

Top visitor sites in Caithness and Sutherland

Balnakiel Beach, Durness



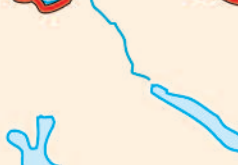
The Clan Mackay Badge



30 History of Clan Mackay, Strathnaver Museum



30 History of Clan Mackay, Strathnaver Museum



Smoo Cave, Durness



Castle Varrich and Ben Loyal, Tongue



11 Camster Cairns 5000 year old burial site



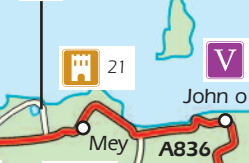
31 Achanarras World famous fossil site



22 St. John's Pool & bird hide
23 Artsmith-wildlife artist studio/gallery



Loch of Mey bird hide



20 John O'Groats Ferries Wildlife Cruises



17 Lyth Arts Centre



12 Clan Sinclair Study Centre, Noss Head lighthouse



10 Waterlines Heritage Museum Lybster

Key to symbols

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--------------------------|
|  10 | Visitor attraction (No. relates to text entry) |  | Archaeological site |
|  | Tourist Information Centre other information facility |  | Whisky distillery |
|  | Castle |  | Museum / heritage centre |
|  | Forest with walks |  | Geological site |
|  | Flora & fauna (Countryside Ranger Service Scottish Natural Heritage or National Nature Reserve) |  | Airport |
|  | RSPB reserve or birdwatching site with hide |  | Local Ferry |

0 20 miles
0 20 Kilometres



3 Dunrobin Castle



5 Timespan Heritage and Arts Centre

21 The Castle of Mey

The Queen Mother's home in Caithness with walled garden, animal centre, tearoom and gift shop.

Open May – September, closed 30 July – 11 August.

Tel: 01847 851473. www.castleofmey.org.uk

22/23 St. John's Pool & Artsmith Studio, Brough

Enjoy a unique wildlife/art experience at one of the north's premier birdwatching sites. Whatever the weather, relax in the hide, and watch nature up close, or visit the studio/gallery of landscape & wildlife artist Julian Smith.

Bird hide open all year. For more information and studio opening details, follow the links on: www.artsmith-caithness.co.uk or tel: 01847 851283

24 Mary Ann's Cottage, Dunnet

Historic cottage showing how successive generations of one family lived and worked over 150 years. Display of 19th C farming implements. Visitors are personally conducted on a tour which brings to life Mary-Ann's story.

Open June – September Tue – Sun.

Tel: 01847 851765

www.caithness.org/community/museums/maryanncottage/

25 Seadrift Centre Countryside Ranger Base

Wildlife display. Find out about the natural history of Caithness and Sutherland or join us in our programme of walks.

Open afternoons May to September except Saturdays.

Tel: 01847 821531

26 Castlehill Heritage Centre and Trail, Castletown

Walk round site of 19th century flagstone works. Follow the stone from quarry to cutting yard to export from harbour. In magnificent coastal setting. Visitor heritage centre, garden and archaeological research lab.

Tel: 01847 821204 www.castletownheritage.co.uk

27 Caithness Horizons

The restored Thurso Town Hall and Carnegie Library, is a fascinating museum that tells the story of mankind's past and present interaction with the north east of Scotland. Permanent exhibition, temporary exhibitions, audio visual theatre, shop and cafe.

Open 7 days a week all year round.

Tel: 01847 896508 Fax: 01847 891152 www.caithnesshorizons.co.uk

28 RSPB Forsinard Flows National Nature Reserve

Vast open peatland nature reserve in the internationally renowned 'Flow Country'. Explore the myriad bog pools, dragonflies and birds on regular guided walks or our 1.5km pool trail.

Visitor centre (3 star) open Easter – October.

Tel: 01641 571225 email: forsinard@rspb.org.uk

29/32/34 Scottish Natural Heritage

National Nature Reserves (NNR) and other sites ranging from Achanarras Fossil Quarry (29) and geological trails at Knockan Crag (32) to coastal woodlands of Loch Fleet NNR (34) www.nnr-scotland.org.uk and www.snh.org.uk/scottish/nhighland/places.asp

30 Strathnaver Museum

Discover the rich history of the area through the wide-ranging collection of artefacts. Learn about the Strathnaver Clearances. Visit the Mackay room. Find The Farr Stone and reconstructed 'kist' burial chamber.

Adjacent café and parking. Mon – Sat

♿ - ground floor only. Tel: 01641 521418

www.caithness.org/atoz/sutherland/strathnavermuseum

31 North West Highlands Geopark, Assynt

Scotland's first GEOPARK, extending over 2000sq km, comprising some of Britain's finest mountain and coastal landscapes with a wealth of classic rock formations which are internationally recognised for geological research.

