Scotland, Faroe Islands & Iceland
Footsteps of Vikings and Gaels

NATURAL WONDERS, SUPERB WILDLIFE, UNIQUE CULTURE & FASCINATING HISTORY

Follow in the footsteps of Vikings and Gaels and explore the stunning islands of the North Atlantic. Explore the dramatic coastlines of Scotland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands and immerse yourself in the regions ancient history.

Our voyage begins in Scotland, known for its rich tapestry of history, culture and rugged, natural beauty. Harsh lands are fringed by a dramatic coastline, broken up by the occasional fishing village and quaint seaside town. Passing through the Outer Hebrides, the UK’s most remote islands, our voyage continues to the unique landscape of the Faroe Islands. An archipelago in the middle of the North Atlantic, the Faroe Islands are some of the most remote, inhabited islands in the world. Famous for their natural beauty, rolling green hills and grass covered roofs, the country is dominated by steep mountains, sheep, and the largest colony of storm petrels in the world. The weather is volatile, but this doesn’t seem to bother the millions of seabirds that settle here.

Our last stop on our North Atlantic adventure takes us to Iceland, home to ice covered volcanoes, immense glaciers and geothermal lagoons. A stark, volcanic land with a warm heart, Iceland’s shallow fjords are a haven for whales, dolphins and seals alike and there is a surprising array of wildlife. This superb voyage links three of the gems of the North Atlantic. Each day we explore off the ship in the company of expert guides, cruising in the zodiacs and enjoying walks on shore.

Expedition Highlights

› Explore the stunning coast lines of some of the most remote islands in Europe
› Visit some of the world’s rarest bird colonies alongside expert ornithologists
› Immerse yourself in the ancient Nordic culture and Gaelic history
› Enjoy long hours of daylight, perfect for wildlife and landscape photography
ON THIS TRIP
- Zodiac excursions
- Onshore hiking options
- Wildlife observation
- Photographer-in-Residence
- Sea kayaking available
- Whale watching
- Community visits
- Educational presentations
- Active Cruising & Wellness

IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS
This trip commences in Edinburgh - Scotland’s historic capital city. We recommend you arrive in Edinburgh at least one day prior to the scheduled voyage departure date. This gives you a buffer in the event of any unexpected travel delays between home and trip departure time. From a central location in Edinburgh we transfer to the ship in nearby Leith for embarkation.

Our voyage concludes in Reykjavik (Iceland), the world’s most northerly capital city. Why not stay a day or two to explore the museums and galleries, or continue your travels in this fascinating country. A transfer to a downtown location is provided, or to the airport for guests flying out today.

Full joining instructions are provided in your final travel documentation. If you have questions before this time, please ask us.

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

DAY 1 / EDINBURGH (LEITH) - SCOTLAND
(WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2019)
Your voyage begins in Edinburgh, Scotland’s picturesque capital city. We recommend spending a few days prior to voyage departure exploring this historic city, enjoying a stroll along the ‘royal mile’, visiting Edinburgh’s famous castle or taking in views of the city with a hike up to ‘Arthur’s Seat’. This afternoon, we board our home for the next 11-nights – RCGS Resolute. Once onboard you will meet the expedition team and set sail. Following welcome drinks and dinner, we depart north, skirting the Scottish coastline.

DAY 2 / DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, SCOTLAND
We wake up cruising the stunning east coast of Scotland ready for our first historical destination; Dunnottar Castle - a medieval fortress located upon a rocky headland. Steeped in history, the castle was besieged by Vikings, and captured by William Wallace. For those wanting to stretch their legs, a stunning and undulating coastal path will take you 3km north to the town of Stonehaven. Here you will see a working harbour, busy with sailing yachts, home to the Stonehaven Tolbooth museum, a notable building on the quayside with a fascinating history. Also in the area, keen birders will have the opportunity to visit the spectacular cliffs which are packed with 130,000 breeding seabirds in the spring and summer.

DAY 3 / KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS, SCOTLAND
Today we reach the Orkney Islands. Many are uninhabited, allowing us to truly enjoy the local wildlife, including seals, and prolific birdlife. Orkney is considered to be the best place in the UK for viewing seabirds. It is a land of breathtaking beauty and famous for its unique archaeological sites, such as the well-preserved Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae and Maeshowe, a Neolithic tomb with Viking graffiti. Interestingly, the Arctic explorer John Rae hailed from the Orkney Islands and they were also the last stop in Britain for the Franklin expedition. Dating back to Norse times, Kirkwall is the islands’ largest town. Spend the day experiencing the Orkney’s unique culture, heritage and traditions by visiting one of its many museums, galleries, craft workshops, and independent retailers.

