


# HISTORIC TRAILS & WILDERNESS: SCOTLAND, FAROES & ICELAND FROM EDINBURGH

Welcome to Aurora's Historic Trails & Wilderness: Scotland, Faroes & Iceland expedition. Journey from Scotland's storied shores to Iceland's dramatic landscapes on this unforgettable expedition. Begin in Edinburgh, where medieval lanes and towering castles set the stage before we sail west to the Hebrides. Explore Iona, birthplace of Christianity in Britain, and marvel at the basalt columns of Fingal's Cave on Staffa. In the Outer Hebrides, visit ancient standing stones on Lewis and the remote, seabird-filled isles of St Kilda. Crossing the North Atlantic, we reach the Faroe Islands -- a hidden gem of rugged cliffs, Viking tales, and colourful villages. Explore Torshavn, cruise beneath soaring bird cliffs, and hike amidst wild, green fjords. Iceland welcomes us with the charming village of Seyðisfjorður and the wonders of Vatnajokull National Park. Choose your adventure: hike glaciers, explore canyons, or soak in geothermal hot springs while surrounded by icebergs. Finally, visit the volcanic Westman Islands, home to puffins, seals, and the story of Heimaey's dramatic 1973 eruption. Wildlife encounters, rich history, and awe-inspiring landscapes await on this remarkable northern voyage.







## ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive in Edinburgh

Having made your way to Edinburgh, you will be met by a representative of Aurora Expeditions and transferred to our group hotel. Upon arrival at your included hotel, please visit the Aurora Expeditions hospitality desk to collect your luggage cabin tags and to speak with our ground operations team, who may have information to share with you about pre-embarkation or to provide you with information about where to dine, withdraw cash or purchase last minute items from a local pharmacy or supermarket.

The remainder of your time is at leisure. All meals today are at your own expense.

Accommodation: Courtyard by Marriott Edinburgh Hotel (or similar)

Day 2 Embark in Troon

After breakfast, check-out and bring your luggage to the foyer. Please place any items required today in your hand luggage as your main bag will be transferred to the ship.

Edinburgh awaits us this morning as our local guide welcomes us with stories of Scotland's capital city. Stretching just over one mile, five cobblestoned streets make up the walking precinct of the Royal Mile. Starting at The Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official residence of the British monarch in Scotland, we'll step back in time to hear tales of princes, poets, and politicians as we stroll past some of Edinburgh's most iconic buildings including the Church of Canongate and Scotland's own parliament house.

Perched atop an extinct volcano, Edinburgh Castle dominates the capital city's skyline just as it has dominated Scotland's long and colourful history. This instantly recognisable fortress is a powerful national symbol, and part of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site. Note: entry to the castle is not guaranteed (tickets not available until closer to departure).

You'll have time to explore the castle precinct and Royal Mile which are scattered with friendly pubs and charismatic



restaurants (lunch own expense). Our two-hour transfer takes us to the west coast port of Troon where our expedition team will welcome you aboard the Greg Mortimer in the late afternoon.

Once onboard, settle into your cabin before our important briefings. We will set sail along Scotland's northwest coast in the evening and meet your expedition team and crew.

### Day 3-4 Inner Hebrides

From golden beaches to jagged peaks, bleak moors and heather clad hills; from abandoned settlements to picturesque villages, our days in the Hebrides archipelago will be packed with variety. We may explore remote lochs beneath some of Britain's most untamed mountains and wander between unusual rock formations. We may watch for whales, dolphins, otters, seals, and the increasingly rare basking sharks. Possibly we will land at an island reserve that is home to red deer and white-tailed sea eagles.

Kayakers will be introduced to their craft and will be briefed for their adventures, before picking up paddles to circumnavigate tiny islets or glide into narrow waterways that intertwine the islands. Hikers may opt for panoramic views from summits and ridges.

Early the next morning we will aim for the tiny island of Iona. Barely 5 kilometres (3 miles) long, Iona is renowned as the birthplace of Christianity in Britain. It is also a burial ground of early Scottish Kings. The Irish monk, St Columba and twelve disciples, landed here and founded a monastery in 563 CE. From this base, St Columba set about converting Scotland and much of Northern England to Christianity.

On Staffa, we hope to have the chance to explore Fingals Cave, where the melodious sound of waves crashing against towering basalt pillars inspired Mendelssohnns Hebridean Overture. We may enter the cave in Zodiacs, or clamber ashore to walk into the mouth of the cave. On shore we will also find Puffins in abundance.

