South Uist: archaeology and history of a Hebridean island


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Abstract

South Uist, at the southern end of the Western Isles, is only 22 miles long and, even though it is without the stone circles of other Scottish isles, it is covered in archaeological sites. This well-illustrated archaeological study places South Uist within a tradition of island archaeology, arguing that this island, just like most others, is fascinating because of its isolation and for the ways in which its occupants have chosen to make contact with the outside world. Following a discussion of the island's geology, the book begins a chronological tour through its archaeological remnants, placing all within their historical context. South Uist is shown to be rich in archaeology from the Neolithic onwards, including chambered tombs, Beaker sites, a Bronze Age hoard, roundhouses (one of which contained a mummified human burial), brochs, cairns, ogham inscriptions, Viking settlements, medieval longhouses and post-medieval industry. At times, the archaeology reveals evidence of a troubled past. Illustrated throughout and includes a list of sites to visit.

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