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 VisitShetland.

South Mainland

Catpund Head south from Lerwick, and pass through Cunningsburgh. Just south of village, note parking on left. Immediately after, turn right onto lay-by and park below burn.

Old Scatness Broch Follow signs to Sumburgh. Old Scatness Broch on left, after airport runway. Parking on right. Disabled visitors can park next Visitor Centre on left, adjacent to site.

Jarlshof Follow signs to Sumburgh. Jarlshof on right, before airport. Park at Sumburgh Hotel.

Central Mainland

Law Ting Holm Head north from Lerwick. At Tingwall turn left to Law Ting Holm and Tingwall Loch. About 1 mile from junction, near north end of Tingwall Loch, is passing place with interpretive panel. Park here.

Lerwick Town Hall Distinguished building with clock tower on Hillhead. Follow signs to Shetland Library, Town Hall is across the road. Car park available along Hillhead.

Up Helly Aa Galley Shed Follow signs to Up Helly Aa Exhibition up Burgh Road, and on to St Sunniva Street. Galley Shed on your right.

Viking Unst sites

A970 north. At Voe turn right onto A968 to Toft. Yell ferry from Toft to Ulsta ferry terminal. Follow A968 to Gutcher. Bluemull Sound ferry from Gutcher to Belmont.

Belmont longhouse Park at lay-by opposite sign to Belmont. Site on right side of main road. Follow beaten track up hillside. Short but steep climb over moderate ground. Boggy in places but wooden boardwalks provided. 45 minute visit.

Hamar longhouse Follow signs to Baltasound and Haroldswick. After Baltasound turn right to Littlehamar. Park at end of road. Go through gate and follow wall to top of hill, then veer south (right), until site comes into view. 500m walk over steep hillside. Moderate ground, but muddy in places. 1 hour visit.

Underhoull longhouse Turn left to Westing. Site at roadside, 1 mile from junction. ½ hour visit.

SKIDBLADNER longship Follow signs to Haroldswick. Longship at roadside. ½ hour visit.

Sandwick longhouse and farmstead Drive through Uyeasound, past school. Follow signs to Muness. Pass standing stone on hilltop, then turn left to Hannigarth. Drive to end of road and park. 700m walk from car park. Gentle slope, moderate ground but muddy/boggy in places. Stiles to cross. 2-3 hour visit.

Distances by road from Lerwick	Miles	Journey		Miles	Journey
Catpund Old Scatness Broch Jarlshof	10 (17km) 22 (35km) 23 (37km)	30 mins	Ting Holm Town Hall Galley Shed Unst	6 (10km) — — 45 (72km)	

To ensure you get the most from your visit:

Be safe

- Shetland weather can change very quickly! Always take warm and waterproof clothing.
- Be responsible for your own actions.

Be prepared

- Not all areas of Shetland have a shop or a fuel station — check relevant area leaflets.
- If you're heading to Unst, North Isles ferries can be busy. Booking is recommended.
- If you're unsure about access, contact the site operator or Visit Shetland.
- Allow plenty of time for your route.

Be considerate

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

Viking Unst

www.vikingshetland.com



Vikings!

SHETLAND HERITAGE TRAILS



For a complete Norse experience head to Unst, Britain's most northerly island! Viking Unst is a multinational project, run by Shetland Amenity Trust, to excavate and reconstruct Viking life. There are many sites of interest, so why not take few days to explore this incredible island. Don't miss the excavated farms and longhouses at Belmont, Hamar, Underhoull and Sandwick. Also look out for the Viking longship SKIDBLADNER, and get involved in Viking events and activities!



