

# Scotland and the Faroes

June 25-July 7, 2025

Faroe Islands

Inner Hebrides

Orkney Islands

Shetland Islands



WILD FIBERS

A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE





This unique expedition appeals to those interested in ancient history, natural fibers, wonderful wildlife and a unique blend of cultures. We will travel through the Outer Hebrides, the Orkneys, the Shetlands and the spectacular (though often soggy) Faroe Islands.

We will explore both inhabited and uninhabited villages, learning about various traditions unique to island life, along with being hosted by some of the stalwarts of the fiber industry. We will also have the opportunity hike along the clifftops (for those so inclined), or enjoy Zodiac cruising below them.

Few ships are large enough to navigate the open water to the North Sea, yet small enough to weave among the smaller islands along the Scottish coast. The MS Island Sky with just 102 fellow passengers is the ideal choice, combining both elegance and expedience. To duplicate this trip by road, air, and sea would be a logistical nightmare requiring triple the amount of time. To visit the small communities of Westray, Unst and Fetlar along with St Kilda into one itinerary is rare, and when combined with the towns of Torshavn and Lerwick ... such an adventure rarely comes along!



# Itinerary

## Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.

Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Aberdeen Airport and rail station at a fixed time. Sail this evening to the Orkney Islands.

## Day 2 North Ronaldsay, Orkney Islands

This morning we arrive at the northernmost of the Orkney Islands, the remote and isolated North Ronaldsay. Renowned for its beautiful coastal scenery and abundant birdlife, it is one of the crown jewels in the history of Northern European short-tailed sheep. In 1832, a stone wall was erected along the island's perimeter to keep the sheep off the pasture land, preserving it for cattle who were deemed more valuable. The North Ronaldsay sheep were forced to survive on seaweed and to this day are one of the few mammals who can. The North Ronaldsay sheep were forced to survive on seaweed and to this day are one of the few mammals who can. Soon after the island's lighthouse was decommissioned in the late 1990s, a Mini-Mill was installed in one of the outbuildings. We will tour the mill and meet with a farmer to learn more about these historic sheep.

## Day 3 Fair Isle, Shetland Islands

This morning we anchor off the remote island of Fair Isle. Located midway between the Shetland and Orkney Islands, the tiny population of sixty or so islanders always extend a warm welcome. Famous for its birds, knitwear, and historic shipwrecks, our group will enjoy a special meet and greet with the one of the local knitters. Afterwards, there is time for a walk across the island, searching out the puffin slopes, a visit to the community hall for a cup of tea or indulge in something special from the gift shop. If the weather permits, we will sail around to Noss Head in the afternoon where the cliffs will be full of nesting gannets, guillemots and fulmar.

## Day 4 Lerwick

In recent history, Shetland's cobblestone streets were filled with the rush of vibrant fishing and ship building industries, and a unique wool history. Approximately 80% of Shetland wool is purchased by Jamieson and Smith who possess a wealth of information they are always delighted to share. To the south of Lerwick is Jarlshoff where we delve into more than 4,000 years of human occupation. Neolithic people first settled this site in Shetland around 2700 BC, and it remained in use until the 1600s AD. Discoveries made here include oval-shaped Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age brooch and wheelhouses, Norse long-houses, a medieval farmstead, and a laird's house dating back to the 1500s. We will also visit The Shetland Museum offering in-depth exhibit on the islands' wool and farming history. More knitting history can be found at The Shetland Textile Museum.

## Day 5 Fetlar & Unst

We continue our exploration of the Shetlands with our visits to the northern islands of Fetlar and Unst. Fetlar has been inhabited for over 5000 years and the island lays claim to being the



first Norse landing site in the Shetlands. Known as the most fertile of the Shetland Islands, the wildflowers bring color to the landscape whilst the birdlife on the island is prolific. Over lunch we sail to Unst, Britain's most northerly inhabited island. Our group will visit The Heritage Centre which hosts the most extensive collection of Shetland lace knitting, and encompasses how the islanders have lived over the centuries. We will also visit the Unst Boat Haven, dedicated to the history of the island's distinctive wooden boats which descend from Viking craft.

