

2027 Shetland Orientation Zoom Gathering

28 September 2026

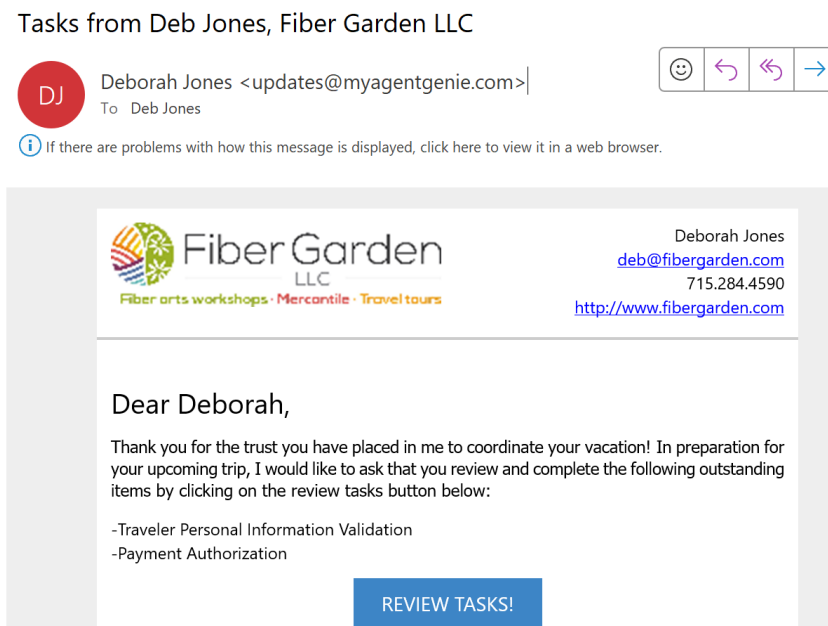
1. Welcome!

2. Most important...Watch for and READ info!!

- a. There will be a series of e-newsletters leading up to the tour. Each will be labeled with an “update #”. Set up an email file or paper file for them and please respond promptly to any requests for information.

3. Client portal

- a. After tonight’s meeting, you’ll receive an email stating “Tasks from Deb Jones, Fiber Garden LLC”. The email will come from “Deborah Jones updates@myagentgenie.com”. It will look like this:



- b. Click on the “Review Tasks!” link in the email which will take you to a “client portal” and complete the self-explanatory tasks which will include:
 - i. Reviewing your personal info, passport info, etc.
 - ii. Approving the payment for your ferry booking and providing your credit card info for the card you want used on this tour.
- c. This portal is a way for us to share information (like cc and passport info) securely.

4. Northlink Ferry:

- a. Overnight ferry on May 15 needs to be booked ASAP. You will authorize payment when you complete your portal tasks.

- b. Note that payments cannot be split. Those sharing a room – one person will need to volunteer to pay for the booking and the other agrees to reimburse them for ½ of the cost.
- c. I will let you know when I'm going to be booking ferry tickets. You must be near your cell phone to text me any codes sent to your phone by your credit card company due to the foreign transaction. (MC, VISA, AMEX)
- d. **Begin reservations Thursday, October 1, between 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.** Central time. Who is NOT available?
- e. **After your ferry reservation is made, please email or text me the exact amount that was charged to your credit card** so I can credit your account and send you an updated invoice.

5. Payments via PayPal

- a. Most payments for the tour will be made directly to our guide, Sarah McBurnie. She has set up a PayPal account for us to send payments to. You **MUST** have a PayPal account to make payments. (You can pay with a credit card, but you still need an account.) If you absolutely cannot/will not pay using PayPal, there is an option to wire the payments to Sarah. In this case, you will be responsible for paying all international wire transfer fees.
- b. Illegal for travelers to pay a travel agent directly. Thus, the need for a method to pay the travel supplier directly.
- c. I will give you the queue to pay, the link to Sarah's account, and the complete directions. After you pay, forward payment receipt to me. Payments to be made to Sarah via PayPal. These instructions will be in a separate email to you (not in an e-newsletter)
 - i. \$250 deposit
 - ii. Final payment. Deb will give you your final payment amount after your ferry booking has been made.
- d. Every time you make a payment and forward the receipt to me, I will record your payment and send you an invoice showing your balance due.
- e. You are welcome to make extra payments or pay more than the minimum deposit amount.