Tel: 01571 844000 email: info@northwest-highlands-geopark.org.uk

www.northwest-highlands-geopark.org.uk

33 Ferrycroft Visitor Centre, Lairg

4 star attraction. New family friendly displays, touch screens, listening posts. Wildlife, archaeology, local history, hydro scheme & the mart. Tourist Information Centre. ♿

Open Easter to October, admission free.

Tel: 01549 402160 www.highland.gov.uk/ferrycroft

Produced by **Caithness & Sutherland Visitor Attraction Group**

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Information correct at time of publication – May 2009

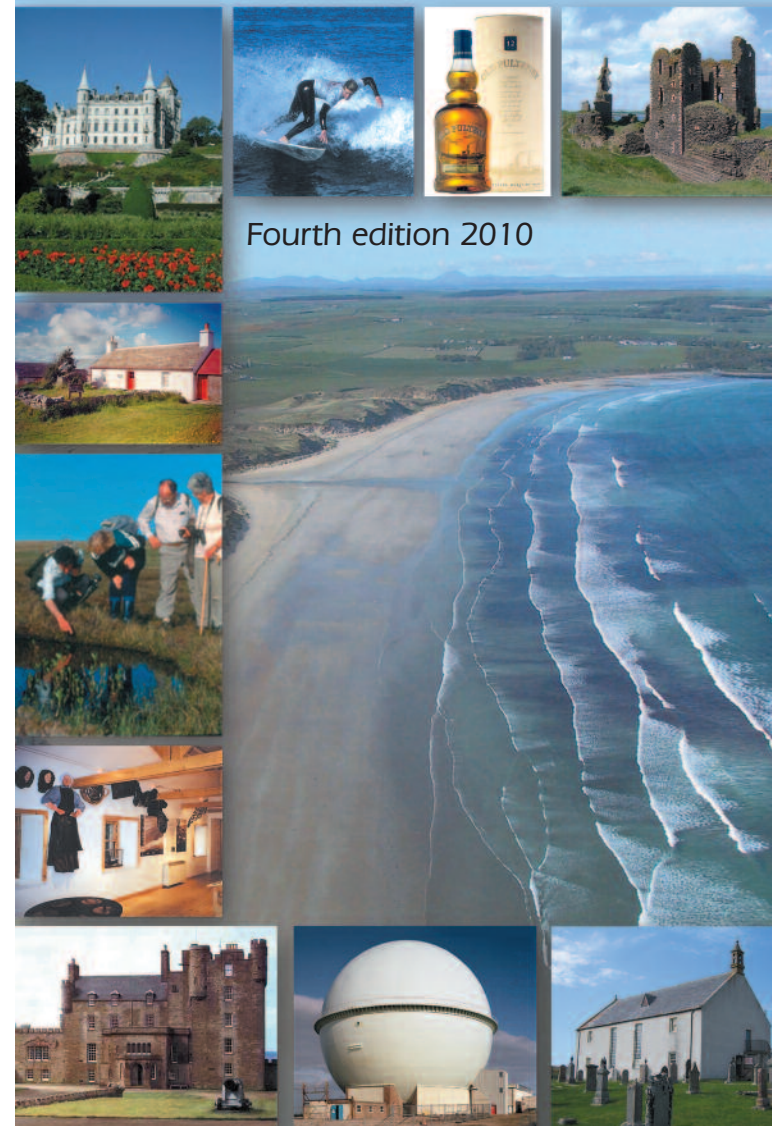


Dounreay Site
Restoration Ltd



essential guide to the best of the north & west

Top attractions in Caithness & Sutherland



1 Historylinks Museum, Dornoch

Enjoy the history of Dornoch including the Vikings, Cathedral, feuding clans, Scotland's last witch, golf and the railway. Many unique films and slide shows. There is much to involve children.
Open Mon – Fri, April, May and October Open 7 days, June – September.
Rest of year, Wed & Thu.
Tel: 01862 811275 www.historylinks.org.uk

2 Orcadian Stone Shop, Golspie

Enjoy our wonderful display of minerals, crystals and fossils – the largest private collection in Scotland. Buy gemstone jewellery, mineral specimens, fossils, stone giftware, geological maps and books.
Open Easter – October
Tel: 01408 633483 www.orcadianstone.co.uk

3 Dunrobin Castle, Golspie

Home of the Clan Sutherland, dates from early 1300's. Magnificent collection of furniture, paintings and family silver. Superb gardens, falconry displays, Tearooms and Gift shop.
Open daily from 1 April – 15 October.
Tel: 01408 633177 www.dunrobincastle.co.uk

4 Brora Heritage Centre

Explore the historical displays of Brora Woollen Mill, former Brora Coal Mine and the most northerly brick works. Interactive displays and quizzes. Internet access and research area. Admission Free.
Open May – September, Mon – Sat.
 Picnic and children's area. Tel: 01408 622024 www.highland.gov.uk/bhc

