



walks



LOCATION: WEST MAINLAND

ROUTE: BIRSAY WHALEBONE CIRCULAR



DISTANCE

5.9km



GRADE

2



DURATION

2.5hrs (not including crossing to the Brough of Birsay)

A gentle coastal walk, encompassing centuries of Orkney's history.

Route guide

- 1) Start at the car park opposite St Magnus Church (HY2481 2769) and head north via the Earl's Palace, then follow the coast road 1km north to the car park for the Brough of Birsay (HY2429 2836)
- 2) Head east along the coast for around 0.5km to the head of Skiba (Skipi) Geo with its fishermen's hut
- 3) Turn left to head north to the Whalebone monument (HY2499 2863), taking in the views back to the Brough
- 4) Carry on east for 1.2km until you come to Longaglebe Geo, a deep cleft in the coast. Turning right to follow this inland, pass through a gate to arrive at a small turning place at the end of the public road (HY2610 2857)
- 5) Turn right to head east along the road through the settlement of Northside for around 800m, before following the road as it turns to the left (HY2533 2851)
- 6) At the crossroads (HY3500 1919) turn right to return to the village and the start of the walk

For further details and mapping information, find the walk on [Orkney.com/walking](https://orkney.com/walking)

Make sure you follow our guide to being a responsible visitor:



Pick up litter, taking it home with you or using any bins provided.



Use gates where they're provided and, if they're closed when you find them, close them again after passing through.



Keep your dog on a lead around farmland and livestock, and clean up after pets too.



Avoid disturbing any natural flora, fauna or wildlife habitats.



Avoid lighting fires or BBQs on moorland or in the countryside, and if you do have a BBQ or bonfire on a beach, please clean up afterwards.



It's always worth reading up on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code before you explore Orkney too.



Stick to designated walking and cycling routes when you're out exploring, and be respectful of private property.