The Forth Bridge

The Forth Bridge represents the pinnacle of 19th-century bridge construction and is without doubt the world’s greatest cantilever-trussed bridge. When opened in 1890 it had the longest bridge span in the world; a record held for 77 years. It was also the world’s first major steel structure, and today remains a potent symbol of Britain’s industrial, scientific, architectural and transport heritage. The bridge forms a unique milestone in the evolution of bridges and other steel construction, is innovative in its design, concept, its materials and its enormous scale. It marks a landmark event in the application of science to architecture and for the first time in steel bridge engineering.

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney

Five thousand years ago in the far north of Scotland the Neolithic people of the Orkney Islands constructed some extraordinary stone monuments. At Skara Brae, you can walk around the walls of the stone-built village and look down into the houses where the original stone furnishings still survive. At the visitor centre you can see original tools from the site and go inside a replica house.

You can take a guided tour into the great chambered tomb of Maeshowe which was designed to allow the setting sun at the winter solstice to shine up the passageway and illuminate the chamber. Inside you can also see graffiti carved into the walls by Viking visitors. Walk among the impressive Stones of Stenness where the enormous surviving stones stand up to 6 metres in height, or wander around the Ring of Brodgar to get a real sense of history at this huge stone circle.

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh

Edinburgh is built on an extraordinary landscape of hills and valleys, formed millions of years ago by volcanoes and ice sheets. The architecture of the city shows a striking contrast between the narrow streets of the medieval Old Town and the broad avenues of the Georgian New Town, this contrast gives the city its unique character. Together these factors have created a truly distinctive skyline and stunning views which are recognised around the world.

Calton Hill offers a splendid view to Arthur’s Seat and the south, while the walls of Edinburgh Castle provide a stunning vista north across the Firth of Forth. A stroll through Princes Street Gardens will give you a glimpse of the grandeur of the New Town in the 18th century.

The Old Town’s narrow streets of the medieval Old Town and the broad avenues of the Georgian New Town; this contrast gives the city its unique character. The best way to explore the historic heart of Edinburgh is by taking one of the many bus or walking tours on offer, or use EWH’s mobile network Rail.

New Lanark

Over 200 years ago the impressive sandstone cotton mills of New Lanark were founded by an enterprising Scot, David Dale, in a wide and deep ditch, constructed in sections by legions who marked their contributions with a unique series of milestones. Fresh and forfeits provided accommodation for the troops and allowed them to control movement across the Wall. Behind the rampart, all the forts were lined by a road, known as the Military Way.

St Kilda

One hundred miles off the west coast of Scotland the clear Atlantic waters of the St Kilda archipelago supports a diverse and stunning range of animals and plants, several unique to the islands. Its cliffs and sea stacks are home to the largest colony of seabirds in Europe, including gannets and puffins; its waters contain remarkable marine communities, while the wild Soay sheep trace their ancestry back thousands of years.

Despite the remoteness of the islands and their harsh environment, people lived and farmed there for millennia. They caught seabirds for food, feathers and oil, grew some crops and kept livestock. Well-preserved remains of human occupation can be seen on the main island of Hirta and the smaller islands. Unique to St Kilda are hundreds of small stone buildings called cleits that were used for storage. The population of St Kilda left in 1930, and a walk along the abandoned village main street is an evocative reminder of a lost way of life.

The Antonine Wall

The Antonine Wall is a symbol of the power of the Roman Empire and for a short time around AD 142 it marked its most northerly extent. It forms part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site, along with Hadrian’s Wall and the Germanic Lines.

You can visit different stretches of The Antonine Wall to gain a impression of how it was. At Rough Castle you can walk around the impressive earthworks of the rampart, ditch, fort and military way. Other forts and forlets can be seen at Bar Hill and Kinwell. There are excellent sections of rampart and ditch at Watling Lodge, Seabegs Wood and Callendar Park. At Branchis you can visit a bath-house and latrine.

