

EXCLUSIVE!



Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

SCOTLAND IN DEPTH

*Discover Scotland from the sea
aboard MS Serenissima*

27 MAY - 8 JUNE 2020

13 DAYS FROM US\$7,495 PP



**THE SCOTTISH ISLES, THE EDGE OF EUROPE,
WEST AND NORTH THERE IS NOTHING MORE
TILL THE SHORES OF AMERICA, THESE ISLES
ARE OURS TO DISCOVER IN DEPTH.**

Explore Scotland's heartland harbours, villages and islands. It's history of ages past, whilst making your own history viewing brochs, standing stones and rings. Isles where the wildlife is in abundance. A land where the people are waiting to welcome you to their unique culture – a culture which may reflect threads of your own heritage.



GLASGOW

Day One: Wednesday 27 May (D)

Scotland's largest city, Glasgow, features modern architecture beside Italianate steeples, neo-gothic towers and the Art Nouveau designs of Glasgow's own Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Take the time to explore the Willow Tea Rooms and the Glasgow School of Art, cruise the Clyde to the Riverside Museum, enjoy the Clyde walkway, visit the modern Glasgow Science Centre or visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery – your options are as diverse as the city. Overnight at our centrally located hotel where we will meet for dinner and run through an introduction to our programme as we commence our discovery of Scotland in Depth.

GLASGOW TO OBAN

Day Two: Thursday 28 May (B,L,D)

Travelling north from Glasgow the famed shores of Loch Lomond call us. This freshwater Scottish loch is the largest inland stretch of water in Great Britain. Ben Lomond, a munro, rising to 974 m (3196ft) flanks the eastern shores whilst the highway pushes northwards on the western shores. At Inveraray Castle we connect with Clan Campbell as we walk around the beautiful grounds and explore the castle. Your first view of Oban, is one you will truly never forget as you come down the hill towards the bay the view opens before you. We join our expedition ship MV Serenissima, its welcome aboard with time to settle in before we cruise out of the harbour.

A MUNRO - any of the 277 mountains in Scotland that are at least 3,000 feet high (approximately 914 metres).

GIGHA AND ISLAY

Day Three: Friday 29 May (B,L,D)

The southernmost isle of the Southern Hebrides, Gigha is one of the smallest populated islands in the Hebrides. Meaning Good or God Island, the highest mountain is Creag Breahn. Nestled in woodland and extensive gardens Achamore House was built in 1884 for Lt-Col William James Scarlett, the 3rd Lord Abinger. One of the warmest places in Scotland, the gardens of Achamore House was purchased by the people of Gigha in 2002. Operated as a Trust they represent the plant collector's love and the garden designer's eye.

The earliest documented record of distilling in Scotland occurred as long ago as 1494, in the tax records of the day, the Exchequer Rolls. The entry lists "Eight bolls of malt to Friar John Cor where with to make aqua vitae" (water of life). This afternoon, be part of history and share a dram of whisky, the water of life, ashore at one of Islay's historic distilleries: Lagavulin Distillery.



THE SCOTS SPELL IT WHISKY AND THE IRISH SPELL IT WHISKEY.

This difference in the spelling comes from the translations of the word from the Scottish and Irish Gaelic forms. **Whiskey** with the extra 'e' is also used when referring to American **whiskies**.





STAFFA AND IONA

Day Four: Saturday 30 May (B,L,D)

Our visit to Staffa features the hexagonal basalt cliffs which culminate in Fingal's Cave- a spectacular natural feature named by the Celts as 'Uamh-Binh' or "the Cave of Melody". Abundant puffins, razorbills and guillemots use the island for breeding, accessing the surrounding rich marine environment.

This afternoon we visit **Iona**. The centre of Celtic world in 563 AD, the Irish missionary St. Columba went into exile and established a small monastic community there, its basic layout is known through the writings of Abbot Adomnan in the 600s. Driven out of Iona by Viking raids, most of the monastic community moved to Kells in Ireland around 800. In more peaceful times, around 1200, a Benedictine abbey and nunnery were established on the site. It is these buildings (heavily restored) that we see today.

LOCH COURISK AND RUM

Day Five: Sunday 31 May (B,L,D)

Isle of Skye's southern coast is remote, mainly uninhabited and home to the Cuillin Mountains. Loch Courisk is nestled securely in the landscapes folds of the Cuillin Ridge, a freshwater loch and is separated from the sea by the Scavaig River. Our short walk along this river gives access to the Loch, or the adventurous can take the opportunity to explore further.

Later in the quiet Isle of **Rum**, Kinloch Castle greets us. Built of Isle of Arran sandstone the Castle took three years and upwards of 300 craftsmen to build. One craftsman was unique for the time – an electrician – this was the first private residence in Scotland to have electricity, derived from a hydro dam constructed on the Coire Dubh Burn. Now under the care of the Scottish Natural Heritage its restoration is a work in progress.

MINGULAY AND BARRA

Day Six: Monday 1 June (B, L, D)

At the southern tip of the Outer Hebrides, Mingulay is home to puffins, guillemots, kittiwakes, shags, fulmars and razorbills. Sightings of eagles and peregrine falcons are possible here. The islands last inhabitants abandoned the village in 1912 leaving to neighbouring Vatersay, Mingulay is now owned by the National Trust of Scotland.