### Days 5 Outer Hebrides

From the Inner Hebrides we make our way to the Outer Hebrides - also known as the Western Isles - that stretch for 209 kilometres (128 miles) and look out on their western side to the Atlantic Ocean. Our first stop is at the Isle of Lewis, the largest and northern-most island in the Outer Hebrides. We plan to make a stop at Callanais, where archaeology buffs will be keen to see the fascinating group of Standing Stones, dating from around 3,000 BCE.

Weather permitting, we plan to land at the isolated archipelago (and World Heritage site) of St Kilda, where derelict crofts bear testament to the fortitude of islanders who once tended the unique Soay sheep and harvested seabirds for food--and to pay their rent in the form of wool, meat and feathers. The isles hold Europe's most important seabird colony and is home to Britain's highest sea stacks.

### Days 6-8 The Faroe Islands

Nestled in the heart of the North Atlantic, the Faroe Islands are a hidden gem waiting to be discovered. This remote archipelago, composed of 18 volcanic islands, boasts a population of just 50,000, offering an unparalleled escape from the ordinary. Steeped in Viking history and characterised by dramatic




landscapes of towering cliffs, verdant mountains, and deep fjords, the Faroes are a paradise for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike.

Over the next three days we hope to explore the islands of Sandoy, Streymoy and Eysturoy, beginning in Torshavn, a captivating blend of old and new. Wander through the town's quaint, colourful houses, many adorned with traditional grass roofs, and imagine life as a Viking settler. Encounter the iconic Faroese sheep, their woolly coats a stark contrast against the rugged terrain, and perhaps catch a glimpse of the elusive Faroese ponies. No visit to the Faroe Islands is complete without a boat trip to the mesmerising Vestmanna bird cliffs. Soar above the ocean as thousands of seabirds, including puffins, razorbills, and guillemots, fill the air with their enchanting calls. For those seeking adventure, the island of Suduroy offers unparalleled hiking opportunities. Explore pristine coastal paths, surrounded by dramatic mountain backdrops, and revel in the solitude of this unspoiled natural wonderland. The Faroe Islands will cast their spell on you as you discover a world of breathtaking beauty, warm hospitality, and authentic experiences.

### Days 9 Sea Crossing to Iceland

Enjoy the sea crossing to Iceland accompanied by sea birds while searching for whales. Enjoy informative talks from our team of experts, get to know your fellow expeditioners, stay active in the gym or treat yourself to a massage in the wellness centre.

### Days 10 Seyðisfjörður

Explore Seyðisfjörður, a picturesque fishing village that is renowned for its charming collection of colourful wooden buildings located around the lagoon. Take a stroll around town and discover the timber houses that are remnants from when the Norwegians settled here and established the herring fishing facilities from 1870-1900. From the valley above the town, the river Fjarðara tumbles down in beautiful cascades to the lagoon. There are a number of delightful hiking trails to explore, or alternatively, you can discover a flourishing cultural scene with an arts centre, the famous blue church that stages music concerts and the only two cinemas in the east of Iceland. Back in town, browse the stores where you will discover handicrafts by local artists and artisans - perfect as a souvenir or gift.

### Days 11 Djúpivogur

In Iceland's east, we disembark in Djupivogur, our gateway to Vatnajokull National Park, home to Europe's largest glacier.

Personalise your expedition with our included 'Your Choice' experiences that best suits your interests and level of fitness.

Option 1 - Waterfalls, Glacial Lagoons & Hot Tubs

Duration: 10 hours including driving to/from Djupivogur

Level of difficulty: Easy

Maximum numbers: 60 (2 x 30)

Your first stop is at Fossarfoss, a waterfall surrounded by majestic mountains with spectacular views. The layered basalt flow formations that surround the area offer a striking contrasting vista making this a favourite location among photographers. From here we depart for Vatnajokull National Park, one of the most famous natural attractions in the world.




Explore the astonishing and exotic natural beauty of Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon by four-wheeled Amphibian boat. Here we observe giant icebergs float slowly towards the ocean from the glacier.

Following lunch, re-join the coach and head for Diamond beach, a black sand beach where the icebergs are washed ashore, and Fjallsarlon lagoon, renowned for the shimmering icebergs that float in its waters. Concluding our day, we continue to the geothermal hot tubs in Hoffell, perfect for a nice, relaxing soak with an otherworldly view.

