



Scalloway's Westshore

Public art on New Street

Out at Port Arthur the marina and Scalloway Boating Club offer a safe haven and a warm welcome for visiting boats and their crews. Next to the boating club is the NAFC Marine Centre. The Centre offers training in nautical studies and research facilities for scientific and technological projects relating to the fishing and aquaculture industries. It also houses an excellent restaurant serving local produce.

Traditional boats drawn up on shore recall Shetland's fishing past. In Norse times Scalloway ('the bay of the hall') may have been the home of an important landowner or official.

Scalloway's other attractions include a heated 17-metre indoor swimming pool, the youth centre, a hotel, guest houses, cafes, pubs, shops and playing fields.

Throughout the village are a number of works of public art including sculptures done in Hildasay granite and flower tubs recycled from tractor wheels and tyres.

The NAFC Marine Centre overlooks the entrance to Scalloway Harbour



Welcome to the Central Mainland

Shetland's Central Mainland contains the village of Scalloway, the islands of Burra and Trondra, and the parishes of Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale.

Central Shetland is a landscape of intricate contrasts: layers of limestone make slashes of green between brown hills of harder rock; long narrow voes, gouged out by glaciers, run miles into the land; storm-battered offlying islands shelter peaceful anchorages. It's great walking and fishing country, with scenery, wild flowers and birdlife of amazing richness and variety.



The West end of Main Street with Norway House in the foreground

Scalloway

The busy commercial port of Scalloway, Shetland's capital in the 17th century, is the heart of Central Shetland. This picturesque, and surprisingly leafy, village is shielded from Atlantic gales by a barrier of rugged isles, many of which are uninhabited, and its sheltered harbour has long been a place of refuge for ships on Shetland's wild Atlantic coast. To the north lies Tingwall's fertile valley and the headlands of Whiteness and Weisdale.

Tingwall Loch: a promontory on the north shore, formerly an islet, was once home to Shetland's parliament



Central Mainland



Central Mainland

The heart of Shetland

Some Useful Information

Accommodation:	VisitShetland Tel: (01595) 693434
Airport (inter-island):	Tingwall Tel: (01595) 840246
Neighbourhood	Scalloway Museum
Information Points	Shetland Jewellery, Weisdale
Shops:	Hamnavoe; Scalloway; Whiteness; Weisdale
Petrol:	Burra; Weisdale
Public toilets:	Hamnavoe; Meal Beach; Scalloway
Pubs and places to eat:	Scalloway; Tingwall; Whiteness; Weisdale
Post Offices:	Hamnavoe; Weisdale; Scalloway
Public telephones:	Scalloway; Burra; Tingwall; Whiteness; Weisdale
Museums and Heritage Centres	Scalloway, Burra
Swimming pool:	Scalloway Tel: (01595) 807716
Churches:	Burra; Scalloway; Whiteness; Weisdale; Grlsta; Tingwall
Doctor and Health Centre:	Scalloway Tel: (01595) 880219



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The stunning view from the Scord above Scalloway



Waterfront at New Street

The memorial to those who died serving in the 'Shetland Bus'

Scalloway Castle

Overlooking the fine new harbour is Earl Patrick Stewart's Scalloway Castle, built by forced labour in 1599. It was carefully positioned to control the safe anchorage and the fertile farmlands to the north. The castle is a grand example of a Scottish fortified house. But it was occupied for less than a century, and is now roofless. Beneath the grand banqueting hall are large kitchens and a guard-room where 17th century witches, condemned to hang on nearby Gallows Hill, waited to hear their fate. The castle is under the care of Historic Scotland and is open to the public.



The stark ruins of Scalloway Castle dominate the seaward approaches to the village

Scalloway Museum

Situated next to the Castle the Scalloway Museum tells the story of Scalloway's past and present – from the ploughs of prehistoric farmers to the latest developments in the aquaculture industry. There's a fascinating display on the wartime exploits of Norway's 'Shetland Bus' heroes, who made the village their secret base in the Second World War. A small Reference Room houses a collection of books and documents, mostly relating to the Shetland Bus and the Second World War and it can be accessed by anyone wishing to do research in that area. The museum also has a childrens area, a gift shop and hot and cold drinks are available.

Main Street

A short walk along New Street (past a curious stone plaque built into a wall, describing a theory of tidal motion) is the Muckle Haa, once the dwelling place of Scalloway's most important families.

Further west on Main Street is a memorial erected to the men who lost their lives while serving with the 'Shetland Bus'. Further still is the Prince Olav Slipway, built by the Norwegians to repair the boats damaged by storms and enemy action during raids on their Nazi-occupied homeland. Across the street, Norway House was their barracks.

