

## SUNSHINE GUIDE TO THE SHETLAND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND

LOCATION: The Shetland Islands are a group of some hundred islands located in the North Sea off of the northern coast of Scotland proper. They are the most northerly part of both Scotland and the United Kingdom. About a dozen of the islands are inhabited the year around, with the capital at Lerwick on the largest island. This is called Mainland, despite its island nature. The islands are extremely rugged and indented by many fjords. Elevations run from sea level to some 1,486 above it at the summit of Ronas Hill.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
HOURS OF DAYLIGHT	6:47	9:05	11:46	14:33	17:10	18:46	18:04	15:42	12:59	10:13	7:37	6:02
HOURS OF SUNSHINE	0:45	1:51	2:50	4:24	5:02	5:09	4:00	3:53	3:19	2:03	1:04	0:27
AREA OF BLUE SKY	22%	22%	23%	26%	27%	24%	21%	22%	25%	24%	25%	24%
LOW FOR MONTH	26°	26°	28°	29°	34°	39°	44°	44°	39°	35°	31°	28°
SUNRISE TEMPERATURE	35°	34°	35°	37°	41°	45°	49°	49°	47°	43°	39°	37°
AFTERNOON TEMPERATURE	41°	41°	43°	46°	51°	54°	58°	58°	55°	50°	46°	43°
HIGH FOR MONTH	49°	48°	50°	52°	58°	62°	64°	63°	61°	56°	52°	50°
FROSTY MORNINGS	25%	25%	20%	13%	3%	1%	0%	0%	1%	1%	9%	16%
AFTERNOONS OVER 90°	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
AFTERNOON HUMIDITY	85%	83%	82%	79%	79%	81%	84%	84%	84%	84%	85%	85%
NEARBY WATERS	45°	45°	46°	46°	48°	51°	54°	55°	53°	51°	49°	46°
DRY DAYS	14%	17%	29%	34%	47%	50%	46%	42%	34%	24%	18%	16%
REASONABLY DRY DAYS	63%	66%	67%	67%	74%	76%	74%	71%	65%	59%	58%	61%
5-DAY PRECIPITATION	0.70	0.59	0.47	0.42	0.34	0.34	0.42	0.47	0.56	0.66	0.73	0.75
LIKELY SNOWFALL	8.9"	7.1"	7.5"	3.6"	0.9"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"	1.0"	4.2"	7.4"
SNOWY DAYS	23%	23%	26%	14%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	3%	12%	19%
THUNDER DAYS	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
FOGGY DAYS	0%	1%	1%	4%	11%	10%	19%	11%	8%	1%	1%	0%

COMMENTS: The islands have a marine version of the sub-arctic climate. Surrounded by open water, winters do not get as cold as the latitude warrants. Nor, on the other hand, do summers get very warm. Summer days are very long, but not truly continuous. The sky is quite cloudy, and clear days are rare. Humidities are obviously quite high, and the winds strong and gusty. Ferry crossings from Aberdeen can be a "rich emotional experience". Summer afternoons are cool more often than mild, very rarely warm, and never hot. Summer nights are windy, chilly, and raw. When the wind drops, the fog moves in from the surrounding waters. Visitors come for the scenery, the ruins, and the bird-watching--not for the weather.