## Day 6 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

After a morning at sea we arrive in the Faroe Islands. This afternoon join a guided tour through Torshavn over the hills to Kirkjubour, the island's oldest cultural centre, where we see the ruins of the 13th century St Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use. We also visit the 900-year old "Roykstovan", the old bishopric, considered to be the oldest wooden house in Europe. For those feeling active, we will arrange a hike in the hills surrounding the town to discover the local flora and fauna. We remain moored overnight for anyone wishing to take an after dinner stroll.

contact. Linda Cortright

email: wildfibers@mac.com

mobile: 207-756-3512





### Day 7 Vestmanna

Vestmanna is our base for today as we explore the northwest corner of Streymoy and the nearby cliffs. Here we will board local boats to explore these vertical cliffs that climb almost 1500 feet, sailing into grottos carved by the surf over the years and watching the thousands of seabirds including puffins, guillemots, fulmars and kittiwakes that nest here each summer. After lunch on board, we will drive to the beautiful village of Saksun, an isolated settlement situated beneath steep majestic mountains. We visit Duvugaroar, an old farmhouse which is now a museum and a traditional Faroese wooden church in Kollafjord.

### Day 8 Suduroy

Suduroy, the southernmost island of the group is our base for the morning. From the port of Tvoroyri we have a choice of activities. Choose to join an

island drive filled with stunning scenery as we pass through villages, fjords, tunnels and on to the southernmost point, the Akraberg lighthouse. In Porkeri we will take the ridge-top road which winds up the mountainside for wonderful views towards the steep cliffs on the west coast. Both locals and visitors agree this excursion delivers the essence of the Faroe Islands with mountains and fjords, villages and valleys, birds, sheep and nature. Alternatively, those feeling active may wish to join a hike to Hvaanhagi, a beautiful, uninhabited place north of Tvoroyri on the east coast of Suduroy with fantastic views towards the three islands Litla Dímun, Stora Dímun and Skuoy. During lunch we begin sailing back to Scotland.







### Day 9 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands

Today we arrive on the Isle of Lewis, home of the world renowned Harris Tweed, where our group will meet in the home of a young Harris Tweed weaver who left his job as a banker so he could return to life on the island. In the afternoon, we head to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. Our final stop is the Garrannan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. We will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles off the shores of Lewis.

### Day 10 St Kilda, Outer Hebrides

Today we set foot into one of the most extraordinary chapters in sheep history, the Soay. For centuries, the people on St. Kilda survived gathering bird eggs from the cliffs and raising sheep. In 1930, this isolated population of just 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants was evacuated by the government at their own request, leaving the ancient breed of short-tailed sheep to survive. To this day, the feral flock is monitored by scientists, studying their uniquely pure genetics. We also cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Stac an Armin. These impressive stacs rise 170 meters from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannet.

### Day 11 Loch Scavaig & Canna, Inner Hebrides

Arrive this morning to lovely Loch Scavaig on the island of Skye. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. Over lunch we will sail to Canna, strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants



recorded. We will see Canna House, and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600-foot cliffs on the north shore.

### Day 12 Staffa, Iona & Lunga

We awake this morning at Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which has been cut by the sea into cathedralesque caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. We will meet with Michael and Kate Gordon who started Iona Wool, an extraordinary venture in making yarn from the island's eight different sheep breeds providing additional income for the farmers along with a product that is uniquely island made. Iona is also where St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises.

**Day 13 Oban** Disembark this morning after breakfast. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow International Airport and Central Station at a fixed time.



Our tour is in conjunction with Noble Caledonia who is fortunate to have two of the finest small ships in the world, the MS Island Sky and MS Hebridean Sky. These ex-Renaissance Cruises sister vessels accommodate just 102 guests and are not only two of the most comfortable and well equipped small ships, but also two of the friendliest and most efficiently run. With crews of just over 70, many of whom have been with Noble Caledonia for most of their working career, they are dedicated to offering the best possible experience. It is this gentle, kind and efficient atmosphere on board that makes these vessels so popular.

MS Island Sky is equipped with the latest safety, navigation and communications equipment along with roll stabilizers to minimize the ship's motion. During your voyage we hope to offer the opportunity to visit the Captain and Officers on the Bridge to check the vessel's progress by charts and learn more about your journey. You will also find on your suite television a navigation channel showing the routing of the vessel as well as the view from the Bridge. On board you will also find a clinic and doctor and a lift that serves all decks. Smoking on board is restricted to a specific area on deck.

