



INTRODUCTION

Absorb the incredible scenery of Scotland on this remarkable 11 day expedition. Departing from Aberdeen, highlights of this voyage will include the Western Isles, Orkney, the Shetland Islands and Glasgow as you revel in culture and marvel at incredible sights. Sample Scotch straight from world famous distilleries, discover neolithic villages and medieval castles, spot rich bird life from dramatic rock cliffs. This is truly an incredible journey.

ITINERARY

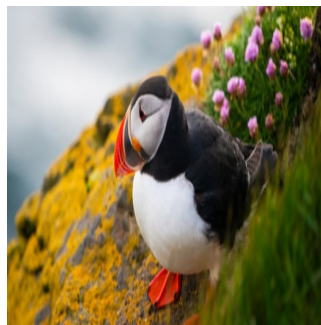
DAY 1: Embarkation in Aberdeen

Many of Aberdeen's historic stone buildings are made of locally quarried granite; high in mica, they can sparkle like silver. The city is famed for its forty-five parks, gardens, and floral displays. In recent years, Aberdeen has become the gateway to the North Sea oil industry, but the city retains its old world charm and is a wonderful place for a walkabout. Here we board the Ocean Endeavour.



DAY 2: Fair Isle

Once a Viking hub, Fair Isle is now an idyllic island colony of artists and shepherds. The island boasts 350 bird species, including puffins and great skuas in substantial numbers. The local museum is dedicated to preserving island heritage.



TRIP CODE

ACACSL

DEPARTURE

04/06/2023

DURATION

11 Days

LOCATIONS

Scotland



DAY 3: Papa Stour and Foula

Marine and bird life flourish at Papa Stour among cliffs, caves, sea stacks, and blowholes. We will have a morning Zodiac cruise exploring the coastline's rugged beauty! Twenty-three kilometres west of the Shetland Islands, Foula is the home of just a few dozen folks, many of whom preserve traditional methods of agriculture and subsistence. Arctic terns, red-throated divers, and great skuas may be found here.



DAY 4: Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Kirkwall is dominated by the massive St. Magnus Cathedral, dating from 1137. We'll visit the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we'll find the 4,000-year-old Ring of Brodgar. We'll also tour the Hall of Clestrain, childhood home of Arctic explorer John Rae.



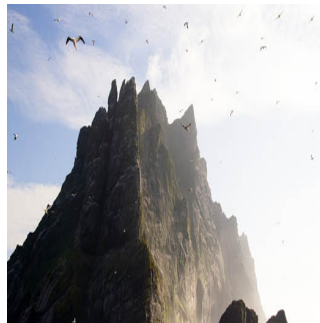
DAY 5: Stornoway, Lewis

Lewis is the largest of the Hebridean Islands and a Gaelic stronghold. We'll visit the island's capital, Stornoway, where one can purchase the island's famous tweed. One of Britain's most important Stone Age sites, Callanish's standing stones are said to be giants who were punished by St. Kieran for refusing to convert to Christianity.



DAY 6: St Kilda

The archipelago known as St. Kilda was inhabited until 1930. Today, St. Kilda is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, protecting fascinating ruins as well as natural heritage features. Seabirds thrive on the island of Hirta, which is also home to feral sheep left by the departing islanders. Enormous cliffs offer dramatic ocean views for our hikers.



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DAY 7: Outer Hebrides

The Outer Hebrides are a fantastic collection of over 100 islands seventy kilometers off Scotland’s west coast. Here we find the oldest evidence of human habitation in Scotland with Pictish, Norse, and Scottish influence. We’ll search out the rich marine and bird life of the islands as conditions permit.



DAY 8: Skye

This is a fabulous day for birders, photographers, and hikers. We will cruise the southwestern shore of Skye to visit Loch Coruisk, a freshwater loch accessed through Loch Scavaig. Here we find one of the finest mountainscapes in Britain, backed by the Cuillin hills.



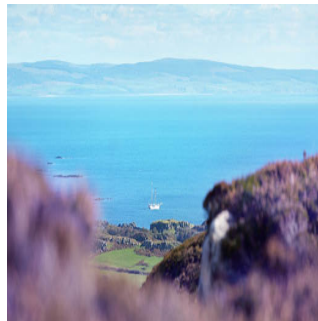
DAY 9: Iona and Staffa

The Isle of Staffa is famed for basaltic formations and numerous caves, the best known being Fingal’s Cave. Originally known in Gaelic as “the melodious cave,” it provided the inspiration for Mendelssohn’s overture, The Hebrides. We then visit nearby Iona, where St. Columba established his monastery—the burial place of kings. The restored Iona Abbey complex preserves two outstanding crosses dating as far back as the eighth century.



DAY 10: Islay

The Queen of the Hebrides, Islay is the southernmost of the Inner Hebrides, known for its fine whisky and as a haven for seabirds. We will visit Loch Finlaggan historic site, home of the Lords of the Isles and Clan Donald, and visit to the Gruinart Nature Reserve, a habitat for barnacle goose, hen harriers, and corncrakes.



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DAY 11: Disembarkation in Glasgow

Greenock has a rich maritime history and was a major shipbuilding and import centre. Here, we'll disembark the Ocean Endeavour and depart via coach to Glasgow.



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INCLUSIONS & DETAILS

Accommodation

Cabin on board ship

Inclusions

All accommodation on board vessel
 All meals whilst on board
 All shore excursions and activities by zodiac
 Guiding and lectures by experienced expedition team
 Free use of rubber boots and snowshoes
 Comprehensive pre-departure material

EXCLUSIONS

International airfare
 Pre and post land arrangements
 Travel insurance
 Visa and reciprocity fees (if applicable)
 Excess baggage fees and items of a personal nature

Difficulty Rating

2 (light adventure)

Single Surcharge

Available upon request. Please contact us for more information.

Notes

Please note this itinerary may be subject to change depending on weather and sea conditions.

Price Dependent upon

Departure date, seasonality and availability.

SUSTAINABILITY