

Guidebook to Forvik



‘Centre of the known Universe’

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For Visit Forvik**

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Visitors to Forvik are often not aware of what the island offers. Hopefully this small booklet will inform and entertain while you plan your visit. Whether you're looking for history, sport, music or culture; Forvik will surprise you.

Suggestions for improvements are always welcome.



Forvik Opera House and Multiplex Cinema

We're looking for you!

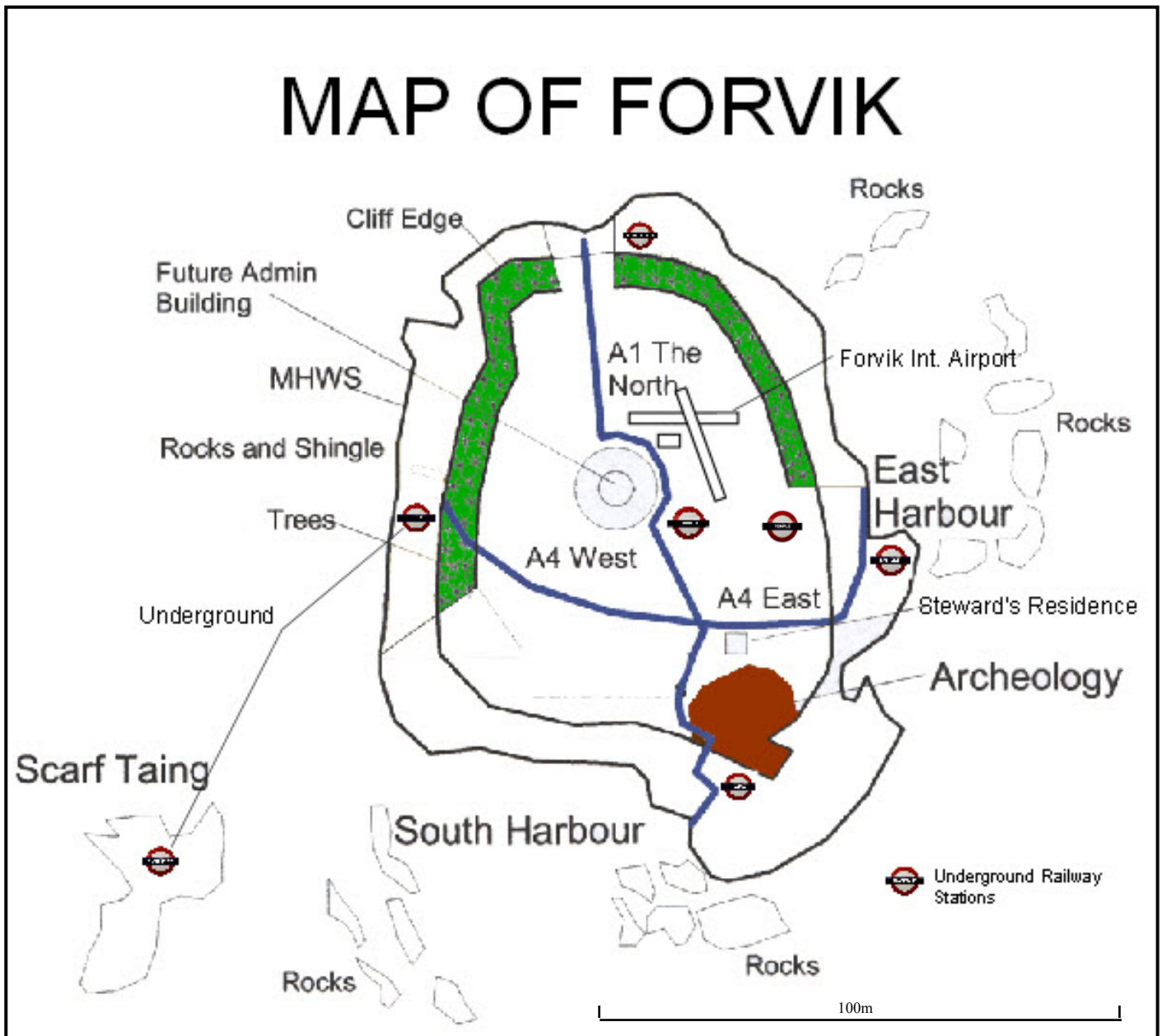
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Forvik - What it stands for.