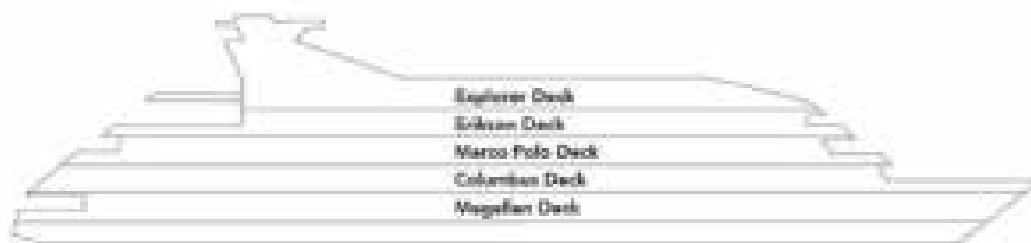
**SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY**

Prices are based on per person sharing a cabin.

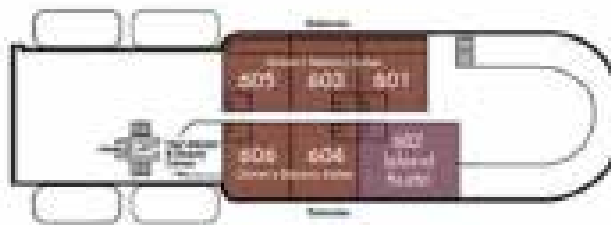
For single travelers, cabin price is listed as “for sole occupancy.”

A 10% non-refundable deposit is required to secure your deposit

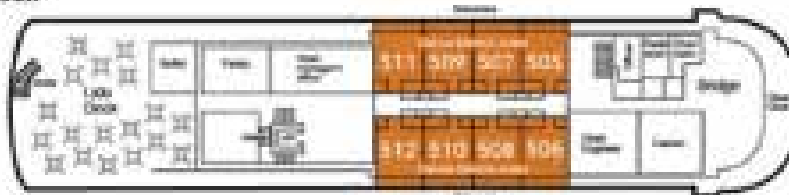
Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Magellan Deck Standard Suites	£6995	£6695
Columbus Deck Superior Suites	£7295	£6995
Marco Polo Deck Premium Suites	£7695	£7395
Marco Polo Deck Corner Suites	£8095	£7795
Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suites	£8395	£8095
Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	£8795	£8495
Explorer Deck Island Suite	£9595	£9295
Magellan Deck Standard for sole occupancy	£8995	£8695
Columbus Deck Superior for sole occupancy	£9295	£8995



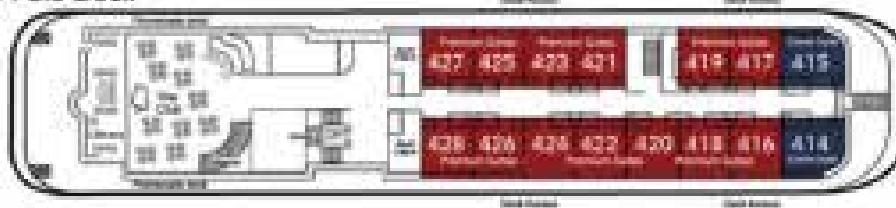
Explorer Deck



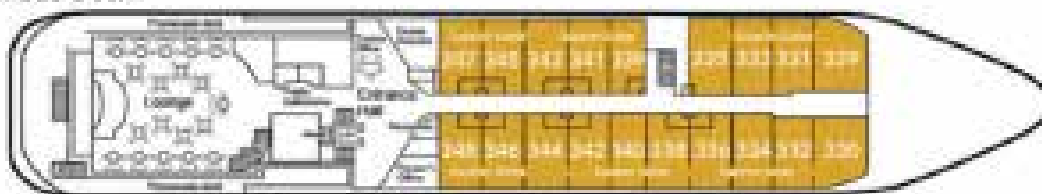
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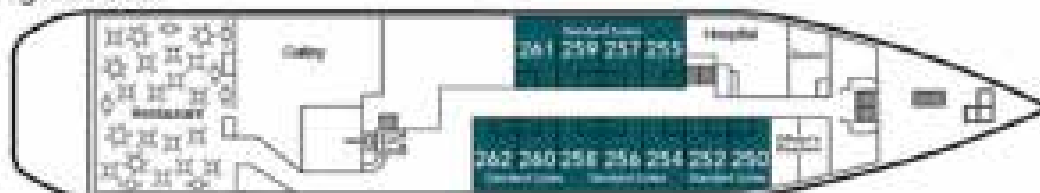
Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck



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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Standard Suites                 | Corner Suites with Deck Access | Owner's Balcony Suites |
| Superior Suites                 | Deluxe Balcony Suites          | Island Suite           |
| Premium Suites with Deck Access |                                |                        |