

U3A Shetland Geology Trip ~ Thursday 5 to Thursday 12 June 2008

The wild and remote Shetland archipelago is renowned for its scenery, wildlife, archaeology and rocks, a must-visit for anyone who loves Scottish islands. The geology is very varied, with representatives of the rocks that make much of the Highlands of Scotland crammed into a small area, with the icing on the cake being a unique assemblage from an ancient ocean floor now visible in Unst in the far north.

This trip has been designed to give a thorough introduction to Shetland, covering not only the rocks but with opportunities to visit sites of archaeological and wildlife interest. We'll have short walks every day (maximum 4 miles), sometimes on rough ground, and a flexible programme allowing you some opportunities to follow your own interests.

The trip is being run for U3A by Angus Miller of Geowalks and Allen Fraser of Shetland Geotours. Angus has organised several U3A geology trips in other parts of Scotland and Allen is the local expert! Visit www.geowalks.co.uk and www.shetlandgeology.com for further details.

Outline Programme

Thursday 5 June Travel to Aberdeen for 5pm departure on the overnight ferry to Lerwick.

Friday Arrive Lerwick 7:30am, transfer to hostel, morning exploring Lerwick. Afternoon trip to St Ninian's Isle.

Saturday Shetland's Volcano Trail – Eshaness. Day trip to the northwest of the Shetland Mainland.

Sunday Day trip to Unst, to visit the ophiolite rocks and Viking heritage.

Monday Rest day in Lerwick, time to visit museum, take a boat trip or the ferry to Bressay.

Tuesday Scalloway and West Mainland, visit Tingwall and walk to the Culswick Broch.

Wednesday Island of Mousa and Viking geology in the south Mainland. Early evening departure from Lerwick, overnight ferry to Aberdeen.

Thursday Arrive Aberdeen 7am, return home.

Details

Cost

The total cost will be in the region of £460-500 per person. This will be finalised once we have an idea of the number of people.

This includes:

course fee £220-260 (including guides, minibus transport in Shetland and inter-island ferries)

Aberdeen-Lerwick ferry return £140 and

Youth Hostel accommodation, breakfasts, lunches £100

You can opt out of the ferry and youth hostel and make your own arrangements, but you must specify this when you book.

Transport

In Shetland we will use a local hired minibus to get around. Suggested travel to Shetland by public transport to Aberdeen (not included in the cost) and overnight ferry (shared 2 or 4 person cabins; cost reduced to £60 if you don't require a cabin). Alternatively you can make your own arrangements to fly. You can extend your stay if you wish, as long as you make this clear when booking.

Accommodation & Catering

We will be based at Isleburgh House in Lerwick, a comfortable youth hostel with single-sex dorms. The cost above covers five nights accommodation and self-service breakfasts and lunches. Alternatively if you'd prefer B&B or a hotel you are free to make your own arrangements – please ask for recommendations!

For evening meals there is a choice of eating out or self-catering if you are staying in the hostel. We will plan to have at least one meal out as a group.

Booking Conditions

Provisional bookings are now being taken. Bookings need to be confirmed by 31 January 2008 - fill in a Booking & Medical form and send it to Angus Miller with a deposit of £100 (cheques payable to Geowalks). Full payment is due four weeks in advance. If you cancel your booking, refunds will only be available if we manage to fill your place. Travel insurance is recommended – many insurers offer cheap UK-only cover.

In the unlikely event of the trip being cancelled, you will be informed immediately and receive a full refund.

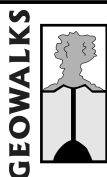
Level of fitness required

The trip will involve short walks on paths and rough ground (up to 4 miles). There will be some flexibility in the programme, allowing you to opt out and do your own thing if you wish. Suitable for people who walk regularly and are accustomed to rough ground.

Recommended Reading

Geology and Landscapes of Scotland, Con Gillen, 2003. Terra Publishing, ISBN 1-903544-09-2.

Orkney & Shetland, Scottish Natural Heritage (Landscape fashioned by Geology Series), 2001. ISBN 1-85397-220-7.



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