

Directions

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

East Isles

Noss (by land) Scottish Natural Heritage run a small inflatable ferry from Bressay to Noss (late April to late August only, 10am – 5pm). No ferries to Noss on Mondays or Thursdays. Take Bressay ferry from Lerwick and follow signs to Noss. Park at end of road. Walk 400m down a steep track to Noss ferry. Both ferries non-bookable. Contact SNH for further details.

Noss (by sea) Private operators run boat cruises around Bressay and Noss. Booking essential. Contact Visit Shetland for further details.

Mousa Ferry run by private operator (April to mid September only). Booking essential. Head south on the A970. Turn into Sandwick, follow signs for Mousa Broch. Park at Heritage Centre next to pier.

South Mainland

Sumburgh Head Travel south on the A970 and pass junction to Sumburgh Airport. At Grutness turn right and follow single track road to car park.

North Isles

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

Hermaness From Ulsta ferry terminal follow A968 to Gutcher. Bluemull Sound ferry from Gutcher to Belmont. Follow A968 from Belmont to Haroldswick. Turn off to Hermaness (B9087) just before Haroldswick. Drive to end of road and park at SNH Visitor Centre car park.

Keen of Hamar Directions to Belmont as for Hermaness above. From Belmont head north on A968, following signs for Baltasound and Haroldswick. After Baltasound turn right to Littlehamar. Park at end of road.

Loch of Funzie From Ulsta ferry terminal follow A968 to Gutcher. Bluemull Sound ferry from Gutcher to Hamars Ness. Drive six miles (10 km) east on the B9088. Park at small car park west of Loch of Funzie.

Distances by road from Lerwick	Miles	Journey		Miles	Journey
Noss	3 (5km)	20 mins	Keen of Hamar	52 (83km)	2½ hours
Mousa	15 (24km)	30 mins	Loch of Funzie	59 (95km)	3 hours
Sumburgh Head	25 (40km)	40 mins	Toft	27 (43km)	45 mins
Hermaness	57 (92km)	3 hours	Gutcher	45 (72km)	2 hours

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.

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.

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.



Shetland Museum and Archives

Visit the five star Shetland 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!



Sumburgh Head Lighthouse, Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve

Sumburgh Head Lighthouse, Visitor Centre and Nature Reserve is a world class visitor attraction, providing an engaging and interactive experience for the whole family. Visit, and explore the history and natural heritage of Sumburgh Head from early geological beginnings and Iron Age settlers to Lighthouse Keepers, Whales, Puffins and much more.



Useful contacts

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

Emergency Services
☎ 999

Mousa Boat Trips
☎ 01950 431 367
07901 872 339

North Isles Ferries
☎ 01957 722 259

Noss ferry info line (freephone)
☎ 0800 107 7818
Scottish Natural Heritage
Stewart Building, Esplanade, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL
☎ 01595 693345

Shetland Amenity Trust
Shetland Biological Records Centre and 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



SHETLAND HERITAGE TRAILS

The wild side!

Experience Shetland's wildest, most wonderful nature sites.

© VisitShetland — Didier Piquet



Go wild and get close!


Hundreds of eyes are on you — perhaps bird, seal, insect or otter. So why not turn your eyes on them!

You are at one of Britain's top wildlife destinations. Heather clad hillsides are thriving ecosystems, fresh water lochs are sheltered homes, shorelines are secret hiding places, and towering cliffs are immense seabird cities.

About this guide

Grab your binoculars, pull on your warm coat and strong shoes, and get out there to explore!

This trail leaflet will help you select where to visit, and help you to find and identify what's out there.

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. Also look out for SNH and RSPB leaflets on your travels, which provide further information.

But watch out! The more you look, the more you'll discover!



Solán (Gannet)

These large birds break national speed limits as they dive, entering the water at 100km/h (62mph)! 10,000 pairs of these elegant creatures grace the cliffs at Noss.



Alamootie (Storm Petrel)

Storm Petrels are the smallest and most elusive of Britain's seabirds! They feed at sea during the day, and only come ashore in the evening to nest in burrows or stone walls.



