

ORKNEY, SHETLAND AND FAROE ISLANDS

Join us on a magnificent expedition cruise to the Orkney, Shetland and Faroe Islands on board Le Boreal NB these cruise details have been updated \- Please see the new trip page - Orkney, Shetland, Faroe Islands and St Kilda cruise. The expedition starts in Oban and we sail, via the scenic and bird-rich island of Handa, to the enchanting Orkney Islands. Here we explore the largest island, Mainland, which offers interesting history and charming small towns. The expedition continues to the Shetland Islands, where we are greeted with rich history, beautiful landscapes, characteristic settlements and plenty of sheep. We leave this astonishing archipelago behind and then head for the dramatic and remote Faroe Islands, located in the middle of the North Atlantic. The islands are still under the sovereignty of Denmark. Here we enjoy the stunning nature of cliffs, fjords and valleys, marvel at the rich bird life and learn more about the islands' exciting culture and history.



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Day 1: Glasgow

We arrive in Glasgow and spend a night at a comfortable and centrally located hotel. In the evening we have time to explore



this Scottish city on our own.

Day 2: Oban

We travel by private bus and with a local guide to Oban, where our small and comfortable expedition ship M/S Quest is waiting for us. Our trip to Oban offers magnificent sceneries of the Landscapes, characterised by lochs and bens. In the afternoon we embark the ship and head out on our expedition.

Day 3: Tanera Mòr & Handa

At dawn we reach the Summer Isles, located on the northwestern coast of Scotland. Here we go ashore on the largest and the only inhabited island of the archipelago - Tanera Mor. The island was once a port for herring and today it hosts a salmon farm. We take a walk and enjoy the magnificent scenery and the breathtaking views. We also visit the little post office that has issued its own postage stamps since 1970. Later, we reach the small island Handa. During the summer season the island's dramatic sandstone cliffs become home to an estimated 100 000 breeding seabirds such as puffins, razorbills and guillemots. During the evening we set course for the Orkney Islands.

Day 4: Stromness, the Orkney Islands

Today we arrive at the port of the charming town of Stromness, located on the largest island - Mainland. We spend the day exploring the island and we head into the heart of Neolithic Orkney, an area designated as a World Heritage Site due to its wealth of pre-historic archaeology. We visit the 5 000-year-old village of Skara Brae and see the remarkable dwellings that were revealed from beneath the sand dunes by storms only 160 years ago. Today it is western Europe's most well-preserved prehistoric village. We continue to the Ring of Brodgar - a huge ceremonial circle of stones dating back almost 5 000 years. On the way back to Stromness we also make a stop in Kirkwall, the main town of the Orkney Islands. Here we find St. Magnus Cathedral, the most northerly cathedral in the British Isles, founded by the Viking Earl Rognvald in 1137.

Day 5: Lerwick, the Shetland Islands

In the early morning, we reach the capital and main port of the Shetland Islands, Lerwick. During our visit we explore the remarkable Neolithic ruins of Jarlshof. The site was uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896/97, revealing an extraordinary settlement site embracing at least 5 000 years of human history. A guided tour takes us through the narrow stone lanes of Lerwick and we make a visit to Shetland Museum, where we get acquainted with the islands' fascinating history and culture. In the afternoon we continue our voyage towards the remote Faroe Islands

Day 6: At sea towards the Faroe Islands

Our ship heads northwest as we listen to interesting lectures on the flora, fauna and history of the fascinating group of islands to come. In the early evening we reach Suðuroy, one of the 18 islands that belongs to the Faroe Islands.

Day 7: Suðuroy

We spend the day exploring the dramatic Island of Suðuroy. Spellbinding steep bird cliffs to the west and a rolling, idyllic landscape offer visitors magnificent sceneries upon arrival. The geographic distance from the rest of the Faroe Islands also explains much of its uniqueness when it comes to language and culture. From Suðuroy's little town Vagur, beautifully situated in the Vagsfjørður fjord, we head for Beinisvørð - a 469 meter high sea cliff. From here we can enjoy the breathtaking views of the



island's diverse landscape that consists of mountains, fjords, villages and valleys. Our tour continues, either by foot or by bus, down the slope to Suðuroy's southernmost village, Sumba. From here we make a longer walk to the southernmost tip of the Faroe Islands, Akraberg, where we find a charming lighthouse, dating back to 1909.

