

# SCOTLAND BY SEA

MAY 15-24, 2023

A Wild Fibers adventure offering rare opportunities  
for anyone with a passion for the Scottish Isles.

Price from \$6,295 pp

Single supplement \$8,395



WILD FIBERS  
A GLOBAL EXPERIENCE



**Traveling Scotland by sea provides an opportunity to understand this land from its most rugged and most beautiful vantage points. It is also the perfect setting to experience abundant wildlife and all things woolly (and whisky.)**

**DAY 1: MONDAY, MAY 15  
ABERDEEN**

We board the MS Serenissima mid-afternoon and celebrate with an opening reception and captain's welcome, setting sail that night in preparation for our first day of adventure.

**DAY 2: TUESDAY, MAY 16  
ORKNEY ISLANDS**

North Ronaldsay. Fair Isle

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. Guests have the option to either spend time with some of the local farmers or accompany one of the ship's naturalists on a nature walk searching for some of the many bird species that are both resident and vagrant visitors.

In the afternoon, we will travel the short distance to Fair Isle, famous for its knitwear, historic shipwrecks, and sensational birdlife. Fair Isle is a tiny jewel of an island lying half-way between Orkney and Shetland. Owned by the National Trust for Scotland, it's one of Britain's most successful small communities, pioneering projects in wildlife tourism, wind power and sustainable management of the environment. We will enjoy a special visit with some of the local knitters while others can pursue the birdlife. From April to

August the cliffs are busy with the sound (and smell!) of thousands of fulmars, kittiwakes, razorbills, guillemots, gannets, shags and puffins, while skuas and terns fiercely defend their nests on the moorland. The 70 or so islanders mostly live in traditional crofts on the more fertile and low-lying southern third of the island. The northern part is largely rough grazing and rocky moorland, rising to the 217 meter Ward Hill.

### DAY 3: WEDNESDAY, May 17

#### SHETLAND ISLANDS

Lerwick

Lerwick is the Shetland Islands capital. In recent history its cobblestone streets were filled with the rush of vibrant fishing and ship building industries, and a unique wool history that is illustrated during our visit to Jamieson and Smith. 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 broch and wheelhouses, Norse longhouses, a medieval farmstead, and a laird's house dating back to the 1500s.

This afternoon we land at Mousa Broch, standing 13 meters high, it is Scotland's most impressive and best surviving Iron Age tower or broch. Today we know brochs were built in Shetland around 400-200 BC, the quality of stone, the workmanship and overall size of Mousa are believed to contribute to why it has survived so well.

**A BROCH is a round tower which had an inner and outer drystone wall which was about 5 m thick in total- both a defensive and prestigious building.**



### DAY 4: THURSDAY, MAY 18

#### ORKNEY ISLANDS

Stromness

From Bronze Age man, Iron Age people, Vikings and World Wars—time has left its mark on the Orkney Islands, the green isles. We will land in the seaside town of Stromness, a past safe haven for Vikings, whaling and fishing, and now a ferry gateway to Scotland.

Highlights of visiting this Orkney Island will include visiting Kirkwall, formally known as the site of the ancient Norse town founded 1000 years ago. We will make our way to the historic village of Skara Brae. In the winter of 1850, a great storm battered Orkney, the grass was stripped from a large mound, then known as 'Skerrabra'. The outline of a number of stone buildings was revealed—something that intrigued the local laird, William Watt of Skail, he embarked on an excavation of the site.

Today, Skara Brae, as it has become known, survives as eight dwellings, linked together by a series of low, covered passages. We will also ensure we have time to visit the famous Ring of Brodgar Henge, a neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.

## **DAY 5: FRIDAY, MAY 19**

### **ISLE OF LEWIS**

Stornoway

Stornoway is the main town on the Isle of Lewis with just over 6,000 people, about a third of the island's total population. It is home to a mix of traditional industries including fishing, farming and the world famous Harris Tweed. We will enjoy a special tour of the Harris Tweed Mill, located on the island's west coast and then explore the Stone Age 'Callanish', the primordial configuration of standing stones. Crossing the gentle troughs and rounded tops of the landscape we explore the cultural Garrannan Blackhouse Village and meet the people of this area.

