

Scotland Orkney/Shetland Island 2019 Itinerary

Day 1, Monday 3 June: Meet in Aberdeen early afternoon and drive to Inverness. Overnight at the Glen Mhor Hotel in Inverness. Included welcoming dinner.

Day 2, Tuesday 4 June: Travel from Inverness to Scrabster to take the ferry over to Orkney for afternoon arrival (ferry is 1.5 hours). Afternoon visit to the St. Magnus Cathedral if time allows. Overnight at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall for two nights. Included breakfast and dinner.

Day 3, Wednesday 5 June: Visit the Ring of Brodgar, a unique stone circle that rivals Stonehenge in both mystery and beauty. Explore some of Europe's greatest 5,000 year-old Neolithic sites at Skara Brae, Stromness, and the Druidic standing stones of Stenness and Maeshowe. Hike the Yesnaby cliffs for some coastal scenery and stromatolite fossils. Overnight at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall. Included breakfast and dinner on your own.

Day 4, Thursday 6 June: Full day on Orkney exploring the ancient Norse town of Kirkwall, including the Orkney Fossil and Heritage Center on Burra and the Italian Chapel. Morning visit to Rousay to see archaeological sites at Westness and Midhowe Broch. Ferry back to Orkney mainland with a visit, time permitting, to The Gloup/Mull Head nature reserve, before boarding the ferry to Shetland. Overnight ferry from Kirkwall to Lerwick, Shetland. Included breakfast at the Ayre Hotel. Dinner on your own.

Day 5, Friday 7 June: Morning arrival in Lerwick, touring to south of Shetland mainland: Jarlshof prehistoric settlement for an overview of 4,500 years of the human story, Sumburgh Head/Lighthouse, Loch of Spiggie, St Ninians Isle, and Scalloway. Overnight at the Lerwick Shetland Hotel for four nights. Included dinner.

Day 6, Saturday 8 June: Tour of Northmaven, Shetland mainland: 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. Overnight at the Lerwick Shetland Hotel. Included breakfast and dinner on your own.

Day 7, Sunday 9 June: Flexi-day around Lerwick: time to visit the museum, take a boat

trip and explore the town; optional morning trip to the island of Bressay for a walk at Noss sound to explore volcanic breccia and sandstone. Overnight at the Lerwick Shetland Hotel. Included breakfast and dinner on your own.

Day 8, Monday 10 June: Trip to Mousa with stops at Gulberwick & Quarff on the way, trip over to Mousa to explore this island, on returning back to Lerwick make a stop at the fishing village of Fladdabister. Overnight at the Lerwick Shetland Hotel. Included breakfast and dinner on your own.

Day 9, Tuesday 11 June: Travel north via ferry 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 at the Unst Saxovord Resort and included breakfast and dinner.

Day 10, Wednesday 12 June: Ferry from Unst to Fetlar, walk from Funzie to Staves Geo and a visit to the famous Funzie conglomerate. Overnight at the Unst Saxovord Resort and included breakfast and dinner.

Day 11, Wednesday 12 June: Day on Unst, visiting the oceanic/continental divide at Norwick beach, the Skaw granite and Hermaness National Nature Reserve. Overnight at the Unst Saxovord Resort and included breakfast and dinner.

Day 12, Friday 14 June: Depart Unst, ferry back to Yell to begin the journey back to Shetland Mainland. Overnight ferry from Lerwick, Shetland to Aberdeen, Scotland. Included breakfast at the Saxovord Resort and dinner on your own.

Day 13, Saturday 15 June: Arrive Aberdeen 7am. Trip ends. Optional coach transport to Inverness included.

Full Scottish breakfasts are included, except after the overnight ferries on Days 5 and 13. Six dinners are included. All lunches are on your own.