

Scotland, Iceland & The Faroe Islands With Naturalist Journeys & Caligo Ventures

June 13 – 24, 2020

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Tour Summary

12-Day / 11-Night North Atlantic Cruise

w/ Peg Abbott

Starting at \$7395

Arrival airport is Edinburgh (EDI), departure airport is Keflavík International (KEF)

Tour Highlights

- ✓ Cruise onboard the luxurious *RCGS Resolute*, our ultra-comfortable home for the trip
- ✓ Explore the dramatic coastlines of these North Atlantic Islands on zodiacs and on foot
- ✓ Witness cliffs packed with over 100,000 nesting seabirds near Scotland's Dunnottar Castle
- ✓ Pass through the Outer Hebrides, the UK's most remote islands
- ✓ Visit Sørvágsvatn, the largest lake of the Faroe Islands, dubbed "the lake over the ocean" due to an optical illusion that makes the lake appear to hover in mid-air
- ✓ Visit Iceland's shallow fjords, a haven for whales, dolphins, and seals
- ✓ Opt for sea kayaking, an exciting way to get close looks at remote inlets and stunning scenery
- ✓ See one of Europe's biggest Arctic tern breeding grounds near Vik in Iceland

Discover stunning islands of the North Atlantic with a cruise to Scotland, the Faroe Islands, and Iceland. Scotland offers a rich tapestry of history, culture, and suggest beauty. The Faroe Island are famous for their naturalist beauty, steep mountains, grass-covered roofs, and the largest Storm Petrel colony in the world. Home to ice-covered volcanoes, immense glaciers, and geothermal lagoons, Iceland is a stark volcanic land with a warm heart. Each day we explore off the ship in the company of expert guides, cruising in the zodiacs and enjoying walks on shore.

Cruise from Edinburgh and make stops at Dunnottar Castle, the Orkney Islands, the Hebrides and Shetland Islands all before exploring the storied Faroe Islands to stunning sea cliffs, nesting seabirds, and beautiful waterfall. Puffins abound! Iceland invites us to explore by Zodiac and on foot; visit a recreated Viking village, explore museums, and witness well-fed marine life in this island's shallow fjords. This North Atlantic cruise is not to be missed!

Day-to-Day Itinerary

Sat., June 13 Edinburgh

Your voyage begins in Edinburgh, Scotland's picturesque capital city. We recommend spending a few days prior to your 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 meet the



expedition team and set sail. Following welcome drinks and dinner, we depart north, skirting the Scottish coastline.

Sun., June 14 Aberdeen, Scotland

We wake up cruising the stunning east coast of Scotland ready for our first historical destination, Aberdeen, also known as The Granite City due to the locally quarried stone that built it. Old Aberdeen, just north of the city center, has been an important political, ecclesiastical, and cultural center since the end of the Middle Ages. For many, a visit to Dunnottar Castle is a must. The medieval fortress located upon a rocky headland is steeped in history—once 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 can see a working harbor, busy with sailing yachts, and home to the Stonehaven Tolbooth museum, a notable building on the quayside with a fascinating history. Keen birders in our group have the chance to visit the spectacular cliffs in the area that are packed with nesting seabirds.

Mon., June 15 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 very 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, a Neolithic tomb with Viking graffiti. Stromness lies in the West of the Orkney Islands and has a strong maritime influence. We spend the day experiencing the unique culture, heritage, and traditions by visiting one of its many museums, galleries, craft workshops, and independent retailers.

Tues., June 16 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 is a trip to the 5000-year old Standing Stones at Callanish. History buffs can also enjoy the Ghearrannan Blackhouse Village. Others may choose to spend the day strolling along the quay at Stornoway Harbor and listen to the shouts of the fishermen, as the traditional fleet lands the catch of the day. Perhaps you'll want to treat yourself to a dram of single malt at Abhainn Dearg Distillery, sampling its famous scotch whiskey!

Wed., June 17 Unst, Shetland Islands

A unique place of peace, pure air, and wide-open spaces, visitors to Unst in the Shetlands savor 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 coastline and golden, empty beaches give us the perfect playground to explore by Zodiac,



kayak, or on foot. Keen birders marvel at close-up views of tens of thousands of breeding gannets, guillemots, puffins, razorbills, kittiwakes, and fulmars. Hikers of all levels have plenty of routes to choose from, with the combination of spectacular coastal scenery, quiet inland lochs, and gentle heathery hills.

Thurs., June 18 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 is a bustling harbor and with plenty of local boutiques. It is a joy to take in the narrow sounds and deep grottoes in the shadow of the 1500 feet high cliffs where thousands of seabirds nest.

