

# Shetland rocks!

Discover Shetland's most dramatic, beautiful geological landscapes.

© Shetland Geotours



## Shetland Museum and Archives



Visit the five star museum and archives to find out more about our heritage and culture. Walk through Shetland's story from early beginnings to present day in the exhibitions galleries, and visit the archives to uncover a wealth of accessible information. Be sure to look in on Da Gadderie, the temporary exhibitions gallery, then why not stop for a bite to eat at Hay's Dock Café Restaurant.

Shetland's premier attraction truly does offer something for everyone!



### Useful contacts

Disability Shetland  
Market House, 14 Market Street, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0JP  
☎ 01595 743920

Emergency Services  
☎ 999

North Isles Ferries  
☎ 01957 722 259

Scottish Natural Heritage  
Stewart Building, Esplanade, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL  
☎ 01595 693345

Shetland Amenity Trust  
Geology Officer & Rangers  
Garthspool, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0NY  
☎ 01595 694688

Shetland Museum and Archives  
Hay's Dock, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0WP  
☎ 01595 695057

Visit Shetland  
Market Cross, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LU  
☎ 08701 999 440



## To ensure you get the most from your visit:

### Be safe

- Shetland weather can change very quickly! Always take warm and waterproof clothing. Some walks are unsuitable for poor weather conditions.
- Be careful at cliff edges.
- Be responsible for your own actions.



© RSPB

### Be prepared

- Not all areas of Shetland have a shop or a fuel station — check relevant area leaflets.
- At peak times North Isles ferries can be busy, booking is recommended.
- Off-road wheelchairs available from Disability Shetland. Booking essential.
- Allow plenty of time for your route.



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### Be considerate

- Respect people's privacy.
- Leave all gates as you find them.
- Use a path or track if there is one.
- Keep your dog under control, and dispose of dog dirt.
- Leave the environment as you found it — do not leave litter, or pick flowers.
- Be careful not to disturb wildlife or livestock.

## Directions

Directions given as if driving from Lerwick. Many roads are single track — please use passing places provided. For information on public transport routes, timetables and fares contact Visit Shetland.

### North Mainland

A970 north past Brae and Mavis Grind to Northmavine.

**Ronas Hill** Head north through Northmavine. Take a right, following signs to Collafirth and North Roe. Park at masts at top of Collafirth Hill — look out for unmarked track road off to left about 6 miles (9.5km) from junction, before pier and small marina.

**Eshaness** Follow signposts to Hillswick (A970). At Hillswick turn right towards Eshaness (B9078). After 5 miles (8km) take junction signposted 'Lighthouse', and park at end of road.

**Back o Ollaberry** Head north through Northmavine, and take a right to Ollaberry (B9079). Drive through Ollaberry. Turn right at Post Office, then an immediate left to church. Park next to church and churchyard.

### North Isles

A970 north. At Voe turn right onto the A968 to Toft. Yell ferry from Toft to Ulsta ferry terminal.

**Gloop Voe** From Ulsta ferry terminal follow A968 to Gutcher. Turn left onto B9083, signposted to Gloop Fisherman's Memorial. At Gloop turn right to Kirks, park at Fisherman's Memorial.

**Hagdale Chromite Quarry** From Ulsta ferry terminal follow A968 to Gutcher. Bluemull Sound ferry from Gutcher to Belmont. From Belmont follow signs for Baltasound and Haroldswick. After Baltasound go past Littlehamar junction and take first right after the garage (signposted to Hagdale Horse Mill). Park at gate.

**Funzie** From Ulsta ferry terminal follow A968 to Gutcher. Bluemull Sound ferry from Gutcher to Hamars Ness. Follow B9088 to Funzie, and park at the end of the road next to beach.

### South Mainland

St Ninian's Isle Head south on the A970, turn off right on to the B9122 towards Bigton. Follow signs to St Ninian's Isle, a single track road leads to a car park at the beach.

### West Mainland

Wormadale A970 north out of Lerwick. At Tingwall take A971 signposted to Walls and Sandness. Parking area and viewpoint approximately 2 miles (3 km) from junction.

Distances by road from Lerwick	Miles	Journey	Miles	Journey
Ronas Hill	34 (55km)	1hr	Hagdale Chromite Quarry	57 (91km) 2½hrs
Eshaness	39 (62km)	1hr	Funzie	59 (95km) 3hrs
Back o Ollaberry	33 (53km)	1hr	St Ninian's Isle	20 (32km) 30mins
Wormadale	8 (13km)	10mins	Toft	27 (43km) 45mins
Gloop Voe	54 (86km)	2hrs	Gutcher	45 (72km) 2hrs

Know the code before you go! Find out about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code at [www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com), or contact Scottish Natural Heritage for further details.