Option 2 - Wonders of Vatnajokull National Park & Canyon Hike

Duration: 9 hours including driving to/from Djupivogur

Level of difficulty: Moderate

Maximum numbers: 40

Your first stop is at Fossarfoss, a waterfall surrounded by majestic mountains with spectacular views. The layered basalt flow formations that surround the area offer a striking contrasting vista making this a favourite location among photographers. From here we depart for the dramatic Mulagljufur Canyon, a true hidden gem ideal for hiking. Here we navigate through overgrown bushes, small river streams, and different trails along the rim of the canyon. Find yourself marvelling at the panoramic views of Fjallsarlon glacier lagoon, picturesque mountains, vibrant textures, and intriguing rock formations. Following lunch, re-join the coach and head for Vatnajokull National Park, one of the most famous natural attractions in the world. Explore the astonishing and exotic natural beauty of Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon by foot. Here we observe giant icebergs float slowly towards the ocean from the glacier. Re-join the coach for Diamond beach, a black sand beach where the icebergs are washed ashore.

Note: Mulagljufur Canyon Hike is 3.8km (2.35 miles) one way and approximately 3 hours duration. Terrain - 315 metre elevation with a narrow unpaved trail with two small river crossings, very easy to cross.

Option 3 - Falljokull Glacier Hike

Duration: 9 hours (4 hours on the glacier)

Level of difficulty: Moderate-Difficult

Maximum numbers: 45

Your first and only stop today is at Falljokull, one of the most impressive outlet glaciers of the Vatnajokull ice cap and a once in a lifetime experience. We will take an inspiring walk along a winding path through the glacier's dramatically changing landscape. Arriving at the tongue of the glacier, we will have your crampons ready and waiting for you. With your knowledgeable guide leading the way, you will soon be exploring impressive terrain, walking through a wonderland of ice formations and brilliant blue colours. Following a hard-earned late lunch, re-join the coach and depart for the ship in Djupivogur.

Note: Falljokull Glacier Hike equipment provided - ice axe,

crampons, harness and helmet. The minimum shoe size to attach crampons is EU 35 (boots can be hired at additional cost if necessary). Requires a higher level of fitness and agility as you will be on your feet for a long period of time (4 hours) and the terrain is challenging. Please note the transfer to and from the ship and Falljokull Glacier is 3 hours each way, so come prepared with a book or enjoy the magnificent scenery and a nice nap enroute.

Days 12 Westman Islands

Enjoy a morning and lunch onboard, searching for whales and seabirds. Our team of experts entertains us with informative talks.

Located off Iceland's south coast, the Westman Islands were formed by volcanic eruptions around 10,000 years ago. Westman Islands are surrounded by 15 other uninhabited islands and around 30 rocks and skerries offering refuge for rich array of seabirds. Westman Islands are considered to have the largest Atlantic puffin colony in the world, and when sailing around the islands it is not uncommon to see puffins but also whales and seals.

Personalise your expedition with our included 'Your Choice' experiences that best suits your interests and level of fitness.

Option 1 - Eldheimar Volcano Museum & Puffin Viewing

Duration: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: Easy

Located off Iceland's south coast, the Westman Islands were formed by volcanic eruptions around 10,000 years ago. Heimaey is the main island in the archipelago, with a population of around 4,200. Various catastrophes have befallen the island of Heimaey and its inhabitants throughout history. Probably the most tragic incident was the volcanic eruption in 1973. Visit a unique volcano museum that tells the story of the Heimaey volcanic eruption, the emergence of Surtsey Island in 1963, and the geology of the Westman Islands.

We'll continue our drive to Storhofði cape for some puffin watching, offering ample photo opportunities to capture shots of the charming little birds. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore the island if time permits.

Option 2 - Eldheimar Volcano Climb & Museum

Duration: 3 hours

Level of difficulty: Difficult

Learn more about the geology and volcanology of Iceland during a two-hour hike up a volcano. Reaching the summit, you can still feel the warmth emanating from its subterranean activity. At the end of the hike, you visit a unique volcano museum that tells the story of the Heimaey volcanic eruption, the emergence of Surtsey Island in 1963, and the geology of the Westman Islands. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore the island if time permits.

Sail past Surtsey Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site that




emerged from the sea in 1963 and is one the youngest land masses on earth.

### Day 13 Disembark in Reykjavik

During the early morning, we cruise into Reykjavik and disembark at approximately 8.00 am. Farewell your Expedition Team and fellow passengers as we all continue our onward journeys. Transfer to Keflavik airport.

Note: At the conclusion of the voyage, we recommend booking flights departing after 12.00 pm on the day of disembarkation in case there are delays.

### Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.




