

THRUMSTER HOUSE AND COTTAGES



Things to do




Caithness has a wealth of outside activities, tours, archaeology, stunning beaches, things to see, things to do and many wildlife tours, underneath we list our top things to do, if you think there is something missing on our list please share your experiences with us.


1. Caithness Seacoast Tours.



 www.caithness-seacoast.co.uk

 Wick, 5 miles

 Varies from £21/con£13 to £33/con £24

 Duration ranges from half hour to 3 hour tourstext

 01955 60 9200

This boat trip is a favourite of many guests, always good reports back, we ourselves have taken the trip with children, seeing seals, puffins and whales. The boat takes you in and out of all the caves, stacks and arches. This is a view of the coast you wouldn't experience any other way. The staff are great and very safety focused. There is also disabled access.


2. Wick Heritage Museum



 www.wickheritage.org

 Wick, 5 miles

 Add a little bit of body text

 You should give yourself a good hour

 01955 605393

The Wick heritage museum is a very interesting place to visit, they hold a huge collection which is pretty eclectic, from domestic to fishing industry and photography. They hold the Johnston Collection, a digitised set of photographs dating back to the 1850s, this is a great resource for those studying genealogy. We have visited this many times and feel it is a great place with lovely volunteers and great value for money.

3. Whaligoe Steps



Ulbster, 4 miles



Free



Give yourselves an hour.

The Steps at Whaligoe are pretty stunning. They are not an easy descent nor climb, but well worth it. There is a great cafe at the top, open through summer months from Thursdays to Sundays with a great view over the cliffs. There are roughly 350 steps in total. There is a wealth of marine life and birds nesting along the cliffs.

These steps were made by Captain David Brodie in the 1700s as a means for fishermen and women to access the small harbour during the herring boom in the north, they are not the only steps in the area but they are the most intact.

4. Yarrows Archaeological Trail



No website



Thrumster Estate, 1 mile



Free



You should give yourself a good hour and a half or 2



No number

Yarrows Hill is on the estate at Thrumster and has a huge array of archaeological monuments from cairns, roundhouses, forts, standing stones and a broch. This is one of the largest concentrations of neolithic remains in Europe. The walk is not an easy one, but the view from the top is amazing and on a really clear day you can see Orkney from it. - Bring your boots!

5. John O'groats Trail



www.jogt.org.uk



There is a section on our coast



Free, though there are guided walks available



Each section takes a days walking

10.6 miles | 17.0 km This stage comes through Thrumster from the steps at Whaligoe. It then goes along cliff top, with views of one of the most magnificent sea arches in Britain before passing several other lovely coastal features. After passing the ruins of Old Wick Castle, it finally ends in Wick. it has signage and is one of the easier routes, though care should be taken as it is a cliff top walk

6.Fishing



www.thrumster.co.uk



Our lochs are no more than a mile apart



Tickets £6 per day,
Ghillied: £45 half day tuition



Mid march til mid Oct



01955 651 387

Thrumster estate has 5 lochs, Yarrows, Marl, Hempriggs, Sarclet and Warehouse. There are also many othe great lochs around the county with varying types of trout. Our lochs are all fly fishing only, we have a boat on Yarrows loch. We offer ghillied days out, half days or just a quick hour's tuition This can be from a beginner to experienced fishermen, we also hire rods and lines

7. Orkney day tours



www.jogferry.co.uk



John O'groats is 35mins drive



Maxi day tours £70



Pick up at 8:45am til last ferry



01955 611 353

We have lots of guests that have been on these tours and they have come highly recommended - we have not been on any of these tours though, so purely going on reports. Guests quite often book a couple of nights with us and take the second day to go on the tour then come back and stay with us, whether B+B or self catering. You cross with a ferry where a bus picks you up and you are taken round all the sights, this does not inc price of lunch, nor entry fees to Skara Brae or the Italian Chapel

8. Castle of Mey



www.castleofmey.org.uk



The castle is about 40 mins drive away



Tickets £6.50 - £11.95 per person



Open from Easter time til end of Sept, open each day



01955 651 387

The Castle of Mey was bought by the Queen Mother in the 1950s, it is still a place Prince Charles comes to stay at for summer holidays and officiates at the Mey Games. The tour guides are very knowledgeable and many of them had worked in the days of the Queen Mother so have personal stories. The grounds are lovely and they have a nice cafe, the ticket also gives access to really nice walled garden. There is also a gift shop. We recommend this as an attraction, it is a smaller, more intimate royal residence.

9. Sinclair and Girnigoe Castles



www.castlesinclairgirnigoe.org



Otherside of Wick 7 miles



Free



5 min walk from carpark



01955 611 353

Castles Sinclair and Girnigoe are a set of dramatic castle ruins perched on top of the cliffs at the start of the 7 mile long Sinclair Bay which has another 3 castles along its way. There is a bridge that takes you to it's original entrance. It is thought there are two castles, one from the 15c and other early 17c it was then attacked by cannon in circa 1680.

There has been significant preservation to some of the structure that was at risk of collapse some years ago. There are interpretation panels set along the pathway to it. There is no signage to it, so be prepared with maps or internet.

10. Dunrobin Castle



www.dunrobincastle.co.uk



The castle is about 1hr drive away, either visit on your way up or down



Tickets £7.50 - £10 per person



Open 1st April - 31st Oct



01408 633 177

Dunrobin is the ancestral seat of the Dukes of Sutherland. It is a beautiful castle with fairytale turrets and Italian gardens, overlooking the North Sea. It has been redesigned a few times with parts added over the centuries, the earliest being from 1275! It has over 300 rooms and has been a home, a naval hospital and even a school. There is a gift shop and tearooms and has a great falconry display in the gardens at prescribed times. You can also see the museum which is pretty incredible, it has lots of archaeological artefacts mixed in with taxidermied hunting trophies.

11. Clay Pigeon Shooting



www.thrumster.co.uk



Onsite at Thrumster



£30 per hour inc clays/ tuition and cartridges



1 - 2 hrs



01955 651 387

We are now offering clay pigeon shooting along with shooting tuition, no need to bring your own gun. Meet up with our Gamekeeper that will show you through the steps and explain all the safety elements for beginners and experienced shooters.

12. Camster Cairns



20 mins drive away



Free



Give yourself a good hour

The Grey Cairns of Camster stand among two of the oldest stone monuments in Scotland. These Neolithic tombs were originally built more than 5,000 years ago. Although they have been reconstructed in modern times, the Grey Cairns of Camster provide a fascinating insight into Neolithic funerary practices. Many people go at solstices, and the equinox as the sun come through and hiuts the back wall at sunrise through some of these events