



Puffins above Sumburgh. Photo credit to HIAL.

# Sumburgh





As the most northerly outpost of the United Kingdom Shetland lies on an equivalent latitude to St Petersburg and Anchorage, and is significantly closer to the Arctic Circle than to London. Despite this the climate remains relatively mild thanks to the [Slope Current](#), and the richness of the natural environment can be attributed to Shetland's unique position.

This location close to Norway and as a stepping stone to the rest of the UK or before crossing the Atlantic made Shetland highly attractive to the Vikings and the evidence of their long links with the archipelago are still apparent – most notably in the annual [Up Helly Aa](#) celebrations. The welcoming and vibrant community make it a rewarding place to both live and work.

25 miles south of the main town Lerwick, the [airport](#) at Sumburgh is not only busy with multiple [flights](#) daily to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness, but also serves as a helicopter terminal to service the offshore oil and gas industry. It also has the distinction of being the only UK airport with a public road crossing its main runway. There is also a daily [ferry](#) service to Aberdeen that helps keep Shetland well connected to Mainland Scotland.

The islands can be considered highly self-reliant with excellent primary and secondary [school](#) provision, while [Shetland College](#) offers further and higher education in conjunction with the University of the Highlands and Islands. Employment sectors include healthcare, transport, tourism and energy, with the area dependent especially upon fishing and the offshore oil and gas economy.

# SUMBURGH – links to further information

- [Sumburgh Airport](#)
  - [Shetland Islands Council](#)
  - [Information on living in Shetland](#)
  - [Advice for moving to Shetland from outside the UK](#)
  - [The Islands Bill](#)
  - [Shetland Times newspaper](#)
  - [Local business directory](#)
  - [Average annual weather information](#)
  - [Next 7 days weather forecast plus tide predictions](#)
  - [Shetland Recreational Trust](#)
  - [Shetland tourist website](#)
  - [Directory of community groups, churches and support services](#)
  - [Sold house prices for Shetland, plus links to property searches and estate agent details. Enter postal code ZE1, 2 or 3 to search.](#)
  - [The cost of living on a Scottish Island](#)
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- Find out more about what is currently happening in Shetland on Twitter:
  - [Sumburgh Airport](#) [Shetland Times](#) [Shetland News](#)

For a more in-depth look at some aspects of Shetland's culture and history please follow this link to a video guide: Up Helly Aa | Scotland's Viking Fire Festival Shetland Islands. [Up Helly Aa | Scotland's Viking Fire Festival Shetland Islands.](#)

