

Welcome to Aurora Bed and Breakfast.

Aurora Bed & Breakfast, Sibmister Road, Murkle, Caithness KW14 8SP

Tel : +44 1847 821537

Email : aurorabb.caithness@gmail.com

We hope you enjoy your stay with us at Aurora Bed & Breakfast.

To make your stay with us as comfortable and safe as possible, we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to read the Emergency Information included in this information folder.

We also include some additional General Information which you may find useful

If there is anything we can help you with during your stay, please ask one of us and we will do our utmost to assist you.

If you require any assistance during your stay - either

- Ring the front door bell – there is generally someone on the premises
- Phone one of these contact phone numbers if we are not on the premises :

Richard : **+44 7986 277021**

Jane : **+44 7411 380380**

We appreciate your feedback and would ask that you take a minute to post a review either through your booking partner, Trip Advisor or to our Facebook page [@aurorabnb](#)

We hope that you enjoy your stay with us.

Thank you

Jane and Richard at Aurora



AURORA Bed & Breakfast

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EMERGENCY INFORMATION



In an emergency or life threatening situation dial **999**

In the event of the smoke alarm sounding you will hear a very high pitched alarm from both the upstairs and downstairs halls.

Please evacuate the building as quickly and calmly as possible to the **Assembly Point**: gate at the top of the driveway.

Do not stop to pick up belongings.

Do not re-enter the building until authorised to do so.

Please familiarise yourself with your means of escape which is as follows:

Shetland Bedroom:

Proceed out of your room, make your way to the staircase, proceed down the stairs into the main hallway, through the reception room and out the front door. Turn right and walk to the picnic table on the lawn.

Orkney Bedroom:

Proceed out of your room into the main hallway, through the reception room and out the front door. Turn right and walk to the picnic table on the lawn.

Dining Room:

Proceed to the main hallway through the reception room and out the front door. Turn right and walk to the picnic table on the lawn.

Reception room:

Straight out of the front door. Turn right and walk to the picnic table on the lawn.

A fire register of names will be taken.

If you have any hearing or sight problems, mobility difficulties or issues which may make it difficult to evacuate the building in the event of an emergency, please notify us upon arrival so that we can assist you.

In the event of an electricity power failure:

Smoke detectors will make a loud repeated beep. There is a battery operated camping light (with 3 batteries in the box) in one of the bedside tables in your room.

Please note this is only for use in the event of a power failure.



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Important
Information

GENERAL INFORMATION

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Information

Parking: Ample parking is available on our private driveway and we have a concrete hard standing area for motorbikes. Please ensure that you leave enough turning/clearance for emergency vehicles and for other guests parking.

We can also provide secure storage for motorbikes and cycles in our garage – key on request.

Breakfast: We serve breakfast in the Dining Room between 7.30 – 9.00am. We can provide an earlier breakfast on request.

WIFI: We provide free of charge fast WiFi throughout the guest rooms and public areas **SSID:AURORA-BB or AURORA-BB-ORKNEY or AURORA-BB-SHETLAND**

Password is aurorabnb

Smoking or Vaping is not permitted by law in any part of the building. We also request that guests do not smoke in the vicinity of the main entrance or outbuildings.

Communal areas:

Dining Room is used for breakfast, hospitality and for guests takeaway dining. We also provide a television for guests use. Please help yourself to fresh milk from the small fridge in the Dining Room.

Reception Room (Sun Room) is at the front entrance for you to relax in if you wish. It gets very warm when the sun shines in and there is a stand-alone plug in radiator for your use. There are also some information leaflets on local attractions/activities; reading material and playing cards/board games under the far away coffee table.

Garden is also for our guests to enjoy – please feel free to make use of the bench and tables. You are welcome to exercise your dogs in the garden but we insist that you ensure that dog deposits are dealt with appropriately. We can provide poop bags and there is a bin located in the shed behind the greenhouse.

Beds: All our beds are made up with two hypo-allergenic synthetic pillows and four season, feel like feather, synthetic quilts which can be split for your comfort. We will change your bedding every four days during your stay and, on request we will change it more frequently.



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Housekeeping: During your stay we will empty bins, replenish towels and top up hospitality on request.

Toilet: Like many Highland residences, Aurora B&B's wastewater is serviced by a septic tank. We would urge guests not to flush anything other than toilet paper down the toilet. All other items should be placed in the bathroom bin (there are also nappy sacks available for your use).

Drying and Ironing: Please ask us for details if you require drying and ironing facilities.

Check-Out: We require that guests vacate their room by 11.00am on the morning of Check Out please.

Payment: Where guests have not pre-paid, payment can be made using cash, card or NFC.

