

GREAT BRITAIN-SHETLAND ISLANDS

**Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++44**

VisitShetland: Market Cross, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LU, UK, Tel. +44 (0) 8701 999440, Fax: +44 (0) 1595 695807, E-mail: info@visitscotland.com, Website: www.visitshetland.com

Capital: Lerwick

Background: Shetland's earliest mention may be a Latin text about Agricola's circumnavigation of the Britiksh Isles, which reads: '*Dispecta est et Thule*' ('and even thule was sighted'). But scholars still argue about whether Thule was Fair Isle or Foula, or Faroe or Iceland, so the first written records of Shetland are really Norse sagas. For over 600 years after the Viking invasions in the late 8th centuries AD, the islands' trade, language and social life were thoroughly Norwegian. Shetland became the northern third of the great earldom based on Orkney during the golden age of the Vikings, chronicled in the Orkneyinga Saga – which contains numerous references to the islands. In 1263 King Harald of Norway's fleet rendezvoused at *Breideyarsund* (probably Bressay Sound, the 'broad islands' in the placename being Bressay and Noss, then joined by a shallow beach at low tide) en route to the Battle of Largs, which marked the end of Norwegian domination on the west coast of Scotland.

Location: Shetland is on longitude 01deg.W of Greenwich and straddles latitude 60deg.N, 598 miles (962km) north of London and just 400 miles (643km) south of Arctic Circle. This is as far north as St. Petersburg, Russia, or Anchorage, Alaska.

Map References: United Kingdom

Area: By far the largest island is the 'Mainland' (351 sq.miles / 899km2) followed by Yell (212km2), Unst (120km2), Fetlar (38km2), Bressay (28km2), Whalsay (23km2), Burra (16km2).

Population: 22,500

Nationality: Scots.

Ethnic Groups: By the latter part of Shetland's Viking Age some of the ruling families were half Norwegian and half Scots. In those days the distinction would not have mattered much anyway. But well into the 19th century most Shetlanders would have had four Shetland-born grandparents.

Religions: Roman Christianity (c.1560)

Languages: Scottish Language, dialect of the English language, Scottish Gaelic.

Currency: 1 British pound = 100 pence

Ports and Harbors: Lerwick Ferry Terminal

Airports: Sumburgh Airport, 25 miles south of Lerwick

Visa: see Visa in UK section.

Duty Free: see Duty Free in UK section.

Health: see Health in UK section

HOTELS / MOTELS / INNS

HILLSWICK

ST. MAGNUS BAY HOTEL, Hillswick, ZE2 9RW,T: 01806 503 372, reception@stmagnusbayhotel.co.uk, www.stmagnusbayhotel.co.uk

LERWICK

19c ST. MAGNUS STREET, 19c St. Magnus Street, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0JT, Tel. +44 (0) 1950 431496, E-mail: cairnlea@btinternet.com

GRAND HOTEL, Commercial Street, Lerwick, Shetland Islands, ZE1 0AB,Tel : +44 (0)1595 692826 ,Fax : +44 (0)1595 694048, info@kqghotels.co.uk, <http://www.kqghotels.co.uk/grand.htm>

GLEN ORCHY HOUSE, 20 Knab Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0AX, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 1595 692031, glenorchy.house@virgin.net, <http://www.ghosthouselerwick.com>

KVELDSRO HOTEL, Greenfield Place, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0AQ, Tel. +44 (0) 1595 692195, Fax. +44 (0) 1595 696595, E-mail: reception@kveldsrohotel.co.uk, <http://www.shetlandhotels.com/kveldsro>

THE LERWICK HOTEL, 15 South Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0RB, Tel. (01595) 692166 ,Fax: (01595) 694419, reception@lerwickhotel.co.uk, <http://www.shetlandhotels.com/lerwick>

THE QUEEN'S HOTEL, 24 Commercial Street, Lerwick, ZE1 0AB, Tel. +44 (0) 1595 692826, Fax. +44 (0) 1595 694048, E-mail: info@kqghotels.co.uk, website: www.kqghotels.co.uk

THE SHETLAND HOTEL, Holmsgarth Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0PW, Tel. (01595) 695515,Fax: (01595) 695828, reception@shetlandhotel.co.uk, <http://www.shetlandhotels.com/shetland>

NORTH MAINLAND

BUSTA HOUSE HOTEL, Busta, Brae, Shetland, ZE2 9QN, Tel. +44 (0) 1806 522506, Fax. +44 (0) 1806 522588, E-mail: reservations@bustahouse.com, website: www.bustahouse.com

SETTERBRAE, Spiggie, Near Scousburgh, Shetland, Tel: +44 (0)1950 460468, info@setterbrae.co.uk, <http://www.setterbrae.co.uk>

THE SPIGGIE HOTEL, Dunrossness, Shetland Isles, ZE2 9JE ,P:+44 (0)1950 460 409, spiggiehotel@gmail.com, <http://www.thespiggiehotel.co.uk>

SOUTH MAINLAND

GLOVER LODGES, Blaisdon, Ocrquooy, Cunningsburgh, Shetland, ZE2 9HA, Tel: 01950 477596 , Fax: 01950 477642 , info@gloverlodges.co.uk, <http://www.gloverlodges.co.uk>

YELL

VOE VIEW COTTAGE, Mid Yell, Shetland, ZE2 9BJ, Tel. +44 (0) 1957 702307

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

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SCATSTA AIRPORT, Brae, Shetland, ZE2 9QP, Tel. +44 (0) 1806 244900

SUMBURGH AIRPORT, Sumburgh, Virkie, Shetland, ZE3 9JP, Tel. +44 (0) 1950 460654, Fax. +44 (0) 1950 460218, website: www.hial.co.uk

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SHETLAND ISLAND COUNCIL, Townhall, Upper Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0HB, Tel. +44 (0) 1595 743970, Fax. +44 (0) 1595 744509, website: www.shetland.gov.uk/ferries/

TOUR OPERATORS/EXCURSIONS

CYCHARTERS LTD., 1 Bloomfield Place, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0PW, Tel. +44 (0) 1595 696598, Fax. +44 (0) 1595 690441, E-mail: john@cycharters.co.uk, website: www.cycharters.co.uk

ISLAND TRAILS, Seaview, Bigton, Shetland, ZE2 9JA, Tel. +44 (0) 1950 422408, Fax. +44 (0) 1950 422555, website: www.island-trails.co.uk

MOUSA BOAT TRIPS, Leebiton, Sandwick, Shetland, ZE2 9HP, Tel/Fax. +44 (0) 1950 431367, website: www.mousaboattrips.co.uk

SHETLAND GEOTOURS, Meal, Hamnavoe, Burra Isle, Shetland, ZE2 9LB, Tel. +44 (0) 1595 859218, E-mail: info@shetlandgeology.com, website: www.shetlandgeology.com

DIVING SCHOOLS

HALTON CHARTERS, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 851532, website: www.mvhalton.co.uk

SCAPA FLOW DIVING & JOHN'S CHARTER, Tel. +44 (0) 1856 874761, E-mail: john@scapaflo.com, website: www.scapaflo.com

