



Beautiful St Ninians, Shetland (credit Visit Scotland)

Shetland and Orkney The Northern Isles

16 – 24 September 2021

4 nights Shetland – 4 nights Orkney





The Ring of Brodgar

Travel to the northernmost reaches of the UK through spectacular landscapes. Discover history that encompasses Neolithic times, the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Picts and the Vikings, and continues into the modern day. This tour takes you to the farthest Scottish Isles, dramatically beautiful and rich in history and culture, to experience both Shetland and Orkney in just over a week.

Led by a veteran tour leader, Sue Weir, the tour gives a superb overview of these far-flung island neighbours, which share connections and history but retain distinctive characters. Proceed at a relaxed pace with Sue Weir and local guides to discover history, geography, geology and culture and enjoy the unique wildlife of the area, from puffins to Shetland ponies. This tour is a wonderful opportunity to unite the magnificent islands of Shetland and Orkney, with the option to fly or travel by ferry between the two, passing Fair Isle on the way.

Tour Leaders

Sue Weir is a former Westminster Hospital nurse and a registered Blue Badge Guide. She developed a special interest in medical history and runs her own company, Medical History Tours, which takes groups and individuals to places of medical historical interest both at home and abroad. She has written *Weir's Guide to Medical Museums in Britain*, has a Diploma in the History of Medicine from the Society of Apothecaries, is past President of the History of Medicine section at the Royal Society of Medicine and is also past President of the British Society for the History of Medicine. Sue has led many cruises and specialist tours and is a highly experienced and popular tour leader.

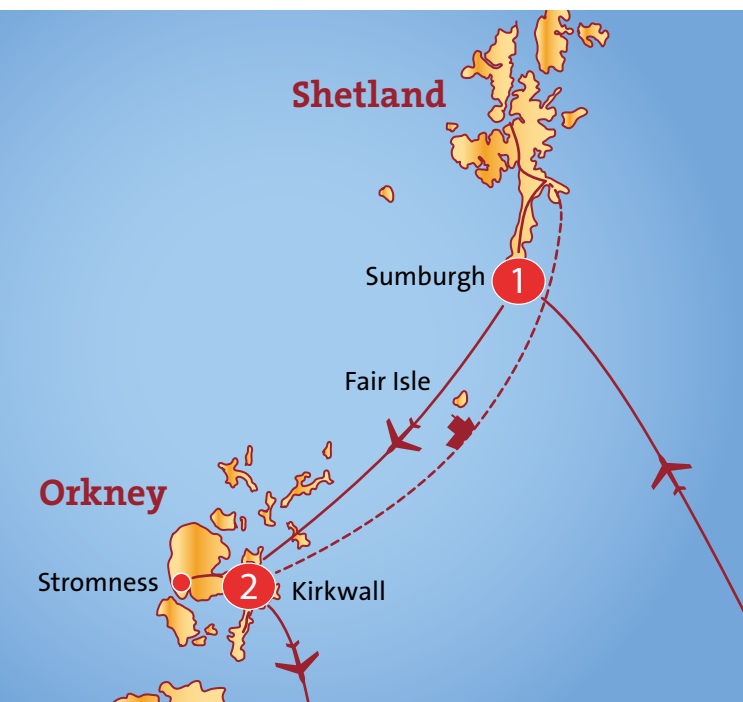


Local Guides

The tour will use local guides in both Shetland and Orkney. In Orkney the guide will be Pat Long, the highly acclaimed local guide on our *Kingdoms of the North Tour*.



4 nights Shetland – 4 nights Orkney



Day 1: Shetland (Thur, 16 Sept) **D**

Pm: Arrive in Sumburgh and transfer to Sumburgh Hotel, a former laird's house (arrival transfer included). Explore the dramatic local scenery if your arrival time permits.

Eve: Welcome dinner at the hotel.

Day 2: Shetland (Fri, 17 Sept) **B L**

Am: Walk the short distance to Jarlshof, one of Europe's most important archaeological sites with a history encompassing the Bronze and Iron ages, Picts' settlements, the Vikings and through to the medieval period. Drive to Sumburgh Head Lighthouse, located high on the cliffs with stunning views, and an RSPB nature reserve. Visit the Sumburgh Head Visitor Centre and learn about the history of the lighthouse, which has been operating for 200 years, as well as Shetland's maritime history, the World War II radar hut and local wildlife.

Pm: Drive to the visitor centre and café at Hoswick in Sandwick. Visit Rerwick Beach

to spot seals and onto beautiful St Ninian's Isle before returning to the hotel.

Day 3: Shetland (Sat, 18 Sept) **B D**

Am: Drive to Lerwick, the capital of Shetland and its only town. Visit the Shetland Museum and Archives for an overview of its superb collection, with time to explore. See the boat shed and hall, which demonstrates a traditional style of boat building, at the scenic Hay's Dock of Lerwick. Visit the well preserved Clickimin Broch, incorporating a late Bronze Age-early Iron Age farmstead and Iron Age fort.

Pm: Explore Lerwick on a guided tour, including Victoria Pier, and depart through the Tingwall Valley. Hear of the Norse heritage of Tingwall and see Shetland ponies.

Continue to Scalloway, the former capital of Shetland and learn of its integral part in the Shetland Bus operation, an undercover operation that took place in World War II. See the ruins of Scalloway Castle, next to the Scalloway Museum. The museum has information on the history of the regions encompassing Neolithic settlers, Vikings Scots and up to World War II.

Eve: Dinner in Lerwick and return to the hotel.

