Eagle-Eye Tours

Scotland to Iceland Cruise Itinerary

Link: Scotland to Iceland Cruise

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 cites anywhere.

Itinerary

Day 1: Aberdeen, Scotland



Facing the North Sea, Aberdeen is a city of silver-grey granite and nearly nine centuries of maritime ambition. Established in 1136, its harbour is Britain's oldest existing business. Fishing, shipbuilding, global trade, and offshore energy have each shaped this working waterfront. Beyond the harbour, medieval Old Aberdeen, the colourful fishing quarter of Footdee, striking civic architecture, contemporary galleries, and a lively food scene give the Granite City a character all its own. Board the expedition vessel in the heart of this historic port. As Aberdeen's granite skyline recedes, the sea roads to Orkney, Shetland, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland open ahead.

Day 2: Kirkwall, Orkney



Across Orkney's open landscape, standing stones, ceremonial monuments, and remarkably preserved settlements form one of Western Europe's richest surviving Neolithic landscapes. Built five thousand years ago, these sites reveal a sophisticated society of farmers, builders, and seafarers. Low green hills, broad skies, lochs, and the surrounding sea remain inseparable from their extraordinary presence. Kirkwall adds another layer to the story. Founded in 1137, St. Magnus Cathedral rises above the town in local red and yellow sandstone, a magnificent legacy of Orkney's Norse heritage and Scotland's most complete medieval cathedral. The winding streets around it reflect a continuing tradition of exceptional Orcadian craftsmanship, particularly jewellery, textiles, and design inspired by the islands. Kirkwall also honours Arctic explorer John Rae, whose grave lies in the cathedral grounds.

Day 3: Shetland Islands



Set between the North Sea and North Atlantic, Shetland has long been a crossroads of northern cultures. Norse rule lasted for centuries, leaving its mark on place names, language, traditions, and a strong island identity that remains distinctive within Scotland today. Explore archaeological sites that reveal thousands of years of human presence, wander through communities shaped by fishing, crofting, and the sea, and watch for the abundant birdlife that gathers along Shetland's rugged coast. Music and storytelling remain strong threads in island culture, connecting contemporary Shetland with generations that came before. As you explore, discover a place whose character has been shaped by connections in every direction: north toward Scandinavia, south toward Scotland, and outward across the North Atlantic. 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: Foula and Papa Stour



Foula, whose Old Norse name means "bird island," is home to only a few dozen people, living amid some of Britain's highest sheer sea cliffs. Discover an island where crofting continues, peat is still cut for fuel, and traditions of music and storytelling remain part of community life. In season, thousands of seabirds gather along the cliffs, adding another dimension to an island already rich in character. On Papa Stour, another small island community occupies a landscape of ancient volcanic rock carved into stacks, arches, blowholes, and some of Britain's finest sea caves. Together, Foula and Papa Stour offer a rare glimpse of life on Shetland's smaller islands, where longstanding traditions continue amid extraordinary wildlife and geology.

Day 5: Vágur, Suðuroy, Faroe Islands



Set along a deep fjord and surrounded by steep mountains, Vágur grew into one of Suðuroy's important fishing towns. Its boats and salt-fish trade connected this southern island with markets across Europe, while traditional boathouses, warehouses, and the working harbour still reflect its maritime character. The cultural life of Suðuroy comes into closer view at the Ruth Smith Art Museum, where the celebrated Faroese painter captured the islands' shifting light, landscapes, and people. Join in the Faroese chain dance, moving together as traditional ballads carry stories across generations. This much-loved communal tradition reveals the importance of music, memory, and shared participation in Faroese culture. Above the village, the cliffs of Eggjarnar overlook the open Atlantic, bringing Vágur's maritime heritage, creative expression, and dramatic setting into one remarkable place.

