

Scottish Highlights and Norwegian Fjords - Expedition

ARCTIC, NORWAY, UNITED KINGDOM - TRIP CODE ESN

POLAR

Why book this trip?

From Tromso we set sail along the norwegian coastline, making our way South to Britain's northern most archipelagos of Orkney and Shetland, before docking into the Port of Leith. Go deeper into the otherworldly fjords of Norway on this unique journey through the Norwegian Sea. Discover UNESCO-protected wonders like the Standing Stones of Stennes, the mystical Ring of Brodgar and archaeological sites, witness the curious clash of cultures in the Shetland Islands and marvel at the stunning forests and waterfalls that line the fjords.

- Discover the ancient Orkneys - enjoy the birdlife on the Shetland Islands
- Sail into Norway's dramatic fjords - beneath glaciers and mountains
- Explore medieval villages - enjoy mystical historical sites



INCLUDED MEALS
 Breakfast: 12
 Lunch: 11
 Dinner: 12



TRIP STAFF
 Expedition
 Crew
 Naturalist(s)



TRANSPORT
 Bus
 Expedition
 Zodiac



ACCOMMODATION
 12 nights premium
 boat



TRIP PACE:
 Relaxed

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Edinburgh

Our expedition begins in the outskirts of Scotland's Royal capital. Since the 11th century, Edinburgh, has been home to an extraordinary range of architectural contrast. From dark, medieval 16th century block towers, to classical Georgian and Victorian masterpieces. Listed as a World Heritage Site, Edinburgh is home to over 16,000 listed buildings. We board our expedition ship in the afternoon in the suburb port of Leith. The Expedition departs in the late afternoon, sailing towards Kirkwall.

Please make sure to arrive at the Leonardo Royal Hotel Edinburgh Haymarket before 1pm, as luggage will be transferred separately to the ship. You will have a few a few hours to explore central Edinburgh before meeting back at the hotel at 3pm to join the group transfer to the Port of Leith. Embarkation will commence at 4pm.



ACCOMMODATION:
 Expedition (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: DINNER

DAY 2 - Kirkwall to the Orkney Islands

There are few places in the world that offer as much variety as the Orkneys. Only 10km off the coast of Scotland the islands are famous for their abundant marine bird life and dramatic coastal scenery. Our excursions for today will focus not only on this, but also on the many mystical and historical sites of the area. These excursions will include coach visits to the Ring of Brodgar, the Standing Stones of Stennes and the 4500 year old village of Skara Brae.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 3 - Orkney Islands to the Shetland Islands

We continue northwards to the remote Shetland Islands. The islands were under Norse rule until 1469, when they were given to Scotland as part of a Danish princess's dowry. The Shetlands are an engaging mix of Scotland and Scandinavia, with spectacular coastlines, varied and abundant bird life and a number of archaeological sites that date back thousands of years.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat

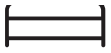


MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 4 - Shetland Islands to Bergen

Today we'll enjoy a city tour of Bergen, including a stop at the museum of Edvard Grieg. The museum was built as a legacy to the famous Norwegian composer and pianist who was born in the city. We will follow on with a visit to the historical seaport district, which dates from the Hanseatic League. There will also be time to explore the city on your own and take in the local fish market, which is well worth a visit.





ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 5 - Bergen to Flam

In the morning, we cruise from Bergen to Flam. Hop on the Flam Railway, travelling through valleys and mountain passes to reach the scenic fjord of the Flam district.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 6 - Flam to Olden

Weather and time permitting, we hope to make a stop in Olden and take a short bus ride to the Briksdal area, where we can take a brief walk up to the glacier. A steep climb but it is worth the trek !



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 7 - Olden to Geirangerfjord

We sail deep into one of Norway's most beautiful and frequently visited fjords. The Geirangerfjord was

listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2005. It is a 15km branch of the Sunnysfjord and its tiny village of Gerainger, sits at the very tip. We will have plenty of time to explore the beautiful surroundings and waterfalls found within this magnificent fjord.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 8 - Geirangerfjord to Trondheim

Today, we will continue on to Trondheim. You will have the choice of either taking an afternoon hike to the Sverresborg Folk Museum, or you can enjoy a city tour which will include the Folk Museum and the elaborate Nidaros Cathedral, built between 1070 and 1300.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 9 - Torghatten and Vega Island

The rugged coastline of central Norway features some of the world's most beautiful scenery. The captain will liaise with local Norwegian pilots to determine our best Zodiac landing options. At Torghatten, you can hike up the famous landmark, the mountain with a hole right through it. It is an easy walk and offers rewarding, panoramic views from the top. In the afternoon, we head to the quaint and picturesque Vega Island, another listed UNESCO site. You will have time to wander through the fishing villages and appreciate the slow pace of life found here.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 10 - Svartisen, Vikigen and Lovund

