# Shetland: Midsummer Magic
# 2-8 July 2027



*Red-necked Phalarope by Steve Young*

This tour is designed to experience the magic of Shetland at its best, when long summer days bring the islands alive. From spectacular seabird cliffs and remote beaches to moorlands and wetlands, Shetland offers an amazing variety of habitats and wildlife to go with it.

In this unique northerly outpost of Britain, we will be on the lookout for special breeding birds. We'll admire Puffins at their clifftop burrows, Red-necked Phalaropes spinning on quiet lochs and Arctic Skuas patrolling the moors, while also experiencing the magic of a European Storm Petrel colony at night.

As well as plentiful birds, we hope for encounters with Orca and Eurasian Otter around the islands' dramatic coastlines. Combining this biodiversity bonanza with rugged landscapes and Shetland's unique island character, this promises an unforgettable summer wildlife experience.

## Itinerary

Join us for an unforgettable summer wildlife adventure across the islands of Shetland, exploring a rich variety of coastal, moorland and wetland habitats. We'll visit some of the islands' most rewarding birding sites, searching for breeding seabirds, scarce island specialities and the summer visitors that make Shetland such a unique destination. The long northern days give us plenty of time

to explore, while a flexible approach allows us to make the most of local conditions and recent sightings. As daylight fades, we'll also experience one of Shetland's most magical wildlife spectacles, heading out after dark in search of European Storm Petrels. With dramatic landscapes, exceptional birdlife and the ever-present possibility of something unexpected, every day promises a new wildlife experience.

Accommodation will be at the comfortable 2.5-3* Brae Hotel for 5 nights.

**Day 1: Departure from Aberdeen Ferry Terminal**
**Location:** Aberdeen to Lerwick Ferry
**Activities:** We'll meet at the Aberdeen Ferry Terminal to begin our overnight voyage to Shetland. We shall confirm the exact time as soon as the ferry timetable is released in early 2027. The ferry is spacious and comfortable, with lounges, a cinema, a cafeteria and a restaurant onboard. Standard tour fees include reclining pod seats, but upgrades to cabins are available on request and for an additional charge, subject to availability. This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow birders and our guides, and to prepare for the exciting days ahead in one of Britain's most legendary birding locations.

**Days 2-6: Shetland birding**
**Location:** Mainland Shetland and surrounding islands
**Activities:** From Sumburgh Head in the south to the most northerly isle of Unst, we will explore Shetland over the next five days. A wide range of breeding species will be on the cards, including various waders, Arctic and Great Skuas, Red-throated Diver, Arctic Tern and Whooper Swan. A special effort will be made to find one of Britain's rarest and most beautiful nesting birds, Red-necked Phalarope. We will also be taking a boat trip to see seabirds such as Puffin, Guillemot, Northern Fulmar and diving Northern Gannets up close – this will be an absolute treat for the photographers!

Also on our Shetland trip, we'll indulge in a distillery tour and tasting session in Lerwick, and an evening trip to an isolated islet to experience the magic of breeding European Storm Petrels.

There is also the possibility of rarities during the summer months and we will endeavour to catch up with these vagrant species if they appear. Recent midsummer thrills in Shetland have included Black-winged Pratincole, Greater Sand Plover, Pacific Swift, Savannah and White-throated Sparrows, Oriental Turtle Dove and Eyebrowed Thrush. With a direct link to the BirdGuides Sightings team, we'll be in prime position to respond quickly to any breaking rarity news.

**Day 7: Departure returning to Aberdeen Ferry Terminal**
**Location:** Lerwick Ferry to Aberdeen
**Activities:** We will spend time exploring top migrant spots in South Mainland and enjoy lunch before boarding the afternoon ferry sailing back to Aberdeen. Departure time will be at approximately 5pm, arriving in Aberdeen the following morning at approximately 7am. We shall again confirm the exact departure time as soon as the ferry timetable has been released.

## Pricing

Our Shetland birding tour offers exceptional value, with the price covering comfortable accommodation, ground transportation, entrance fees to all scheduled sites and reserves, and the expertise of an experienced birding guide.

Priced at £3,049 per person, a single supplement is an additional £275.

A non-refundable deposit of 20% of the total trip price, per person, is required to secure the booking. The final balance is due 60 days before the tour start date.

Included in the price:

- Accommodation throughout the tour at Brae Hotel
- All evening meals from Day 1 to Day 6, and also breakfast from Day 2, through to Day 7
- Ground transportation during the tour (minibus)
- Return ferry from Aberdeen to Lerwick – reclining pod seat
- All inter-island ferries
- Services of two experienced birding guides
- Entrance fees to all scheduled sites and reserves

Not included:

- International flights to and from the UK;
- Visa fees, if applicable;
- Travel insurance;
- Beverages and lunch;
- Optional activities not specified in the itinerary.

## Trip Information

**Tour leader**

This tour is run exclusively for BirdGuides Travel by WildSpace. Your tour leader will be John Hague.

**Group size**

Eight, plus tour leader.

**Minimum participants**

This tour requires a minimum of five confirmed participants. If we do not have the minimum required number of participants, we reserve the right to cancel this tour. We will notify you not less than 30 days before the start of the tour should this be necessary.

**Recommended items**

- Binoculars;
- Telescope. Your guide will have a scope that will be shared with the group;
- Camera and waterproof camera cover;
- Water bottle and fridge bag for lunches on the go;
- Walking poles;
- Comfortable walking shoes;
- Clothing to suit the weather including a hat and sun protection, as well as water/windproof coat in case of rain and chilly sea breezes.

**Is this tour for me?**

- Due to the rugged terrain, this tour is unsuitable for people with reduced mobility;
- We will be walking on average 1-4 miles per day with plenty of breaks;
- Boats are accessible;
- The hotel is adaptable and ground floor rooms can be requested;

- The hotel can adapt to dietary requirements however cannot guarantee the absence of any allergens due to them being prepared in a kitchen containing allergens;
- BirdGuides Travel tours are unsuitable for persons under the age of 16 years old. Please talk to us before booking your trip should you require further information.

## Financial Security

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