Fri., June 19 Miovagur | Mykines, Faroe Islands

Our second day of exploration in the Faroe Islands takes 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: Mulafoossur 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 colorful Atlantic Puffin can be observed at close proximity.



Sat., June 20 Seydisfjordur, Iceland



Defined by its dramatic landscape of glaciers, waterfalls, volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, and lava fields, Iceland gives us plenty to explore over the next five 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 is a pleasant hike down Waterfall Lane, winding through forests to many waterfalls rich in Icelandic vegetation. A slightly longer hike brings us to a lookout with

glorious views. The Skaftfell Centre for Visual Arts provides us with a great alternative to the outdoors if you wish to skip the hikes or the weather doesn't cooperate, allowing us to immerse ourselves in Icelandic culture.

Sun., June 21 Djupivogur, Iceland

Our next stop takes us to the small fishing village of Djupivogur, located on the Bulandsnes Peninsula. The scenic landscape immediately draws your eye up to Búlandstindur, a pyramid-shaped mountain towering over the town. Thought to be one of the most beautiful mountains in Iceland, it also has a tie to local folklore and the belief it can grant wishes during the summer solstice. In the village, you find remnants of an origin in trading dating back to the 16th Century. The oldest storehouse, Langabúð, built in 1790, stands strong after a full restoration that turned it into an outstanding cultural center. A unique attraction to take in while visiting is a display of outdoor sculptures named Eggin in Gleðivík, by artist Sigurður Guðmundsson. The collection of 34 large granite eggs reflect the bird species that nest in the local area and offer a lovely walk along the coast to view them.

Mon., June 22 Reynisdrangar, Iceland

We continue our journey around Iceland's stunning south coast heading towards Vík. 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 Vík 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, 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 gives us 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.

Tues., June 23 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 Pompeii, Heimaey's once-solitary volcano, Helgafell (or "Holy Mountain") created the island in an eruption 7,000 years ago. In 1973 it erupted again; fortunately, Heimaey's entire fishing fleet was moored in the harbor for the night and carried the villagers 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. This evening we celebrate this exceptional journey at a special dinner attended by the Captain of the ship.

Wed., June 24 Reykjavik, Iceland

Our expedition concludes in the world's most northerly capital—the colorful 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.

In November 2018, a purpose built polar expedition vessel RCGS Resolute joined the *Akademik Ioffe* and

Ship Details: *RCGS Resolute*



Akademik Sergey Vavilov under our operator's banner to offer the most capable, safe, and exclusive expedition cruise fleet in the industry. Designed for comfort, *RCGS Resolute* is modern, well appointed, safe and ice-strengthened. From small group sessions to briefings for all passengers, we have public spaces onboard the ship ideally suited for each and every need. Two separate bar and lounge areas featuring 180 degree views and a wonderfully stocked library provides ideal places to relax or catch up on some reading. The sumptuous meals prepared for you by our culinary team are enjoyed in either of our two dining rooms, one of which features our popular bistro menu offering quick and easy meals for those prioritizing time out on deck. Both dining rooms have ample and open seating paired with modern furnishings and large picture windows with 180-degree views. Other facilities include our theatre style presentation room, gift-shop, gymnasium, wellness center, Jacuzzi, sauna and steam room, and salt water pool.

Cabin Categories (font color coordinates with room images on next page)

One Ocean Suite | \$11,595 The One Ocean Suites are situated on Deck 6 and offer an indulgent amount of space. Sleeping quarters feature a queen size bed with upgraded linen/pillows. Included is a comfortable sectional lounge with matching club chairs, a large desk, expansive floor to ceiling cabinetry, and spacious washroom facilities with both a shower and bathtub. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These suites provide easy access to the ship's bridge, the bistro, and outdoor observation spaces. The panoramic observation lounge and recreation facilities are located nearby on Deck 7.

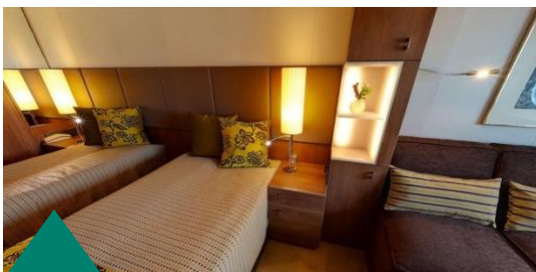
Shackleton Suite | \$9,595 The Shackleton Suites are situated on Deck 6. Suites include the comfort of a sectional lounge, writing desk, substantial floor to ceiling cabinetry, and washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. Sleeping quarters feature the option for either a queen or two single beds with upgraded linen/ pillows. These suites provide easy access to the ship's bridge, the bistro and outdoor observation spaces. The forward panoramic observation lounge and recreation facilities are also located nearby on Deck 7.

