

## Scotland to Iceland Cruise Itinerary

[Link: Scotland to Iceland Cruise](#)

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### Tour Overview

This expedition charts a course unlike any other on Earth, following the Viking voyages from the north of Scotland to the Faroe Islands and onward to Iceland.

Northern Scotland offers amazing prehistoric archeology, hiking and bird-watching—and interactions with our charming Scots hosts! Opportunities are very good for marine mammals and seabirds such as puffins, skuas and more.

The Faroe Islands are the jewels of the North Atlantic. We'll visit staggering cliffs hosting vast colonies of seabirds and quaint villages clinging to tiny islands. The capital, Torshavn, is a hidden gem of a Scandinavian city. Faroese culture is unique, best experienced with our generous local hosts. Hiking excellent and the scenery sublime.

As we approach Iceland, we enter the realm of the active earth: the new volcanic island of Surtsey; the dramatic sea caves of the Westman Islands, and the town of Heimaey—nearly destroyed by a volcano short decades ago. We sail on to Reykjavik to end our journey in one of the finest and most forward-thinking capital cities anywhere.

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### Itinerary

#### Day 1: Glasgow/Oban, Scotland



Many of Aberdeen's historic stone buildings are 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. Though it is now a modern city, Aberdeen retains its old world charm. We board the Ocean Endeavour for an evening departure.

## Day 2: Isle of Skye



Whether you're a hiker, photographer, or birder, you will love a visit to Skye. Cruise the southwestern shore of this large island keeping a keen eye out for species like common sandpiper, oystercatcher, gannets, and razorbills. Delight in the opportunity to witness these remarkable creatures in their natural environment and add unique sightings to your birdwatching list. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Skye's mountainous landscapes and choose the level of activity that suits you best for a walk, hike, or trek among the awe-inspiring Cuillin Hills, one of Britain's finest mountainscapes.

## Day 3: Barra (Castlebay)

Barra is the ancestral island of Clan MacNeil whose chiefs were based at Kisimul Castle, which still sits, impressively intact, a few hundred yards offshore from the pleasant village of Castlebay. Alexander, Lord of the Isles, granted the MacNeils the island in 1427, and a century later the clan was accused of launching piratical raids on English shipping endeavours. Barra was later the home of writer Compton Mackenzie, who used the setting for his novel (later a movie) *Whisky Galore*. Today, Barra remains a vibrant island community, shaped by its Gaelic heritage and time-honoured traditions. Discover a welcoming atmosphere celebrated for its cultural heritage and stunning landscapes, including white sandy beaches and rolling green hills.

## Day 4: Stornoway, Lewis



Visit Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, a Gaelic stronghold and the capital of the largest of the Hebrides. Browse charming shops to purchase the island's famous tweed. Meander through one of Britain's most important Stone Age sites, the Calanais Standing Stones, which are said to be giants who were punished by St. Kieran for refusing to convert to Christianity. Experience the living history at Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, where you can learn about a typical crofting township of the last century. Explore the blackhouses and traditional activities, including the weaving of the famous Harris Tweed. Discover Dun Carloway Broch, a uniquely Scottish site perched on a rocky mound. See this ancient structure, standing at an impressive nine metres tall.

## Day 5: At Sea



Enjoy a day at sea as we sail toward the Faroe Islands. Enrich your journey with insightful presentations and workshops led by our expert expedition team, deepening your understanding of the region's landscapes, wildlife, and culture. Relax on deck and keep an eye out for marine life, seabirds, and the ever-changing seascape. With a bit of luck, you might spot Risso's dolphins—recognizable by their pale-grey bodies—or other cetaceans like bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoises, or even a minke whale. Seabirds often grace these waters, too, so stay alert for northern gannets, guillemots, Atlantic puffins, fulmars, and skuas gliding above the waves.

## Day 6: Vágur, Suðuroy Island, Faroe Islands



Visit Vágur, where the warm hospitality of its 1,300 residents awaits you. Relish in the opportunity to witness Faroese chain dancing and share in stories of Vágur's captivating past. Enjoy the abundance of birdlife that the island boasts. Let your senses feast on the view of Suðuroy's towering west side. Admire majestic cliffs, stunning mountains, sea stacks, and the magnificent Beinisvørð mountain as it stands tall from afar. See for yourself why the island is famed for its dramatic cliffs towering over the North Atlantic and enjoy this paradise for birds, including European storm petrels and Atlantic puffins.

## Day 7: Tórshavn



Explore the splendid little city of Tórshavn ("Thor's harbour"), the Faroe Islands' capital and a former Viking trading centre. Stroll through the enchanting streets of the old town, where you'll discover a treasure trove of galleries, charming shops, and restaurants. Admire the buildings with their grass roofs and black timber façades, offering a glimpse into traditional Faroese architecture and culture.

