

Egilsay Route



Theme: Peace

Length: 3.5 miles (20 km)

Terrain: A short easy walk on road and track

Total ascent: 62m

Total on road: 2.5 miles

Total off road: 1 mile

Time: 2-3 hours

Route description

The day begins at Tingwall and the ferry to Egilsay, via Rousay. You can explore the pilgrimage route in a morning or afternoon (note the lunchtime boat is request only so needs booked the day before). This means you can spend the other half of the day at the RSPB reserve on Egilsay or on Rousay.

From the pier on Egilsay, walk uphill on the road to the crossroads. Going straight over here, the community centre is on the left and just past it on the right hand side is a kissing gate into a field. At the other end of the field is a further kissing gate which can be very muddy. Beyond this is the martyr's memorial, erected with funding from St Magnus the Martyr Church in London in 1938. This is the most likely spot where Magnus was murdered by Lifolf, Hakon's cook.

Return via the kissing gates to the road and turn right. The road becomes a track beyond a farm gate and leads down to the bay at the back of the island. It is a beautiful spot to stop and reflect and worth walking along the beach to the right. Retrace your steps from here along the beach, the track and the road to the community centre. The community centre is always open and has toilets and wifi – donations to its upkeep are appreciated.

From the community centre, turn right and then a further right at the cross roads, towards the distinctive round tower of St Magnus Kirk should be visible. Turn left down to the Kirk and explore the ruins. From the Kirk return along the road to the crossroads and turn right to walk down the road to the pier and the ferry back to Rousay and then Tingwall. Please leave plenty time to get the boat as it doesn't wait!

