

Isle of Noss, Shetland, Scotland

A roaring, teeming wall of seabirds on sheer sandstone cliffs — Isle of Noss is a National Nature Reserve with no shops, no restaurants, and absolutely no equal for raw wildlife drama in British waters.

Anchor / Zodiac landing (expedition ships)

Typical call: 4-6 hrs

Currency: British Pound (GBP)

Language: English

Prime season: May–July

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: Arrive: All aboard:

Excursion: Notes:

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: No pier — expedition ships anchor; Zodiac landing at Gungstie jetty (weather permitting)

Best For: Seabird photography, gannet colonies, wildlife boat tours, remote Shetland scenery

Walk to cliffs: ~1.5 mi / 2.4 km from Gungstie landing to Noup of Noss clifftop

Don't Miss: The Noup of Noss — 181m sandstone cliffs with 25,000+ breeding gannet pairs

Getting around: Taxi Varies by distance · Rideshare not available

TOP THINGS TO DO

- Zodiac Cliff Cruise** — Cruise the base of the Noup of Noss in an inflatable Zodiac — 181m of sheer sandstone packed with 25,000 gannet pairs, guillemots, razorbills...
- Noss Circular Walk** — From the Gungstie landing, hike the circuit of the island: up through bonxie (Great Skua) nesting grounds to the clifftop, along the Noup, and back...
- Seabirds & Seals Boat Tour (from Lerwick)** — Depart Victoria Pier, Lerwick on a local wildlife tour boat that circles Bressay and Noss.
- Bressay & Noss Ferry Day** — Independent option: Lerwick–Bressay car ferry (7 min), walk or taxi across Bressay (3 miles), then the small NatureScot inflatable ferry across Noss...

BEST WALKS

- Noss Circular Walk** ~5 mi | 2.5-3 hrs | Moderate-strenuous | Start: Gungstie jetty — From the landing at Gungstie, head east past seal haul-outs, climb through the bonxie nesting grounds (hold a stick above your head — they dive-bomb the highest point)...
- Gungstie Shore Walk (short)** 0.5 mi | 15-20 mins | Easy | Start: Gungstie jetty — A short walk from the landing to the seal haul-out rocks and the warden's cottage.

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)

	Mon	High	Low	Rain
Apr		46°	40°	12d
Jun		55°	49°	13d
Aug		57°	52°	17d
Sep		55°	50°	16d
Oct		51°	47°	19d

DAYLIGHT & MONEY

Apr 5:46AM–8:22PM · Jun 3:39AM–10:30PM · Aug 5:18AM–8:56PM · Sep 6:32AM–7:24PM · Oct 7:44AM–5:53PM

Currency: British Pound (GBP)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Bonxie defence: Great Skuas nest on the central moorland and will dive-bomb your head. Carry a walking pole, stick, or umbrella and hold it above head height — they target the highest point.
- Dress for Shetland: Even in July, expect cold wind and rain. Bring waterproof jacket and trousers, fleece layers, and waterproof hiking boots with grip. There is nowhere to shelter on the island.
- Protect your camera: Zodiac salt spray is brutal. Pack a dry bag or rain cover for cameras and binoculars before boarding.
- No facilities: There are no cafes, shops, or toilets on Noss (a basic composting toilet exists at the warden's cottage only). Bring water and snacks from your ship and pack out all rubbish.
- Season matters: The seabird spectacle peaks May–July. By late August most birds have departed. Puffins arrive late April; gannets stay until September.
- Landings can cancel: Zodiac access and the NatureScot ferry are both highly weather-dependent. Have a backup plan — a wildlife boat cruise of the cliffs from the water is an excellent alternative.

Isle of Noss, Shetland, Scotland — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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| <p>1 Seabirds-and-Seals - THE ORIGINAL & NO.1 NOSS BOAT - EST 1992</p> <p>3 Shetland Textile Museum</p> <p>5 Shetland Museum & Archives</p> <p>7 The Knab</p> <p>P Cruise port / terminal</p> | <p>Boat tour for viewing Noss's seabirds and seals.</p> <p>Museum showcasing Shetland's rich textile heritage and crafts.</p> <p>Museum detailing Shetland's history, culture, and natural heritage.</p> <p>Scenic coastal headland offering panoramic views of Lerwick.</p> | <p>2 Fort Charlotte</p> <p>4 Scalloway Castle</p> <p>6 Noss National Nature Reserve</p> <p>8 Carol's Ponies</p> | <p>Historic 17th-century five-sided artillery fort in Lerwick.</p> <p>Ruined 17th-century tower house, once home to Earl Patrick Stewart.</p> <p>Island nature reserve famous for its spectacular seabird cliffs.</p> <p>Meet and ride Shetland ponies in a scenic setting.</p> |
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