

LERWICK

Commercial Street winds through the heart of Lerwick's historic town centre. Its paved route is bordered on both sides by original stone buildings housing a wide range of independent local retailers and businesses.

On one side, this main high street is bordered by the picturesque waterfront where visiting yachts and cruise ships regularly berth in the summer bringing in over 100,000 visitors. On the landward side, a series of quirky narrow lanes lead up from the old town to the new, each with its own unique history and character. Over 100 flower arrangements are distributed each summer from a local plant centre, and along with the bunting and additional picnic bench seating, provide a bright and attractive area to spend time in. A new project to develop a town centre Art Trail is underway with over £100,000 being spent on this and other improvements to the area by August 2020.

The Esplanade space with a feature 'Shetland' bicycle rack, has recently been updated with a Scottish Water 'top up tap' to fill reusable water bottles. Local businesses are taking steps to minimise waste by switching to environmentally sustainable takeaway packaging and falling in line with new recycling initiatives implemented by the local authority. Careful consideration of refuse container placement has been paramount in the restricted area with 142 businesses in addition to residential properties.

Businesses and the wider Shetland community take part in a range of activities throughout the year which bring footfall to the high street. During the annual Christmas parade, Santa himself is delivered to the quayside by the local lifeboat as part of this fantastic community event.

Commercial Street deserves to be Scotland's most beautiful high street because of its unique charm and beauty. It is a traditional local high street at the heart of Shetland's community.



Ben Mullay Photography

Shetland Islands with Leah