The Wall was not built of stone but was a turf rampart fronted by a wide and deep ditch, constructed in sections by legions who marked their contributions with a unique series of milestones.

More about the Antonine Wall

Artfacts from the Wall are on show in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow, the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh and in museums in Kirkudbright, Elshin, and Kinnell. A reconstruction of the Wall’s most iconic distance slab, the Bridgeless Slab, can be seen at Big Ness. For more information about visiting the Wall, go to www.antoninewall.org

More about the Forth Bridge

Both ends of the Bridge can be easily reached by public transport. Queenferry and North Queensferry offer cafes, pubs and restaurants. Boat tours on the Firth are available, and there are excellent cycling and walking routes along the coast. For more information about the Bridge, go to www.forth-bridge.com

More about the Heart of Neolithic Orkney

The monuments that make up the World Heritage Site are located in the west of the island of Mainland. World Heritage Site Rangers lead tours around both Stenness and Brodgar to explain the history of the sites and point out their rich wildlife. For more information about visiting the monuments or taking a tour go to www.historicenvironment.scot.

More about the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh

The best way to explore the historic heart of Edinburgh is by taking one of the many bus or walking tours on offer, or use EWH’s mobile network Rail.

More about St Kilda

The long sea-crossing to the islands makes visiting Hirta a challenge, but it is possible to arrange. Many books have been published about the island’s history and the evacuation of residents. See marine wildlife first-hand on one of the many privately-run boat tours and cruises. For more information about St Kilda, including access and working holidays, go to www.kilda.org.uk or www.nats.org.uk

More about New Lanark

New Lanark is cared for by the New Lanark Trust. Today the village is still a thriving community with a resident population, a visitor centre, hotel and a range of small businesses. For more information about visiting New Lanark and to find out what’s on in the busy events programme go to www.newlanark.org

More about the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Castle is still a thriving community with a resident population, a visitor centre, hotel and a range of small businesses. For more information about visiting the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, go to www.newlanark.org.

Expanding more about world heritage sites in scotland

Information about travelling to all six World Heritage sites can be found at www.visitscotland.com

More about New Lanark

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The Heart of Neolithic Orkney is one of the richest surviving Neolithic landscapes in north-west Europe. Its impressive domestic and ritual monuments are masterpieces of Neolithic design and construction and give us exceptional insights into the society, skills and spiritual beliefs of the people who built them.

St Kilda is a group of remote islands and sea stacs 100 miles off the west coast of Scotland. They host the largest colony of seabirds in Europe and unique populations of sheep, field-mice and wrens. Evocative cultural remains chart some 5000 years of history until evacuation in 1930.

The Antonine Wall marked the most northerly frontier of the Roman Empire nearly 2000 years ago and was also its most complex frontier. Running across central Scotland, it was built by Roman soldiers for the Emperor Antoninus Pius around AD 142, their efforts commemorated by a unique group of milestones.

The Forth Bridge represents the pinnacle of 19th century bridge construction and is the world’s greatest cantilever trussed bridge. When opened in 1890 it had the longest bridge spans in the world. It was also the world’s first major mild steel structure, and today remains a potent symbol of the UK’s industrial, scientific, architectural and transport heritage.

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh form one of the most beautiful cityscapes in the world. The city’s unique character springs from the contrast between the medieval Old Town, with its distinctive narrow passageways, and the 18th century New Town, the best preserved example of Georgian town planning in the UK.

New Lanark is a restored 18th century cotton mill village situated in the narrow gorge of the River Clyde. Renowned for the enlightened management of the social pioneer Robert Owen, it was the biggest cotton mill in Scotland and one of the largest industrial groups in the world.

World Heritage Sites are recognised by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as places of internationally significant cultural or natural heritage, whose Outstanding Universal Value is considered to transcend national boundaries and to be of importance for future generations.

Being placed on the World Heritage List is a high accolade and demonstrates international recognition of the Site’s significance. Countries with World Heritage Sites have to manage them to ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value is sustained into the future.