Day 4: Shetland (Sun, 19 Sept) **B L**

Am: An early start to travel up to the north-west corner of Shetland and visit Tangwick Haa. This small museum is located inside an old haa (hall) which was the home of the laird. The hall also contains information on Shetland's unique and complex geology. Continue onto the stunning Eshaness cliffs.

Pm: Lunch at St Magnus Bay Hotel in Hillswick before continuing to Sumburgh.

Day 5: Shetland / Orkney (Mon, 20 Sept) **B D**

Am: Late morning transfer to Sumburgh Airport to fly to Orkney, an archipelago comprising approximately 70 islands with a rich Norse heritage.

Pm: Arrive in Kirkwall and transfer to the Ayre Hotel and at leisure. (For those who prefer a sea crossing there is a 17.30 sailing from 0 Lerwick, which sails past Fair Isle and arrives in Kirkwall at 23:00 on NorthLink Ferries. **Please contact us for more information**).

Day 6: Orkney (Tues, 21 Sept) **B L** or **B D** *

Am: Visit the famous Italian Chapel, a beautiful building constructed by Italian POWs in World War II, who were brought to Orkney in 1942 to build a giant causeway - today known as the Churchill Barriers - to seal off access to the vast naval base at Scapa Flow. Visit the CWGC St Olaf Cemetery.

Pm: Visit the Burray Fossil and Heritage Centre and St Magnus Cathedral. Continue to the lovely Earl's Palace and the Orkney Museum, which features paintings by Orcadian artist Stanley Cursiter, who was the Queen's Painter and Limner (the queen's official court painter in Scotland). Option to visit the quirky Orkney Wireless Museum.

Day 7: Orkney (Wed, 22 Sept) **B L**

Am: Orkney's human history stretches back 10,000 years. Its Neolithic origins can be seen in ceremonial stone circles, tombs, prehistoric villages and many other ancient

monuments. Explore this extraordinary heritage with a visit to Skara Brae, the seventeenth century mansion of Skail House, the Ring of Brodgar and Maeshowe.

Pm: After lunch at the Standing Stones Hotel visit the Standing Stones of Stenness. Return to Kirkwall.

Day 8: Orkney (Thur, 23 Sept) **B D**

Am: Visit Stromness Museum and the Pier Arts Centre, which includes work by Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson. The gallery extension won an architectural prize for best building in Scotland in 2007.

Pm: Visit Orkney Brewery for lunch (at client's expense). Visit the HMS Tern, one of four World War II airfields, with Andy Hollinrake, a local specialist guide. Return to Kirkwall along the shore of Scapa Flow.

Eve: Farewell dinner.

Day 9: Orkney (Fri, 24 Sept) **B**

Am: Depart Orkney.

* Those traveling by ferry will have lunch in Lerwick; those traveling by plane will have dinner in Kirkwall.

The itinerary is subject to change according to local conditions.



The dramatic cliffs of Eshaness, Shetland (credit Visit Scotland)



Orkney Ayre Hotel

Hotels

Sumburgh Hotel (Shetland)

Built in 1867, this former laird's home is located in southern Shetland by the coast and close to the airport and the capital Lerwick. The hotel is located close to a number of attractions including the Jarlshof archaeological site, Sumburgh Head, St Ninians Isle, Quendale Water Mill and the Croft House Museum. There is no lift at the hotel but portage is included and we are holding a number of rooms on a lower floor reached by five steps. Please contact us to reserve one of these rooms.

Orkney Ayre Hotel (Orkney)

The Ayre Hotel is one of Orkney's finest hotels and is situated in the principal town of Kirkwall, overlooking Kirkwall harbour, where the ferries to the North Isles dock. The hotel is in a charming, whitewashed building with harbour views, clean and cosy rooms with good facilities and friendly service. The hotel has a lift and portage is included.

How to get to Shetland and from Orkney

There are flights to Sumburgh in Shetland and from Kirkwall in Orkney from many UK airports on Logan Air. Upon arrival there is a free transfer to the hotel (subject to availability).



Sumburgh Hotel Shetland



A lodberries (a hotel and houses built into the sea) in Lerwick (top); There is the option to take the Northlink ferry to Orkney; Visit Skaill House, Orkney's finest 17th century mansion; The Italian Chapel (all images credit Visit Scotland) (above)

The cost of the tour is £1,980 per person sharing

The cost includes:

- Eight nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms in first class and medium grade hotels

The single room supplement is £340

- Tour leader (Sue Weir)
- Porterage and tips
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch or dinner daily (as mentioned)
- All transport within tour plus arrival transfer
- Flight from Shetland to Orkney
- A full programme of cultural visits and talks
- Specially arranged visits and specialist guides
- Admission fees throughout

The cost excludes:

- Travel to / from Shetland and Orkney and transfers (free transfer on arrival)
- All personal extras such as laundry and drinks and meals not mentioned
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance

Travelling to / from and between the islands:

There are direct and indirect flights on Logan Air to Sumburgh in Shetland and from Kirkwall in Orkney from regional airports across the UK.

There is the option to travel from Shetland to Orkney by Northlink ferry, passing Fair Isle en route. Please contact us if this is your preference.

Mrs Humphrey's temporary hospital' plaque in Orkney



About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. What we also do is make sure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to. We give you a variety of experiences, from the sublime to the humble, in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun.

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Shetland ponies (credit Visit Scotland) (top); Jarshof, Shetland (credit Visit Scotland); Earl's Palace, Orkney (credit Visit Scotland); The Churchill Barriers, Orkney (credit Colin Keldie) (above)



Jon Baines
tours

