




# S H E T L A N D I S L A N D S

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHS EWEN BELL



Wild, rugged and remote, Scotland's Shetland Isles — more than a 100 of them — are home to pristine landscapes, remarkable wildlife and a traditional way of life that's survived for millennia





### VOE

Located at the head of a fjord, the northern village of Voe is the ideal base for exploring the mainland. Or instead, simply stay put, savouring the epic scenery and quaint village bars, seafood restaurants and toe-tapping live music venues. Arctic terns also flock here, to raise their chicks.





## SUMBURG HEAD

From March to August, a colony of Atlantic puffins alight on the cliffs here to hatch and raise chicks. At the mainland's southern tip, the Sumburgh Head nature reserve is famed for its lighthouse, although the seabirds and orcas steal the show in summer.







## SPIGGIE LOCH

At sunset, the fields around Spiggie Loch — a large, shallow loch in the south of the mainland — turn golden in the light, the low rays illuminating a haze of yellow wildflowers. In contrast to the area's epic, sweeping landscapes and vast skies, the ponies of Shetland are famously diminutive.







## MOUSA

A ferry takes hikers from Leebitton to the uninhabited island of Mousa to explore its dramatic coast and visit its Iron Age *broch*, a round, drystone tower. Having survived intact for centuries, the biggest threat it faces today is from nesting storm petrels. 📌

