



Beautiful St Ninians, Shetland (credit Visit Scotland)

Shetland and Orkney The Northern Isles

31 August – 8 September 2022

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 tour leader, Janice Liverseidge, 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 local guides to discover history, archaeology, 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.

Tour Leaders

Until recently **Janice Liverseidge** was a Director at The Royal Society of Medicine and is now a full-time guide and in her spare time a trustee of both the Royal Medical Benevolent Fund and the London Handel Festival. Earlier in her career she worked for the British Medical Association. She is also a registered Blue Badge tourist guide and regularly leads groups in London on medical history walks, tours of the Wellcome Collection and other healthcare locations plus provides music and art tours for the Foundling Museum and the London Handel Festival. Janice has travelled extensively, and has led highly successful RSM tours to Vietnam and Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Cuba, South Africa, China and a number of Royal Society of Medicine London weekend guided tours.



“Janice was excellent. Clear, decisive, mixed well, good company and always aware of the welfare of the whole group.”

Elisabeth Sears, RSM Tour to South Africa, April 2019

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* and on the 2021 Shetland and Orkney tour. In Shetland the guide will be **Dr Deborah Lamb** who also

guided on the 2021 tour. Deborah has a Phd in Archaeology, is an experienced tour guide and a trustee for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

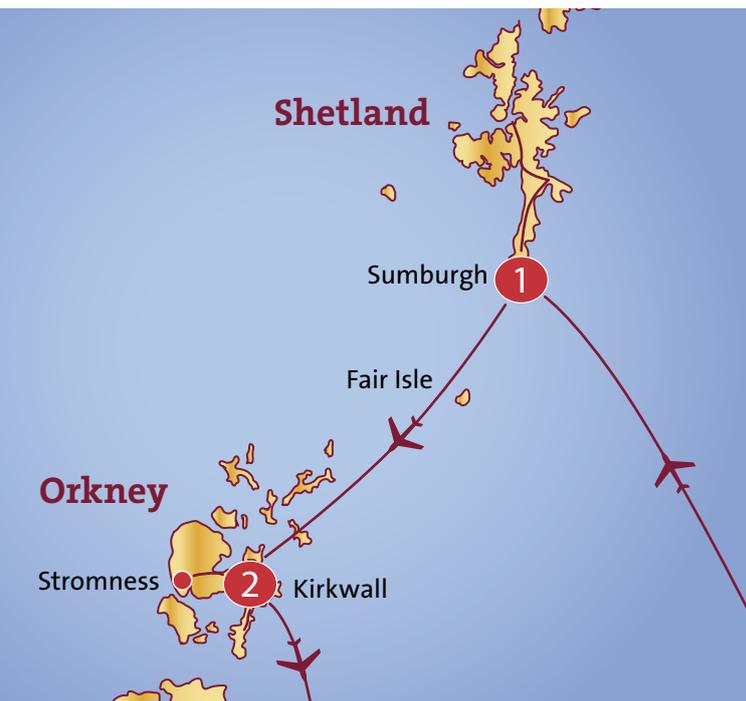
“Deborah was excellent, informative and entertaining.”

Mary Cunnah, participant on Shetland and Orkney 2021



Skara Brae, Orkney

4 nights Shetland – 4 nights Orkney



Day 1: Shetland (Wed, 31 Aug) **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 (Thur, 1 Sept) **B L**

Am: Drive to Lerwick, the capital of Shetland and the only town on the archipelago. View the well preserved Clickimin Broch, incorporating a late Bronze Age / early Iron Age farmstead and Iron Age fort. Visit the Shetland Museum and Archives for an overview followed by time to explore. The museum has a superb collection of exhibits located over two floors. There is also the boat shed and hall, demonstrating a traditional style of boat building that has gone on over the years located at the scenic Hay's Dock of Lerwick.

Pm: Explore Lerwick on a short guided tour including Victoria Pier and the Shetland Textile Museum. 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 Two. See the ruins of Scalloway Castle, built by Earl Patrick Stewart, located next to the Scalloway Museum. The museum has information on the history of the regions encompassing Neolithic settlers, Vikings Scots and up to WW2.

