



WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT ST KILDA?

For more information on St Kilda visit the National Trust for Scotland's website or read one of the many books published. You can also visit the permanent display at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow. There is an important collection of historic photographs in the University of Edinburgh.

FURTHER INFORMATION

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND
Hermiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road,
Edinburgh EH11 4DF
Tel: 0844 493 2100
Email: information@nts.org.uk
www.nts.org.uk www.kilda.org.uk

Volunteering Office
Email: volunteering@nts.org.uk
Tel: 0844 493 2407

SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE
135 Stilligarry, South Uist HS8 5RS
Tel: (+44) 01870 620238
www.snh.org.uk

HISTORIC SCOTLAND
Longmore House, Salisbury Place,
Edinburgh EH9 1SH
Tel: (+44) 0131 668 8600
www.historic-scotland.gov.uk

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR
THE WESTERN ISLES COUNCIL
Sandwick Road, Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW
Tel: 0845 6007090
www.cne-siar.gov.uk

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
www.mod.uk
www.qinetiq.com

MUSEUM NAN EILEAN
Francis Street, Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis HS1 2NF
Tel: (+44) 01851 822746
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/museum

KELVINGROVE MUSEUM
Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG
Tel: (+44) 0141 287 2699
www.glasgow.gov.uk

THE SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES
University of Edinburgh,
27 George Square,
Edinburgh EH8 9LD
Tel: (+44) 0131 650 4161
www.sss.ed.ac.uk

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Front cover: Cleit above Village Bay.
Fulmar and Thrift, Photographer: Mark Bolton. Islanders © NTS



St Kilda, Photographer: Lorne Gill



Soay sheep © NTS



Early Christian cross

ST KILDA

World Heritage Site



St Kilda is a group of five remote islands and sea stacs in the North Atlantic, 100 miles off the west coast of Scotland.

The islands are home to the largest colony of seabirds in northern Europe, including nearly 20% of the world's population of northern gannets. The sheep, fieldmice and wrens on the islands are unique to St Kilda.

The last residents were evacuated in 1930. For around four millennia they had survived in this seemingly harsh environment by catching seabirds for food, feathers and oil, and farming some crops.

In July 2005, St Kilda became one of a few World Heritage Sites to hold dual status for both its natural and cultural qualities.



Village Bay, Photographer: Lorne Gill



Dun from Ruaval



Islanders © NTS

WHAT MAKES ST KILDA SO IMPORTANT?

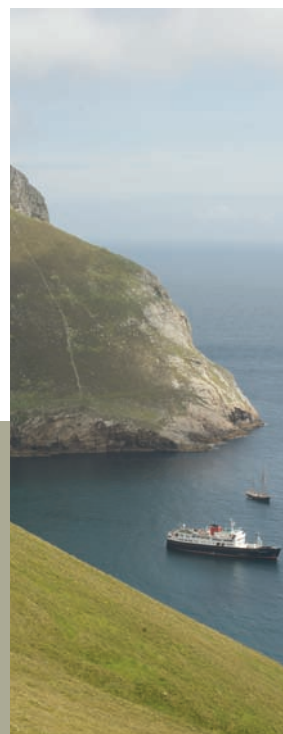
The clear, oceanic waters around the islands support a diverse and stunning range of animals and plants while the cliffs are home to the largest colony of seabirds in northern Europe. The Soay sheep are a unique survival of primitive breeds dating back to the Bronze Age.

The islands were probably settled 4,000 to 5,000 years ago. Due to the distance and separation from other islands, a unique way of life developed that was preserved until 1930.

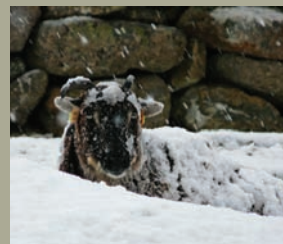
In addition to its dual World Heritage status, St Kilda is a National Nature Reserve, a National Scenic Area, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a European Community Special Protection Area.



Islander © NTS



Visiting cruise ship



Soay sheep © NTS

WHAT CAN I SEE AND DO TODAY?

During the summer months you will be rewarded by seeing some of the busiest seabird colonies in Europe, with wheeling clouds of gannets and rafts of puffins. In the surrounding waters you may be lucky enough to spot whales or basking sharks. Thanks to its clear waters, St Kilda is also renowned as one of the foremost dive sites in Europe.

The archipelago is a spectacular landscape of vertical cliffs and sea stacs, surrounding the safe haven of Village Bay. There you can see the wild Soay sheep grazing amongst the village, abandoned in 1930, and take the self-guided walk leaflet to visit the old 'main street', graveyard, House of the Fairies and unique turf roofed cleits or storage huts.

There is a museum at House 3 in the village where you can see a small collection of the artefacts left behind by the inhabitants and find out more about their unique way of life and the island environment.



Main Street