



# Geowalks: Shetland Islands

**Sunday 19 to Saturday 25 June 2022**

The wild and remote Shetland archipelago is renowned for its scenery, wildlife, archaeology and rocks, a must-visit for anyone who loves Scottish islands. The geology is extremely varied across the island group: dominated by a wide range of different metamorphic rocks, linked to the main rock areas of the Scottish Highlands, but compressed and juxtaposed in narrow slices and accompanied by granite, sandstone and volcanic rocks formed in the Devonian period. We will visit the northern island of Unst, a unique assemblage from the Iapetus Ocean floor.

There is a marvellous variety of rocks that is reflected in the unique character of each island and every view. These rocks and scenery would be enough to entertain and delight on their own, but are accompanied by much else, including rich archaeology and culture, and world-famous bird life.

This trip will be led by Angus Miller of Geowalks and local tour guide Robina Barton. Robina is based in Lerwick and has in-depth experience of Shetland's culture, geology, nature and archaeology.

## **Outline Programme**

*Saturday 18 June overnight: Travel by ferry from Aberdeen or Orkney.*

**Sunday 19 June:** Meet in Lerwick. Introductory tour of south mainland, including a visit to the Jarlshof prehistoric settlement for an overview of 4500 years of human settlement.

**Monday – Friday:** Day trips from Lerwick, including:

- South mainland, including the Catpund soapstone quarry and a boat trip to Mousa.
- The Northmaven peninsula: Esha Ness Volcano Trail, fantastic coastal scenery with a walk along the Esha Ness cliffs.
- North mainland, including one of Shetland's key fault lines, the Walls Boundary Fault and the Rona's Hill granite.
- Day visit to Unst, via Yell, including exposed ophiolite rocks of the Keen of Hamar, the Skaw granite, the oceanic / continental divide at Norwick beach and Saxa Vord Hill for views of Muckle Flugga.
- A day off with time in Lerwick to visit the museum and the island of Bressay.

**Saturday 25 June:** Final visits to places of interest in the south mainland, early evening ferry departure for Aberdeen.

*Sunday 26 June: Arrive Aberdeen 7am.*



**Angus Miller, Geowalks**

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## **Details**

**Cost** Course fee £590. This includes guides, transport and ferries in Shetland, and six nights hostel accommodation with breakfast and lunch.

### **Travelling to Shetland**

Cost of travelling to Shetland is not included. We recommend travel on the overnight ferry from Aberdeen (Northlink Ferries). If you would like to share a cabin, I can put you in touch with other group members to arrange this. There are also reasonably priced pods and seating options.

It is also possible to fly to Shetland, and you can join the group in Lerwick or at Sumburgh Airport on the Sunday; depart from Sumburgh on Saturday.

### **Transport during the trip**

Transport will be by hire vehicles driven by Robina and Angus as required. If you want to take your own vehicle, I may be able to offer a discount or contribute to costs.

### **Accommodation & Catering**

We will be based in comfortable hostel accommodation at Isleburgh House in Lerwick. The cost includes hostel accommodation (max four people per room), and self-service breakfasts and lunches. If you'd prefer B&B or a hotel, you are free to make your own arrangements – please ask for details.

For evening meals there is a choice of eating out or self-catering at the hostel. We will have a couple of meals out as a group.

### **Booking Conditions**

Bookings need to be confirmed with a deposit of £50 in January 2022. This can be by cheque or bank transfer to Geowalks, sort code 09-06-66 (Santander), account number 40260854.

Full payment is due four weeks in advance. If you cancel your booking, refunds will only be available if I manage to fill your place. Travel insurance is recommended – many insurers offer cheap UK-only cover.

In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a refund.

### **Level of fitness required**

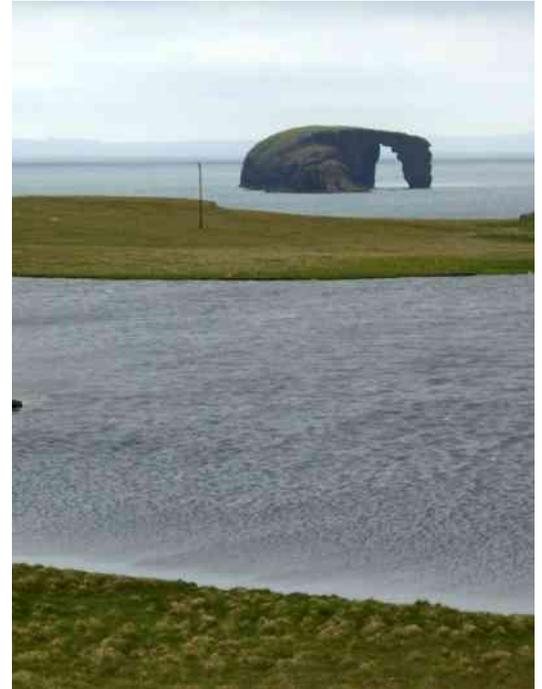
The trip will involve short walks on paths and rough ground (up to 6 miles). There will be some flexibility in the programme, allowing you to opt out and do your own thing. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground.

### **Recommended Reading**

Orkney & Shetland, Scottish Natural Heritage (Landscape fashioned by Geology Series), 2010. ISBN 978 1 85397 602 5.

Shetland Geopark – [www.geoparkshetland.org.uk](http://www.geoparkshetland.org.uk).

A photographic guide to Shetland's geology, David Malcolm and Robina Barton, published by the Shetland Times 2015.



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