DAY 4 / STORNOWAY, HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND
The Scottish Western Isles of the Outer Hebrides are a diverse chain of inter-connected islands with their own unique way of life. The dramatic cliffs and large windy beaches are ideal to stroll along, breathing in the fresh Atlantic air. A highlight of our visit will be a trip to the 5000-year old Standing Stones at Callanish. Afterwards treat yourself to a dram of single malt at Abhainn Dearg Distillery sampling its famous scotch whiskey! History buffs will enjoy the Gearrannan Blackhouse Village. Others may choose to spend the day strolling along the quay at Stornoway Harbour and listen to the shouts of the fishermen, as the traditional fleet land the catch of the day.

DAY 5 / UNST, SHETLAND ISLANDS
A unique place of peace, pure air and wide-open spaces, visitors to Unst in the Shetlands savour the wildlife, the birdlife and the warm community spirit. Known as ‘the ultimate destination for those with adventure in their soul’, Unst is the northernmost of the inhabited British Isles and boasts scenic beauty, rich history, heritage and traditions. Rugged coast line and golden, empty beaches will give us the perfect playground to explore by zodiac, kayak or foot. Keen birders will rejoice with close-up views of tens of thousands of breeding gannets, guillemots, puffins, razorbills, kittiwakes and fulmars. Hikers of all levels will have plenty of routes to choose from, with the combination of spectacular coastal scenery, quiet inland lochs and gentle heathery hills.

DAY 6 / TORSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS
By morning we have arrived in the Faroe Islands - a group of 18 rocky, volcanic islands situated between Iceland and Norway. Visitors are drawn to the islands’ mountains, valleys, grassy heathland and steep coastal cliffs. We begin our time exploring in Tórshavn, on Streymoy Island, the tiny capital of the Faroe Islands. Nearby Tinganes, home of the famous wooden turf-roofed houses also features a bustling harbour and plenty of local boutiques. Our small-group zodiac cruises will allow you to explore the narrow sounds and deep grottoes in the shadow of the 1500 feet high cliffs where thousands of seabirds nest.
DAY 7 / MIOVAGUR / MYKINES, FAROE ISLANDS

Our second day of exploration in the Faroe Islands will take us to two of the Islands’ most stunning waterfalls. First stop - Sørvágsvatn, the largest lake on the islands. Dubbed “the lake over the ocean” due to an optical illusion, the lake appears to hover in mid-air. At the end of the lake is the impressive Bøsdalafossur waterfall – which provides a great hiking excursion. Next we cruise towards the tiny village of Gasadular. Surrounded by high mountains, this photogenic village is home to the second waterfall of the day; Mulafossur Waterfall. This stunning natural wonder is best viewed by sea. We visit Mykines island which provides some of the best bird watching in the Faroe Islands. Here we find colonies of cormorants, while the cliffs make perfect nesting ledges for guillemots and razorbills. On the grassy slopes above the bird cliffs, thousands of colourful puffins can be observed at close proximity.

DAY 8 / SEYDISFJORDUR, ICELAND

Defined by its dramatic landscape of glaciers, waterfalls, volcanoes, geysers, hot springs and lava fields, Iceland will give us plenty to explore over the next 5 days! We start our Icelandic saga in Seydisfjordur. A place of singing waterfalls and interesting characters, Seydisfjordur is a welcoming town with a rich history. Experience the flourishing art scene, enjoy local cuisine or experience the delightful hiking trails. One of the highlights to be sure will be a pleasant hike down ‘Waterfall lane’, winding though forests to many waterfalls rich in Icelandic vegetation. A slightly longer hike brings us to a lookout with glorious views. The Skafffell Centre for Visual Arts provides us with a great alternative to the outdoors, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in Icelandic culture.