As we stroll the alleyways of Stornoway, check out the local tweed or wander the pathways of Lews Castle gardens we are sure to discover the secret of timelessness in the Hebrides.

## **DAY 6: SATURDAY, MAY 20**

### **OUTER HEBRIDES**

St. Kilda

Remote and battered by the Atlantic seas, St Kilda is a near mystical island with dual UNESCO World Heritage site status for its natural and cultural significance. St Kilda is deemed Europe's most important seabird colony – with abundant puffins, fulmars and the largest colony of gannets in Britain. For sheep enthusiasts, the story of the Soay is one of the most remarkable in all of European sheep history, providing not only a robust fleece but a wealth of pure genetics owing to the inability to introduce another breed in this remote location. St. Kilda was inhabited until 1930, when the advent of tourism ultimately altered the islanders' view of their small island life. The 19th century village layout still remains, allowing us to envisage life on this island where the bird life provided sustenance for the villagers.

## **DAY 7: SUNDAY, MAY 21**

### **INNER HEBRIDES**

Isle of Skye, Loch Skavaig & Loch Courisk, Isle of Rum

Isle of Skye's southern coast is remote, mainly uninhabited and home to the Cuillin Mountains. Loch Courisk is nestled securely in the landscape folds of the Cuillin Ridge, a freshwater loch and is separated from the sea by the Scavaig River. Our short walk along this river gives access to the Loch, or the adventurous can





### THE SCOTS SPELL IT WHISKY AND THE IRISH SPELL IT WHISKEY.

This difference in the spelling comes from the translations of the word from the Scottish and Irish Gaelic forms. Whiskey with the extra 'e' is also used when referring to American whiskies.



Image copyright: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam / Paul Tomkins

take the opportunity to explore further. Later in the quiet Isle of Rum, Kinloch Castle greets us. Built of Isle of Arran sandstone the castle took three years and upwards of 300 craftsmen to build. The Kinloch castle, was the first private residence in Scotland to have electricity. The electricity was derived from a hydro dam constructed on the Coire Dubh Burn. Now under the care of the Scottish Natural Heritage its restoration is a work in progress.

#### DAY 8 MONDAY, MAY 22 Staffa, Iona & Treshnish

Our visit to Staffa features the hexagonal basalt cliffs which culminate in Fingal's Cave—a spectacular natural feature named by the Celts as 'Uamh-Binh' or "the Cave of Melody". Abundant puffins, razorbills and guillemots use the island for breeding and accessing the surrounding rich marine environment.

In the afternoon we visit Iona. The center of the Celtic world in 563 AD, the Irish missionary St. Columba went into exile and established a small monastic community. Driven out of Iona by Viking raids, most of the monastic community moved to Kells in Ireland

around 800. In more peaceful times, around 1200, a Benedictine abbey and nunnery were established on the site. It is these buildings (heavily restored) that we see now visit.

#### DAY 9: TUESDAY MAY 23 Gigha and Islay

The southernmost isle of the Inner Hebrides, Gigha is one of the smallest populated Islands in the Hebrides. Meaning Good or God Island, the highest mountain is Creag Breahn. Nestled in woodland and extensive gardens Achamore House was built in 1884 for Lt-Col William James Scarlett, the 3rd Lord Abinger. The gardens of Achamore House were purchased by the people of Gigha in 2002 and our operated as a trust.

The earliest documented record of distilling in Scotland occurred as long ago as 1494, in the tax records of the day, the Exchequer Rolls. The entry lists "Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor where with to make aqua vitae" (water of life). This afternoon, be part of history and share a dram of whisky, the water of life, ashore at one of Islay's historic distilleries: Lagavulin Distillery.



