Stornoway. Credit Chris Murray

Stornoway

Locally Invested. Globally Recognised.

Welcome to Stornoway, the gateway to the Outer Hebrides!

Stornoway Port

The Outer Hebrides, with their rugged beauty and ancient heritage, offer an unforgettable experience. Wander through the islands' fascinating past, where Celtic traditions, the Gaelic language, and stories of old intertwine with the lives of the people today.

You'll be captivated by the prehistoric Callanish Standing Stones, —famously featured in Outlander and Brave—to the legendary Lews Chessmen. These iconic 12th-century figures, discovered on the Isle of Lewis, are a highlight of any visit and can be admired in the Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway.

You also get the chance to step back in time and explore the distinctive blackhouses, traditional stone

dwellings once common across the islands. Preserved in places like the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, these buildings offer a glimpse into the lives of islanders from centuries past.

The Outer Hebrides is home to the world-famous Harris Tweed, woven by hand in the traditional style, and sold around the world. You can learn about the centuries-old craft that still thrives today, and perhaps even pick up a timeless piece of this legendary fabric as a souvenir.

These are just some of the reasons the Outer Hebrides was named as one of National Geographic's 'Best of the World' destinations for 2025, the only UK destination to make the list.

At Stornoway Port, we are proud of being a trusted destination for cruise vessels visiting the Outer Hebrides, and we're excited to extend that Hebridean welcome even further with our new Deep Water Terminal, which opened in 2024. This new berth, capable of accommodating cruise ships up to 360 meters in length, enhances our ability to offer a memorable visit for vessels of all sizes.

Top Five Facts!

1. Gaelic is the first language of the Outer Hebrides, it is one of the oldest languages in Europe and 1,000 years older than English. Abair e!
2. The world's most luxurious wool fabric – Harris Tweed – is exclusively handwoven in the Outer Hebrides and is protected by its own Act of Parliament and statutory body, the Harris Tweed Authority. Genuine Harris Tweed from the Outer Hebrides is identified by the historic Orb mark.
3. The Lews Chessmen, displayed in Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway, are one of the best loved archaeological treasures in Britain, even making an appearance in the Harry Potter films!
4. One of the most iconic sites on the Isle of Lewis is the Callanish Standing Stones (or Calanais) a prehistoric stone circle dating back over 5,000 years. These ancient stones, arranged in a cross-like formation, are older than Stonehenge. The site is one of the most important and well-preserved Neolithic monuments in Europe. Disney's 'Brave' and the TV series 'Outlander' are based on the Callanish Stones.
5. The Outer Hebrides are renowned for their dramatic landscapes, including rugged coastlines, sandy beaches, and moorlands. The islands are a haven for wildlife, with opportunities to spot seals, otters, red deer, and a variety of birds, including puffins and golden eagles. The islands' remote location also makes them an ideal place for stargazing, as they are part of the Dark Sky initiative, offering some of the clearest night skies in the UK.

Experience Stornoway

Callanish Stones

Shrouded in mystery, the Calanais Standing Stones have drawn visitors to this ancient and inspiring site in the Outer Hebrides for thousands of years. Overlooking the beautiful Loch Roag above the village of Calanais on the Isle of Lewis, the sacred wonder of the stones offers visitors a rare invitation to reach out and touch the past. Image credit: Paul Tomkins, VisitScotland
Link: https://calanais.org/

Museum nan Eilean

The Museum & Tasglann nan Eilean offers an interactive explanation of the history and culture of the Outer Hebrides alongside a stunning exhibition of unique objects dating from prehistory to the present day, as well as a public archive. Six of the famous Lewis Chessmen have returned to the island of their 1831 discovery, on long-term loan from the British Museum, taking their place as centrepiece exhibits. Image credit: Kenny Lam VisitScotland
Link: https://www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/museum-nan-eilean-stornoway-p1398931

Harris Tweed Story Room

The long archipelago on the far northwest tip of Europe is home to every weaver, dyer, blender, carder, spinner, warper, finisher and inspector of Harris Tweed cloth. No part of the process takes place elsewhere. Harris Tweed is more than a unique handwoven textile. It is also the story of a real place with a rich history and culture, beautiful landscape and vibrant community located in Scotland's remote and fascinating Outer Hebrides islands.
Link: https://www.harristweed.org/the-story-room/