Today we visit Svartisen and Vikigen. Svartisen is Norway's second largest glacier, and is the lowest accessible glacier in mainland Europe, at only 20m above sea level. We will visit Vikigen, a point directly on the Arctic Circle, which is marked with a Globe-shaped monument.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 11 - Lofoten Archipelago

The Lofoten archipelago is an enchanting area of picturesque villages, backed with jagged peaks and perched by the sea. Go ashore via coach on the island of Å, where cod fishing is still a major part of the economy. In the evening, stay on deck as you cruise into one of Norway's most famous fjords, the short yet dramatic Trollfjord. Search the cliffs on your continuing quest to spot trolls, the mythical creatures of Norwegian legend.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)



Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 12 - Tromso

Tromso, the capital of northern Norway, is known as the Gateway to the Arctic as it was the embarkation point for many Arctic expeditions. Learn about past Arctic expeditions and opt for some hiking or to explore the city on your own.



ACCOMMODATION:
Expedition (or similar)

Grade: Premium Boat



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 13 - Trip ends in Tromso

You will disembark in the morning, after breakfast. After disembarkation, you will be transferred to either the airport or a downtown hotel, depending on the time of your flight. Please ensure that flights are booked to depart after 11am. Those transferred to the hotel, will have an opportunity to explore the town centre on their own, and then be transferred to the airport later in the day as per flight schedules. Transfer times will be confirmed, and communicated onboard, prior to departure.

We recommend booking some extra time in Tromso to explore the city further. The Arctic Cathedral is probably the most famous landmark of the city, but you can also enjoy wandering amongst the traditional wooden houses that are found here, some of which date back to the 1780's. The city is a cultural centre of the region, with many festivals taking place over the summer months.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Arctic

Norway

Climate

Seasonal Climate Despite the northern latitudes the climate in Norway is not extreme, due to the affects of the North Atlantic Drift. Between May and September is the best time to visit this region, with summer temperatures reaching the high teens and rain a regular feature year round along the coast. North of the Arctic Circle the sun does not set between the middle of May and the end of July, so you can expect to encounter the midnight sun during this period.

| Time difference to GMT | Plugs | Religion | Language |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| +1 | 2 Pin Round | Lutheranism | Norwegian |

United Kingdom

Climate

The UK has a temperate but very variable climate. In general the summers are warm with July and August being the warmest. The winters are cool and the lowest temperatures are recorded during January and February. Whatever the season it is advisable to be prepared for rain!

| Time difference to GMT | Plugs | Religion | Language |
|------------------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 0 | 3 Pin Flat | Christian | English |

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Parkas

These will be provided by the ship operator. Please register your size with us before travel and we will arrange for your parka to be available in your cabin on arrival.

Gloves

Keeping your hands warm and dry can be a challenge. Thin polypropylene gloves can be worn underneath warm outergloves. This allows you some protection from the cold when removing your gloves to operate your camera etc. We strongly recommend that you bring more than one pair of gloves, in case one gets wet (or lost).

Hat/Cap

Warm, woollen hat/cap to protect your ears, as well as a scarf, neck gaiter or other face protection, such as a balaclava.

Trousers

Water-resistant trousers of coated nylon or, even better, Gore-Tex® are essential for your comfort. They can be worn over your regular clothes to keep you warm and dry. We suggest that you purchase trousers a few sizes larger than you normally wear as you will be wearing them over other clothing. Gore-Tex® or similar fabrics are excellent for keeping out wind and water without trapping excess heat. Rain gear and Gore-Tex® products can be found in any outdoor sport clothing store. In addition to your waterproof trousers, warm ski pants are suggested if you have them. Warm trousers such as jeans, corduroys etc are also good.

Socks

Warm wool socks worn over a thin pair of silk, polypropylene socks should provide enough warmth and insulation for your feet. Bring several pairs of socks, since you will inevitably get your feet wet.

Outer Clothing Woollen, knit or cotton sweaters/tops, polar fleece tops (medium weight), several cotton turtlenecks and T-shirts for layering on and off the ship.

Underclothing

Thermal underwear is highly recommended as it will keep you warm without adding bulk. Most polar travellers prefer a lightweight version.