Please ring doorbell or call us on mobile phone on departure if we are not present – the payment terminal is located in the Reception Room.

We accept the following payment methods:





MEDICAL INFORMATION



Doctor Surgery – 3 miles

Castletown Surgery, Murrayfield, Castletown : **Tel 01847 821205**

Out of Hours Emergency Doctor Service : **Tel 01847 686939**

NHS 24 Helpline: Help and advice **Tel 111**

Caithness General Hospital – 19 miles

General Hospital, Bankhead Road in Wick : **Tel. 01955 605050.**

24 hour A&E department.

Dunbar Hospital – 5 miles

Dunbar Hospital, Ormlie Road, Thurso : **Tel. 01847 893263**

Emergency Care Referrals from NHS 24 & Out Of Hours Care

Dentist Surgery– 5 miles

Dunbar Clinic, Ormlie Road, Thurso : **Tel. 01847 896580**

Veterinary Surgery – 5 miles

DS McGregor, Janet Street, Thurso : **Tel. 01847 892387**

First Aid Kit: Located in the Reception Room bookcase.

Chemists:

Sutherlands Pharmacy, 13 Trail Street, Thurso

Tel 01847 892011

Well Thurso, 4 High Street, Thurso

Tel 01847 892040

JHM Williams, 16 Trail Street, Thurso

Tel 01847 892016

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TRANSPORT INFORMATION



Taxi:

Caithness Cabs (Thurso)	Tel 01847 895677
Violet's Taxis (Castletown)	Tel 01847 893374
Ormlie Taxis (Thurso)	Tel 01847 893434

Bus:

Stagecoach North Scotland run the local buses.

Bus 80 is the main route from John O Groats to Thurso via Murkle.

Bus stops for both directions are at the bottom end of Sibmister Road – near the bus shelter and on the opposite side of the main road at the entrance to Murkle Caravan Park.

Website : <https://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables>

Train:

The nearest railway station is 4 miles away at Princes Street, Thurso.

Website : <https://www.scotrail.co.uk/>

Airport:

The nearest airport is Wick airport which is 18 miles away and located 1 mile north of Wick at KW1 4QP.

Website : <https://www.hial.co.uk/wick-john-ogroats-airport>

Orkney Ferries:

Scrabster ferry terminal is 6 miles away and it takes just 90 minutes for the crossing to Stromness in Orkney. Many people take advantage of the spectacular views of the Old Man of Hoy, and St John's Head, which can only be seen on this ferry route.

Website : <https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/booking-info/timetables/>

There is also a ferry service from Gills Bay which is 13 miles away; crossing to St Margaret's Hope in Orkney which also takes 90 minutes.

Website : <https://pentlandferries.co.uk/timetable-2/>

There's a passenger service from John O' Groats which includes a day tour of Orkney.

Website : <https://www.jogferry.co.uk/Tours.aspx>

Bicycle Hire & Repair:

The Bike Shop, 35 High Street, Thurso

Tel. 01847 895385.

Website : https://www.facebook.com/thebikeshopthurso/?ref=page_internal

Fuel (Diesel, Unleaded, Super Unleaded):

Alexander & Robertson, Main Street, Castletown

Bridgend Filling Station, Bridgend, Thurso

W M Dunnet (24 Hours) Mansons Lane, Thurso

Electric Vehicle Charging:

Park Hotel, Burnett Place, Thurso

Leisure Centre, Mill Road, Thurso

Garages:

A&L Motors, Main Street, Castletown

Tel 01847 821401

Riverside Garage, Sir Archibald Road, Thurso

Tel 01847 892002

Thurso Tyre Centre, Wilson Street, Thurso

Tel 01847 896600



AURORA Bed & Breakfast



SUPERMARKETS

Tesco, Millbank Road, Thurso

Lidl, Castlegreen Road, Thurso

Co-op, Meadow Lane, Thurso

LOCAL SHOPS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| J A Mackay, Traill Street, Thurso | – licensed grocer local produce |
| Socially Growing, Rotterdam Street, Thurso | - zero waste local produce |
| Aurora, Rotterdam Street, Thurso | - jewellery and gifts |
| Serendipity, Rotterdam Street, Thurso | - hardware, garden and gifts |
| Eye Candy, Hight Street, Thurso | - gifts |

POST OFFICES

McColl's, Main Street, Castletown.

Co-op, Meadow Lane, Thurso.

BANKS AND ATMS

Royal Bank Of Scotland, Orlig Street, Thurso (ATM - Free Withdrawals)

Bank Of Scotland, Orlig Street, Thurso (ATM - Free Withdrawals)

TSB Bank, Traill Street, Thurso (ATM - Free Withdrawals)

Santander, Orlig Street, Thurso (ATM - Free Withdrawals)

OTHER ATMS

McColl's, Main Street, Castletown (Charges for Withdrawals).