Barra is the ancestral island of Clan MacNeil whose chiefs were based at Kisimul Castle. Everyone who visits feels the power of the Castle, none more so than those named MacNeil.

ST KILDA

Day Seven: Tuesday 2 June (B,L,D)

Remote, battered by the Atlantic seas, St Kilda is a near mystical island with dual World Heritage site status for its natural and cultural significance. St Kilda is deemed Europe's most important seabird colony – with abundant puffins, fulmars and the largest colony of gannets in Britain.

Inhabited till 1930, the 19th century village layout remains allowing us to envisage life on this island where the bird life provided sustenance for the villagers. To visit St Kilda and look out across to Village Bay is a privilege.





Image supplied by shutterstock

THE RING OF BRODGAR HENGE is part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, a series of important domestic and ritual monuments built 5000 years ago in the Orkney Islands.

ISLE OF LEWIS: STORNOWAY

Day Eight: Wednesday 3 June (B,L,D)

Stornoway is the main town on the Isle of Lewis with just over 6,000 people, about a third of the Islands total population -home to a mix of traditional businesses like fishing, Harris Tweed and farming. Arriving at Stornoway we land in this Gaelic heartland to explore the Stone Age 'Callanish', the primordial configuration of standing stones. Crossing the gentle troughs and rounded tops of the landscape we explore the cultural Gearnannan Blackhouse Village and meet the people of this area.

As we stroll the alleyways of **Stornoway**, check out the local tweed or wander the pathways of Lewis Castle gardens we are sure to discover the secret of timelessness in the Hebrides.

IN THE 1850S, FORTY-TWO ISLANDERS

IMMIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA. Many of the emigrants died en-route, but a few settled in Melbourne, and to this day a suburb of the city is called St Kilda - named after the schooner The Lady of St Kilda which was anchored off the shore at around this time.



KIRKWALL & ORKNEY ISLANDS

Day Nine: Thursday 4 June (B, L, D)

From Bronze Age man, Iron Age people, Vikings and World Wars - time has left its mark on the Orkney Islands, the green Isles. Kirkwall, the capital of the Orkneys is a Viking town, founded in 1040 around an ancient church, today its heart is the red sandstone St Magnus Cathedral, with its namesake, the Viking martyr, St Magnus buried in its walls.

Our visit ashore includes **Kirkwall**, Skara Brae, and the Ring of Brodgar traverses Scapa Flow, infamous through WW2. In the winter of 1850, a great storm battered Orkney, the grass was stripped from a large mound, then known as 'Skerrabra'. The outline of a number of stone buildings was revealed—something that intrigued the local laird, William Watt of Skail, he embarked on an excavation of the site. Today, Skara Brae, as it has become known – survives as eight dwellings, linked together by a series of low, covered passages.

LERWICK & SHETLAND ISLANDS

Day Ten: Friday 5 June (B, L, D)

Lerwick is the Shetland Islands capital. Its cobblestone streets once filled with the rush created by fishing and ship building, today this port town charms as you wander the same streets of the town and waterfront.

To the south of Lerwick is Jarlshoff where we delve into more than 4,000 years of human settlement in the same location. Neolithic people first settled this site in Shetland around 2700 BC, and it remained in use until the AD 1600s. Discoveries made here include oval-shaped Bronze Age houses, an Iron Age broch and wheelhouses, Norse long houses, a medieval farmstead, and a laird's house dating from the 1500s.

This afternoon we land at Mousa Broch, standing 13m high, it is Scotland's most impressive and best surviving Iron Age tower or broch. Today we know brochs were built in Shetland around 400-200BC, the quality of stone, the workmanship and overall size of Mousa are all believed to contribute to why it has survived so well.

A BROCH is a round tower which had an inner and outer drystone wall which was about 5m thick in total - both defensive and prestigious buildings.



FAIR ISLE Day Eleven:

Saturday 6 June (B, L, D)

Famous for birds, knitwear and historic shipwrecks, Fair Isle is a tiny jewel of an island lying half-way between Orkney and Shetland. Owned by the National Trust for Scotland, it's one of Britain's most successful small communities, pioneering projects in wildlife tourism, windpower and sustainable management of the environment. The island is an internationally important seabird breeding site. From April to August the cliffs are busy with the sound (and smell!) of thousands of fulmars, kittiwakes, razorbills, guillemots, gannets, shags and puffins, while skuas and terns fiercely defend their nests on the moorland.

The 70 or so islanders mostly live in traditional crofts on the more fertile and low-lying southern third of the island. The northern part is largely rough grazing and rocky moorland, rising to the 217 metre Ward Hill.

ABERDEEN & EDINBURGH

Day Twelve: Sunday 7 June (B, L, D)

On arrival to Aberdeen we will continue our exploration over land, departing south to historic Dunottar Castle, before exploring the iconic township of St Andrews to wander the ruins. Later we dine together in **Edinburgh** as we complete our exploration of Scotland in Depth. Overnight accommodation and breakfast the following morning included.