Superior Plus Cabin | \$8,395 Superior Plus cabins are located midships on Deck 5. They are spacious and well-appointed with the option for either a queen or two single beds. A comfortable lounge is placed by the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample floor to ceiling cabinet storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. Centrally located on the ship, these cabins provide easy access to the aft observation lounge featuring 180 degree views and the ship's dining areas.

Superior Cabin | \$8,095 Located forward on Deck 5 the Superior cabins have the option for either a queen or two single beds. Features include a comfortable lounge adjacent to the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the forward stairs leading up to the bridge on Deck 6 and the forward observation lounge located on Deck 7.

Twin Private Cabin | \$7,395 Spacious and well-appointed, these cabins are situated on Deck 4 and have the option for either a queen or two single configured beds. Features include a comfortable lounge adjacent to the large picture window, writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities with shower. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the main dining room on the ship, as well as the gift shop.

Main Triple Deck | \$5,995 These cabins are a popular choice for solo travelers willing to share, a family, or a group of friends travelling together. Located on Deck 3, cabins feature three single beds, one of which can convert to a sofa and lounge during the day. These cabins feature a writing desk and chair, ample storage, and private washroom facilities. A flat screen entertainment system is also included. These cabins provide easy access to the expedition room and gangway.

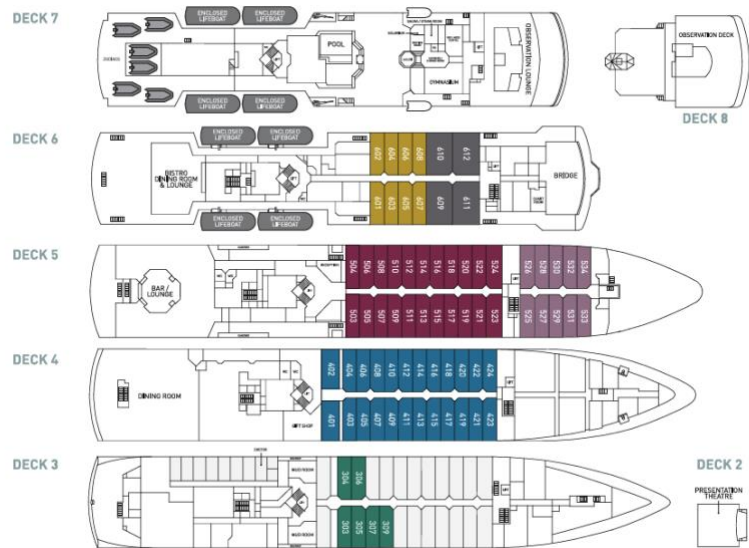


Cost of the Journey

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The cost of the cruise is \$5995 - \$11,595 based on cabin type. There is an option to add on a guided kayaking program with instruction, \$695 per person.

Tour price includes airport transfers to and from the ship, all meals on board the ship with daily afternoon tea and 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar/lounge plus in cabin tea and coffee making facilities, professional guide services, port fees and permits, and miscellaneous program expenses. Kayaking program available at an extra cost—must be reserved at the time of booking your voyage (there are limited spots available) and you must have some prior paddling experience.



Cost of the Journey, continued

Tour cost does not include airfare to Edinburgh and from Reykjavik, visa and/or passport expenses, pre- or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless noted in the itinerary, personal expenses such as laundry, telecommunication (ie. email, satellite phone), drinks from the bar, and gratuities for luggage handling or other services, baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (travel insurance is mandatory on all voyages), a voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount: \$US12 – 15 per day).

Travel Information

We recommend you arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland on June 12 or earlier at Edinburgh Airport (EDI). Plan flights out of Keflavík International (KEF) in the mid-afternoon of June 24; we dock in the morning and want to make sure you have enough time to get to the airport to catch your flight.

Photo Credits

Faroe Islands, Dave Brosha, courtesy One Ocean Adventures (OOE); Whale-watching, Daisy Gilardini, courtesy OOE; Edinburgh, Photo by Dominik Rešek on Unsplash; Northern Gannets, Kyle Marquardt, courtesy OOE; Atlantic Puffins, Tony Beck, courtesy OOE; Atlantic Puffins & Razorbills Photo by Ray Hennessy on Unsplash; Faroe Islands, Dave Brosha, courtesy OOE; Iceland Waterfall, Photo by Alex Mustaros on Unsplash; Resolute, courtesy OOE.

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