Co-op, Meadow Lane, Thurso (Free Withdrawals)

McColl's, North Road, Thurso (Charges for Withdrawals)

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RESTAURANTS & TAKE AWAY



PUBS

Northern Sands Hotel, Dunnet (6 miles)

Providing a selection of Scottish and European menu choices.

The local produce and service from staff is very good.

Indoor and Outdoor seating. Takeaway available.

Website : <https://www.northernsands.co.uk/>

Tel : 01847 851300

Y-Not Bar & Grill, Meadow Lane, Thurso (4 miles)

Steaks, burgers and grills.

Reviews are good as good pub food using local produce.

Indoor seating and large bar.

Website : <https://www.theinnynot.co.uk/en-GB>

Tel : 01847 892272

RESTAURANTS

Bydand, Traill Street, Thurso (4 miles)

Providing a selection of Scottish and European menu choices.

The local produce and service from staff is very good.

Indoor seating.

Website : <https://bydandthurso.com/>

Tel : 01847 893737

Red Pepper, Princes Street, Thurso (4 miles)

Providing a selection of Scottish and European menu choices.

The local produce and service from staff is very good.

Indoor seating and Takeaway available.

Website :

Tel : 01847 892771

FISH & CHIPS

Castletown Chip Shop, Mackay Street, Castletown (3 miles)

Tel : 01847 821778

Reids Fish Bar, Riverside Place, Thurso (4 miles)

Tel : 01847 893574

SEAFOOD

Capilla Tapas, Scrabster (5 miles)

Seafood tapas and paella - highly recommended.

A small restaurant in an old church with friendly staff and good service.

Please note it is best to book at least a month in advance for here!

Indoor and Outdoor seating.

Website : <https://www.capillascrabster.co.uk/>

Tel : 01847 892992

Captain's Galley, Scrabster (5 miles)

Seafood and European menu.

The reviews for food are good albeit a little expensive and people say that the service can be slow at times.

Indoor seating and Takeaway available.

Website : <https://www.captainsgalley.co.uk/>

Tel : 01847 894999

INDIAN AND CHINESE

Pride of Bengal Indian, Thurso (4 miles)

Authentic Bangladeshi cuisine using good quality fresh local produce - highly recommended.

Indoor seating, Takeaway and Delivery available.

Website : [https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurant_Review-g186541-d8133254-Reviews-Pride of Bengal Restaurant and Takeaway-Thurso Caithness and Sutherland Scottish .html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurant_Review-g186541-d8133254-Reviews-Pride_of_Bengal_Restaurant_and_Takeaway-Thurso_Caithness_and_Sutherland_Scottish_.html)

Tel : 01847 890777

Spice Tandoori, Thurso (4 miles)

Authentic Indian cuisine.

Indoor seating, Takeaway available.

Website : <http://www.spicetandooriindianrestaurant.co.uk/>

Tel : 01847 894622

Charlie Chan Chinese, Thurso (4 miles)

Authentic Oriental cuisine.

Indoor seating, Takeaway and Delivery available.

Website : <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Charlie-Chan/183135178482252>

Tel : 01847 890888

PLACES OF INTEREST

CAITHNESS

Named after Pictish tribe known as Cat or Catti people – also in the old Gaelic name for Shetland (Innse Chat).

Norse (Viking) settlements established in the area and reflected in place names :

Thurso – Thor’s river (Norse God of thunder)

Wick (vik) – small inlet / bay

Dominated by largest blanket peat bog in Europe - known as Flow Country.

Underlying geology is red sandstone – which splits easily to form large slabs.

Flagstone has been quarried since Neolithic times (or New Stone Age - 12,000 years ago).

Stone was quarried and processed at Castletown harbour for export around the world.

Many of the streets of London, Edinburgh, New York and Sydney are paved with Caithness flagstones and is renowned for it’s non-slip properties. Remains of the stone works can be found near the Castletown Heritage Centre next to the harbour.

Remains of pre-historic occupation :

- Camster Cairns, Camster – oldest structures in Scotland – over 5000 years
- Stone Lud, Castletown – standing stone south of Castletown
- Hill O Many Stains, Ulbster – 200 standing stones – placed 4000 years ago
- Cairn O’ Get, Ulbster – burial chamber dates over 5000 years old
- Over 100 Brochs – dry stone round houses

DUNNET HEAD

The most northerly point of mainland Britain – also known as Easter Head.

The most northerly point of Scotland is in Shetland – 170 miles further North.

