



Itinerary for GeoWorld Travel 2022 Page 1

Thursday 2nd June – Saturday 4th June

Wednesday 29th June – Friday 1st July

DAY 1 - SOUTH MAINLAND

We will start our Shetland adventure by heading south from Lerwick to discover the Devonian sandstones of the South Mainland - beginning with a scenic drive to the prehistoric site of Jarlshof. First settled in the Neolithic, this site experienced over 4000 years of continuous settlement and is a testament to the influence of geology on Shetland's earliest residents, as well as a stark reminder of the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

On leaving Jarlshof we will make our way up the steep incline to Sumburgh Head, where we'll discover a Stevenson lighthouse, a marine life visitor centre and dramatic cliffs teeming with seabirds including puffins, guillemots, razorbills and fulmars. This site played host to a WW2 radar station that successfully gave early warning of an attack on the British naval fleet stationed at Scapa Flow. The Old Red Sandstone cliffs are also home to *Asterolepis Thule* – a fossil fish found nowhere else in the world.

There will be plenty of time to eat lunch and explore before we continue the fossil theme with a walk along the south-east coast to visit intricate dune sandstones and impressive fossil fish beds. On our return to Lerwick, there will be an optional guided walk around the old town for those who wish to discover more of Shetland's fascinating history.

09.00 Depart Lerwick to Jarlshof via St Ninian's

10.30 Jarlshof prehistoric settlement (4500 years of human settlement, toilets)

11.45 Depart for Sumburgh Head

12.00 Sumburgh Head (seabird colonies, dramatic cliffs visitor centre lunch / toilets)

13.30 Depart for North Town

13.45 Exnaboe coastal walk (dune sandstones and fossil fish beds - approx. 2 miles easy terrain, some rabbit holes, with optional scramble to fish beds)

15.45 Depart for Lerwick

16.30 Arrive Lerwick - optional guided walk around Lerwick old town (approx 1 hr, steep inclines)



Itinerary for GeoWorld Travel 2022 Page 2

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DAY 2 - NORTH ISLES

On our second day we will tour Shetland's most northerly islands of Yell and Unst. We will uncover the natural and cultural heritage of the islands, through visits to local heritage centres, historical sites and places of natural and geological interest.

We will drive through the Central Mainland to catch the ferry to Yell, where we will visit the Old Haa Garden to see an artistic celebration of Yell's beautiful Moine and Lewisian rocks dating back 2.9 billion years. There will be time for a look around the Old Haa Museum and opportunity to sample some famous homebakes – highly recommended!

Our route will take us around the Yell coastline to catch our second ferry of the day to Unst, the UK's most northerly island. We'll head straight for a dramatic view of its most northerly lighthouse Muckle Flugga, built by Thomas and David Stevenson during the Crimean war.

After a lunch-stop visit to the Unst Heritage Centre, where exhibits and geoart tell the fascinating geological story of this 'island in two halves' we will experience it for ourselves with a walk across the lower layers of the Shetland Ophiolite – a section of oceanic crust that was thrust up over Dalradian continental rocks some 420 million years ago. Our journey will take us through a serpentine desert and across the Moho – the boundary between Earth's crust and the mantle, before we explore what was once the largest chromite quarry in the UK.

08.45 Depart Lerwick for Toft	13.45 Depart for Keen of Hamar
09.45 Yell Ferry (toilets)	14.00 Keen of Hamar serpentine debris, Moho viewpoint (2-mile walk, some uneven terrain)
10.05 Depart for Old Haa	16.15 Depart for Belmont
10.30 Old Haa (geology exhibits/tea and cake)	16.45 Unst Ferry
11.15 Depart for Gutcher via east coast	16.55 Depart for Toft
11.50 Unst Ferry (toilets)	17.35 Yell Ferry
12.00 Depart for Saxa Vord Hill	17.55 Depart for Lerwick
12:30 View of Muckle Flugga lighthouse	18.45 Arrive Lerwick
12.45 Depart for Unst Heritage Centre	
13.00 Unst Heritage Centre (geology exhibits, lunch stop, toilets)	



Itinerary for GeoWorld Travel 2022 Page 3

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DAY 3 - NORTH MAINLAND

Our Shetland Journey will finish in the North Mainland. With dramatic rugged hills, sea cliffs and stacks, this is a landscape to remember. We'll begin by taking a scenic route north to Mavis Grind – a narrow strip of land with North Sea on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other. Between the two, a geowall provides an insight into the complex geology we'll witness throughout the day, beginning with extraordinary granite and diorite mixing at the Mavis Grind quarry.

We'll follow the magnificent Ronas Voe beneath Ronas Hill to Braewick. The hill, now Shetland's highest point at 450m formed as a granite pluton in the roots of the Caledonian mountains. At Braewick we'll investigate one of Shetland's most fascinating beaches. A fault down the centre separates granite from earlier sandstones and volcanic rocks of the Devonian period.

After lunch we'll enjoy breath-taking views along the Eshaness coast and see our final Stevenson lighthouse as we walk through the flank of an ancient volcano and find vivid traces of its explosive past. The landscape remains dynamic today - as one of the highest energy coastlines in the world it is battered by the full force of the North Atlantic. We'll round off our day by dining on fresh local produce at the welcoming Braewick Café before returning to Lerwick.

08.30 Depart Lerwick for Mavis Grind via Weisdale valley

09.30 Mavis Grind (geowall, quarry with granite and diorite mixing - 20 min walk, steepish incline)

10.45 Depart for Braewick via Ronas Voe

11.45 Arrive Braewick (toilets)

12:00 Braewick Beach (Melby fault separating carboniferous granite from Devonian sandstones and volcanics - approx. 1 mile walk, some boggy some stony)

13:30 Lunch / toilets

14.15 Depart for Eshaness Coast

14.30 Eshaness coastal walk (dramatic geomorphology / volcanic exposures – approx. 3 miles easy terrain with steps and stiles)

17.30 Depart for Braewick Café

18.00 Pre-booked dinner at Braewick Café (toilets)

20.00 Depart Braewick café

21.00 Arrive Lerwick