

Wildlife Adventures

The Shetland Isles

★★★★★
137 reviews

Carbon Footprint: 156kg

Duration: 7 Days / 6 Nights

Trip Overview

Region: Orkney and Shetland Isles

Trip Type: Wildlife

Accommodation: Classic

Confirmed: When 2 Travellers Book

Grading: ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Highlights

- Experience the landscapes and fascinating wildlife of Scotland's most northerly islands.
- Be amazed by the prolific birdlife at Sumburgh and the heritage of the Vikings at Jarlshof.
- Hike to the dramatic coastline of Muckle Flugga, the most northerly point in the UK.

The Shetland Isles

Join us on an unforgettable walking adventure to the Shetland Isles – a remote archipelago of more than 100 exposed islands off the northern tip of Scotland.

A UNESCO Global Geopark, the geology of Shetland gives rise to a unique habitat for wildlife – from the eclectic birdlife that nest on the plunging cliffs to the otters, seals, and dolphins that play in the salty waves. In the company of your highly knowledgeable guide, gain a privileged insight into the culture, heritage, and biodiversity of this beautiful place. With a human history that stretches back over 5,000 years, explore ruined forts, ancient houses, and standing stones.

Hike out to the island's wildest, most dramatic corners and stroll along quiet, sandy beaches that stretch out beneath the sky. If you're familiar with the gripping TV crime drama 'Shetland', which grew out of Ann Cleeves' award-winning detective novels, then you'll be gifted with many recognisable backdrops – from machair fringed dunes to the sandstone houses of Lerwick. Enjoy every day – soaking up the tranquillity of nature while learning about the island's fascinating ecology. As the sun sinks below the horizon, relax in hand-picked accommodation, enjoying delicious food and lovely company.

Arrival and Departure Info

You will be met by your Wilderness Scotland Guide at **Lerwick Ferry Terminal at 8.30am on Day 1** of your trip. If staying in Shetland the night before, we recommend finding accommodation in Lerwick.

The trip will conclude at **Lerwick Ferry Terminal at 2.30pm on the final day** of the trip. We can also offer a drop off at Sumburgh Airport before we head to Lerwick if requested—please let us know.

Shetland is reached by an overnight ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick (operated by Northlink Ferries). Alternatively, Loganair operates flights to Sumburgh Airport from Glasgow, Inverness, Aberdeen, and Edinburgh. Please note that Sumburgh Airport is 25 miles from Lerwick and is served by bus or taxi.

Upon booking the trip, please confirm whether you will travelling to Shetland by ferry or plane. If you are flying to Shetland, please arrive the day before the trip starts to ensure a prompt start for the group on Day 1.

For advice on getting to and from Scotland, please see our travel advice page: www.wildernessscotland.com/faq/travel-to-scotland/

If you would like to use your own vehicle on the trip, please get in touch with our team to discuss.

Book with confidence

We guarantee this trip will run as soon as **2** people have booked.

Please note: The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of the Wilderness Scotland Guide with regard to weather conditions and other factors.

Day by Day Itinerary



Day 1 - Walking in the Shetland Isles

This morning, you will meet your guide at the ferry terminal in Lerwick to start your Shetland wildlife holiday. The trip begins shortly after the arrival of the overnight ferry from Aberdeen, or you may choose to fly to Shetland and stay in Lerwick the night before. We drive over to the northwest coast of the mainland, where we will enjoy a stunning walk to ease us into our week on the Shetland Isles. Afterwards, we will settle into our accommodation and before dinner, your guide will then formally welcome everyone to Shetland and deliver a full trip briefing.

Meals Included: Lunch and Dinner



Day 2 - Jarlshof and Bird Watching on Shetland

Visit Jarlshof pre-historic site and walk to Sumburgh Head RSPB Reserve for some birdwatching. Set out on a wonderful coastal walk with excellent views of seabird colonies, including gannets, auks, and bonxies. Keep your eyes peeled for whales, which can sometimes be spotted offshore. If time permits, we will explore the Ness of Burgi Stone Age Fort.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 3 - Coastal Walk on Shetland

One of the best hiking routes in Shetland is found just a short drive north of our hotel at the superb headland of Eshaness. Here, join your friendly guide on a coastal walk to explore the fascinating coastal scenery around the Villains of Ure, the Grind of the Navir, and the Holes of Scraada.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 4 - Walking up Ronas Hill: Shetland's Highest Peak

Today, we head north from our hotel and cross the narrow isthmus of Mavis Grind to Northmavine – a northern peninsula of Shetland. Here, walk through an Arctic landscape to the summit of Ronas Hill, Shetland's highest peak at 450 m/1,476 ft.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 5 - Bird-Watching Cruise to Noss and Bressay

The cliffs of Noss and Bressay are a haven for seabirds. Today is the perfect opportunity for photography as we visit one of the world's prime locations for bird-watching. The Noss National Nature Reserve is home to thousands of gannets, guillemots, kittiwakes, and puffins, as well as hundreds of razorbills, black guillemots, shags, and skuas. Enjoy a cruise around the spectacular cliffs in what is sure to be a highlight of this trip.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 6 - Walking on the Islands of Yell and Unst

Today, we travel by ferry to the islands of Yell and Unst in northeast Shetland. On Unst, take in the rugged landscape as we walk to Herma Ness, one of the world's largest breeding colonies of bonxie. This is a superb and wild spot to gaze out across the sea to the sensationally placed lighthouse on the island of Muckle Flugga and the tiny rock of Out Stack, the most northerly point of land in the United Kingdom.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner



Day 7 - Coastal Walk on St Ninian's Isle

This morning, hop in the van on a drive to southern Shetland. Walk across a beautiful sandy tombolo that connects to St Ninian's Isle for great views out to the island of Foula. Afterwards, we head back into Lerwick for a short walk around The Knab before your walking holiday in Shetland ends where it started: at the ferry terminal.

Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch



Trip Essentials

Equipment List

Check out our guide on what to wear when adventuring in Scotland.

[Equipment-List.pdf](#)

Eat | Stay | See

Looking for accommodation for before or after your adventure with us? Check out our list of where to stay and what to do.

[Stay | See | Aberdeen](#)

[Stay | See | Shetland/Lerwick](#)

General Info – Scotland

From food and drink to customs and culture, our General Info for Scotland guide has got you covered for all your need to know facts.

[General-Info-Scotland.pdf](#)

Green Graded 1-3

Green graded walking holidays are suitable for active travellers who are reasonably fit and enjoy moderate hikes. We walk at a comfortable pace and you can expect to be out for 5-6 hours a day. The terrain will be mostly good paths and hill trails but these can still be muddy and rough in places. Some hikes may involve an ascent up to a max of approx 1,500 ft/450 m. Distances will be typically 8-10km but there may be the odd slightly longer day. Daily hike details are available in the itinerary.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are appropriately fit and capable for the grade of the trip you wish to join. The weather in Scotland can be unpredictable at times which can make activities more challenging, so please bear this in mind when booking. If our guides at any point feel you cannot complete a scheduled activity, they may ask you not to join that day; this would be for your safety and the well-being of the group. If you are unsure about your ability, please don't hesitate to give our Adventure Consultants a call.



Accommodation and Meals

Accommodation

Accommodation on this trip is at the wonderful Busta House Hotel, well regarded as the best hotel in the Shetland Isles. Located on the shore of sheltered Busta Voe on mainland Shetland, Busta House blends history, romance, and intimacy with an attention to detail which makes for a perfect stay. The house was built during the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and is steeped in history – it is even said to have a resident ghost! It's the perfect location to base ourselves to take advantage of the best of Shetland's walks.

Meals

This trip is 'All Inclusive'. At Busta House, food plays a major role in your experience – especially local Shetland produce such as Shetland hill lamb, free range pork from Unst, and fresh seafood from all around the islands. Also, most recently and a world-first; organically farmed cod from Johnson Sea Farms at Vidlin.

We will dine at Busta House several times during the week, where you can choose from its excellent restaurant, or extensive bar, menu.

Included dinners are two courses as standard.

What's Included

Inclusions

- Six nights accommodation in a country house hotel.
- All meals throughout from lunch on Day 1 to lunch on Day 7.
- A boat trip to the Noss National Nature Reserve to view the prolific birdlife.
- Entrance fees to the Jarlshof centre.
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable guide / driver throughout.
- All transport throughout the trip, starting from the ferry terminal on Day 1 and finishing there or at Sumburgh Airport.
- All ferry transfers while on Shetland.

“ Up there with our best holidays. Exceeded our expectations, enjoyed every minute. Already looking at doing another trip next year. ”

Lorna Oliver ★★★★★

[Read More Trip Reviews](#)

Sustainable Travel

Making the Right Choices

Wilderness Scotland is committed to working decisively towards a sustainable future. With an industry leading position on climate change, we are committed to achieving true net zero by 2030.

Working alongside [eCollective](#), we have developed and implemented one of the world's first [carbon-labelling schemes](#). This allows us to measure the carbon impact of the entire business, as well as each and every trip. By identifying how many kilograms of carbon can be attributed to each traveller, we can work effectively and efficiently to mitigate its impact. We are also working on providing our clients with various opportunities to directly reduce or entirely offset their own carbon footprint – therefore allowing adventure without compromise.

By consistently developing our innovative and proactive approach, we are fully committed to world-class [sustainable travel](#).



Your Guide

Our guides are among the most highly qualified and experienced in the country. Defined by their passion for England, they possess extensive knowledge of the country's natural and social history as well as being accomplished in various outdoor fields. For more information about the team, please see our [Guide Pages](#).

Get Travel Ready

Travel Insurance

It is your responsibility to take out appropriate travel insurance to cover you during your trip. This should include cover for cancellation prior to the trip, the activities undertaken (i.e hiking), curtailment, and adequate medical insurance for sickness/injury and medical repatriation. We also strongly recommend you have cover for your other travel arrangements such as flights, and your personal possessions.

We suggest you do your own research to find the best insurance cover for you however, the following companies offer suitable policies.

Campbell Irvine Direct – campbellirvinedirect.com

Journeyman Insurance Services – journeyman-services.com/travellinsurance

If you cancel your holiday charges will apply. Please see section 2 of our terms and conditions for a breakdown:

<https://www.wildernessscotland.com/make-a-booking/booking-conditions>

Travel With Confidence

You can book with us in complete confidence that all trip payments made to us are fully protected.

Wilderness Group Ltd is a licensed and bonded tour operator. Your financial security is guaranteed through our membership and bonding with ABTOT.

FAQs

Looking for more information? Check out our frequently asked questions page.

<https://www.wildernessscotland.com/faq>

Questions To Ask? Ready to Book?

If you want to get in touch please send us an email or give us a call. We accept bookings online, by email, or over the phone. A deposit of 25% is required at the time of booking to secure the trip with the balance payable 8 weeks (56 days) before departure. If booking less than 56 days before the trip start date, full payment of the trip price is required immediately.

We accept payment by credit or debit card, or bank transfer.

Looking for your next adventure?

With a range of small group, private and custom trips, explore the UK and Ireland with our Wilderness family.

Wilderness Ireland

A country rich in history, folklore and music; a landscape defined by green hills and endless sky. Known for its warmth, humour and hospitality, discover the Emerald Isle with Wilderness Ireland.

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