Tammie norie (Puffin)

These small comical birds beat their wings up to 400 times per minute, and can hold up to 62 small fish in their beak at one time! Only seen April to mid-August.

East Isles

Noss | Living life on the edge!

To see extreme living, get to Noss!

The towering cliffs are a hive of activity. Crags and ledges are plastered with thousands of breeding seabirds, and in small nooks and crannies natural rock gardens grow.

A truly dizzying sight! Best seen May to August.

Walk around the island. No dogs allowed.

 3 to 4 hour walk.
Moderate ground but steep cliffs.

South Mainland

Mousa | A magical moment!

Mousa is special at any time of day or night. On the way look out for *neesiks* (porpoises) and other sea mammals. *Selkie* (seal) sightings are guaranteed with up to 200 Common Seals ashore to moult on the east coast.

When night falls prepare for a rare treat, as elusive *alamooties* (Storm Petrels) flock ashore to nestle in the walls of Mousa broch. Special trips available late May to mid July.

Please follow trail markers around the island.

 3 hour visit. Moderate ground.


Sumburgh Head | Up close and personal!

Come within arm's length of inquisitive puffins, and watch them walk in and out of their burrows.

Take in the sight, sound and smell of thousands of breeding seabirds at Britain's most accessible seabird colony.

Visit the Marine Life Centre to find out about Shetland beneath the waves.

Walk up to the lighthouse from the car park. Viewpoints are indicated.

 2 to 3 hour visit. Steep climb up tarred road, but with resting places. Disabled parking available at the top.



Banksflooer (Thrift)



Rippeke maa (Kittiwake)



Selkie (Common Seal)



Herring hog (Minke Whale)



Loom (Guillemot)






Sea Craa (Razorbill)

Map



Guide to symbols


-  Easily accessed. Strong footwear not required.
-  Longer or more difficult walk. Strong footwear recommended.
-  Viewpoint accessible to wheelchair users at car park.

North Isles

Hermaness | Watch your head!

For a challenging cliff-top walk, head to Unst. As well as discovering one of Shetland's best seabird colonies, brace yourself to meet bonxies — one of Britain's most aggressive and spectacular birds.

Map with suggested routes is provided at the site entrance.

 3 to 4 hour walk. Moderate ground, but with boggy areas and steep cliffs. Some wooden paths provided. Bonxies are proud parents. To protect their chicks they will dive bomb you. To limit disturbance keep moving. If need be hold a stick above your head to deter them.


Keen of Hamar | The one and only!

Get on your hands and knees and discover some of Britain's rarest plants, snuggled between the rocks of this lunar landscape.

The Keen provides a challenging environment for plants and only specially adapted species can live here.

Plants are best seen May, June and July.

Walk about 180 metres, following sign at end of road.

 1 hour visit. Rough ground, and stiles to cross.

Loch of Funzie | A birding paradise!

Head to the RSPB hide at the Loch of Funzie to get up close to beautiful Red-Necked Phalaropes as they spin about on the water in search of food. Unusually the females are brightly coloured, and the dull-coloured males care for eggs and chicks!

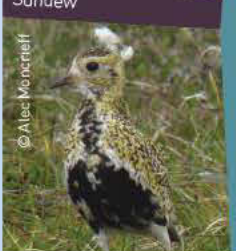
Keep your eyes peeled throughout your visit as Fetlar is also a good breeding ground for Whimbrel, and otters haunt the shoreline.

From car park walk 100m, and follow signs to the hide, which is about 300m from the road.

 1 hour visit. Moderate ground.



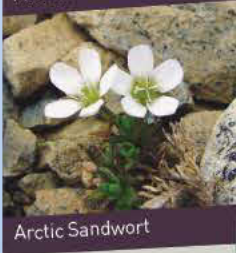
Sundew



Golden Plover



Moonwort



Arctic Sandwort



Peerie whaup (Whimbrel)



Dratsie (Otter)



Bonxie (Great Skua)



Edmondston's Chickweed



Red-Necked Phalarope



Red-Necked Phalarope