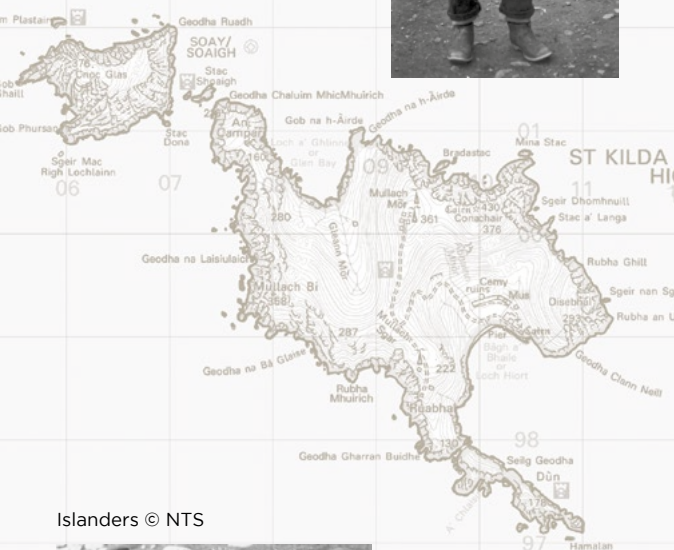


WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

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: +44 (0)131 458 0200

www.nts.org.uk

NATURESCOT

135 Stilligarry, South Uist HS8 5RS

Tel: +44 (0)1870 620238

www.nature.scot

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

Longmore House, Salisbury Place,
Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Tel: +44 (0)131 668 8600

Email: worldheritage@hes.scot

www.historicenvironment.scot

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

THE WESTERN ISLES COUNCIL

Sandwick Road, Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis HS1 2BW

Tel: +44 (0)845 6007090

www.cne-siar.gov.uk

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

www.mod.uk

www.qinetiq.com

MUSEUM NAN EILEAN

Lews Castle Grounds, Stornoway,
Isle of Lewis HS2 OXP

Tel: +44 (0)1851 822746

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/museum

KELVINGROVE MUSEUM

Kelvingrove, Glasgow G3 8AG

Tel: +44 (0)141 287 2699

www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums

THE SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES

University of Edinburgh,
27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD

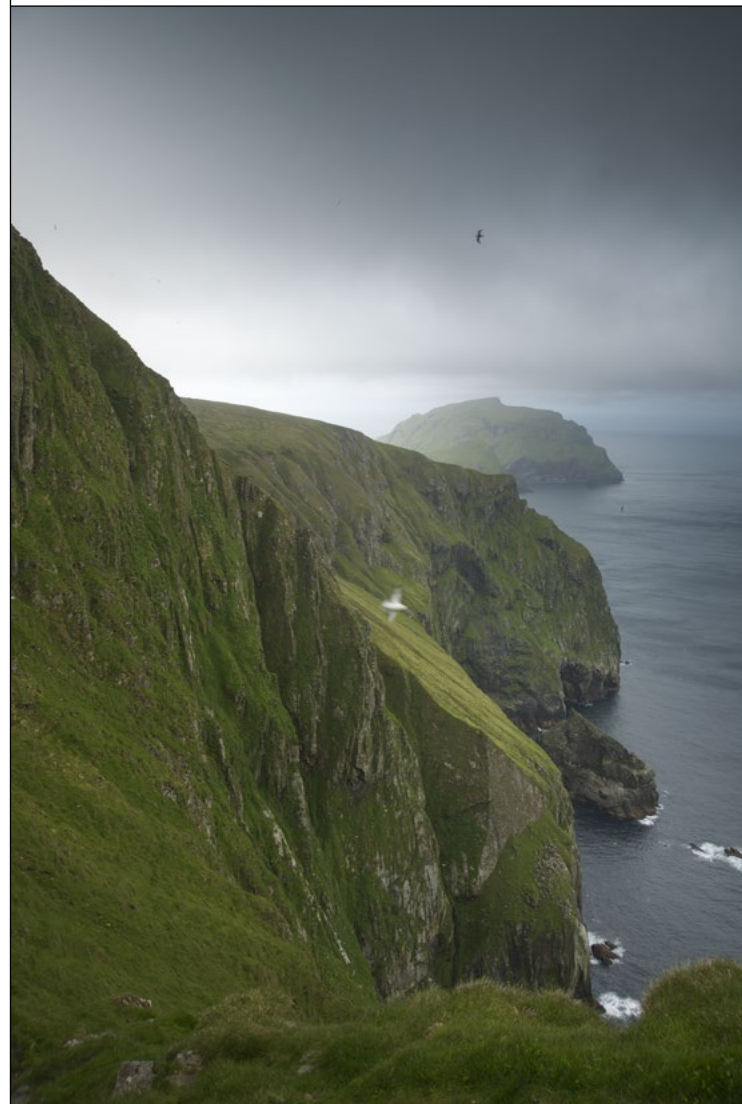
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 4161

www.sss.ed.ac.uk



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Front cover: The Cliffs below Conachair are the highest sea cliffs in the UK
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ST KILDA



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World Heritage Site

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



Soay Sheep © NTS

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, field mice 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.



Fulmar and Thrift, Photographer, Mark Bolton © 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 gannets, guillemots, razorbills and other seabirds. 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.

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 stacks, 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 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.

From left to right
 Dun from Ruaival
 Drystone Cleitean and Enclosures above the Village
 Village Bay
 The Street