EDINBURGH

Day Thirteen: Monday 8 June (B)

After breakfast and final farewells we travel on with our arrangements, whether that is more time in Edinburgh, south to England, further afield or directly homeward bound.

AARON RUSS began travelling from the age of six and has been down to Antarctica almost every year since. Aaron grew up close to wildlife and the wilderness with his family's 30 year old expedition cruise business **Heritage Expeditions**. He has been an expedition leader on over 100 expeditions to some of the world's most remote regions. With a degree in zoology, a passion for photography and a desire to showcase the world's most premier natural history destinations- expedition leading comes naturally.



HIGHLIGHTS:

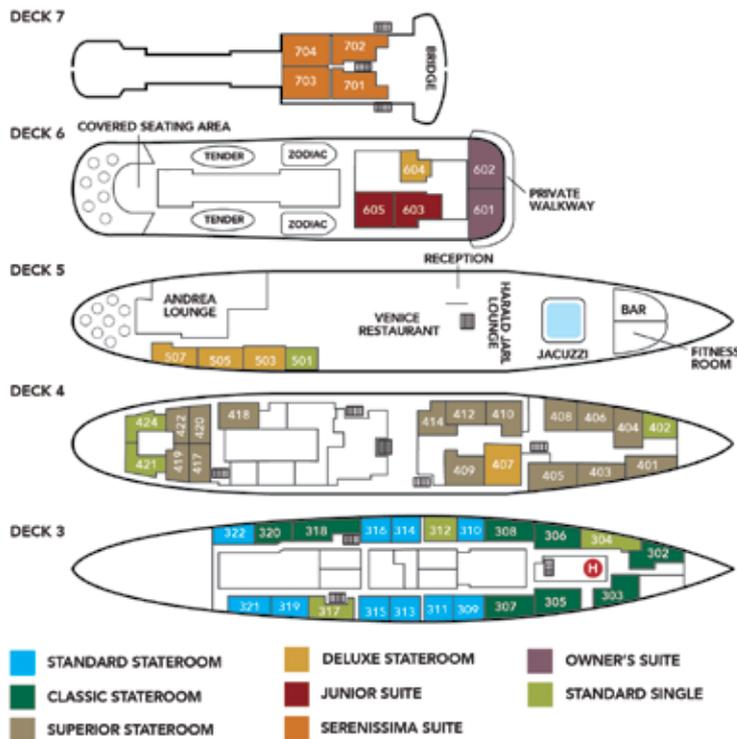
- Share a dram of whisky - the water of life - at one of Islay's historic distilleries
- Spot puffins, gannets, razorbills and guillemots
- Discover Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum
- Visit St Kilda - a near mystical island with dual World Heritage site status for its natural and cultural significance
- Discover the delightful Orkney Islands Standing Stones
- In Stornway explore the stoneage "Callanish"
- Explore historic Iona Abbey, Iona
- Walk the wild shores of Loch Courisk
- Mousa Broch - the last preserved broch in the world
- Visit Fair Isle with its Knitters and Puffins

INCLUSIONS:

- 10- Nights accommodation on board the Serenissima
- Pre-cruise hotel night in Glasgow with dinner
- Post- cruise hotel in Edinburgh with dinner and breakfast on the final day
- Meals as outlined in itinerary
- House Wine & Beer & Soft Drinks with Dinner
- Gratuities
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Touring on day 1 and 12 as per itinerary

EXCLUSIONS:

- International flight transfers to and from Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Travel Insurance
- Souvenirs
- Additional spending money



SHIP: MS Serenissima

We have chosen the MS Serenissima because of its suitability for our unique journey. Being a small ship, it has the ability to sail where larger ships cannot venture. Accommodating just 95 passengers, the 53 cabins are attractively designed for comfort and convenience. All cabins are fully air conditioned with an ensuite bathroom, a full range of toiletries and hairdryer. Cabins come equipped with telephone, flat screen television, safety deposit box. A spacious observation deck allows 360 degree views of the passing scenery. Below this is the lido area with a state of the art fitness room, Jacuzzi and outside bar. The newly built covered seating area at the back of deck 6 is an ideal place for relaxing.

PRICES

(US\$ pp)

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|--------------------|----------|
| Standard Stateroom | \$ 7,495 |
| Classic Stateroom | \$ 8,465 |
| Superior Stateroom | \$ 9,495 |
| Deluxe Stateroom | \$10,595 |
| Junior Suite | \$11,595 |
| Serenissima Suite | \$12,595 |
| Owners Suite | \$12,595 |
| Standard Single | \$ 9,995 |

CHECK OUT THE SLIDESHOW ONLINE FROM OUR 2018 VOYAGE AT
<https://www.wildearth-travel.com/highlights-from-our-Scotland-in-Depth-2018-trip/>

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Antarctic House 53B Montreal Street | PO Box 7218,
Christchurch, 8240, New Zealand
0800 945 3327 (within New Zealand) | +64 (0) 3 365 1355
1800 107 715 (within Australia)
info@wildearth-travel.com | wildearth-travel.com