5 Timespan Heritage & Arts Centre, Helmsdale

Explore the history of Helmsdale by visiting the Museum and community exhibition. Monthly exhibitions of contemporary art. Quality local art and craft shop. Relax in the riverside café.
Open Mon – Sat 10 – 5 / Sun 12 – 5
 Tel: 01431 821327 www.timespan.org.uk

6 Dunbeath Heritage Centre

Explore the rich past of a Caithness strath. Neil M. Gunn's "Highland River" and "Silver Darlings" landscape. Local history, guided walks, art installations and archaeology exhibition. Bookshop.
Open Sun – Fri 10am – 5pm Apr – Sep / Mon – Fri 11am – 3pm Oct – Mar
Tel: 01593 731233

7 Clan Gunn Museum, Latheron

Follow one of Scotland's oldest clans from its Norse origins to the present day, its skirmishes with other local clans and the Scotsmen who discovered America before Columbus. Video presentation, clan archive and shop.
Open June to September. Tel: 01593 741700

8 North Shore Pottery, Latheron

Individual pieces of porcelain and stoneware which are both functional and unique. Work in progress can be viewed at the workshop and is for sale in the showroom.
Open Wed – Sat and by appointment. Closed in January.
Tel: 01593 741777

9 Patricia Niemann Jewellery, Latheron

A goldsmith's workshop located in the North Shore Pottery. Fine jewellery and unusual objects are hand made on site. Commissions undertaken.
Open Wed – Sat and by appointment. Closed January and last two weeks in October.
Tel: 01593 741777 www.patbat.com E-mail patbat@btinternet.com

10 Waterlines Visitor Centre, Lybster

Lybster's history as Scotland's third largest herring port and the natural history of the area. Video and live TV of nesting bird colonies. Facilities for yachtsmen. Coffee shop.
Open daily May to September
 Tel: 01593 721520

11 Camster Cairns, Caithness Archaeological Trust

The Grey Cairns of Camster remain among the best preserved chambered cairns in Northern Scotland. Careful excavation and restoration makes them accessible to visitors.
Open all year round.
For other sites visit www.caithnessarchaeology.org.uk

12 Clan Sinclair Study Centre, Noss Head, Wick

A collection of 3000 books and other research material which is a must for scholars and historians who are interested in Scottish History, Freemasonry, The Crusades and Knights Templar.
Tel: 01955 606700

13 North Highland Archive, Wick

Preserving the written heritage of Caithness and providing access to resources for genealogy, local history and other research topics. Searchroom open daily, Opening hours: Mon, Tue & Thu 10am - 5.30pm (closed 1.30-2pm)
Fri 10am - 5pm / Wed – morning appointments only.
Tel: 01955 606432 Email: north.highlandarchive@highland.gov.uk

14 Wick Heritage Museum

The largest museum in the North of Scotland. Allow at least 1.5 hours for your visit. There is enough nostalgia and information to last you a lifetime!
Tel: 01955 605393 Email: wsherit@aol.com

15 Pulteney Distillery, Wick

The most northerly distillery on the Scottish Mainland. Discover the history and art of Scottish Whisky making. Purchase and hand fill your own bottle of cask strength whisky.
Open all year Mon – Fri 10am – 1pm / 2 – 4pm Saturdays Easter – end September.
Tel: 01955 602371 www.oldpulteney.com

16 Castle Sinclair Girmigoe, Noss Head

The finest medieval / renaissance castle in the north of Scotland, currently the subject of a preservation programme.
Open from 2010 May – October.
Tel: 01955 606700 www.sinclairgirmigoe.org

17 Lyth Arts Centre

A unique and attractive arts venue presenting a wide programme of music, theatre and visual art. Open daily July and August with summer exhibitions of work by both established British and foreign artists as well as the best fine art and craft by local artists. Tea/coffee and home baking available.
 Tel: 01955 641270 www.lytharts.org.uk

18 Caithness Broch Centre, Auckengill

Brand new centre in the old school opens June 2009. An ambitious high quality exhibition looking at who lived in the brochs, who excavated them and who lives nearby today.
Open May to September Mon – Fri (plus Sat July & Aug)
Tel: 01955 607771

19 Last House Museum, John O'Groats

The museum features John O'Groats of yesteryear, including photographs and a collection of artefacts. Photographs of shipwrecks in the Pentland Firth and Scapa Flow. Enjoy views of the island of Stroma.
Open all year.
Tel: 01955 611250

20 John O'Groats Ferries Wildlife Cruises

From John O'Groats Harbour at 2.30pm every summer afternoon from late June to the end of August. A superb chance to see the very best of Scotland's marine wildlife. Atlantic Grey Seals, Puffins, Razorbills, Guillemots and Gannets galore! View from the panoramic decks of our vessel – Pentland Venture – or from her comfortable saloon. Enjoy a Wildlife Cruise and one of our Day Trips to Orkney and we'll give you a really special deal!
Tel: 01955 611 353 www.jogferry.co.uk