

In brief

Author Peter May

Peter May was an award-winning journalist at the age of just twenty-one. He left newspapers for television and screenwriting, becoming one of Scotland's most prolific dramatists and garnering more than 1000 credits in 15 years as scriptwriter and script editor for prime-time British television drama.

Born and raised in Scotland, he now lives in France where he focuses on his first love – writing novels.

Photographer David Wilson

David Wilson worked with the BBC for twenty years and was the production designer for *Machair*. He has published a photographic book on the Hebrides, *Hebridean Light*. He lives on Lewis.

Pabbay



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www.visitouterhebrides.co.uk



Peter May's Outer Hebrides



Explore all the locations on the Peter May Trail

The landscape of the Outer Hebrides, with its stark cliffs, ghostly mists and lonely beaches, has become a definitive character of Peter May's Lewis trilogy. Using images and excerpts from the book 'Hebrides', by Peter May and David Wilson, readers can trace the footsteps of May's protagonist Fin Macleod, as they explore and discover the inspirational locations in the chain of islands.

The Blackhouse

A brutal killing takes place on the Isle of Lewis, Scotland: a land of harsh beauty and inhabitants of deep-rooted faith. A MURDER. Detective Inspector Fin Macleod is sent from Edinburgh to investigate. For Lewis-born Macleod, the case represents a journey both home and into his past. A SECRET. Something lurks within the close-knit island community. Something sinister. A TRAP. As Fin investigates, old skeletons begin to surface, and soon he, the hunter, becomes the hunted.

The Lewis Man

An unidentified corpse is recovered from a Lewis peat bog; the only clue to its identity being a DNA sibling match to a local farmer. But this islander, Tormod Macdonald - now an elderly man suffering from dementia - has always claimed to be an only child. When Tormod's family approach Fin Macleod for help, Fin feels duty-bound to solve the mystery.

The Chessmen

Fin Macleod, now head of security on a privately owned Lewis estate, is charged with investigating a spate of illegal game-hunting taking place on the island. This mission reunites him with Whistler Macaskill - a local poacher, Fin's teenage intimate, and possessor of a long-buried secret. But when this reunion takes a violent, sinister turn and Fin puts together the fractured pieces of the past, he realises that revealing the truth could destroy the future.

Follow the Crofting Code

- Please leave dogs behind, or ensure they are on a leash as they can be a danger to livestock.
- Park your car without blocking access for other vehicles.
- Please fasten gates.
- Leave no litter.
- Do not disturb breeding birds.
- Protect wildlife and plants.
- Avoid damaging archaeological sites.

Explore

With the islands enjoying one of the last untouched natural landscapes in Europe, wildlife in the Outer Hebrides enjoys a reputation of being some of the finest in the world.

You can also check where our stunning beaches are, find lots of accommodation choices, discover great places to eat and drink, find 100's of events, and activities or follow our pre-set themed itineraries, which include the Peter May Trail based on some locations from the award winning Lewis Trilogy. All our listings have images, descriptions, contact details, location and will appear on a map.



scan phone here



Remember you can access all this information on our App when you are out and about exploring, even when there is no internet connection. So download now! Scan the QR code to download the FREE Outer Hebrides App.

“The Outer Hebrides is a stunningly beautiful chain of islands at any time of the year and I'd urge everyone to spend some time discovering the landscapes that have provided the inspiration for my novels.”

Peter May



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Locations

The Church and Manse, Cross

58° 28' 35.982" N
6° 16' 33.973" W

The Free Church of Scotland Church and Manse buildings at Cross were the models for the fictitious "Crobost" Church and Manse. In all three books *The Blackhouse*, *The Lewis Man* and *The Chessmen* the church and minister Donald feature strongly.



Purple Boat at Skigersta Harbour

58° 28' 33.168" N
6° 12' 32.031" W

Skigersta harbour features in *The Blackhouse*. Fin's father's boat is thought to be the purple boat. "A trick of Photoshop," says David Wilson. Fin's father was renowned for painting everything purple after finding a drum of purple paint!

Beehive Dwellings and Disappearing Loch

58° 6' 52.332" N
6° 51' 55.873" W

In *The Chessmen*, Fin and Whistler come across a disappearing loch which burst its banks and drained overnight revealing a small plane at the bottom of what would have been the loch.



