



THE HEBRIDES WITH ST KILDA ON BOARD M/S STOCKHOLM

Experience the exciting outposts of the Hebrides! Followed by gannets, fulmars and puffins we explore the green island Iona, the spectacular Fingals Cave on the small island of Staffa and other beautiful islands. We also take the opportunity to visit one of the many whisky distilleries the area is known for. One of the trips highlights is the isolated islands of St Kilda, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Scotland's westernmost outpost. Weather permitting, we will make a landing here and explore the islands, where people lived for thousands of years totally isolated from the rest of the world. On the cliffs around St Kilda we find the worlds largest population of gannets over 60 000 pairs nest here. During the expedition we also learn more about the areas rich history, marked by Vikings, Celts, druids and clans.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Glasgow

We arrive in Glasgow and spend a night at a comfortable and centrally located hotel.

Day 2-8: The Hebrides

After lunch we travel together to Oban and board M/S Stockholm our home for the next seven nights. The following are examples of exciting places we hope to visit: Iona, Staffa & Lunga Iona has been a place of deep spiritual significance for more than 1 000 years. No less than 62 Kings of Scotland are buried here, including Duncan I, who was murdered by Macbeth. Saint Columba came here from Ireland in 563 AD and early Christianity spread through Britain from this remote island community. Weather permitting we make a stop at the



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spectacular island of Staffa with the amazing Fingals Cave. The cave inspired Mendelssohn to compose The Hebrides Overture. We also hope to be able to land on Lunga to walk amongst the surprisingly tame puffins. St Kilda We head to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of St Kilda through the Sound of Harris, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some 64 km from the nearest Scottish isles. For some this is a pilgrimage in itself and a very moving experience. We drop anchor in Village Bay on the main island Hirta and wander through the remnants of the village. St Kilda once supported a population of 200, but the last islanders were evacuated in the 1930s. Recent restoration work on the village by the National Trust for Scotland offers an interesting link with the past. Later we cruise past the impressive island of Boreray, Stac an Amin and Stac Lee, where tens of thousands of gannets nest. Callanish Stones On the northwestern side of Lewis we visit the Callanish Stones, a cross-shaped setting of standing stones erected around 3000 BC. This is one of the most spectacular megalithic monuments in Scotland. Dunvegan Dunvegan Castle is magnificently located on a rocky outcrop on the shores of Loch Dunvegan. The castle is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland and was the ancestral home of the Chiefs of Clan MacLeod for 800 years. In contrast to the surrounding landscape, dominated by barren moorland and mountains, the gardens here are like a hidden oasis. Here we find an eclectic mix of plants, woodland glades, shimmering pools fed by waterfalls and streams flowing down to the sea. In the afternoon we visit Loch Harport and Talisker, the renowned whisky distillery, to learn more about how these precious amber drops are produced. Canna & Rum The small island of Canna has a tiny agricultural and cattle rearing population. From a walk along the cliff top we may see golden eagles, white tailed eagles, puffins and peregrine falcons. The

island is beautifully situated with stunning views of the area. The neighboring island, Rum, is a nature reserve and an oasis for birdwatchers. More than 150 species have been observed on this small island. If possible, we pay a visit to Kinloch Castle, an eclectic 19th century turreted castle built by the Bullough family, and walk the nature trail, a beautiful area of wild flowers.

Day 9: Oban

We return to Oban and disembark M/S Stockholm in the morning. Transfer to Glasgow International Airport or Glasgow central station is included.

Please Note:

The itinerary above is preliminary. Our exact route will depend on the weather and wind conditions. Please keep in mind that flexibility is the key to a successful adventure!



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YOUR SHIP: STOCKHOLM

YOUR SHIP: Stockholm

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The M/S Stockholm is a classic vessel built in 1953 for the Swedish National Maritime Administration. In 1999 she was totally refitted and started her career as a comfortable polar passenger ship. The M/S Stockholm exclusively carries a maximum of 12 passengers in outside twin cabins, all with upper and lower berth and private facilities. She is a marvellous piece of maritime history with beautiful brass details and pine decks. No wonder the M/S Stockholm is loved by so many! On board the ship you will enjoy delicious meals in the company of likeminded travellers who enjoy the natural world, and who are as fascinated by the Arctic as you will be. The food on board is of a high standard. All wine, beer and drinks are included in the trip fare. With such a small party on board, this is like travelling on a private yacht. An entirely different experience and perspective to that of a larger and more conventional vessel! The M/S Stockholm is also ideal for private parties who wish to explore the Svalbard archipelago. The owner, Captain and crew of the ship have long experience in Arctic waters, and are actively involved in making expeditions in tune with nature conservation. The crew onboard M/S Stockholm are great enthusiasts of the unique wildlife and unspoilt nature too, so do

not be surprised if you suddenly see the chef ashore taking photographs or studying birds, whenever his time permits. The genuine curiosity of the crew is a prerequisite for expedition cruises of this kind. A trip on board M/S Stockholm in these northern waters, with its unique wildlife and pristine nature is an experience of a lifetime, simply



hard to beat.



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