

anyone looking for someone to share a twin bedded room - see booking form.

Cost

For 2 people sharing a double or twin room, the cost of the 8-night tour will be £1150.00 per person; for single occupancy, the cost will be £1295.00 per person.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Damon as tutor who will be available to you at all reasonable times
- Accommodation and meals as specified in the brochure
- Packed lunches for each field day
- All internal ferry fares on Shetland

What's excluded from the cost?

- The cost of travel between your home and Shetland
- Travel insurance
- Incidental expenses.

Insurance

Everyone booking a place and paying a deposit is advised to take out holiday insurance. This can cover you against loss of money in the event of cancellation etc. Cover is often included in with many credit cards.

Booking

Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £250.00 per person or the full payment and a completed booking form. The balance will be payable not later than March 31 2012. The course will run subject to a minimum of 10 people signing up by December 31 2011. The enquiry levels for this course have been heavy, so you are advised to book early.

Your money...

Upon receipt, all monies paid for these tours are placed in a specific 'client trust account' where it cannot be drawn by us until after completion of the tour. This is in accordance with EU Directives and ensures that your money is safe in the unlikely event of corporate failure by Geo Supplies.

Any Questions?

Please ring Chris Damon on 0114 2455746 if you have any questions or queries. I'll do my best to help you. Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

Geology Field Course to The Shetland Isles June 15-24 2012



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Down to Earth is a division of Geo Supplies Ltd.

An introduction to the course...

I first visited the Shetland Islands 30 years ago and since then I must have been more than a dozen times. During the years Shetland has changed almost beyond recognition. Oil money has brought good roads and excellent inter-island ferry links, whilst traditional industries like fishing have continued alongside. Shetland people are extremely friendly, and hospitable. i

Shetland is a very special place with unique geology, and landscapes - with very few trees. In short, its about as 'different' as you can get whilst still being within the British Isles.

This course has been designed so that you can come either by air via Aberdeen, or sail on the luxury Northlink Ferry from Aberdeen via Orkney, arriving in Shetland on the morning of June 15 - the choice is yours!

Shetland is a place where it's possible to get up close to all aspects of natural history, the birds, the flowers, and the rocks. It's also a place that's steeped in history, so we include visits to archaeological sites as well. Everyone should visit Shetland at least once - come and enjoy!

Kind regards



Chris Darmon BSc
Tour Organiser/Leader

The Shetland Isles & their Geology

The Shetland Islands are situated some 50 miles north of John 'o Groats and comprise a group of islands, around a dozen of which are inhabited. They are surprisingly large, around 80 miles from Sumburgh Head in the South to the Muckle Flugga lighthouse in the north.

Shetland is crossed by a northerly extension of the Great Glen Fault and has a collection of metamorphic and igneous rocks that relate to the Lewisian, Moine and Dalradian. This basement is overlain by a variable suite of Devonian rocks that include classic Old Red Sandstone, but also a thick sequence of volcanics, including rhyolites and basalts.

To do justice to the geology, it's essential to base ourselves part of the week on the most northerly island of Unst. From here we can access not only Unst with its serpentine, talc and chromite, but also the islands of Yell and Fetlar, the latter with an amazing metamorphosed conglomerate. The Shetland Islands roll-on, roll-off ferries are quick, efficient and largely free! From our base in Lerwick we can explore Mainland, taking in Scalloway, Sumburgh and the archaeological site at Jarlshof. Geologically we'll explore the Devonian of Sumburgh Head, the volcanics of Esha Ness and the beautiful schists of Fetherland.

Getting There

Getting to Shetland is an adventure in itself, and isle an important part of your experience. The quick and easy way is to fly from Aberdeen with FlyBe (around £100.00 return). Add-on flights with FlyBe from other parts of the UK, can work out very reasonable. But be warned the flight is quick, but the airport in Shetland suffers from fog from time to time and can be closed.

The leisurely route is to book a cabin on board the comfortable Northlink Ferry that leaves Aberdeen at 17.00 on the evening of June 14 and arrives into Lerwick at around 8.00 on the June 15. It calls into Orkney on the way and with daylight until after 11.00pm, this can be a great cruise. Naturally you can choose to return via either means to suit yourself.

At this stage you are advised to explore the options, but not to make any firm bookings, until at least November.

Getting Around

We will either make use of self drive vehicles - if you are willing to drive, please let me know - or having a small coach and driver. A lot depends on the final numbers.

Walking

Everything should be within the capabilities of all of the party. We will always try to get as close as possible to the sites, but this will still mean that there are some walks of a couple of miles, to see the best exposures. This is especially true of Hermaness Nature Reserve where there is a round walk of around 5 miles.

However, if at any time you wish to 'opt out' that will be fully acceptable and understood. In view of the uncertainties of the weather you are strongly advised to bring all waterproofs and walking boots – particularly as you will be walking over rough ground.

Itinerary

The following is not intended to be prescriptive, but to give you an idea of what we might want to cover during the tour.

- The Unst Ophiolite Complex - chromite, talc, serpentine - thrusts
- The Funzie Conglomerate of Fetlar
- The Eshaness volcanics - mugearite, rhyolite and andesite with vent agglomerate
- The metamorphics of Fetherland - schists
- The augen gneisses of Mavis Grind
- The Old Red Sandstone of Sumburgh Head and the Lerwick Area
- The granites of West Shetland and the Hillswick area
- The archaeology of Jarlshof and Clickimmin Broch

Accommodation & Food

Good food and a good night's rest are important elements on our tours and so we always try to use small, family run, hotels and guesthouses that offer en-suite or private facilities.

For this tour we will make use of three different hotels. Our Lerwick base is the superbly appointed Glen Orchy House, a 3-star guesthouse. All rooms are en suite and breakfasts are excellent. It's also possible that we will enjoy a Thai buffet on one evening, cooked by mine hostess. Other evening meals will be taken at restaurants in the Lerwick area, including a sample of the finest Shetland fish at the restaurant at the North Atlantic Fisheries College in Scalloway.

For our 3-night stay on the island of Unst we are based at the Baltasound Hotel. Once again, all rooms are en suite, many located in individual log cabins. Here we will take bed, breakfast and evening meal. Packed lunches will be provided for each field day.

Our final 3-nights are at the amazing St. Magnus Bay Hotel in Hillswick in NW mainland. This building dates from the early 1900s and was built in Norway. After display at an exhibition in Glasgow it moved northwards to occupy this amazing position at the head of Hillswick Bay. Excellent Shetland cuisine is a standard here!

Single accommodation is available, but is limited and subject to a modest supplement. We are happy to help