

STORNOWAY, ISLE OF LEWIS

The bustling capital of the Outer Hebrides of Scotland, Stornoway is the gateway to the enchanting islands of Lewis and Harris, offering gorgeous nature, Harris Tweed, and historical architecture

KEY INFO

Currency: Pound Sterling (1 USD = 0.8 GBP)

Population: 5,600 (5.45 million Scotland)

Emergency #: 999

Drinking water: Tap water is drinkable

Time Zone: GMT (winter), GMT+1 (summer)

ID Requirements: Passport


Languages: English

Drive on the: Left

Pharmacy: MacDonald K J Ltd, 29-31 Cromwell St 

Protection: Standard health precautions

Wi-Fi: An Lanntair (cultural centre)

Post Office: 16 Francis St, Stornoway HS1 2AD 

PORT LOCATION


Cruise ships primarily dock at the new deep-water port, in the grounds of Lews Castle. Some ships may still dock or tender to the old pier in the centre of town. The deep-water port is 10-15-minute drive from the city, or roughly 1-hour following the scenic walking path

Getting Around: The port of Stornoway provides complimentary shuttle buses to help visitors get directly to the city centre from the out-of-town port (approx. 3km). Alternatively, a walking trail has been created that takes you through the Lews Castle Grounds and round to the city. Once in the city, walking around is ideal. Buses operate Mon-Sat, tickets can be purchased in cash onboard.


 [Click here for a tourist brochure, including local map](#)

Taxis: Taxis are available. Best booked in advance.  

Tourist Bus: There is no Hop-On Hop-Off Sightseeing Bus

Tourist Information: 26 Cromwell St, Stornoway HS1 2DD (next to Stornoway Harbour) 

Port Facilities: Still in development

Port Address: Stornoway Deep Water Terminal, 5JR7+XF, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS2 9JY 

STORNOWAY HIGHLIGHTS

Lews Castle: Restored Victorian castle; a great example of Scottish baronial architecture. Now a self-catered vacation rental, with beautiful grounds to explore.

24 Hours | Free | 1.8 miles from port (11-min drive, 40-min walk) |  | 

Museum nan Eilean: A purpose-built extension to Lews Castle houses an interesting museum detailing life in the Outer Hebrides. Collection includes six of the famous Lewis Chessmen (one of the earliest surviving chess sets in the world).

10a-5p (Tue-Sat) | Donations welcome | 1.8 miles from port (11-min drive, 40-min walk) |  | 


An Lanntair: Local arts centre and a hub for exhibitions and performances.


10a-5p (Mon-Wed), 10a-11p (Thu-Sat) | Free | 2.5 miles from port (10-min drive, 55-min walk) |  | 

For more: <https://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/our-islands/lewis/stornoway>

 card payment accepted

 cash payment accepted

 link to map

 link to website

Harris Tweed Authority: The official home of Harris Tweed. There's an onsite 'Story Room' that tells the history of the cloth and craft. However, the Story Room is temporarily closed.

10a-4p (Mon-Thu), 9a-1p (Fri) | Free | 2.5 miles from port (10-min drive, 55-min walk) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

Isle of Lewis WWI Memorial: North of the Castle and its neighbouring golf course is the island's castle tower-esque memorial to those who fell in WWI.

24 Hours | Free | 3.1 miles from port (7-min drive, 70-min walk) | [🌐](#)

Arnish Point Lighthouse: An enjoyable hike leads you to this picturesque Victorian lighthouse (built: 1852). The lighthouse is significant as the first prefabricated lighthouse of the region, and utilised an 'apparent light' system, whereby prisms refracted a beam projected from a neighbouring shore.

24 Hours | Free | 1.5 miles from port (6-min drive, 30-min walk) | [🌐](#)

CALANAIS STANDING STONES

These neolithic stone circles have been standing on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis for about 5,000 years. How they got here, no one truly knows, but they make a spectacular sight and are reflective of Pagan customs, typical of the area for thousands of years. There's a small shop and picnic tables at the site. If you want to learn more, pop into the Visitor Centre, where there is an exhibition (\$).

24 Hours | Free | 16 miles from port (24-min drive) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

BLACKHOUSE HERITAGE

Unprotected from Atlantic winds, islanders traditionally built round, thatched cottages, in which families sheltered with their animals. The house was heated by an open peat fire in a central hearth. The conical thatched roof channelled smoke out, giving the houses their name, Blackhouse, from the soot. Learn more at the **Blackhouse Museum** in Arnol or the **Gearrannan Blackhouse Village** in Carloway.

Blackhouse Museum: 10a-4:30p (Mon-Sat) | £7.50 | 17 miles from port (30-min drive) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

Gearrannan Village: 9:30a-5:30p (Mon-Sat) | Free | 20 miles from port (40-min drive) | [🌐](#) | [📄](#)

SOMETHING TO EAT OR DRINK

Haggis: A savoury pudding of sheep's pluck (heart, liver, lungs), minced with onion, oatmeal, suet, spices, and salt. Traditionally encased in a sheep's stomach.

Stornoway Black Pudding: A local take on the traditional Scottish blood sausage, made from pork blood, fat, and oatmeal.





Cullen Skink: A thick Scottish soup made with smoked haddock, potatoes, and onions.

Scotch Whisky: Simply made from barley, yeast, and water... and time. **Abhainn Dearg Distillery** [🌐](#) | [📄](#) is open for visitors on weekdays (35 miles from port | 55-min drive)

LOCAL SOUVENIRS

While pricey, a handwoven **Harris Tweed** item is a wonderful keepsake from a visit to Stornoway. From kilts to keychains, there are many different options of ways to take home a piece of this uniquely Scottish cloth. Fans of chess might like to take home a **replica set of the Lewis Chessmen** (on display in the Castle's museum). Or perhaps some **Celtic-inspired jewellery**, supporting the local craft scene and celebrating Celtic heritage.

For more: <https://www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk/our-islands/lewis/stornoway>

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