DAY 9 / HOFN, ICELAND

Have you ever wanted to unleash your inner Viking? Well, today you get your chance. Twisting away from the main route between Höfn and Dýjóvugur, curious visitors will arrive at what appears to be a remote Viking village in pristine condition. In reality, it is a film set for an Icelandic movie that was never filmed, but you’d definitely be forgiven for mistaking it for the real thing. The Viking village is located close to the town of Höfn, a traditional Icelandic fishing town near Hornafjordur fjord, one of the many spectacular fjords on the island. Höfn also offers scenic views of Vatnajökull, the largest glacier in Europe covering 8% of the island’s land mass, and the perfect place to spend the day exploring the national park.

DAY 10 / REYNISDRANGAR, ICELAND

We continue our journey around Iceland’s stunning south coast heading towards Vik. Just east of the outskirts of the village lies one of Europe’s biggest Arctic tern breeding grounds. A short hike within the close vicinity of Vik is sure to satisfy all serious nature lovers and bird watchers. To the south of Reynisfjall mountain a spectacular set of rock columns, called Reynisdrangar, rise majestically out of the Atlantic Ocean. These towering, spiky rock formations jut out from the ocean 66 metres (217 ft) into the air. Teeming with nesting Arctic terns, fulmars and puffins, folk legend says there were two trolls pulling a three-mast ship to the shore unsuccessfully, but were caught by the sunlight at dawn and turned into stone (as happens to trolls when they stay out until dawn). Our approach by sea will give a unique perspective and the chance to view this spectacular landmark in small groups, perfect for bird viewing and exploring through your lens. With close to 20 hours of daylight, opportunities are endless to learn hints and tips from our photographer-in-residence.

DAY 11 / HEIMAEY, WESTMAN ISLANDS

Leaving the shores of the mainland, we journey into the North Atlantic to the tiny, but beautiful, Westman Islands. Rich in volcanic history and known as a ‘modern Nordic Pompei’, Heimaey’s once-solitary volcano, Helgafell (or “Holy Mountain”) created the island in an eruption 7,000 years ago. In 1973 it erupted again and fortunately, Heimaey’s entire fishing fleet was moored in the harbour for the night and carried everyone to safety. The force of Helgafell’s eruption added a new volcano to Heimaey’s skyline - Eldfell, (or the “mountain of fire.”) Learn more about this unique destination with a visit to one of the town’s fascinating museums. The seabird life in the Westman Islands is abundant and we are on the lookout for whales and seals. One major highlight remains - a visit to Storhofoi, the largest Atlantic puffin colony in the world. This evening we celebrate this exceptional journey at a special dinner attended by the Captain of the ship.

DAY 12 / REYKJAVIK, ICELAND – (SUNDAY, 23 JUNE 2019)

Our expedition concludes in the world’s most northerly capital - the colourful and quirky city of Reykjavik. Why not stay a few days to explore the city and surroundings? A transfer is provided to a downtown location or to the airport for your onward journey.

ABOUT OUR ITINERARY: Small ship expedition cruising can sometimes be unpredictable. Specific sites visited will depend on prevailing weather and sea conditions at the time of sailing. The above itinerary should be read as a ‘guide only’ and may change. The ship’s Captain in conjunction with the Expedition Leader continually review the sailing plan throughout the voyage, making adjustments to the itinerary along the way to take advantage of optimal weather and sea conditions or to maximise our encounters with wildlife. Years of experience spent exploring these waterways mean we have plenty of outstanding landing sites and zodiac cruising locations to consider, even when the weather conditions may not be ideal. A flexible approach is something we encourage you to bring to the ship.
YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

✓ Comprehensive pre-voyage information package including details to help you prepare for your voyage

✓ Transfers to the ship on embarkation day and from the ship to the airport or local hotel on disembarkation

✓ Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes that open on each deck

✓ High quality, eco friendly, Canadian made natural amenities in every cabin

✓ All breakfasts, lunches and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea

✓ 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar lounge plus in-cabin tea, coffee, hot chocolate replenished daily

✓ Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team of marine biologists, naturalists, historians, adventure guides and photographers

✓ Daily off-ship excursions by zodiac boat breaking into small groups for shore landings

✓ Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities

✓ Visits to wildlife colonies, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and community visits

✓ Educational presentations and talks by experts in their field (ie. marine biologists, naturalists, historians etc). Onboard or on shore

✓ Resident photography guide available to assist all guests

✓ Access to computers in the multimedia lab for image downloads, file back up and management

