



Shetland Islands

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Best Places to Eat

- » Hay's Dock (p306)
- » Peerie Shop Cafe (p306)
- » Mill Cafe (p310)
- » Frankie's Fish & Chips (p315)
- » Burrastow House (p310)

Best Places to Stay

- » Burrastow House (p310)
- » Busta House Hotel (p315)
- » Almara B&B (p316)
- » Gardiesfauld Hostel (p319)
- » Nesbister Camping Bød (p310)

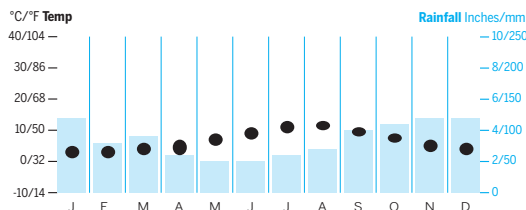
Why Go?

Adrift in the North Sea and close enough to Norway geographically and historically to make nationality an ambiguous concept here, the Shetland Islands are Britain's most northerly outpost. There's a distinct Scandinavian lilt to the local accent, and walking down streets named King Haakon or St Olaf recalls the fact that Shetland was under Norse rule until 1469, when it was gifted to Scotland in lieu of the dowry of a Danish princess. The setting of this archipelago of mighty, wind-ravaged clumps of brown and green earth rising from the frigid waters of the North Sea is still uniquely Scottish though, with deep, naked glens flanked by steep hills, twinkling, sky-blue lochs and (of course) sheep on the roads.

One of the great attractions of Shetland is the birdlife; it's definitely worth packing binoculars even if you're not fanatical about it.

When to Go

Lerwick



Jan Midwinter sees the Up Helly Aa festival and the best chance of seeing the aurora borealis.

June Mid-summer brings good weather and the long, twilight evenings known as *simmer dim*.

July The Shetland Nature Festival coincides with the height of the seabird nesting season.



Shetland Islands Highlights

- 1 Discover your inner Viking at Shetland's **Up Helly Aa** (p303) festival
- 2 Pose with puffins and dodge dive-bombing skuas at the birdwatching honeypot of **Hermaness** (p318)
- 3 Blow away the cobwebs amid the remote and beautiful landscapes of **Foula** (p311)
- 4 Check out 5000 years of history at the absorbing **Shetland Museum** (p303)
- 5 Watch the wild Shetland weather pummel the spectacular seacliffs of **Eshaness** (p316)
- 6 Delve into the islands' fascinating archaeology at the ancient sites of **Jarlshof** (p313) and **Old Scatness** (p314)
- 7 Take advantage of offbeat accommodation in a no-frills camping **bòd** or a romantic **lighthouse cottage** (p307)
- 8 Explore Shetland's countless creeks and remote islands by **sea kayak** (p313)