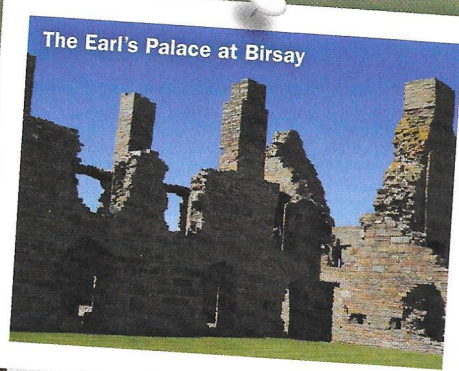


SCOTLAND

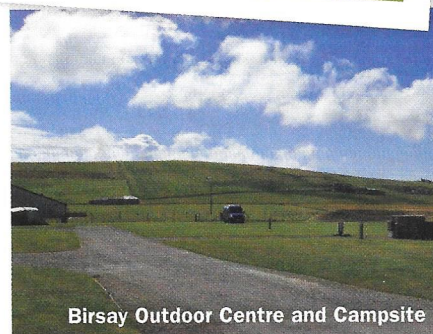
Birsay Outdoor Centre and Campsite, Orkney



The Brough of Birsay is separated from the mainland by a tidal path



The Earl's Palace at Birsay



Birsay Outdoor Centre and Campsite

With big skies and 18 hours of daylight at midsummer, as well as world-class wildlife and historical sites, Orkney gives good value for a camping holiday.

Birsay, in the beautiful northwest corner of mainland Orkney, is a popular area for visitors. The name Birsay comes from the Norse for 'fort island', referring to the tidal island of the Brough of Birsay.

This is an excellent council-run campsite alongside the hostel in a level field with generous-sized grassy pitches. The sanitary facilities are beside the hostel and are first-rate with roomy showers and plenty of hot water and are kept spick and span by the friendly wardens.

The campsite is an easy quarter-of-a-mile walk from the village of Birsay, just turn left to the cemetery and then follow the track. Here you will find a well-stocked shop and a lovely café with big windows overlooking the sea. The ruins of the Earl's Palace are also in the village.

The road ends at the car park for the Brough of Birsay, half-a-mile from

the village. This island is accessible a few hours either side of low tide (the campsite has the tide times so you can check before you head off) via a 260 yard-long concrete path.

The steeply sloped island has cliffs where you might spot a puffin and other seabirds in season and the remains of a Norse settlement.

From Birsay there is a lovely walk along the coast to Skipi Geo, a natural rocky harbour with a former fishing hut and steps in the rocks to the shore.

Another enjoyable walk is along the coast away from Birsay, following the cliffs up to Marwick

Head and the Kitchener and HMS Hampshire memorial.

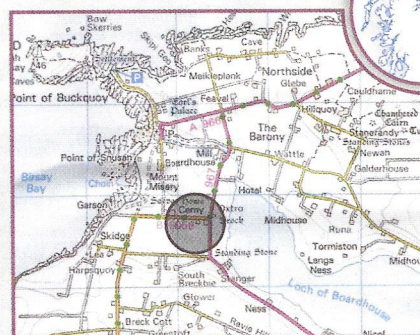
This landmark is a memorial to the 787 men who sadly lost their lives off the coast here in 1916. The cliffs at Marwick Head teem with seabirds in spring and summer.

"This is an excellent council-run campsite"



Carol Kubicki

PLAN YOUR STAY



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- Birsay Hostel, Orkney KW17 2LY**
- 01856 873535/01856 850907**
- stromnesscs@orkney.gov.uk**
- orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/birsay-outdoor-centre.htm**
- April to September**
- Two adults, pitch and electric: £18.85**

Nearest public transport: ¾ mile
Nearest pub/restaurant: Café ¾ mile
Directions: From A967 towards Birsay in NW corner of Orkney. Outdoor centre is on left one mile before village. Turn left along unsigned road immediately after centre then left into site

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