The busy fishermen's quay at Blacksness is extensively used by both the local fishing fleet and the salmon farming industry



Scalloway Museum

Tingwall, Whiteness and Weisdale

In June and July the rich meadows of the Tingwall Valley, on the B9074 north of Scalloway, are one of the best places to see Shetland’s native wild flowers, including several species of orchids.

A picturesque golf course lies between the Loch of Asta and Tingwall Loch – both fine trout lochs and also home to Shetland’s first resident Mute Swans. Other birds include Tufted Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Common and Black-headed Gulls.

At the north end of Tingwall Loch lies the site of Shetland’s ancient parliament. Delegates met at the Lawting Holm to make laws and decide the rights and wrongs of cases. Nearby is Tingwall Kirk, the ‘mother church’ of Shetland, and its ancient graveyard.

Past the Lawting Holm and the Tingwall Kirk, near the junction with the main A971 road to the west, there is a pub restaurant, and the Tingwall Public Hall, noted for its Sunday teas and social functions.



Bød of Nesbister

One of the most spectacular views in Shetland is from Wormadale, on the boundary between Tingwall and Whiteness. Beyond the small isles lying in Whiteness Voe you can see as far as Foula, 25 miles to the west. You can also see the Bød of Nesbister, a 19th century merchant’s store, now converted to camping accommodation.

North of the Loch of Strom, with its small ruined castle, is the parish of Weisdale. Beside the small Loch of Hellister, Shetland Jewellery, a Neighbourhood Information Point, welcome visitors to view craft workers and silversmiths on the job.

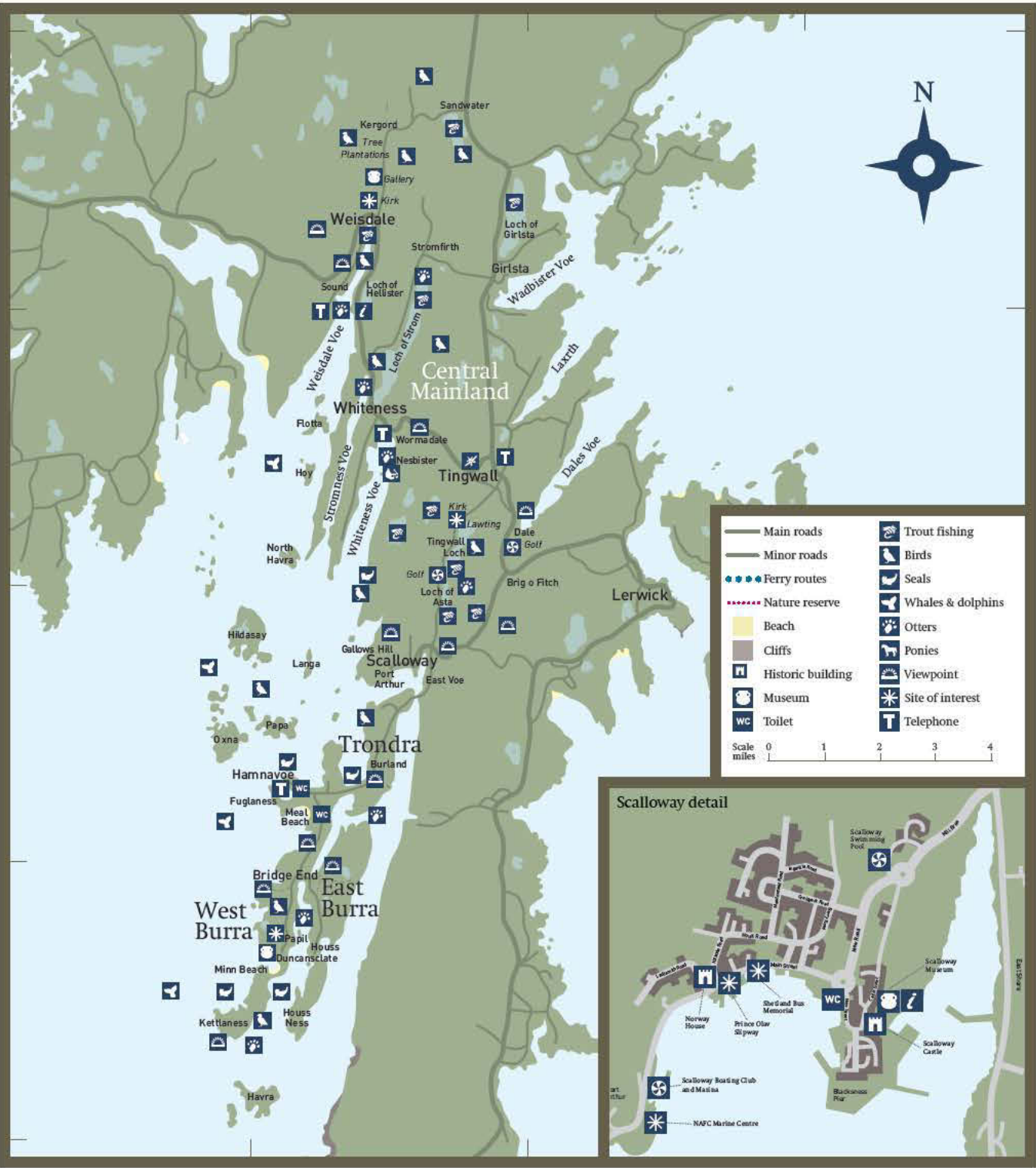
John Clunies Ross, who became ‘king’ of the Cocos-Keeling Islands, was born in a particularly beautiful area at Sound. From the main road on the hill above, at the Scord of Weisdale, there’s another magnificent view over south-west Shetland. The head of Weisdale Voe is a good place to see wading birds, while a couple of hundred yards up the B9075 road is the beautifully restored Weisdale Mill, housing the Bonhoga Gallery, and café, run by Shetland Arts. There is a small community garden beside the Weisdale Kirk.