Butt of Lewis Lighthouse

The Butt of Lewis Lighthouse is situated on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. It was engineered by David Stevenson in 1862. The station's claim to fame, according to the Guinness Book of Records, is that it is the windiest spot in the UK.
Link: https://www.nlb.org.uk/lighthouses/butt-of-lewis/

Gearrannan Blackhouse Village

This coastal crofting village is situated in a secluded bay within the district of Carloway, on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. You will be visiting a village which is alive with history. The blackhouses have seen the cycle of life through generations of crofting families. They were occupied until the early 1970s when the last few elderly residents moved to new accommodation that didn't need the annual maintenance of thatch and stonework.
Link: https://www.gearrannan.com/

Carloway Broch

Dun Carloway is a broch situated in the district of Carloway, on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis. It is a remarkably well preserved broch – on the east side parts of the old wall still reach to 9 metres tall. There are well over 500 brochs in Scotland, most of them found in northern and western Scotland and the islands.
Link: https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/dun-carloway/

Life of a Crofter

Join local crofter (someone who lives and works on a small piece of agricultural land, unique to the Highlands & Islands of Scotland), Donald MacSween, as he introduces you to his nearest and dearest four-legged friends by a peat-smoked fire. This is your chance to get up close and personal with the majestic hairy Highland Cows, try your hand at feeding the livestock, speak a word or two in Scottish Gaelic and learn about life on a modern-day croft.
Link: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b084vwng

Bosta Iron Age Village

In 1992 a severe storm exposed stone walls of an ancient village which had lain hidden under sand dunes at Bosta Beach, (Bostadh means farm in Old Norse). In 1996 the site was excavated to reveal a well-preserved settlement of houses that dated back to the Late Iron Age (or Pictish Age) of 400-800AD. Located in an idyllic, small valley, with streams, a beautiful beach and rich fishing waters, Bosta would have been a perfect home for these early dwellers.
Link: https://berneramuseum.wixsite.com/website/iron-age-house

Isle of Harris Distillery

The Isle of Harris Distillery began with a simple idea. Over the decades, the Isle of Harris has suffered from a long-term decline in population, with community's numbers having halved over the last fifty years. Discover the stories surrounding The Hearach single malt whisky, sample our award-winning whisky and gin. A warm Harris welcome awaits...'thig a chèilidh oirnn'.

Link: https://harrisdistillery.com/

Stornoway Boat Trips

Immerse Hebrides offer a 2-hour exhilarating open RIB boat tour departing from Stornoway in search of commonly sighted marine wildlife in the Minch Sea. Marvel at our islands from the sea getting a closer look at the rock formations and caves along the coastline that have been there for millions of years. Gaze up at the diving gannets, the rafts of manx shearwater, skua's, guillemots and razorbills. You may even spot a pair of white-tailed sea eagles!
Link: https://www.immersehebrides.com/

Port information

Time zone : GMT
Operational hours : 24/7
Berth Enquiries / Reservations : Via ship's agent
Latitude & Longitude : 58°10.6 N, 006°21.0'W
Prevailing weather : SWxW
Anchorage position : 58°10.9'N, 006°22.00'W
Distance to landing stage in nm : 1.6nm
Berth Information : Deep Water Terminal
Vessel length : 360m
Vessel width : Unrestricted
Air Draft Restrictions : Unrestricted
Vessel draft : 10m
Depth on berth : 10m minimum depth
Largest cruise ship : In 2024, year of opening – Rotterdam
VTS Channel : VHF Channel 12
Max Ship Dimension : 360m
Pilotage : Compulsory
Tugboat : No tugs available
Security Facilities : Fully compliant with ISPS regulations
Gangway : 15m gangway with self levelling steps and 20m gangway ramp available on request
Fresh water : Available at 30m3/hour rate
Power supply : Shore power not available
Fuel supply : Available via third party road tankers, pre booking required
Hot works / painting/ lifeboats : Request to Harbour Master
Waste handling : Request to Harbour Master

Passenger Facilities

Cruise terminal building : No terminal building
Currency exchange : Local post office located in town centre
Internet access : WiFi available at various locations in town centre
Telephones : Telephones located in town centre
Mailbox : Mailboxes located in town centre
Taxi Rank : Taxi rank located in Stornoway town centre. Taxis available at Deep Water Terminal on request.
Distance to railway station : N/A
Distance to airport : Approx 8 miles

Banks/ATM machines : ATM machines and banks located in town centre
Restaurants / Cafes : Restaurants and cafes located in town centre

Contacts & Further Information

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