Forvik is a tiny island in Shetland. It lies at Lat. 60°19'7.47"N, Lon. 1°39'49.29"W. It is close to the island of Papa Stour (Large Island Of The Saints) in the dangerous Papa Sound. Thirty feet high, it is constantly battered by waves from the Atlantic during the winter. Although it is rare for waves to wash over it, for it to be covered in salt spray is not unusual.

Uninhabited for centuries, it nevertheless has important historical ties with the rest of Shetland. In 2008 the island (then known as Forewick Holm) was given by the previous owner to Stuart Hill as a goodwill gift to help him in his campaign to prove the existence of Shetland's right to more autonomy. Papa Stour was the seat of Duke Hakon in the thirteenth century and it is likely that Forvik held an important place at that time.

As a faithful representation of the main features and facilities of Forvik, the map below and most of this guide book can be relied upon to the same extent as the authority of the UK in Shetland.



History

Prior to 2008, Forvik was little used except for grazing of sheep from the neighbouring island of Papa Stour. However, there is archaeological evidence of some kind of building on the south side of the island. The remains show what is left of a circular structure. Erosion on the West side has formed Archaeology Geo and the site has been eroded from all sides except the North. What is left indicates a circular structure with ramparts and ditches. The age is not known, but is thought to be pre-Viking. Papa Stour has neolithic remains going back 3000 years, so it is likely that those on Forvik could be of similar age, especially taking into account the amount of erosion having taken place. For Shetland's history, see [Forvik - The Book](#).

Forvik was declared a Crown Dependency on 21st June 2008, in line with the real status of Shetland as indicated by the documented history. By March 2011, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II not having responded to Stuart Hill's offer to act as Steward, full independence was declared in line with the Montivideo Convention. The Sovereign State of Forvik is proud to take its place on the international stage. Membership of the Sovereign Nation confers many advantages unavailable to citizens of the United Kingdom, including exemption from UK statutes. The Sovereign Nation has its own legal system.

Sports Facilities

For its size, Forvik is unmatched for its sporting facilities. Some teams even compete internationally.

Indoor and outdoor:

The Soccer, Swimming and Senior Citizens Inline Skating teams have their headquarters at the Leisure Centre. The Chess Club meets in the Library most Tuesday evenings. Infants Tiddlywinks sessions are held on the Tabletop Rock at the East cliff edge, where they can also watch the 1-5 yrs rock climbing classes. The world famous cliffs on Scarf Taing are the venue for free climbing events and competitions attract entrants from all over the world.



The Forvik marathon is held in September and attracted over 50,000 runners last year - ranging from professional athletes to competitors in fancy dress.

Aerial Sports:

Pre-school aerobatics is available at the airport and paragliding can be anywhere around the island according to wind direction. Since the advent of high speed paragliding rigs, this is now a year-round sport. The very popular [no-aircraft flying classes](#) are eagerly anticipated when wind conditions are suitable - usually during the winter. They are enjoyed by all ages.

Water sports:

The Sovereign Forvik Yacht Club is situated at East Harbour and water sports are co-ordinated from there. Snorkelling, diving and underwater hang gliding are all well catered for, with support boats operating from East harbour. Lying in 14-36m of water off the harbour is the wreck of the S.S. Highcliffe. Wrecked in fog in 1940 whilst on a voyage from Narvik in Norway to Methil and Immingham, she was carrying iron ore and had chosen the route along Shetland's west coast as there was less risk of encountering U-boats. The ship broke in two shortly after the crew was able to scramble ashore on the island. Divers can see the boiler, the engine and a large gun near the stern. Care must be taken by divers due to the strong currents. Forvik is famous for its shellfish. lobsters, crabs and scallops abound and the fishing is legendary.

Forvik lobster



The Round Forvik Powerboat Race takes place every year in February. Loss of life is quite rare, although the risk is said to be well worth it for the excitement.



Round Forvik Powerboat Race



L'Hydroptere

There is eager anticipation centred around Forvik's hosting of the next America's Cup series. The racing in Papa Sound is bound to be exciting and Forvik's view of the action will be unsurpassed.

Forvik is a center for innovative high speed, long distance sailing design. Part of the reason for this is the challenging conditions in Papa Sound. If a yacht can stand up to those conditions, it can go anywhere.

Winter Sports:

Ice Hockey is at the Leisure Centre, while the [Olympic Giant Slalom](#) and Bob sleigh courses run down to the finish line at West Beach.

Culture

Beside the Leisure Center is Forvik's world famous Opera House and Cinema venue. Amongst many unforgettable artistes, Pavarotti's performance of [Nessun Dorma](#) and Dame Nellie Melba's [La Traviata](#) are particularly memorable.