Homesteads at Sound – birthplace of John Clunies Ross

The largest area of trees in Shetland surrounds the farm of Kergord, higher up the valley of Weisdale. There are no crofts here – the tenants were evicted in the mid-19th century to make way for sheep farms. The Kergord plantations, now being managed and extended, attract Chaffinches, Rooks and other woodland birds rare elsewhere in the islands. The secluded farmhouse of Flemington was the wartime Special Operations Executive’s HQ for the Shetland Bus operation (see overleaf). From Kergord the road winds through the hills past peat banks to Sandwater, another good trout loch with extensive reedbeds.

Turning right onto the main A970 road takes you past one of Shetland’s biggest, deepest lochs, the Loch of Girlsta – famous for its Arctic Char and, tradition says, named after a Norse girl called Geirhildr: she is supposed to have drowned here 1200 years ago. Following the A970 south through Tingwall and over the Windy Grind, visitors will find a welcome on Shetland’s main golf course, at Dale, just north of the Brig o Fitch junction which takes you back to Scalloway.



Burra and Trondra

The B9074 road south from Scalloway goes through East Voe, before crossing the first of three bridges linking the Shetland Mainland to the beautiful isles of Trondra, West Burra and East Burra.

At Burland on Trondra the Shetland Croft Trail is a wonderful place for children to see old Shetland breeds of livestock, and to learn about crofting history and traditional crafts such as boatbuilding. The Burra Bridge leads to the pretty fishing village of Hamnavoe, with lovely coastal walking out to the lighthouse on Fuglaness.



Domestic Shetland geese have differing male and female plumage



The Fuglaness light marks the entrance to Hamnavoe harbour and the southern approach to the port of Scalloway

Meal Beach is one of Shetland’s finest beaches and a favourite picnic spot (with convenient car park).

At the south end of West Burra the roofless kirk of St Laurence at Papil is famous for three early Christian carved stones found in the graveyard.

Two of the original stones and a replica of the Papil stone are on show at the Shetland Museum and Archives in Lerwick.



Restored croft house at Duncansclate, Burra

At Duncansclate there’s a fine example of an old croft house with a thatched roof. It has been restored recently by the local history group. A footpath from the car park leads down to the Atlantic storm beach at Minn and on to Kettlaness

– a wild headland with seals and colonies of Arctic Skuas and Arctic Terns. Please keep to the edge of the nesting grounds: if you disturb these birds they’ll mob you and may draw blood!

On an islet next to the bridge between East and West Burra is the Outdoor Centre, a former school now used as a hostel for kayaking, walking and nature study holidays. The short turf on Burra’s rocky hills and shores makes perfect hiking country. A walk up to the reservoir on East Burra gives one of the best panoramas of the islands.

Beyond the hamlet of Houss lies Houss Ness, a promontory with more good walking, rock scenery, seabirds and seals. And, wherever you walk or drive in Burra, there’s always that mysterious and dramatic silhouette of the isle of Foula, out on the Atlantic horizon.



The bridge between East and West Burra

Minn Beach leading to Kettlaness

Weisdale Voe and the south-west coast of Shetland – viewed from the Scord of Weisdale

