



Thurso

Northernmost town on Mainland Scotland

Thurso is a great base for exploring this far north east corner of Scotland
and an overnight stop on the Northern 500
the port of Scrabster is 2 miles west for ferries to the Orkney Islands



1. Caithness Horizons Museum
2. Castle of Mey
3. Castle Sinclair Girnigoe
4. Castlehill Heritage Centre
5. Duncansby Head
6. John o' Groats
7. Old Pulteney Distillery
8. Wick Heritage Centre

Be aware there are no freeways in the remoter parts of Scotland and travel is at a much slower pace. Accommodation is limited. Plan well ahead and be prepared to enjoy some of the most dramatic unspoilt scenery in Britain. The nearest major airport is Inverness, with rail links to both Wick and Thurso. A self drive car is by far the most effective means of travel to follow your interests.

Caithness Horizons Museum The magnificently restored building houses a permanent exhibition which uncovers the story of mankind's past and present interaction with the environment of north east Scotland. Commanding attention on arrival are the newly restored Skinnet and Ulbster standing stones and now reveal significant new Pictish carvings. A series of themed displays bring to life the fascinating heritage of Caithness. Highlights include archaeological objects that date from the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and relate to the lives of the Broch dwellers, Picts and Vikings that made Caithness their home. A particular treat is the impressive array of Viking artefacts from a male Viking burial at Reay, Thurso, which are on loan from the National Museums of Scotland. Visitors can also see the collection of Thurso's famous geologist and botanist Robert Dick. The display features Robert Dick's herbarium, now accessible to the public for the first time in many years, along with personal items, geological and fossil specimens. Caithness Horizons explores the activities that took place at Dounreay over a period of more than 40 years and is home to the DMTR (Dounreay Materials Testing Reactor) Control Room, an exhibition which opened in May 2015. The display's tell the tale of its environmental impact and its influence on the local community.

Castle of Mey Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother first saw what was then Barrogill Castle in 1952, while mourning the death of her husband, King George VI. Falling for its isolated charm and hearing it was to be abandoned, she decided to save it.

Having acquired the most northerly inhabited castle on the British mainland, The Queen Mother renovated and restored it and created the beautiful gardens you see today. For almost half a century she spent many happy summers

here and shorter visits at other times of the year.



Duncansby Head is the real north eastern tip of the Scottish mainland, and probably exceeds John o' Groat's distance from Lands End by a good mile or two. But the loss of recognition is not something to be mourned. While John o' Groats is a commercial tourist attraction, Duncansby Head reveals nature at its most striking, with views north over Orkney, and west to John o' Groats and Dunnet Head. Certainly a must-see for anyone who

likes their scenery both natural and dramatic.



Old Pulteney Distillery The northernmost distillery on the Scottish mainland. Wick was once known as the herring capital of Europe. Yet while the herring shoals may be long gone from this rugged northern coastline, the spirit of that seafaring past lives on in the form of Old Pulteney Single Malt Scotch Whisky - long renowned as The Maritime Malt. Tours take place at 11am and 2pm.



Castle Sinclair Girnigoe an early seat of Clan Sinclair, 3 miles north of Wick, the only castle in Scotland to be listed by the World Monuments Fund. This once impregnable medieval / renaissance stronghold is now the most spectacular ruin in the North of Scotland and is the subject of a preservation program by its owner, The Clan Sinclair Trust.



Castlehill Heritage Centre located on the most northerly coast of Scotland, Castletown has a rich and diverse social, economic and archaeological heritage stretching from pre-history, the Viking habitation, the strategic role played by RAF Castletown in the defense of Scapa Flow and the north British coastal waters during World War II.



John o' Groats 11 miles from Dunnet Head, this small village is the starting point for many embarking on the famous 874 mile 'End to End' journey to Land's End. Situated in an extreme location, enjoy the unspoilt scenery and fascinating wildlife, a breathtaking array of birdlife seals, dolphins, minke and killer whales.



Wick Heritage Centre is a local history museum which presents the story of the town, housing a fish kiln, a cooperage, a restored fisherman's house, art gallery, the famous Johnston collection of photographs of 115 years history of Wick covering a time when Wick was the herring capital of Europe, a working lighthouse and a harbor setting.