Day 8: Mykines

Weather and wind permitting we enter our sturdy Zodiacs to explore the westernmost island - Mykines, a bird paradise that attracts bird enthusiasts and ornithologists from all over the world. This little island is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds such as gannets, fulmars, guillemots, storm petrels and kittiwakes. The main attraction is undoubtedly Mykinesholmur, an independent islet that is connected to the mainland by a suspension bridge on 35 meters elevation. On the grassy slopes above the cliffs, thousands of puffins are nesting. It is not unusual to see them flying in with fish hanging from their beaks to feed their young. For those who are ready for a tougher hike, we hope to have the chance to reach the top of Mykines to enjoy the incredible views. Hopefully we will also visit the only settlement, named after the island, with its ten brave inhabitants

Day 9: Streymoy

We will spend our last full day in the Faroe Islands on the largest island, Streymoy. Here lies Torshavn, the archipelago's charming capital, established by the Vikings in the 9th century. The parliament that was founded in 850 AD can still be seen and is one of the world's oldest. What was once an important trading port is now a modern town with about 13 000 inhabitants. After a visit to the capital we continue to the historical village of Kirkjubøur, which is the Faroe Islands' most important cultural and historical site. Here we have a chance to see the 900-yearold picturesque farm Roykstovan, originally the bishop's residence but since 1550 it belongs to the Patursson family. Today, part of the house is a museum while the remainder is occupied by the 17th generation of the family. In Kirkjubøur we can also find the small, and still active, medieval church St. Olav and the ruins of the Magnus Cathedral from about 1300 AD

Day 10: Vágar

In the morning we disembark M/S Quest, transfer by bus to Vagar Airport and begin our journey back home.



YOUR SHIP: QUEST

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VESSEL TYPE: **Expedition**

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

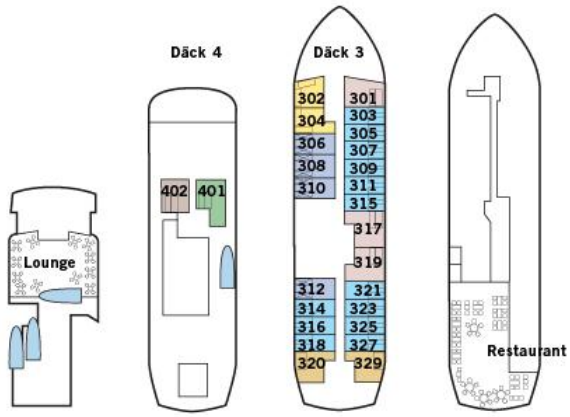
M/S Quest was built in Denmark in 1992 to serve as a ferry on Greenland`s west-coast. In 2004/2005 she was redesigned as an expedition ship and has now a career as a small and comfortable expedition vessel. She was extensively renovated in 2018. Quest takes 53 passengers in 26 cabins, all with sea-view and private facilities. The triple cabins on deck 3 have upper and lower berths. All other cabins have two lower berths or a double bed. In your cabin you also find a desk with chair and ample storage space for clothes and equipment. The superior cabins on deck 3 and 4 are spacious and have a separate sitting area and TV/DVD. The Owner`s cabin, next to the Captain`s cabin, on deck 4 has a double bed, two large picture windows, a sitting area and TV/DVD. In the dining room you are treated to delicious meals in between landings and in the panorama lounge you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the surrounding polar landscape. Here you can listen to entertaining lectures on the area`s flora, fauna, history and glaciology. In the lounge you also find a well-stocked bar and a small library. The ship has spacious observation decks where you can enjoy the beautiful vistas and search for seabirds, whales and polar bears. The ship has a European Captain and there is a friendly and informal atmosphere on board. Travelling with this small expedition ship offers an entirely different experience and perspective than you get on a larger and more conventional cruise ship. It is always possible to share a cabin on board M/S Quest. All cabins have windows and private



facilities.



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