

WILD FIBERS AND WILDLIFE

Faroe Islands

Inner Hebrides

Orkney Islands

Shetland Islands

MAY 31—JUNE 12, 2023

JULY 15—JULY 27, 2023

WILD FIBERS



This unique expedition appeals to those interested in fascinating history, natural fibers, wonderful wildlife and the most endearing people. Traveling from Scotland's rugged coastline to the deeply remote Faroe Islands and on to the Shetland Islands, this voyage is a "grand slam" for those who have ever dreamed of visiting these historic destinations. We will explore both inhabited and uninhabited villages, learning about ancient cultures unique to island life, along with being hosted by some of the stalwarts of the fiber industry. We will have the opportunity to take hikes along the top of the cliffs, cruise by Zodiac below the cliffs, while enjoying all manner of things wild and woolly along the way.

Few ships are large enough to navigate the open water to the north, yet small enough to weave among the smaller islands along the Scottish coast. The MS Serenissima with just 95 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 nearly twice the time. To visit the small communities of Westray, Unst and Fetlar with the uninhabited St Kilda into one itinerary is rare and when combined with the towns of Torshavn and Lerwick, such an adventure rarely comes along.

This trip provides a special understanding not only of the island histories, but the ability to engage with locals who have dedicated their lives and livelihoods to natural fibers in these remote locations.

The Itinerary

Day 1 Aberdeen, Scotland.

Embark the MS Serenissima 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 Westray, Orkney Islands.

After a morning at sea, we spend the afternoon in the Orkney Islands on Papa Westray, among other things known for having the shortest commercial flight in the world—two minutes from the mainland. On Westray we will visit Noup Head, home to up to 100,000 nesting seabirds and a special visit for our group with an organic sheep farmer.

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 local shepherds and accomplished 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 fulmars. This evening we moor overnight in Lerwick.

Day 4 Lerwick.

Our day in the Shetland capital is a wild and wooly extravaganza for fiber enthusiasts, meeting with the renowned Jamieson & Smith Woolbrokers, responsible for purchasing wool from 700 farmers and crofters throughout the Shetlands,

a visit to a 1200 acre farm raising both Shetland sheep and cattle, and concluding with a stop at the Shetland Textile Museum. For the non-fiber enthusiasts, there is a trip to the remarkable archaeological site of Jarlshof, that was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/7, revealing an extraordinary settlement, embracing at least 5000 years of human history. The site contains a remarkable sequence of stone structures – an Iron-Age broch (roundhouse), several Norse longhouse, a Medieval farmstead and the 16th century laird's house. Tonight we will be entertained by local musicians.

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 make our first call in the Faroes on Torshavn. The Faroese economy is still largely based on sheep and boats with wool as its currency. A Faroese proverb even states "Ull er Føroya gull": wool is the gold of the Faroe Islands. We will spend the afternoon hiking with a local shepherd as he tends to his sheep along with a visit to a local yarn broker. For the less energetic, there is a visit to the island's oldest cultural centre, and the ruins of the 13th century St Magnus Cathedral and the 11th century church, still in use.



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 Skuvoy. During lunch we begin sailing back to Scotland.

Day 9 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 10 Isle of Lewis & Shiant Islands.

Today we arrive on the Isle of Lewis, home of the world renowned Harris Tweed, where our group will take a short drive across the island and go behind the scenes at the mill to see how traditional tweed is still made. 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 Gearranan 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. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles.

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 cathedral-like caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. We continue to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that 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. We end the day in the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting-place for hundreds of seabirds.

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





The charming MS Serenissima began her career as the Harald Jarl, cruising the Norwegian coastline and fjords. Since 2003, when she was extensively renovated, she has been operating as a classic cruise ship. Previously known as the MS Andrea, she was upgraded again in 2013 and started her new life as the MS Serenissima. With her small size she can navigate into small, remote ports inaccessible to the big cruise ships and appears an impressive sight when moored. With her fleet of Zodiacs, she is capable of both destination and expedition cruising.

Your Space

The facilities on board include two lounges – the larger Andrea Lounge is comfortable and spacious and the smaller Harald Jarl Lounge is more intimate. There is also a small library and Wi-Fi is available at an extra cost throughout the vessel. The outside areas really are something special. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. From here, step down to the lido area with Jacuzzi and outside bar. The covered seating area at the back of Deck 6 is ideal for relaxing with a drink in hand. Perhaps, one of the best known and loved features of this vessel is its unique style. During the major refit in Sweden the then owners commissioned Swedish interior designers to create a country house style which has recently been updated with some Art Deco styling which works particularly well on a vessel of this vintage, providing intimacy and a classic nautical sensibility often lacking in larger vessels.

Price Includes: 12 nights aboard the Serenissima on a full board basis • House wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia expedition team • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes.

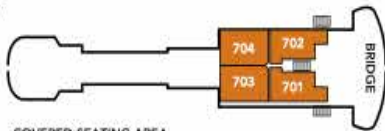
Not Included: Travel insurance.

Category	Price
2 Standard Stateroom	£5395
3 Classic Stateroom	£5695
4 Superior Stateroom	£6095
5 Deluxe Stateroom	£6495
6 Junior Suite	£6795
7 Owner's Suite	£7095
8 Serenissima Suite	£7295
10 Standard Single	£6895

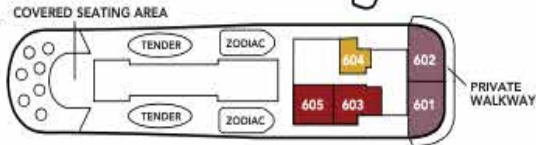
**As part of the Wild Fibers Tour, our customized itinerary may not include some of the standard lunches onboard. You will be responsible for your own meal.

MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS

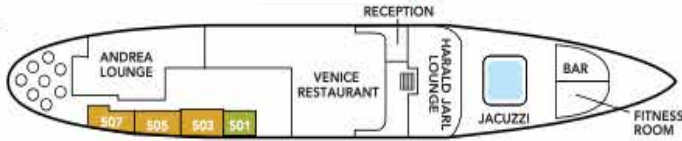
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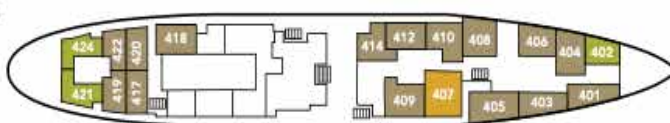
DECK 6



DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



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|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| STANDARD STATEROOM | DELUXE STATEROOM | SERENISSIMA SUITE |
| CLASSIC STATEROOM | JUNIOR SUITE | STANDARD SINGLE |
| SUPERIOR STATEROOM | OWNER'S SUITE | |

NB. Please note cabin sizes vary in each category and measurements shown are approximate.



SERENISSIMA SUITE
(25 square metres)



OWNER'S SUITE
(22 square metres)



JUNIOR SUITE
(21 square metres)



DELUXE STATEROOM
(15 to 25 square metres)



SUPERIOR STATEROOM
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



CLASSIC STATEROOM
(14 to 19 square metres)



STANDARD STATEROOM
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



STANDARD SINGLE
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world.

Your Cabin/Suite

Accommodating no more than 95 passengers, there are eight different grades of cabins arranged over five decks, and all feature either windows or portholes. The cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an en-suite bathroom with shower (please note cabins 601 - 605 and 507 have a bath with shower attachment) and a selection of toiletries in addition to a hairdryer, robes and slippers. All cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box and other thoughtful appointments. Refillable water bottles are available in all cabins for use on board. Due to the very nature of the ship, the cabins vary in shape and size, adding to the vessel's overall charm.