Views to Stroma and Hoy (Orkney) and on a clear day to Cape Wrath.

Remains of military radar monitoring, radio navigation and artillery installations used during WW2 to protect the naval base at Scapa Flow.

DUNNET & DUNNET BAY

Mary Ann's Cottage – croft museum.

House of the Northern Gate (Dwarick House) – Jimmy Page (Led Zeppelin) viewed the house in 1974 with a view to making it into a recording studio due to connections with Aleister Crowley.

Harrow Harbour – There is a plaque located at the harbour to commemorate a donation made by Jimmy Page to refurbish the structure. You will often see seals basking near the harbour.

Dunnet Bay dunes – cover the remains of Norse settlement.

ST JOHNS LOCH

Originally 'Hunspow' derived from Norse 'Shons Poll' – meaning a small expanse of water in a boggy area.

Legend that in 1700 on St Stephens Day (26th Dec) the area was a meadow and on St John The Evangelist Day (27th Dec) the area was transformed into a loch in a single day.

More likely to have been developed naturally by St John the Baptist Day (29th August).

Also known as Loch of Hailan or Halie Loch (Healing Loch) - Purported to have healing powers.

To be cured of an ailment

- bathe in the loch between sunrise and sunset on the first Monday of a Raith (Quarter) and leave a coin in the waters.
- Throw a penny in the water and walk 'withershins' (anti-clockwise and against the sun) – Gaelic 'unlucky' way - around the loch

Stocked with Brown Trout

- Fly fishing only – bank or boat
- Minimum size 12" / 30cm – no catch limit
- permits from Dunnet Bay campsite.
- Season from 1st April to 30th September

NORTH COAST VISITOR CENTRE (Formerly CAITHNESS HORIZONS), THURSO

Located in the centre of Thurso in the old Town Hall, the North Coast Visitor Centre houses many exhibits telling the geological and technological history of Caithness from examples of Neolithic objects to models of the Dounreay Fast Reactor plant.

DUNCANSBY STACKS & THIRLE DOOR

The most north easterly point of mainland Britain and farthest point by road from Land End at 878 miles (Lands End to John O Groats is 876 miles).

Stacks and Thirle Door sea arch are of sandstone. The tallest pyramid (or clett) is 60m high.

Atomic Weapons Establishment in Aldermaston proposed to use the Stacks for nuclear weapons testing in 1953 but the proposal was (fortunately) shelved due to prevalent wet weather.

WHALIGOE STEPS, ULBSTER

Dating from the 18th century, the steps were installed on the cliff side so that crews of women (many in their early 70s) could carry baskets of fish landed from the boats in natural harbour at the foot of the cliffs up the 365 steps to the top.

BADBEA HISTORIC CLEARANCE VILLAGE, BERRIEDALE

Around 80 people originally lived here in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The villagers were forced to leave the fertile glens owned by landowner Sir John Sinclair to make way for more profitable sheep farming, during the Highland Clearances.

Animals and small children had to be tethered at times to avoid being swept over the clifftop in the high winds!!



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FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information on places of interest and activities can be found at :

Visit Scotland :

<https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/thurso-p243991>

Trip Advisor :

https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attractions-g186541-Activities-Thurso_Caithness_and_Sutherland_Scottish_Highlands_Scotland.html

Discover Thurso :

<https://www.discoverthurso.co.uk/>



AURORA

Breakfast Menu

SAMPLE MENU

If you have not made food arrangements when booking, please ask Jane or Richard about your particular food preferences. We usually stock items such as gluten free oats and non-dairy milk.

Fruit Juice / Water

Selection of Cereals / Muesli / Yoghurt

Large or Small Aurora Breakfast Smoothie

(oats, banana, chia seeds, brown linseeds, almond/oat milk, blueberries, raspberries)

Porridge

(let us know how you like yours...)

Full Scottish Breakfast

(bacon, square beef sausage, black pudding, haggis, eggs, tomatoes, potato scone, toast)

Kale, Tomato and Poached Eggs on Wholemeal Toast

(Made with feta cheese, garlic and chilli flakes)

Local Organic Free-Range Eggs

(fried, boiled, poached or scrambled)

Home Baked Bread or Toast

(butter, jam, marmalade, honey)

Tea / Fresh Ground Coffee / Hot Chocolate

Seasonal

(We aim to use produce that is seasonal and we'll let you know when we have "specials" e.g. fresh fruit; herring in oatmeal; smoked salmon)

Wherever possible we use local produce:

Castletown Butchers; Scrabster Seafood; Far North eggs;
Caithness Smokehouse; Caithness fruits; Caithness Honey, Miller Coffee,
Aurora B & B garden