



walks



LOCATION: WEST MAINLAND

ROUTE: BIRSAY TO BAY OF SKAILL



DISTANCE

12km



GRADE

4



DURATION

3.5hrs

This walk is just part of a longer route encompassing the magnificent west coast of Mainland Orkney and takes in some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the islands.

Route guide

- 1) Start at the car park at The Palace, Birsay (HY2481 2770). Head south through the village, crossing a small stone bridge and turn right after the toilets to pick up a grass track (HY2481 2761) heading towards the shore
- 2) At the shore turn left to pass through a wooden gate (HY2469 2753)
- 3) Follow the coast south for 1km before crossing a wooden stile over a fence (HY2432 2680)
- 4) Follow the coast south for 2km to reach the memorials at Marwick Head (HY2275 2522)
- 5) Continue south to reach Marwick Bay. Turn left onto the single-track road before turning immediately right onto a path alongside a drystone dyke directly behind the stone beach (HY2286 2450)
- 6) After 300m pass the public car park (HY2293 2408) and continue 800m to reach the Fishermen's Huts at Sand Geo (HY2286 2349)
- 7) Follow the coast, passing through a number of gates and wooden stiles until you reach a small stone building built into a drystone dyke. Cross the obvious stile over the dyke a little to the right of the building (HY2288 2045) before following the dyke towards the shore.
- 8) After passing through a wooden gate, turn left to continue following the coast for 1.5km before crossing a stone stile over a dyke at the north end of the Bay of Skail (HY2339 1974)
- 9) After crossing the stile turn right to follow the public road for 500m to arrive at the public toilets and car park and the end of the route (HY2359 1926).

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