6. Insurance

- a. Everyone will receive two quotes for travel insurance shortly after your deposit has been paid. Two quotes will be sent. One for Pro+ plan from RoamRight or the Preferred plan from TravelGuard (if TG is significantly less cost) and the other for On-Trip coverage only. We will insure the land portion of your trip only (no air). Because airlines typically allow you to cancel your flight and they issue a credit for you to use at a later date, insurance considers this a refund, and it does not need to be insured.
- b. Pro+ and Preferred plans cover trip cancellation if you need to cancel your trip for a covered reason prior to departure. The second On-Trip **ONLY** covers you once travel

starts and you are 100 miles from home. Both options include the important medical, accident, and medical evacuation coverage during travel.

- c. If you live outside of the U.S. (Canada), we can get coverage through RoamRight.

7. Air

- a. **Flight dates.** You will make your air reservations to depart from the U.S. on Thursday, May 6 (arriving into Aberdeen on Friday, May 7) and returning to the U.S. on Sunday, May 16.
- b. For this tour, it is recommended that everyone make their own air reservations. The reason for this is that you maintain control of the reservation.
- c. When booking air, do NOT book through a third party!!
- d. If you are not comfortable or familiar with how to book air, I will help you!!!
- e. Here are some recommendations for booking air to Aberdeen:
 - i. Flights into ABZ will be arriving from either LHR or AMS. I highly recommended connecting in Amsterdam if at all possible!
 - ii. If your only good option is to connect through London, it is highly recommended that you allow at least three-hours connecting time!
 - iii. Departing on May 16, do NOT book a departure flight prior to 9:00 a.m. We have been able to make this flight in the past. I recommend more “breathing room”, and suggest you book flights departing at 10:15 and 10:35 a.m. to LHR and AMS. *I will arrange group transportation to the airport for those departing on flights after 10:00 a.m. If you will be departing for home on an earlier flight, you will be responsible for your taxi fare to the airport.*
 - iv. After you have made your air reservations, please forward your booking to me via email. Forward booking right away so I can double-check it. If there are errors, most airlines give you 24 hours to cancel and rebook without penalty.

8. Extra night in Aberdeen for 2027:

- a. In previous years, the arrival day into Aberdeen has been Saturday, with Friday as an optional day. Beginning in 2027, this extra night in Aberdeen is a part of your tour package and has been included in the tour fee. You will have the entire day free on Friday to explore or relax. Our only activity on Friday will be a group dinner at the hotel restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

9. Mobility

- a. Rough walking on farms and at many scenic stops. Consider hiking pole, walking stick, etc. if you have some minor mobility challenges.
- b. There is a lift at both hotels we will be staying at. Not all floors at the Shetland Hotel are accessible via the lift, **so please let me know if you need a room on a floor with a lift!** (But you will not need to carry your luggage up and down stairs.)

10. Health & Safety

- a. There are currently no requirements for travel related to the pandemic. No testing, masks, etc.
- b. All participants in Fiber Garden events are expected to behave in a manner respectful of the group and take precautions to keep other participants safe from exposure to illness or injury. Anyone showing signs of any illness (not only COVID) after the start of an event will be required to wear an N95 or KN95 mask at all times and eat meals away from the group.
- c. If there are any updates in public health guidance related to travel, we will discuss at our Prepare to Travel Zoom in April. You are responsible for your own health and safety.

11. Stay tuned to your email inbox!! Your immediate next steps will include:

- a. Reviewing your information in the portal (using the link provided in an email)
- b. Being available when I make your ferry reservation.
- c. Paying your deposit (following the instructions you will be sent via email)
- d. Receiving and reviewing your insurance quote
- e. Booking your air and forwarding the booking info to Deb
- f. Add Deb's cell # to your contacts: 715.220.9279. (Please don't call this number. It can be used for texts.)

12. Questions