✓ An emergency trained medical physician onboard every voyage

✓ Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, four chefs, professional bar staff and Adventure Concierge staff

✓ Onboard sauna, plunge pool, jacuzzi and fitness centre, including massage options (charge applies for massage)

✓ Access to well stocked library full of reference books

✓ Optional Sea Kayaking program ($US695)

✓ End of voyage video, photos and take home USB

✓ Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

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**The right gear for your trip – included**

When you travel with One Ocean Expeditions, you will have the use of an expedition gear package free of charge. Containing around $US900 worth of essential equipment, this kit includes a quality waterproof/windproof jacket and bib-pants plus insulated rubber boots designed for extended walking. We also include a set of binoculars and a Nordic trekking pole for use when on shore. A waterproof backpack completes your package. This kit saves you buying expensive clothing and equipment you may only ever use once. It also eliminates the need to carry such cumbersome gear to the ship (total weight around 8kg/17lbs).

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**The Expedition does not include:**

› Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary

› Visa and passport expenses

› Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)

› Pre or post-cruise transfers unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)

› Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses

› Telecommunication charges (ie. email, satellite phone)

› Baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory on all One Ocean Expeditions trips)

› A voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount – $US12-15 per day)
**BEFORE YOU BOOK – IMPORTANT VOYAGE DETAILS**

**IMPORTANT:** The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However, some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.

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**THE RIGHT SHIP = THE BEST EXPERIENCE**

*RCGS Resolute* offers exceptional onboard facilities and provides an ideal platform for expedition cruising in remote locations such as the North Atlantic islands. Outstanding observation areas both inside and from the outer decks allow you to be completely absorbed by the coastal landscapes along the way. Our priority is to craft specially designed itineraries that provide you with maximum time in the pristine locations we visit. The vessel has capacity of just 146 guests and we break into small, special interest groups. There are wonderful hiking options onshore, visits to small coastal communities, historic sites, famous whisky distilleries and throughout the voyage we enjoy outstanding wilderness areas. Cruising in the zodiacs photographing the landscapes, or observing coastal marine and bird life is a highlight for many. For the more adventurous, sea kayaking is another memorable experience. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the [Ship Fact Sheet](#) containing detailed technical specifications and additional information about cabins, amenities and inclusions.

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**COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION**

Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

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**PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

Visitors from the US, Canada, United Kingdom, EU, Australia and New Zealand do not require visas to enter Scotland (part of the United Kingdom), the Faroe Islands (a territory of Denmark) or Iceland. Ensure your passport is valid for more than six months after your intended stay in these countries. For visitors travelling on other passports, be sure to check with your booking agent whether you will be required to obtain a visa for these locations.

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**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

On all One Ocean Expeditions’ voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your holiday (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

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**SEA KAYAKING**

The sea kayaking program is directed at any passenger with an adventurous spirit and some prior paddling experience. This option MUST be reserved at the time of booking and attracts an additional charge of $US695 per participant. You can not book sea kayaking on board the ship. You will need to complete a special questionnaire outlining your previous kayaking experience. Ask your agent, or our office for a copy of this document if you are interested in joining the sea kayaking program.

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**THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI**

Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it’s likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.

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**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

The islands of the North Atlantic are fascinating places for young and inquisitive minds. These voyages are family friendly and we offer special rates for children and youth (up to 21 years of age at time of travel) when travelling with a family member. For children younger than 12 years of age at the time of travel, please contact your booking agent, or our office to discuss the options.

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THE ONE OCEAN STORY. PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE.

Supporting Local Communities
Many locations on this voyage are well off the tourist trail. Our visit provides an economic boost through port and visitor fees and when guests come into contact with the local economy, through the purchasing of arts, crafts and produce. We employ a number of local staff and on and off the ship to share with you their fantastic knowledge, history and cultural traditions. Local guides in several locations provide additional insight.

World Leading - the World Over
For several years One Ocean Expeditions and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.

The right team = exceptional service
You will come to appreciate the dedication of our expedition team when onboard the ship. The highest staff to guest ratio in the industry (1:4) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are committed to providing exceptional service and are renowned for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to ‘make things happen’.

INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your experience from start to finish is straight forward and well organized.

Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the trip ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package plus other pre voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel in the world’s most remote regions. Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.

YOUR NOTES:

Trip Note Updated: 07NOV18 - JM