin.co.uk
<https://www.dunnetbaydistillers.co.uk/rock-rose-gin/>

Britain's most northerly distillery, Rock Rose, is the new gin taking the market by storm. Take a tour of the distillery or purchase a bottle of the famous Rock Rose gin made from local botanicals.

18.6 miles

Wolfburn Distillery

Henderson Park, Thurso KW14 7XW
01847 891051 | info@wolfburn.com
<https://wolfburn.com/>

Wolfburn is the most northerly whisky distillery on the Scottish mainland, and their master craftsmen fashion their whisky the same way it has always been made: by hand, using only the finest ingredients, and without haste.

Wolfburn visits include seeing the inner workings of the distillery itself, where master craftsmen make single malt whisky the way it should be made: with care and without haste. Tours finish with a tasting of various malts, and there's the opportunity to buy bottles and Wolfburn merchandise.

22.3 miles

Other attractions and activities

Caithness Wildlife Tours

Caithness Wildlife Tours, Westside, Dunnet, KW14 8YD
+44 (0)7899 783 279 | caithnesswildlifetours@gmail.com
<http://www.caithnesswildlifetours.co.uk/>

Discover the wildlife and wonders in the far north with Caithness Wildlife Tours. They offer personalised wildlife and sightseeing tours for small groups of up to six people, with transport in a



comfortable minibus. Spend a couple of hours or a whole day with them. Tours include; Puffin tours from May to July, wildlife and sightseeing tours, tours of ancient Caithness, and tailormade tours. Binoculars and telescope are provided for close-up views of the wildlife.

Dunnet Head

RSPB Dunnet Head, Dunnet Head Lighthouse, Brough, Thurso KW14 8XS

This rugged peninsula in Caithness, located on the north coast of Scotland, has the honour of being the most northerly point of mainland Britain. It's a wild and untamed landscape, with stunning sea cliffs and coastal grasslands which are home to puffins, razorbills, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes.

23.2 miles

Farm Buggy Tours

Kirkton Farm, Melvich, Thurso, KW14 7YJ
+44 (0)7857 423 843 | kirktonfarm@googlemail.com

The first farm tour of its kind in the far north of Scotland. Come and have some fun on an off road all terrain 4-wheel drive buggy. Get off the beaten track and get an insight into sheep and cattle farming. Get up close to sheep and cattle including some highland cows. Hopefully you will see some deer and wildlife as we go around the hill and see some stunning views from the top of the hill. Display boards explaining farming policy, the environment and a bit of history of Kirkton farm.

37.3 miles

Harmony Handspinning

Harmony Handspinning, Bank Road, Dunnet, KW14 8YD
+44 (0)1847 851 366 | annjohnson@zetnet.co.uk

Informal Hand Spinning Workshops. Relax and enjoy the experience of transforming our local natural fibres into the yarns of the 21st century.

19.2 miles



North Lands Creative Glass

Northlands creative glass, Quatre Bras, Lybster, KW3 6BN
01593 721229 | info@northlandscreative.co.uk
<http://northlandscreative.co.uk/>

North Lands Creative is a unique studio organisation and gallery in Lybster, Caithness. Our focus is on contemporary glass and we have a national importance in developing glass in the UK. North Lands Creative produces four gallery exhibitions annually. These exhibitions focus on expanded forms of art-making and strive to support exhibiting artists taking risks in developing new work covering the innovative use of glass in all forms of design and the wider visual arts.

14.0 miles

Northern Saints Trails

Northern Saints Trails, Scaraben, Westside, Dunnet, Thurso, KW14 8YD
<http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk/page16.html>

We are a small group who have devised six circular routes within Caithness linking sites associated with the early Celtic saints of the area. We have a list of 33 saints and 32 sites. We have a web site

with a map of the Caithness routes, an alphabetical list of the saints with a few details of their lives and descriptions of the routes.

19.2 miles

Reay Golf Club

Reay Golf Club, Club House, Reay, Thurso, KW14 7RE
+44 (0)1847 811 288 | InfoReay@gmail.com
<http://www.reaygolfclub.co.uk/>

The most northerly James Braid designed 18-hole links course on the British mainland. No need to book, just turn up and play. See our website for details of our fixtures and Opens.

31.2 miles



SJP Bird Photography

SJP Bird Photography, St. John's Brough, Thurso, KW14 8YD
01847851280/ smith57ja@gmail.com

SJP Bird Photography is a unique attraction at St. John's Pool Bird Reserve, on the north coast of Scotland. This superb all-weather facility for birdwatchers and photographers alike features two water-level hides - available for hire, one-way glass throughout and comfortable chairs. Power points are available for recharging batteries etc.

20.1 miles

The John O'Groats Trail

E: walk@jogt.org.uk
W: <http://www.jogt.org.uk/>

The John O'Groats Trail (JOGT) is a coastal walking route under development from Inverness to John O'Groats, traversing shorelines, cliff tops, back lanes and footpaths of the Scottish Highlands. Accommodation, meals and shops are available at the end of most stages of the walk. If you are looking for a few hours or a day walk, why not walk one of our sections that is finished or nearly finished? If you have questions, please contact us before you start.

The Seadrift Centre

The Seadrift Centre. Dunnet Bay, Thurso. KW14 8XD
01847 821 531
<http://www.outdoorhighlands.co.uk/>

The Seadrift Centre interactive display and comprehensive collection of stuffed animals introduces visitors to life around Dunnet Bay and beyond. The Seadrift Centre is now the centre for the Highlife Highland Ranger Service. Marvel at our collection of local marine mammal skulls or jump on our large scales with your friends and discover which animal weighs the same as you. Enjoy a warm drink and spend some time learning about the local wildlife, geology, archaeology and history of the far north.

18.1 miles



Gifts

Inspired by Caithness

6, Sweyn Road, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7NW
07745748099 | lisa@inspiredbycaithness.com
<http://www.inspiredbycaithness.com/>

Armed with a passion for Caithness, local lass - Lisa Poulsen, relishes her surroundings from it's captivating coastlines to cultural charm. These elements inspire her digital art which become professionally printed wall art, cushions and greeting cards

21.5 miles

Patricia Niemann Design

Patricia Niemann Design, Old Post Office House, Berriedale, KW7 6HE
+44 (0)1593 751 496 | patbat@patbat.com
<http://www.patbat.com/>

Trained as goldsmith, designer and studio-glass maker, Patricia makes one-off pieces of fine contemporary jewellery, as well as wearables and objects on a sculptural scale. Influences are the human body, anatomy, theatre and the Far North of Scotland. The showroom in the former Berriedale post office has no fixed opening hours but is generally open Mondays to Saturdays all through the year. Making an appointment is advised.

26.8 miles

Tartan at Heart

Kerry Speirs, Owner, Ash View, Crescent Street, Halkirk, Caithness, KW12 6XN
07895001740 | sales@tartanatheart.co.uk
<http://www.tartanatheart.co.uk/>

Tartan at Heart is a collaboration of modern design using traditional materials. Based in the village of Halkirk, Caithness, our jewellery, accessories and gifts are all designed and individually handmade using pure wool Scottish tartan by Kerry Speirs. Her items are made to suit any occasion ensuring everyone can find their perfect touch of tartan.

16.7 miles