Bridge to Nowhere

58° 22' 20.067" N
6° 12' 50.354" W

In the book *The Chessmen*, the Bridge to Nowhere is the dramatic location of a scooter race by between teenagers Roddy and Strings to battle out who would name the celtic rock band.



Whistler's House Ardrol

58° 10' 43.8594" N
7° 2' 27.708" W

In *The Chessmen*, Whistler's house is thought to be an old converted blackhouse with its tin roof and Suaineabhail rising behind it, overlooking Ardrol Bay. Whistler was a teenage friend of Fin's made whilst at school in Stornoway.



MacNeil's Bar and The Narrows

58° 12' 29.351" N
6° 23' 21.072" W

In *The Blackhouse*, MacNeil's bar on the corner of Cromwell Street and Francis Street was the scene of a fight between Fin and Murdo Ruadh, the brother of the murder victim, who had made Fin's childhood a misery.



Sollas Beach

57° 39' 12.154" N
7° 19' 31.834" W

Sollas beach in North Uist, where light aircraft occasionally land, was the location of a dramatic scene involving drug smuggling which was featured in the book *The Chessmen*.



Scarista Graveyard

57° 50' 16.023" N
7° 0' 36.912" W

In *The Lewis Man*, the investigation of a body found in a peat bog, sees Fin Macleod and Detective Sergeant Gunn travel south following a conversation with Tormod, Marsali's father, where they make a shocking discovery at Scarista cemetery.

Pabbay

58° 13' 25.891" N
6° 57' 15.332" W

The caves of Pabbay, a small island just off Reef, Uig, is the location of a dramatic scene in *The Chessmen*. A boat chase from Ardrol, past Gallan Head, to the caves of Pabbay, ends in tragedy, with Fin and Gunn unable to prevent it.



Lochboisdale Pier

57° 9' 8.590" N
7° 18' 17.353" W

Ben Kenneth is the hill that looms over the port of Lochboisdale. The port is featured in *The Lewis Man*. It is where the orphaned "homers" - Johnny, Peter and Ceit - were unceremoniously deposited on the pier to meet their future families.



Barvas Moor Shieling

58° 19' 7.680" N 6° 26' 52.044" W

In *The Blackhouse*, this shieling on the Barvas moor, marks the place where Fin's parents' car left the road as they drove home from a dance in Stornoway. The crash was fatal and so Fin went to stay with his aunt in her cold and miserable house.



Adabroc "Crobost"

58° 28' 55.596" N
6° 13' 45.696" W

The fictitious village "Crobost" was based on Adabroc. This is where the main character, Fin Macleod was born and brought up. "Crobost" features strongly in all three books, *The Blackhouse*, *The Lewis Man* and *The Chessmen*.



Johnny's House

57° 5' 17.894" N
7° 17' 24.208" W

In *The Lewis Man*, the house near the end of the road at Bun a'Mhuillinn, is where Johnny and his brother Peter lived. They had come from an orphanage, were brought to South Uist by the Catholic Church and "boarded out" to a family in Eriskay.



Police Station

58° 12' 36.665" N
6° 23' 14.496" W

The police station is where Detective Fin Macleod is based on his return to the island, having left as a teenager. He is brought in to investigate the murder of Angus "Angel" Macritchie following a copycat murder he had been investigating.



Fin's Aunt's House Skigersta

58° 28' 33.168" N
6° 12' 32.031" W

Overlooking the bay at Skigersta Harbour is the house that became the model for Fin's Aunt's house. His aunt who treated him well enough, but never loved him. It features in each book, *The Blackhouse*, *The Lewis Man* and *The Chessmen*.



Ceit's (Catherine's) House Eriskay

57° 5' 9.136" N 7° 18' 1.931" W

In *The Lewis Man*, the Old Post Office that overlooks Haun harbour in Eriskay, is where the young Ceit lived. Ceit had come from an orphanage, was brought to South Uist by the Catholic Church and "boarded out" to the O'Henley family in Eriskay.

Port of Ness Harbour

58° 30' 55.071" N
6° 15' 39.149" W

In the *The Blackhouse*, the boathouse at Port of Ness is the dramatic location where the body of Angus "Angel" Macritchie was found. Detective Fin Macleod, originally from Crobost, is sent from Edinburgh to investigate. Fin knows the victim and his brother.

