



Down to Earth

"Earth science learning for all"

The Shetland Isles

June 20-27



The coastline of Papa Stour

A word from your leaders...

At last we are returning to Shetland some four years after our last visit. We have visited Shetland many times over the years, but this is a very different Shetland field trip, with most of the time based in North Mainland, allowing us access to new places, including the amazing coast of Papa Stour, every inch of which is European Heritage Coastline. We are basing most of the trip at the St Magnus Bay Hotel in Hillswick where Andrea and Paul will look after us. By the time of our visit they will have pretty well completed a five year refurbishment of this fine wooden building.

Shetland is a very special place, where the UK meets the Nordic lands and it's geology is pretty special too. It is crossed by the Great Glen fault in a north-south line which brings in slivers of metamorphic rocks from the Lewisian, Moinian and Dalradian. These rocks are overlain by sediments and volcanics from the Devonian. We'll take in much of the rich variety that make up this Geopark.

We'll have the use of a minibus, with additional cars as required for this trip, which we are both greatly looking forward to. We expect this trip to book up fast, so don't delay in getting back to us.

Chris Darton & Colin Schofield
Course Organisers/Leaders

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Getting to Shetland

Getting to Shetland is an adventure in itself, and can be part of your 'Shetland experience'. The quick and easy way is to fly from Aberdeen with Loganair (around £150.00 return). Add-on flights with Loganair 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 19.00 on the evening of June 8 and arrive into Lerwick at 07.30 the following morning. At the end of the trip, there's a departure from Lerwick at 19.00 on the Sunday evening. Naturally you can choose to return via either plane or boat to suit yourself. If you come by ship, there's a bus from the ferry terminal direct to the hotel in Hillswick.

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

Getting Around

As usual, we'll have the use of a 17-seater minibus, driven by 'our Colin'. There may also be a need for a couple of extra hired cars, so we may be looking for a couple of volunteer drivers!

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 the island of Papa Stour, 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.



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. Over the 30 plus years that we've been visiting, the islands have seen massive improvements to infrastructure as the oil and gas industry has continued apace. That said, the people are still the same as they ever were, friendly and unhurried - welcome to Shetland!

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, Moinian 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.

With some quite long distances to travel across different islands, we'll be sampling some very different parts of the Shetland Geopark. Our base in North Mainland at Hillswick will allow us to visit the amazing rocks of Fetherland with their mica schists and talc. We'll also spend a day on Unst with its serpentine, talc and chromite. We'll take in the Devonian rocks of Eshaness and the Walls Peninsular. We'll also spend a very full day on the tiny island of Papa Stour with its coastal cliffs of Devonian volcanics. The Shetland Islands roll-on, roll-off ferries are quick, efficient and sometimes free! On this occasion we won't be able to take in the famous archaeological sites as these are down near to the airport, but why not stay on and do them for yourself?

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.

- Metamorphic and igneous rocks of North Fetherland
- Devonian rocks of the Walls Peninsular
- The Eshaness volcanics - mugearite, rhyolite and andesite with vent agglomerate
- The amazing coastline of Papa Stour with its rhyolites and basalt along with its sea caves, arches and stacks
- Down in the basement on the island of Unst
- Strange rocks along the Walls boundary fault
- The granites of West Shetland and the Hillswick area

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 two different hotels. Our Hillswick base is the historic wooden St. Magnus Bay Hotel set in the small community of Hillswick. All rooms are en suite and Andrea's food is well known, with some Shetland specialities. Our final 2-nights are spent in the south, where we will stay at the Sumburgh Hotel, quite close to the airport and on a bus route back to Lerwick for those returning by the ferry. This hotel is also noted for its Shetland cuisine. Once again, all rooms are en-suite and comfortable.



Single accommodation is available, but is limited and subject to a modest supplement. We are happy to help 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 this 7-night tour will be £1395.00 per person. For single occupancy the cost will be £1595.00 per person.

What's included in the cost?

- The services of Chris Damon & Colin Schofield as tutors 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
- Admissions to museums and archaeological sites as visited by all of the group

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 strongly 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 bank accounts and credit cards.

Booking

Your booking will be confirmed upon receipt of either a deposit of £300.00 per person or the full payment and a completed booking form. The balance will be payable not later than March 31st 2020. The trip will run subject to a minimum of 15 people signing up by January 31st 2020,

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.

What happens next?

As soon as we are in a position of confirming that the trip will run - we will let you know. You will then be free to start making your own travel plans and to take advantage of any early deals on train/air tickets.

Please don't make any such arrangements until we have been in touch with you.

Also see information contained in our 'Residential Field Trips 2020'

Any Questions?

Please ring Chris Darmon on 0114 2455746 or email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk

if you have any questions or queries. I'll do my best to help you.



Rocks and scenery of the Walls Peninsular

**If you have any questions or queries - contact Chris Darmon as follows:-
Email: downtoearth@geosupplies.co.uk • Tel: 0114 245 5746 • FAX: 0114 240 3405**