Day 6: Tórshavn



Few capitals feel as closely tied to their harbour as Tórshavn. At Tinganes, red timber buildings with turf roofs occupy one of the world's oldest parliamentary meeting places, where assemblies have been held since the Viking Age. Nearby, the narrow lanes of the old town wind between black-tarred houses and sheltered gardens. The city is also the creative centre of the islands. Faroese language, visual art, music, design, and an ambitious food culture flourish in its galleries, venues, workshops, cafés, and restaurants. Fishing boats and ferries keep the harbour in motion, while the surrounding hills and sea remain close at hand. Tórshavn brings the culture and character of eighteen islands together in one lively harbour. Founded as a Viking trading settlement, it remains the cultural heart of the Faroe Islands, where old timber buildings with turf roofs stand alongside contemporary galleries, cafés, and restaurants. Wander quiet lanes and discover a confident island society where language, craftsmanship, music, and design continue to evolve while remaining firmly anchored in place.

Days 7–8: Western Faroe Islands



Across the western Faroe Islands, the land rises from the North Atlantic with an almost improbable beauty. Dark walls of layered basalt are draped in vivid green, waterfalls descend from high plateaus, and narrow fjords disappear between mountains. Sea stacks, arches, and isolated islets stand offshore, while Atlantic puffins, northern fulmars, guillemots, and kittiwakes return in their thousands to the cliffs for the breeding season. Mist, sunlight, and passing weather continually transform the view, heightening the elemental beauty of these remarkable islands. Two days allow this extraordinary island world to unfold from different perspectives. Hikes cross sweeping headlands and reveal views deep into the archipelago, while Zodiac cruises bring the immense proportions of the coast fully into view from the water. Beneath cliffs alive with seabirds and beside formations carved by the Atlantic, the western Faroes offer some of the voyage's most stirring natural encounters with the forces that have shaped this island world.

Day 9: At Sea



The North Atlantic unfolds during the crossing to Iceland, its changing light, weather, and wildlife holding attention far beyond the decks. Fulmars and gannets follow the winds above the waves, while the possibility of whales keeps watch focused on the horizon. Aboard, presentations and conversations explore the natural and human histories carried through these waters, from seabird migrations and ocean currents to the generations of voyagers who travelled between islands. Time at sea brings the expedition's central story into focus: across the North Atlantic, the ocean has long been a route of movement, exchange, and connection.

Day 10: Heimaey, Vestmannaeyjar, Iceland



Heimaey rises from the North Atlantic in a dramatic meeting of volcanic earth and ocean. In 1973, Eldfell erupted without warning, forcing nearly the entire population to evacuate as lava and ash buried parts of the town. When molten rock threatened to close the harbour, islanders pumped seawater onto the advancing flows, helping preserve the sheltered waters at the heart of community life. Today, brightly painted homes and a busy fishing harbour stand beneath the still-young volcanic cone. Lava fields reach toward the town, while Atlantic puffins return in vast numbers to breed along the surrounding cliffs. Heimaey reveals an island continually shaped by powerful natural forces and by the ingenuity of those who call it home.

Day 11: Reykjavík, Iceland



The expedition reaches Reykjavík, Iceland's lively capital and a fitting culmination to a journey across the North Atlantic. Set between mountains and sea, the city pairs colourful streets and corrugated houses with bold architecture, an inventive culinary scene, and a creative culture expressed through literature, music, and design. Geothermal energy warms its homes and outdoor pools, bringing Iceland's volcanic landscape into the rhythms of daily life. After disembarkation, those staying on can discover a capital whose museums, galleries, restaurants, and waterfront offer many reasons to linger. Here, at the journey's final shore, the sea roads followed from Scotland through the Faroes arrive in a country profoundly shaped by the forces and connections of the North Atlantic.

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 is a general natural history and cultural expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

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.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes

• Passage aboard the Ocean Victory
• Applicable taxes and credit card fees
• Special access permits, entry, and park fees
• Complimentary expedition jacket
• 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
• Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are served with dinner
• 1 GB complimentary 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
• Kayak program
• Premium Wi-Fi access