## Day 8: Elduvík



Experience the tranquil charm of Elduvík, a village of just twelve residents, nestled at the end of a lush valley on Eysturoy's northeast side. Wander through this picturesque community on a guided tour exploring the colourful houses that surround the church and old schoolhouse. Learn about its rich history and enduring traditions, getting a glimpse into Faroese life. Take in a different perspective on a valley hike where stunning views of the surrounding mountains and fjord unfold. Savour traditional Faroese flavours with local tastings, then step inside the village church to listen to enchanting tales and timeless hymns in this space, inaugurated in 1951.

## Day 9-10: Western Faroe Islands



Take in the drama of Vágar, one of the remote Western Islands, where soaring cliffs kiss the sea and emerald valleys cradle charming villages. This is a place of quiet wonder, where every path leads to a new story, and nature's raw beauty makes you humble.

## Day 11: At Sea

Deepen your understanding of the environment, cultures, and history of the region as we steam across the North Atlantic towards Iceland. Enjoy workshops and presentations, watch a documentary, and get out on deck!

## Day 12: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar (Westman Islands), Iceland



Vestmannaeyjar lies off the south coast of Iceland and comprises fourteen islands, numerous rocks, and skerries. Only the largest island, Heimaey, is inhabited. Numerous species of seabirds, including the famous puffin, nest in the steep rock faces along the ocean cliffs. The volcanically active area has seen two major eruptions in recent times: the formation of the island of Surtsey in 1963, and the Eldfell eruption ten years later that destroyed much of Heimaey.

## Day 11: Reykjavík, Iceland



Complete your journey in Reykjavík, Iceland's cosmopolitan capital that was established in the year 874 CE. Food, culture, and nightlife abound, while the National Culture House preserves treasures like the Poetic Edda and the Norse Sagas in their original manuscripts. Disembark in the morning and say your farewells in what is widely considered one of the cleanest, greenest cities in the world.

## What to Expect

Our small ship cruising programs allow you to experience the best of the natural world, while enjoying the comforts of our friendly floating hotel. The ship generally makes crossing between islands at night, so every morning you awake to new vistas and discoveries. Every day we offer a combination of interesting shore excursions and fun shipboard activities. You can choose which elements of the program you want to participate in.

This expedition cruise necessitates passengers to be in reasonably good health. Zodiac cruises and transfer times can be lengthy. You must be able to climb stairs between decks on the ship, as well as the external gangway stairs to transfer between the zodiac and ship.

Some of our shore landings will be 'wet', requiring waterproof boots. Once you have left the zodiac, you'll find our shore excursions accommodate both those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll and those who prefer more active hikes. The excursion may involve walking over uneven or sandy terrain in variable weather conditions. Our onboard specialists will join us on these shore excursions to provide interpretation and narration to these wonderful landscapes and experiences.

Each evening we will gather in the lounge to recount the day's events and share memorable stories.



Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following day's schedule. Our resource staff of naturalists, historians, and other guest speakers will give informative talks at various times throughout the voyage.

Meals in the ship's dining room are a great opportunity to meet new friends and recount the day's adventures. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. Safety is also a top priority with Eagle-Eye Tours - our team has extensive experience in the field, and all of our Voyages are run in conjunction with operators with the highest safety standards.

When the ship is underway, it is a wonderful time to join a naturalist on deck, take photos of the stunning scenery, or get caught up on some reading in the library.

Weather, ice, government regulations, and community requests may necessitate changes to the planned itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions and enhancements. Published itineraries are examples only and we reserve the right to change or modify the itinerary and landing sites at any time prior or during an expedition. Changes will be communicated at your expedition orientation or during your onboard expedition briefings.

We know that everyone travels for different reasons. Over the years, however, we have found one common element among the guest who choose to travel with us - a thirst of knowledge and authentic experience. Knowing this drives us to ensure the highest quality learning experience on our trips, by taking time to carefully design each trip we offer.

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## What's Included

### **Tour Price Includes**

- Passage aboard the ship
- Applicable taxes and credit card fees
- Complimentary expedition jacket
- Special access permits, entry, and park fees
- Expert expedition team
- Guided activities
- Sightseeing and community visits
- All Zodiac excursions
- Port fees
- Pre-departure materials
- Educational program
- Interactive workshops
- Evening entertainment
- All shipboard meals
- Internet access

### **Tour Price Does Not Include**

- Commercial and charter flights
  - Program enhancements/optional excursions
  - Gratuities
  - Personal expenses
  - Mandatory medical evacuation insurance
  - Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes
  - Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees
  - Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodation
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