Useful contact

Disability Shetland Market House, 14 Ma

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

Jarlshof (Historic Scotla © 01950 460112 Lerwick Town Hall (Shetland Islands Council © 01595 693535

North Isles Ferries
© 01957 722259

Old Scatness Broch © 01950 461869 (site) © 01595 694688 (SAT)

Scottish Natural Heritage Stewart Building, Esplanade Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LL © 01595 693345 Shetland Museum and Archives

Hay's Dock, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0WP © 01595 695057

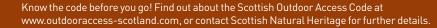
Viking Unst Coordinator Shetland Amenity Trust © 01595 694688

VisitShetland Market Cross, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LU © 08701 999440



Explore our exciting Viking past today.





A voyage of discovery

Vikings – warriors, explorers, merchants, pirates. A powerful people with clear ideas and solutions. A people who broke boundaries, and took Shetland by storm.

The Vikings landed here around 1200 years ago, and decided to stay. They brought their own laws and language, and introduced new methods of farming, fishing and building. They replaced Shetland's place names with their own. Fragments of their language still survive here today.

About this guide

places to visit, and reveal how the Vikings impacted on our identity and culture.

As you travel around the islands keep you eyes and ears open to the language and words around you.

Over 90% of today's place names are rooted in the Old Norse language.

The names describe features in the landscape, and will point you to former farms, landing places, local parliaments and mineral sources.

This trail guide will help you select Fragments of spoken language also survive — the names of many everyday objects come from Viking

> Further interpretation is available at each site. Look out for the 🚹 symbol — it indicates topics that can be further explored at Shetland Museum and Archives.

Look, listen and explore!



Catpund Quarry | A cut above!

Catpund is the largest soapstone outcrop in Britain Vikings guarried the rocks here to make bowls. See their chisel marks and the large bowl shapes still left on the rock faces.

The Vikings made many soapstone objects for their nomes. But they also exported thousands of objects all over Europe.

Site is up the hill, beside the burn.



30 minute walk. Moderate climb, steep in places over uneven ground. Access is difficult — stiles and barbed wire fences to cross.

Old Scatness Broch | Living history!

Meet Viking and Iron Age craft workers at Old Scatness Broch! The living history team and guides bring this 2000 year-old site to life.

Learn how Vikings re-used this Iron Age settlement, and discover where we think they lived.

A great family day out.

Open May to September, Sunday to Thursday, 10am to 5pm. Please also check programme of events.





Uneven ground, gentle slopes and gravel path and steps in places.

Jarlshof | Why the longhouse?

At Jarlshof you can see the remains of several Viking longhouses, and discover how the settlement evolved over hundreds of vears.

Life at Jarlshof changed slowly — people lived and worked here for 5000 years. But when the Vikings settled 1200 years ago they made dramatic changes, and introduced their own style of houses. See the differences with your own eyes, and learn about their lifestyle and society. Open April to September, 9.30 to 5.30 daily (closed 12.30-1.30).

1 to 2 hour visit.

Paved and gritted paths provided.







Law Ting Holm | Tough at the top!

Take a trip down the peaceful Tingwall Valley and learn more about how this small tongue of land was once the powerhouse of Shetland!

Shetland's lawthing (Viking parliament) was based at the law and order were all administered from here.

View from interpretive panel.





Lerwick Town Hall | Meet the ancestors

The Victorian inhabitants of Lerwick built a new Town Hall in 1882. Local scholars decided to decorate it with stained glass windows illustrating Shetland's Viking past.

The beautiful art work, open to the public, portrays the overlords and adventurers who dominated Shetland in

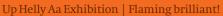
Open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Head upstairs to the main hall. Disabled access by arrangement.



Steps at front door. Access to main hall by staircase or lift.







If you've missed out on our famous 'Viking' fire festival, why not go to see the exhibition at the Lerwick Up Helly Aa Galley Shed.

Each year a Viking galley boat is built, and burned following a spectacular torch lit procession. See costumes and a full size galley, and learn more about this fascinating festival!

Open May to September. Contact VisitShetland for opening times. Lerwick Up Helly Aa occurs on the last Tuesday in January every year.

There are also a number of community Up Helly Aa's from January to March. Check local press for details.