# YOUR SHIP: GREG MORTIMER

**YOUR SHIP:** **Greg Mortimer**

**VESSEL TYPE:**

**LENGTH:**

**PASSENGER CAPACITY:**

**BUILT/REFURBISHED:**

Capable of negotiating the strongest winds and waves, the Greg Mortimer is built to world-class polar standards - designed in close consultation with our expedition specialists, taking advantage of our more than 25 years of experience. The Greg Mortimer redefines expedition cruising for the future, with just 130 passengers on board in the polar regions. Not only is the ship bigger to contend with adverse weather conditions, its added creature comforts make for a more enjoyable journey out on the open ocean. The Greg Mortimer remains true to our ethos and focus on multiple landings, flexible itineraries and family atmosphere - just with an improved home base! As a modern and custom-designed ship, the Greg Mortimer is at the cutting edge of nautical technology. Robust, powerful and built with our guests in mind, this ship marks a significant investment in our fleet's capabilities. From the European Arctic to the depths of Antarctica, and other far-flung destinations in-between, the Greg Mortimer will make your journey a breeze! Greg Mortimer X-BOWX-BOW ™ Our expeditions face some of the worst Mother Nature can throw at us. However, this won't be problem on the Greg Mortimer with the introduction of the patented X-BOW™, created by Norwegian ship designer ULSTEIN. As one of the leaders in marine engineering, ULSTEIN's X-BOW™ is an inverted bow concept that's been built on over 100 vessels in the shipping industry. Excitingly, we are the first expedition cruise operator to utilise this technology for the challenging open ocean waves! Hydraulic viewing platforms Although there is no doubt that you'll love the aesthetics of the Greg Mortimer, we are all here to admire the spectacular landscape and spot the elusive wildlife in their natural habitat. To ensure you get the best views possible, the new ship features unique viewing platforms, custom-built for the Greg Mortimer. Accessed from Deck 5, the two platforms fold out hydraulically for unobstructed views of passing marine life and seabirds - make sure your camera is locked and loaded! Zodiac launching platform Zodiacs are a vital part of getting up close and personal on your adventure - sneaking into areas that the Greg Mortimer can't reach. On this new ship, there are specially designed launching platforms that enables us to load Zodiacs easily and quickly, allowing you to spend more time exploring on the two to three daily landings. There are 15 Zodiacs that are boarded from either side of Deck 3 (sea level), perfect for when there is a group of fluffy cute penguin chicks that we need a photo of! Activity Platform Regardless of your destination, we offer a number of additional activities to allow you to see more of the environment. From kayaking and diving to climbing and ski touring, it's these optional activities that often leave the biggest impression on your trip as a whole. Onboard the Greg Mortimer, there is a spacious prep and loading platform for these activities and more - designed in consultation with our expert activity guides. Environmentally friendly Climate change and carbon





emissions continue to be major issues that everyone needs to be aware of and actively managing. This includes reduced emissions into the air and sea, lower energy consumption, high fuel efficiency, reduced light pollution for minimal wildlife disruption and lower on-board plastic use. It's vital to also mention the state-of-the-art virtual anchoring technology of the X-BOW™, which means the ship can float anchorless while launching Zodiacs, kayaks etc, without disturbing delicate sea floor areas. Safety features This starts with the return-to-port equipment - not compulsory on a ship of this size - which duplicates the propulsion system. This enables the ship to maintain operating systems and comfort in the event of engine failure. Furthermore, the Greg Mortimer is Polar Code 6 compliant, holds BV class and is fully compliant with the latest SOLAS requirements. It's also built with a Rolls Royce stabiliser system. If there's an incident or accident during your adventure, the ship has an on-board, fully-stocked medical centre - where our trained medical team can provide necessary treatment in a timely fashion. Safety continues to be an issue that our team takes very serious and the Greg Mortimer allows us to create an environment where you can concentrate on the brilliant landscape and wildlife, without worrying about your wellbeing. Ship Life Greg Mortimer is designed to serve your every need. It's your bedroom, bathroom, lounge, dining room and even your observatory. Make yourself at home, the Greg Mortimer is yours to enjoy! Observation Points Let's face it - you don't want windowless rooms when travelling around some of the most beautiful locations around the world. This is why the Greg Mortimer is designed with plenty of dedicated observation spaces - ideal for keen bird spotters, wildlife watchers and those wanting to watch the scenery go past. From the indoor 180-degree lounge and outdoor 360-degree open deck, both on deck 8, to the 270-degree open sundeck on level 7, there are plenty of observation points to share around the ship! If these are full, then you can take up a spot on one of the two hydraulic viewing platforms on deck 5. Aurora Expeditions also has an open bridge policy, which means at any point you can come up to the bridge and check out what the captain and officers are up to. From watching navigational practices to observing mapping techniques, you can get a firsthand look at the inner workings of the Greg Mortimer. Shore excursions Although the ship is fun, the real enjoyment comes from the many shore excursions that are available. Depending on the weather and itinerary, it's possible to take two to three landings daily, taking a look at everything from rock formations and ancient ruins to cute groups of penguins. We know time is of the essence in these wild locations, so the Greg Mortimer has been designed with 15 Zodiacs, which means you can maximise your time on shore. From four dedicated sea level launching platforms, transfers are quicker, safer and enable you to get closer to the action for a longer period of time. Just remember to charge your camera before you step onto the Zodiac! Activity options From kayaking and skiing to diving and climbing, these are one-in-a-lifetime opportunities that you need to take advantage of. Aboard the Greg Mortimer there is a specially designed launching platform for all activities, a concept overseen by our activity experts. This area also includes individual lockers in the expansive mudroom and rapid drying areas for wetsuits so you can quickly get warm after exploring in the elements! Dining From the moment you step onto the Greg Mortimer, we aim to give you the best hospitality service possible. Starting with the official Captain's welcome, as our guests, you're welcome to 24 hours complimentary coffee, tea and snack facilities in addition to the range of different menu