## Our ancient foundations


Beneath your feet are some of Britain's oldest rocks, an ancient foundation formed by fire, water, wind and ice. The scenery around you veils a powerful story of mighty collisions, violent eruptions and continual change.

Shetland's geology is unusually diverse; the landscapes you see reveal just about every geological phenomenon ever known.

## About this guide

Time to pull on your warm coat and strong shoes, and get out there to explore some of our most outstanding geological sites!

This trail leaflet will help you select where to visit, and explain some of the magnificent forces that have created the landscapes you see today.

Further interpretation is available at each site, and look out for the  symbol – it indicates topics which can be further explored at Shetland Museum and Archives.

Explore and enjoy!



**Geological Gem**  
The features found at the top of Ronas Hill are typical of an Arctic environment – the granite was shattered by the constant freezing and thawing of water.

**Geological Gem**  
Around 350 to 400 million years ago Eshaness was a barren desert that volcanoes erupted on to. Today Eshaness is the best section through the flank of a volcano in Britain!

**Geological Gem**  
The rocks on one side of the fault have slid more than 100km past those on the other side!


**Geological Gem**  
Thousands of years of rain has created the valleys and rounded hills here at Weisdale. Rainwater has slowly dissolved bands of soft limestone, leaving more resistant rocks more standing in high ridges.

## North Mainland

### Ronas Hill | Arctic expedition

If you're ready for a good hike climb to Shetland's highest point (450m), and experience Arctic conditions. Good boots are an essential!




Access is from Collafirth Hill. Descend by the same route.

 4 hour walk. Rough ground, moderate climb and steep in places.

### Eshaness | By fire and ice

Experience Shetland's most dramatic coastal scenery as you walk on the side of an ancient volcano! Ice ages and the relentless power of the ocean have since shaped this spectacular landscape. Look out for signs of lava and volcanic bombs as you go!



Start your walk at Eshaness Lighthouse, and head north along the coast. Routes marked on panel next to car park. For more info explore the Northmaine Volcano Trail.

 2 to 4 hour walk. Moderate ground and stiles to cross.  

### Back o Ollaberry | Quake in your boots

To explore enormous earth movements that happened 100 to 160 million years ago, head to the beach at the Back o Ollaberry. Walk over a massive fault line, part of the Great Glen Fault, that stretches as far as the west coast of Scotland!




Walk around the churchyard then follow coastline until you reach an interpretive panel. From panel follow coast until you reach track road, which leads back to church.

 1 hour walk. Moderate ground and stiles to cross. 

## West Mainland

### Wormadale | An underwater world

If you're heading west, stop and enjoy the stunning view of voes and small islands. You are looking at a flood. Under the water is a vast landscape last exposed 10,000 years ago, before sea levels rose at the end of the last glaciation.

 10 minute visit.  

## Map






## North Isles

### Gloup Voe | The big melt

The valley at Gloup Voe was carved 10,000 years ago by a huge river of melt-water flowing underneath the glacier. If the melt-water alone formed this valley, imagine how immense the ice sheet was!


For the best views walk from the memorial to the head of the voe.

 1 hour walk. Moderate ground.  

### Hagdale Chromite Quarry | Britain's biggest



To discover why Unst's rocks were so popular 150 years ago, take a trip to Hagdale. It was once the biggest chromite quarry in the country, and is also home to the only surviving horse-driven crushing circle.

Walk down to bottom of track road.

 1 hour visit. Uneven ground, moderate slope in places.

### Funzie | Rock of ages



Across the beach at Funzie find ancient cobbles set into the cliffs, and see how they were squashed and stretched under immense heat and pressure 400 million years ago.

 30 minute visit. 

## South Mainland

### St Ninian's Isle | Britain's best

The beach at St Ninian's Isle is not to be missed. This spectacular sand tombolo is the best of its kind in Britain. We're not going to say any more! Go and see for yourself!

 2 hour visit. 

**Geological Gem**  
Unst is made from a section of ocean floor! When continents collided 430 to 500 million years ago slices of ocean floor were thrust up above sea level, and minerals like chromite became exposed.

**Geological Gem**  
These cobbles were squashed when a section of ocean crust was thrust upwards over continental rocks.