



walks



LOCATION: PAPA WESTRAY

ROUTE: PAPA WESTRAY COASTAL



DISTANCE

11.5 km



GRADE

4



DURATION

5 hrs

A walk of rich and varied landscape, nature, and human history in one of Orkney's smallest islands.

Route guide

- 1) Start at the Papay shop and youth hostel (HY4916 5154) and head uphill to the road junction at Holland Farm. Turn left at the junction and follow the sign for the Knap of Howar on right-hand side, immediately after passing farmhouse. The Bothy Museum is on the right-hand side as you pass through the farmyard .
- 2) Continue down the track towards the sea. After passing through a farm gate into a field head diagonally to the right for 200m towards the shore to reach the Knap of Howar (HY4832 5180)
- 3) Continue north along the coast for 1km to reach St Boniface Kirk. At the far side of the kirkyard you'll find a wooden stile leading into the grounds (HY4882 5269)
- 4) Continue north along the coast for a further 1km, crossing a number of wooden stiles. After crossing a stone wall head onto open heathland (HY4913 5376)).
- 5) Head diagonally uphill to your right towards the small wooden hut - the Hyndgreenie Hide (HY4952 539)
- 6) From the hut, head north-northwest, following faint cattle tracks towards the coast – named 'Mad Geo' on OS maps (HY4935 5442)
- 7) From here continue around the coast to arrive at Mull Head (HY4996 5570).
- 8) Head east then south, following the coast for around 1.2km before crossing a solid wooden stile at Fowl Craig to reach the Papay Auk monument (HY5075 5472)
- 9) Continue south, crossing the second of two wooden stiles to follow the coast past the sheepfolds at Loch of Ness to reach the beach at North Wick (HY5033 5372)
- 10) Walk along the beach (or above it, if tide is high) until shortly before the headland at Cott (HY4985 5318). From here, either carry on walking south along the shore or head up onto the road running parallel, which becomes a good sandy track leading to the old pier and Kelp Store (HY4975 5192)
- 11) From here, pick up the tarmac road to walk the final 1km back to the shop and hostel.

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.



Keep your dog under strict control around farmland and livestock, and clean up after pets too. Don't take your dog through fields with young livestock in them.



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.



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



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



Avoid disturbing any natural flora, fauna or wildlife habitats.

It's always worth reading up on the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) before you explore Orkney too.