Gone With the Wind and Moby Dick are particular favourites at the multi-screen cinema complex.

In the same building are housed studio facilities for music and television production. Forvik has an enviable reputation for the quality of its music and television programmes. This can be put down to the fact that these facilities are available to children from an early age. It is not unusual to find children as young as 3 producing and directing their own films.

Forvik's library can be found in the leisure centre. Apart from a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction, the reference section contains fine collections of books on udal law, sovereignty and constitutional law, which are all taught from primary level upwards in school.

Travel

Travel to Forvik is simple. By air, visitors arrive at Forvik International Airport. Private aircraft are also catered for.



Forvik International Airport

It is regrettable that the nearest railway station is Bergen, making rail travel not the most convenient. By sea from the Shetland Mainland, the popular wo-wo (walk on - walk off) ferry service should be booked in advance, particularly during the summer season and in February for the Round Forvik Powerboat Race. Extra ferries will be available for the America's Cup races.

Getting around:

On Forvik itself, the A4 road connects East Harbour with the West side and the A1 runs between South Harbour and the North, passing Forvik International Airport and the administration Centre. It is not normal for visitors to bring their own cars, but there is a good local car hire service.

Nature lovers will enjoy the walking and for wheelchair users there is access to all parts. Guided tours can be arranged at the Post Office. Bicycle and mo-ped hire are available and may be booked at the Yacht Club.

The underground railway network makes travel quick and easy throughout the island. The Northern Line runs from Forvik North, through Forvik Central and Temple to South Harbour and the Central Line connects Scarf Taing, Beach, Forvik Central and East Harbour. Trains run about every five minutes. A shuttle bus service connects Forvik Central with the airport.



Views from seaward can be obtained from one of the local boat trips and this is a good way to view the world renowned sea caves of nearby Papa Stour. For those more adventurous, a trip with the Forvik kayak club will fit the bill.

Wildlife

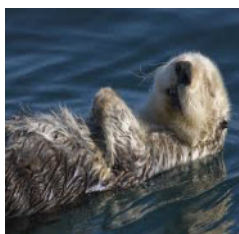
From seals that pup at West Beach, otters along the South coast and all kinds of seabirds, the wildlife on Forvik is up close and personal. When solans (gannets) dive into the water, in most places you would only see the splash and hear nothing, but on Forvik they are so close it sounds like somebody throwing rocks off the cliff.

Sooty Allens (Arctic Skuas) ambush the Tirricks (Arctic Terns), while Bonxies (Great Skuas) mug the Solans when they get a fish. It happens all around.

Under the water the fish and shellfish are abundant.



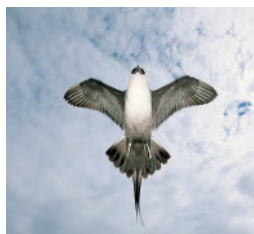
Baby seal



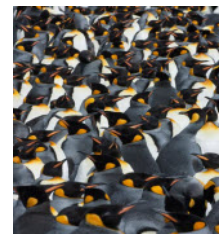
Otter



Bonxie



Sooty Allen



King Penguins

Where to Stay

The Forvik International Hotel is convenient for the airport and is open to meet visitors coming by plane. For those more budget conscious, there are camping sites throughout the island.

What to do

You can join in one of the many sporting activities, or while away some time in the airport duty-free shop. (Open to meet incoming planes). The Yacht Club has a fine selection of local crafts and groceries. There is also a well stocked chandlery for all your yachting needs. The

Post Office and Customs facilities are at the Steward's Residence, near the junction of the A1 and A4.

Economy

Forvik's economy is centred on the provision of various offshore services. Companies, ship and vehicle owners can all take advantage of Forvik's favourable tax regime. There is no income tax, VAT, or corporation tax on Forvik. Oil exploration in Forvik waters remains a possibility. Forvik produces its own renewable energy using wind, solar and free energy sources.

Forvik is a center of excellence in the field of free energy research and production. What will come out of those endeavours in the next few years will make the current methods look positively antiquated.

There is a small gold mining operation on the North side of the island.

Weather

Although Forvik lies in what would be considered a sub-arctic latitude in most parts of the world (it is at the same latitude as St. Petersburg and Anchorage), due to the Gulf stream it has a very temperate climate. Neither very hot, nor very cold, it tends to be cool and wet for much of the year, but Forvik can surprise with wonderful sunny weather. What it does not lack is wind. When the wind is against the very strong tide, conditions can get pretty rough in Papa Sound.



South Harbour

Contact Details

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