

2023 Shetland Prepare to Travel Zoom Agenda/Meeting Notes

Monday, April 10, 2023. 6:30 p.m. Central

CHECK YOUR EMAIL DAILY!!!!

Pandemic related info:

- NO proof of vaccination required. BUT ALWAYS carry your vaccination card and a photo of it! Things can change quickly.
- Mask-wearing is your choice unless you begin to show signs of ANY illness. Then, wearing a mask at ALL times is expected. N95 or KN95.
- If you want a link to the mask that I like: [KN95 mask that I wear](#).
- You are strongly advised to wear a mask in the airport and flights to Aberdeen.
- Consider bringing a COVID test kit.
- May want to speak with your primary care practitioner to see if they advise traveling with a prescription of Paxlovid.

Passports

- Make a copy/photo on phone!!
- Keep in carry-on...do not pack!

Medications and health issues.

- Any dietary or health issues you did not indicate when you registered...let me know ASAP.

Currency

- Currency is GBP. ATM at airport. ATMs also located in Lerwick. If you need cash, let us know so we can stop at an ATM.
- Tipping:
 - Sarah @ 10-12 GBP/day = \$70 - 84 GBP
 - Luggage guy = @5GBP
 - For Sarah and the "luggage guy", a few days into our tour, I will pass a document bag around with a card for you to sign and you can put your gratuities in. On our departure day, we will give it to Sarah as a group.
 - Jacqueline – Aberdeen tour guide. @2-5 GBP. Each person should individually hand their gratuity (if you choose to give her one) to Jacqueline at the end of the tour.
 - Hotel – there will be no daily housekeeping. If you want to leave a gratuity in your room at the end of your stay, feel free to do so.

Time and weather.

- 6 hours ahead of Central Daylight Time
- Temps averaging mid-upper 40s degrees
- Can be windy!
- 17 Hours of daylight!

Purchases, VAT and VAT claims, shipping home. If you want to ship things, ask the merchants to do the shipping. You will pay for shipping, but will not need to pay the VAT. Please do not plan on shipping anything home through the post office. Come with extra room in your suitcase or pack an extra expandable bag so you have lots of extra room to pack your purchases.

Phones/wifi/communications. Deb will have a phone you can use if you need to make a call. Check with your cellular provider as to the settings to use on your phone so you don't get charged international roaming fees.

Travel insurance – Bring a copy of your coverage with the insurance company contact info and/or the wallet cards. If you can't find the confirmation of your insurance purchase, [email Deb](#) and she will send it to you. If you did not purchase through Deb, please send me a copy of your insurance info...policy number and insurance company contact info.

Care Package notes:

- Electric adapter – I like to pack this in my carry on in case my luggage gets delayed so I can charge stuff when I get to the hotel
- Name tag – please wear out of respect to fellow group members and our guide anytime we are gathered as a group
- Rain jacket – it is not required that you bring/wear it! (Put we sure are a good looking group when you do!) If you do not want your jacket, please donate it...don't toss it.
- Luggage scale only went to those who have not yet received one. (They also make good fiber weighing gadgets!)

Packing:

- [compression bags](#) are great for creating extra room in your suitcase and bring extra compression bags to pack your purchases in to bring home! (Note that the link is not to the bags I purchased years ago. But it will help you get your search started. I like the sets that come with multiple sizes of bags.)
- Another good packing tool is packing cubes or compression packing cubes. [These are the ones I've tried and like.](#)
- Good walking/hiking shoes/boots. An extra pair in case one is wet.
- Don't overpack!! You'll probably wear the same clothes most every day. (This is considered VERY acceptable! 😊)
- Loganair flight to Sumburgh baggage limits. *"All group fares include one checked bag allowance of up to 15kg per person. There will be a charge at the airport for any bag exceeding 15kg or additional bags that have not been prepaid. In addition, passengers may carry one item of cabin baggage not exceeding 40cm x 35cm x 18cm with a maximum weight of 6kg."*
- All other baggage limits, please check directly on your airline website.

Arrival into Aberdeen:

- Knitting needles and crochet hooks
 - OK to take in carry-on with British Airways and U.S. airlines.
- E-tickets bring a printed copy, even if you are using an airline app
- Check your flights!!!

- Recommend you have the airline app on your phone for receiving up-to-date alerts about your flights.
- Arrival into Aberdeen. Check your flight companion list to see who else in our group was on your arrival flight. Go outside the terminal and the taxi stand will be to the left. Easy to see. Get in line and grab a taxi! Most all drivers take credit cards, but double check if you need to use a card. Sometimes their machines aren't working...then you will want to wait for the next taxi.
- Message Deb when you are in the taxi on your way to the hotel. I will meet you in the lobby and help get you to your room.
- There is a bar with food served in the afternoon at the hotel.
- Food & Beverage walking tour on Sunday. Taxi's will be arranged to get us from our hotel to downtown. Approx 3-4-hour tour with about 5 tastings. We'll return to the hotel by 5:00 with dinner at 6:30
- Check-out time on Monday is 11:00 a.m. Taxi transportation to the airport for our flight to Sumburgh will be arranged for 11:00.

Group communications during tour:

- WhatsApp group. Use WhatsApp to text me at 715.220.9279. (Only use this number for texting!) Be sure and tell me your name when you message me through WhatsApp! I will add you to our Shetland group.
- This is only for first-timers traveling with the Fiber Garden. For everyone else, I should already have your phone # and I will add you to the group. You only need to contact me if your cell # has changed since your last trip with me.
- You can use this to reach me if you have flight delays, etc. Also to send a message to our group or to individuals in our group.

Departure from Northlink Ferry terminal to airport on 5/15 will be by taxi.

- Cathie – taxi at 7:30 to the airport on your own.
- Remainder of group departing by air on 5/15, I will arrange for taxis to pick us up at the ferry terminal at 8:15-8:30
- Those traveling independently following the tour are on your own.

Miscellaneous:

- Join our [Facebook travel group!](#)
- Will be taking photos and doing a daily photo journal on Facebook. Let me know if you do not want your picture posted.

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