Footwear

Complimentary, used waterproof boots will be supplied onboard. However, guests might want to bring their own if they are the following sizes due to the limited quantities onboard:

- men's UK size 12 & 13 1/2
- women's UK size below three & seven and above

Guests must bring their own if they are:

- men's UK size six 1/2 or smaller
- men's UK size 13 1/2 or larger
- women's UK size two or smaller
- women's UK size nine 1/2 or larger

These are rubber, waterproof boots that are just below your knees with a strong, ridged non-skid sole. You usually have to step from the Zodiac into icy water up to 30 cm high on most landings. Do not bring heavy, cumbersome boots that make it difficult to walk or boots with metal cleats as they cannot be used for landings. For maximum warmth, wear loose-fitting boots and two pairs of socks. Try out your boots before the voyage.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Sunglasses and sun cream

Personal toiletries

A refillable water bottle

Books/reading material

Camera and memory cards (and something to protect the camera when out in the elements)

Seasickness remedy

Walking poles

Personal First Aid

Tipping

Local crew

Tipping is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. It is an expression of satisfaction. The suggested amount is USD \$10 - 15 per person per day spent on board. Of course, tipping is a personal choice and the suggested amount is set only as a guideline. The money is collected by the Hotel Manager at the end of the voyage and distributed among the crew and Expedition Staff. The Officers choose not to participate in the tipping pool.

Arctic

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Foreign Exchange

Norway

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

| Lunch price | Dinner price | Beer price | Water price |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| £18.00 - 25.00 | £35.00 - 40.00 | £6.00 - 8.00 | £2.00 - 3.00 |

Foreign Exchange

| Local currency | Recommended Currency For Exchange |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Norwegian Krona | Take Norwegian Krona with you |

Where To Exchange

Recommend you buy some Norwegian Krona before departing the UK (or whilst in transit in Oslo).

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in Myre and at Oslo and Evenes Airports.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are generally accepted at many hotels and optional excursions may be paid for by credit card.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

United Kingdom

Food and drink

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| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Lunch price | Dinner price | Beer price | Water price |
| £10 | £18 | £4 | £0.8 |

Foreign Exchange

Local currency Pounds Sterling. **Recommended Currency For Exchange** Carry a combination of UK Sterling cash, ATM and credit cards.

Where To Exchange Your tour leader will advise you on arrival. **ATM Availability** ATM's are widely available in main towns.

Credit Card Acceptance Widely accepted. **Travellers Cheques** Can be exchanged at most banks and post offices.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Expedition, Zodiac

Ship description

At a nimble 105 metres (345 ft) in length, with a capacity to hold 132 guests, the Expedition is an ideal vessel to ply polar waters. The ship is large enough to provide stability, speed, spacious cabins and ample public space. Yet she is small enough to manoeuvre in remote areas and get you close to the action. Ship stabilizers ensure a smoother ride in rough waters, such as the infamous Drake Passage enroute to the Antarctic, allowing you to enjoy more of your time at sea. A fleet of ten zodiacs allows passengers to get out and actively explore the remote shores of our destinations. The Expedition is a speedy vessel. A top speed of 16 knots means you'll spend less time getting from A to B, and more time to explore your surroundings.

Cabins

The lead-in prices on our website are based on outward facing, category one cabins on the lower deck. Category one cabins are triple or quad share. They are comfortable with a private toilet and shower, and porthole. The Expedition has a number of different cabin categories, ranging from quads, twins and suites - all are outside facing, with two beds (apart from the suites which have queen size beds). Some cabins have larger windows, depending on your cabin grade. We can also offer single occupancy at a supplement which will be subject to availability at the time of booking. A full layout of the deck plan can be found under the Polar Ships section on our website. Your confirmed cabin type will appear on your Booking Confirmation which will be sent on receipt of your deposit payment.

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa and Passport Information

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

For Norway and Scotland entry visas are not required for UK, AUS, NZ, CAN, USA citizens. Other nationalities should consult the relevant consulate.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London

departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Arctic

Norway

Vaccinations

Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

United Kingdom

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

Polar information

Ship information

At a nimble 105 metres (345 ft) in length, with a capacity to hold 132 guests, the Expedition is an ideal vessel to ply polar waters. The ship is large enough to provide stability, speed, spacious cabins and ample public space. Yet she is small enough to manoeuvre in remote areas and get you close to the action. Ship stabilizers ensure a smoother ride in rough waters, such as the infamous Drake Passage enroute to the Antarctic, allowing you to enjoy more of your time at sea. A fleet of ten zodiacs allows passengers to get out and actively explore the remote shores of our destinations. The Expedition is a speedy vessel. A top speed of 16 knots means you'll spend less time getting from A to B, and more time to explore your surroundings.

Additional Information



Reviews