Eve: Dinner in Lerwick .

Day 3: Shetland (Fri, 2 Sept) **B D**

Am: Walk the short distance from the hotel 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, and an RSPB nature reserve. The Lighthouse was built by the Stevenson family in 1821 and has been in operation for 200 years. There are stunning views from here. Visit the Sumburgh Head Visitor Centre and learn of the history of the Lighthouse, Shetland's maritime history, the WW2 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 St Ninian's Isle to before returning to the hotel

Day 4: Shetland (Sat, 3 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: Travel to the Busta House Hotel in Hillswick for lunch before continuing the tour back towards Sumburgh.

Day 5: Shetland / Orkney (Sun, 4 Sept) B D

- Am:** Morning at leisure with the option of a guided walk.
- Pm:** Late afternoon transfer to Sumburgh Airport to fly to Orkney, an archipelago comprising approximately 70 islands with a rich Norse heritage.
- Eve:** Arrive in Kirkwall and transfer to the Ayre Hotel with dinner at the hotel.

Day 6: Orkney (Mon, 5 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.
- 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).

Day 7: Orkney (Tue, 6 Sept) B L

- Am:** Orkney's human history stretches back 10,000 years to its Neolithic origins, which are evident in a breathtaking landscape

of ceremonial stone circles, tombs, prehistoric villages and many other ancient monuments. Explore this extraordinary heritage with a visit to Skara Brae, 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 (Wed, 7 Sept) B D

- Am:** Visit the Stromness Museum which puts the history of Orkney into context with the wider world. Visit the Pier Arts Centre with work by Barbara Hepworth and Ben Nicholson. The gallery extension won an architectural prize for best building in Scotland in 2007.
- Pm:** 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 (Thur, 8 Sept) B

- Am:** Depart Orkney.

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)

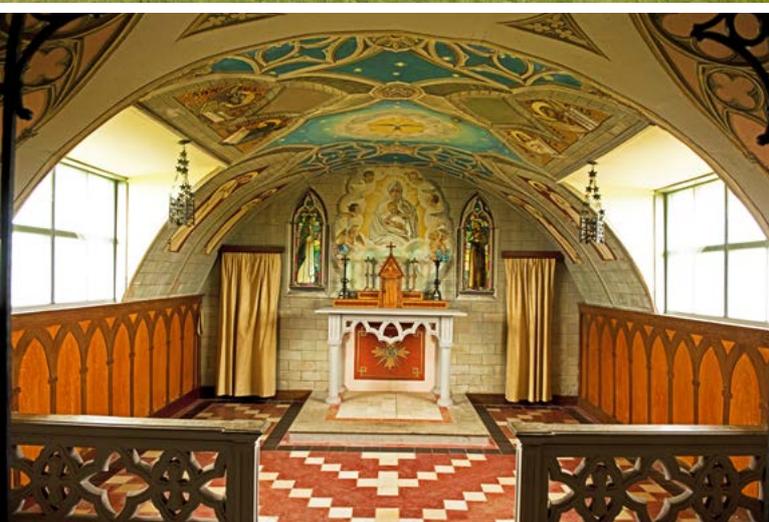
The Ayre Hotel is one of Orkney's finest hotels and is situated in the principal town of Kirkwall, overlooking Kirkwall harbour, where the ferries to the North Isles dock. The hotel is in a charming, whitewashed building with harbour views, clean and cosy rooms with good facilities and friendly service. 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 lodgeries (a hotel and houses built into the sea) in Lerwick (top); Monument to the Shetland Bus, Susi Richardson, 2021 Tour; Visit Skail House, Orkney's finest 17th century mansion; The Italian Chapel (credit Visit Scotland) (above)

The cost of the tour is USD \$3,103 per person sharing

The cost includes:

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

The single room supplement is USD \$563

- Tour leader (Janice Liverseidge)
- 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 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.

Mrs Humphrey's temporary hospital' plaque in Orkney



MRS HUMPHREY'S HOUSE
TEMPORARY HOSPITAL
1835 - 1836
FOR SCURVY RIDDEN WHALE
MEN WHO HAD BEEN
TRAPPED IN THE ICE
FOR MONTHS

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

