

- **Heart of Neolithic Orkney**

- Maeshowe (~2800 BCE): chambered cairn and passage grave which is aligned so the chamber is illuminated on the winter solstice. It was vandalized by Vikings and contains the largest collection of runic writing in the world.
- Standing Stones of Stenness (?): Possibly the oldest henge site in Britain and Ireland, this site has 4 stones remaining of what was thought to be 12 in an ellipse.
- Ring of Brodgar (~2000 BCE): A henge which uniquely includes the 3rd largest stone circle in Britain and Ireland.
- Skara Brae (3180 BCE to 2500 BCE): A cluster of 8 dwellings which constitute Europe's most complete Neolithic village.

Sometimes called the "Scottish Pompeii."

- **Callanish Standing Stones (Lewis)**

- A neolithic stone circle (13 stones) with 5 rows of stones radiating out in a cross-like fashion. Two of the rows are parallel and much longer than the other 3. A chambered tomb, added later, can be found in the center.

- **Kilmartin Glen (Argyll)**

- There are hundreds of ancient monuments (standing stones, a henge, burials, cairns) to be found within a six mile radius of Kilmartin village. The Kilmartin Museum provides an excellent background for the history of the area (note: check with the museum for opening status as they are about to begin construction of a new facility). There are many pre-planned walks, with maps available, for those of various abilities, who wish to see the sites. This area is known for a large number of "cup and ring" decorated surfaces.

- **Broch of Mousa (Shetland)**

- The Broch of Mousa is the best preserved Iron Age broch. Brochs are structures unique to Scotland. There are the remains of around 500 brochs in Scotland. The Broch of Mousa has a small diameter (small interior) but one of the thicker wall bases. This broch is mentioned in two Norse Sagas - Egil's Saga and Orkneyinga Saga.

- **Dùn Beag (broch)(Skye)**

- Dùn Beag is the remains of the best preserved broch on the Isle of Skye. The base still remains and it is possible to see the double wall construction. There is a great view of the surrounding area. Nearby is Dùn Mòr, the remains of a hill fort. The walls are nearly gone and grass obscures the foundations.

- **Scottish Crannog Center (Perthshire)**

- Exceptional recreation of a crannog built on pilings over Loch Tay. Crannogs are found in Scotland and Ireland and the museum explains the underwater archeology that allow us to know so much about these crannog-dwellers.

- **National Museum of Scotland (Edinburgh)**

- The National Museum of Scotland concentrates a wide array of artifacts from all time periods at one location and is well worth a visit.

Broch of Mousa ☆

☆ Heart of Neolithic Orkney

☆ Callanish Stones

☆ Dùn Beag (Skye)

☆ Scottish Crannog Center

Kilmartin Glen ☆

National Museum of Scotland ☆

- **Royal Hills of Ireland**

- Hill of Tara (Meath) - Seat of the High Kings of Ireland, featuring the remains of a hill fort, earthworks, the Stone of Destiny standing stone, and a nearby passage tomb.
- Rock of Cashel (Tipperary) - Initially the seat of the Kings of Munster, but since 1101 CE, a religious site.
- Emain Macha (Navan Fort) (Armagh) - The seat of the Kings of Ulster. Check out the Navan Center & Fort near Armagh for information on the ancient site, history of the area, and an interactive presentation of the heroes from the Ulster Cycle.
- Rathcroghan (Roscommon) - The seat for the Kings of Connaught. An area of burial mounds, forts, and the “Cave of the Cats” - an entrance to the Otherworld. Visitor’s Center in Tulsk has informative displays explaining the importance of the sites. Considered “the most important Celtic royal site in Europe (Lonely Planet).”

- **Brú na Bóinne (Meath)**

- The Brú na Bóinne Visitor’s Center is the starting point for visiting the ancient monuments. Tours are by guided tour only and begin at the visitor’s center, which is south of the Boyne River. There are 700 spots for tours daily, first come first serve. Other monuments in the area are on private land and require permission.
- Newgrange - A unique passage tomb that is older than the Egyptian Pyramids or Stonehenge.
- Knowth - The largest neolithic passage grave in the Brú na Bóinne area. It is surrounded by 17 smaller tombs.

- **Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery (Sligo)** - A massive passage grave surrounded by 200 other stone circles and passage graves.

- **Drombeg Stone Circle (Cork)** - Also known as “The Druid’s Altar,” this is one of the most visited megalithic sites in Ireland. It is a recumbent stone circle in the Irish style.

- **Dún Aonghasa (Galway)** - A famous prehistoric fort on the Aran Islands, thought to have an initial construction date of 1100 BCE. The name is translated as the “Fort of Aonghas,” after the Irish god Aengus, the god of love, youth, and poetic inspiration. There are two neighboring stone age forts.

- **Grianan of Aileach (Donegal)** - A group of ancient structures, dominated by a hill fort, said to have originally built by Daghdha, a king of the Tuatha De Danann. The surrounding area of Inishowen is an important site for cup-and-ring rock art older than 3000 BCE (Isle of Doagh).

- **The National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology (Dublin)**