Image copyright: VisitScotland / Kenny Lam / Paul Tomkins

**DAY 10: WEDNESDAY, MAY 24**

Oban

Sailing into Oban, your view of Oban is one you will truly never forget. Oban is a lovely seaside village with cobble streets and stone houses. The train station is a short distance of the pier where guests can proceed onward to Glasgow or Edinburgh for their flight home. Alternatively, for an additional cost, a custom tour of the surrounding mountains and historic castles can be arranged.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESERVATION**

Contact: Linda Cortright: [tours@wildfibersmagazine.com](mailto:tours@wildfibersmagazine.com)

**RATES**

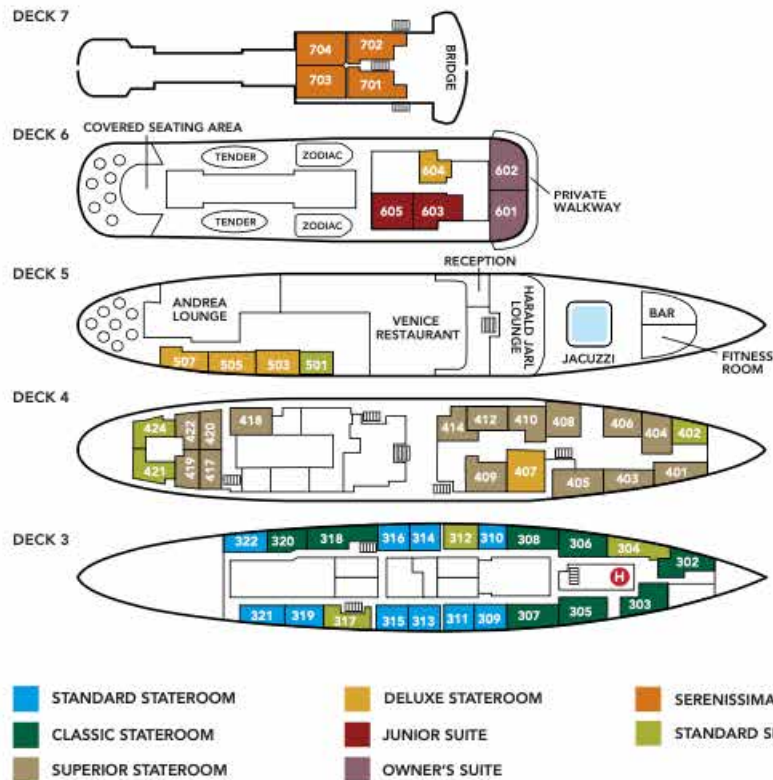
> Standard Stateroom	\$6,295
> Classic Stateroom	\$6,995
> Superior Stateroom	\$7,475
> Deluxe Stateroom	\$7,950
> Junior Suite	\$8,975
> Serenissima Suite	\$10,075
> Owners Suite	\$10,475
> Standard Single	\$8,395

Rates are per person based on sharing a cabin excluding the standard single rate.

**Travel aboard MS Serenissima provides all the amenities of a luxury cruise ship but small enough to access some of the more remote harbors and inlets where wildlife is abundant —and not the crowds**



## MS SERENISSIMA DECK PLAN & CABINS



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



**DELUXE STATEROOM**  
(15 to 25 square metres)



**SUPERIOR STATEROOM**  
(11.5 to 18 square metres)



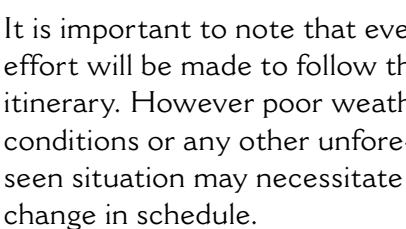
**CLASSIC STATEROOM**  
(14 to 19 square metres)



**STANDARD STATEROOM**  
(10 to 11.5 square metres)



**STANDARD SINGLE**  
(7 to 12.5 square metres)



**JUNIOR SUITE**  
(21 square metres)



**OWNER'S SUITE**  
(22 square metres)



**SERENISSIMA SUITE**  
(25 square metres)



It is important to note that every effort will be made to follow the itinerary. However poor weather conditions or any other unforeseen situation may necessitate a change in schedule.

A payment of 25% is required to reserve a cabin and can be made with a Visa or Master card.  
Balance due 90 days before departure.

### INCLUSIONS

- 9 nights aboard Serenissima
- All meals plus house wine, beer and soft drinks with dinner
- Gratuities
- Excursions mentioned in the itinerary

### EXCLUSIONS

- International flight, transfers to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh airport
- Travel Insurance