Lodberries

The word "lodberry" comes from the Old Norse "biðrberg", meaning a place where boats could be brought alongside for loading or unloading. The simplest lodberry was a flat rock, but the surviving examples below the south end of Commercial Street consist of a jetty with a store and house. Before they were built, all goods were moved by small boat to and from the ships at anchor offshore and many merchants had their own lodberry. Shetland, and especially Lerwick, had a reputation as a hotbed of smuggling. In recent times an assortment of barrels, kegs and jars has come to light in cellars and tunnels under the street.

Fort Charlotte

The northern end of Commercial Street passes below what were once sea-cliffs, surmounted by the towering walls of Fort Charlotte, from which there are excellent views. Built in 1665-7 by Charles II's master mason, John Mylne, its pentagonal form was intended to house a garrison, defend the landward area and deny the use of sea-cliffs, surmounted by the towering

Welcome to Lerwick

Lerwick, Shetland’s capital, takes its name from the Old Norse Lerrin meaning muddy bay. Sheltered by Bressay, the natural harbour attracts a wide range of visiting craft. The town has a lot to offer visitors and will introduce you to Shetland’s unique identity.

The town and harbour

Lerwick, the funding partners do not accept responsibility for any errors in this leaflet. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the contents are accurate, the funding partners do not accept responsibility for any errors in this leaflet.
The Town Hall and the County Buildings

A little way south-west of the Fort is Lerwick’s Town Hall, a beautifully-preserved building with Scots Baronial and Gothic influences designed by Alexander Ross and completed in 1883 by local builder John M. Aitken, at a cost of £3,940. Armorial work recalls many of the town’s cultural and trading links. Rich stained glass – best seen in late afternoon or evening sunlight – depicts characters from Shetland’s history. A guidebook is available.

The Legacy of Arthur Anderson

Arthur Anderson was born in 1792 in the Böd of Gremista, now a museum celebrating his life. As a youth, he helped with the curing and drying of fish and in 1808 joined the Royal Navy. He later joined a London partnership running ships to Spain and Portugal which was to become the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P&O). A philanthropist, Anderson provided funds for the establishment of the Anderson Institute (now Anderson High School). Its motto, “dö weel and persevere,” was the advice given to Arthur Anderson by his employer as he set off to join the Navy. He also built the Anderson Homes, intended by his employer as he set off to join the Navy. He also built the Anderson Homes, intended originally for the widows of seamen, and for five years was Member of Parliament for Orkney and Shetland.

Shetland Library

Shetland Library is situated in the former St. Ringan’s Church at Lower Hillhead. The Shetland Room reflects the proliferation of writing about Shetland. The library is open 9.00 am - 5 pm, Monday to Saturday, with late opening until 8 pm on Monday and Thursday. If you are tracing your Shetland ancestors, why not visit the Shetland Family History Society at 6 Hillhead, across the road from the library. They are open for research daily from 2 - 4 pm and some evenings.

The Shetland Museum and Archives

The Shetland Museum and Archives is located in the boat hall of the historic Hay’s Dock. This new facility is an invaluable resource for both visitors and locals, introducing Shetland’s story through 12 thematic zones. The archives hold the written record of Shetland’s past dating back to the 15th century. There is also a large oral history collection, musical archives and microfilm copies of local newspapers, parochial records and census records. All these can be viewed in the seven exhibition spaces.

The Knob to Ness of Sound

A path follows the cliff top from Twagess Road to Breiwick Road, providing an easy walk past the cemetery and around the Ness, where you can enjoy a game of golf or get a good vantage point of Bressay Sound. Wave-washed slabs of gently sloping sandstone provide haul out points for the many Common Seals that can be seen basking around the Knab and at the Stlets.

Clickimin

Lerwick’s largest open public space is around the Clickimin Loch. The Clickimin Centre has superb sports facilities, an excellent leisure park and a well-equipped camping and caravan site. The loch is notable for its wildlife, Mallard and Teal can be seen all year round, Goldeneye, Wigeon, Pochard, Tufted Duck and Whooper Swans use the loch as a migration stopover.

Clickimin Broch

At the southern end of the loch is Clickimin Broch, one of Shetland’s major archaeological sites. It seems that the earliest structure, a Bronze Age house, was built on this small holm in the loch around 600BC. In the Iron Age, further houses, a defensive ring wall, an impressive block house and the Broch tower, perhaps 12-15m high, were constructed. Later, wheelhouses were added.

Up-Helly-Aa

On the last Tuesday in January, nearly 1000 torch-bearing guizers march behind a Viking galley, which is burnt with great ceremony as the prelude to a long night of revelry. The Up–Helly-Aa exhibition in the St. Sunniva Street Galley Shed, open during the summer months, catches the mood with displays of Up-Helly-Aa memorabilia, photographs and videos.