



cycling



LOCATION: NORTH RONALDSAY

ROUTE: NORTH RONALDSAY EXPERIENCE



DISTANCE

17.9km



GRADE

Grading 2



ASCENT/DESCENT

98m

OPTION TO SHORTEN



OPTION TO EXTEND



Explore Orkney's most northerly island and experience its special sense of community and culture.

ROUTE GUIDE

- 1) Start at the North Ronaldsay airfield. Collect your hire bike from the wooden shed next to the car park.
- 2) Follow the obvious road from the airfield to meet the crossroads at the island's war memorial. Take the road diagonally across, passing the memorial on your right.
- 3) After passing the island's Memorial Hall (a modest, tarred wooden building on the left) and the school (on a slight rise to the right), take the next road on your left.
- 4) Cycle around 1.5km to reach the sheep dyke and the shore at Bridesness.
- 5) Return to the junction near the school and this time carry straight across towards the large building of Holland House, following the road as it passes round the farm buildings to arrive at a T-junction. Turn left here.
- 6) After 200m look for a small metal gate on the right. Pass through this on foot to reach the obvious standing stone in the middle of the field.
- 7) Returning to the bike, continue southwest along the road towards the island's pier, where you'll find a waiting room and toilets. Take time to explore Nouster Bay and visit the North Ronaldsay Bird Observatory, which serves lunches, evening meals and drinks, and hosts the island's small shop.
- 8) Head back up along the island's main road, past Holland House and the airfield. Shortly after the airfield look for a small church on your left where you'll find an extensive collection of photographs and documents charting much of the island's history.
- 9) Continue north then east along the road for around 4km before leaving the bikes to walk around Dennis Head and explore its Old Beacon. Continue the short distance north by road to reach the new lighthouse. The lighthouse buildings house a café and gift shop as well as a wool mill, where the fleeces of the island's unique seaweed-eating sheep are processed.
- 10) Return the way you came towards the airfield. Around 500m before the airfield look for the first road heading to your left. Follow this to reach a gate and continue on foot for 300m to Linklet Bay.
- 11) Heading back up the road, take the first minor road on your left after around 250m. Follow it left then right to reach a T-junction. Turn right here to head gently uphill back to the war memorial and onwards to the airfield.

For further details and mapping information, find the full cycle route at orkney.com/cycling



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