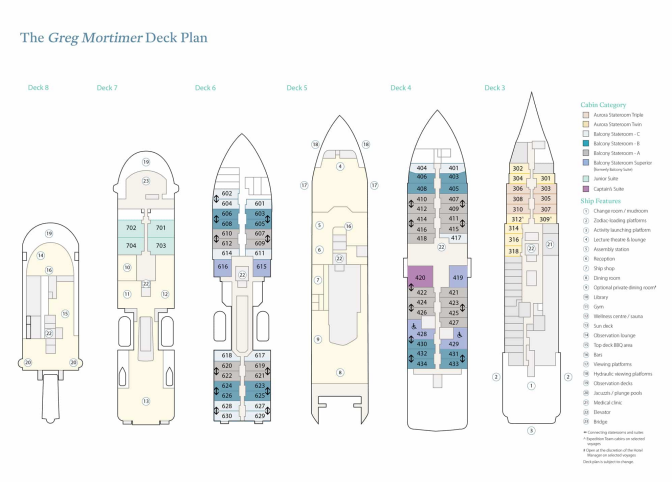
options and courses for each meal. Meals are served in large dining room/restaurant with family style dining, perfect to swap stories with your new expedition family. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild, preparing yourself for another exciting day to follow. On the last day of your trip, the team on the Greg Mortimer put on a special farewell four-course dinner and cocktails - a perfect way to reflect on your time on the ship and consolidate lifelong friendships with the people you've met on-board. On-board entertainment When you're relaxing during a sea day or you have a little downtime on the ship between excursions, what is there to do onboard the Greg Mortimer? Plenty! On all our expeditions, there are experts who lead presentations in the spacious lecture room so you can understand the region a little better. These often include topics as broad as history and culture to biology and climate change, these presentations aim to educate and entertain. If you're keen to just watch the surroundings and keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, you have access to two bars/lounges where the stunning floor to ceiling windows offer a special perspective on the landscape. The Greg Mortimer is also decked out with other facilities for your enjoyment. There is a library on Deck 5 with books and maps and a Wellness Centre complete with gym equipment, sauna and spa. Feeling a little sore after walking around all day? Treat yourself to a massage at the Wellness Centre and feels the aches disappear! Keen photographers and artists will revel in the multimedia room



on Deck 5.




# INSIDE YOUR SHIP




Aurora Stateroom Triple



Aurora Stateroom Twin



Balcony Stateroom - A



Balcony Stateroom - B



Balcony Stateroom - C



Balcony Stateroom Superior



Captain's Suite



Junior Suite






# PRICING

**17-May-2027 to 29-May-2027**

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|---|---|
| Captain's Suite | £23448 GBP pp |
| Aurora Stateroom Twin | £12848 GBP pp |
| Balcony Stateroom - C | £13948 GBP pp |
| Balcony Stateroom - B | £14698 GBP pp |
| Aurora Stateroom Triple | £12498 GBP pp |
| Junior Suite | £20548 GBP pp |
| Balcony Stateroom - A | £15748 GBP pp |
| Balcony Stateroom Superior | £17248 GBP pp |