



Geowalks: Shetland Islands

Friday 22 to Friday 29 May 2020

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 islands of Unst and Fetlar, a unique assemblage from the Iapetus Ocean floor.

A huge variety of rocks that is reflected in the different character of every island and every view. These rocks and scenery would be enough to entertain and delight on their own, but are accompanied by many other features of interest, 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

Thursday 21 May overnight: Travel by ferry from Aberdeen or Orkney.

Friday 22 May: 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.

Saturday Shetland mainland explorations, including a boat trip to Mousa.

Sunday Flexi-day around Lerwick: time to visit the museum, take a boat trip or explore the town; a short trip to the island of Bressay is also possible, for a walk at Noss sound to explore volcanic breccia and sandstone.

Monday Visit the Northmaven peninsula: Esha Ness Volcano Trail, fantastic coastal scenery with a walk along the Esha Ness cliffs and a visit to one of Shetland's key fault lines, the Walls Boundary Fault.

Tuesday Travel north to Unst, walk across the exposed ophiolite rocks of the Keen of Hamar National Nature Reserve. Visit Saxa Vord Hill for views of Muckle Flugga. Overnight on Unst.

Wednesday Day on Unst, visiting the oceanic / continental divide at Norwick beach, the Skaw granite and Hermaness National Nature Reserve.

Thursday Day trip to Fetlar, for a coastal walk exploring tectonic activity associated with continental collision and ocean closure, including the Funzie conglomerate.

Friday 29 May: Travel back to Lerwick, time en route for final visits to places of interest, early evening ferry departure for Aberdeen.

Saturday 30 May: Arrive Aberdeen 7am.



Angus Miller, Geowalks

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Details

Cost Course fee £590. This includes guides, transport and ferries in Shetland, and seven 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 at Sumburgh Airport on the first day.

Transport during the trip

Transport will be by people carrier and an additional hire vehicle 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 and Saxavord in Unst. The cost includes seven nights hostel accommodation (max four people per room, mostly single rooms at Saxavord), 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 hostels. We will have a couple of meals out as a group.

Booking Conditions

Bookings need to be confirmed with a deposit of £50 (cheques payable to Geowalks). 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 full refund.

Level of fitness required

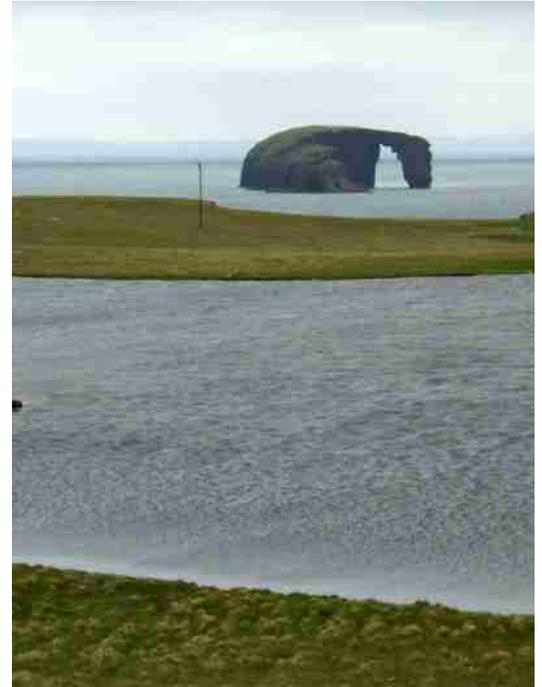
The trip will involve short walks on paths and rough ground (up to 6 miles). There will be some flexibility in the programme, allowing you to opt out and do your own thing. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground.

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.

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



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