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GENERAL SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION & CONDITIONS

To enhance the enjoyment of your cruise, we have created a programme of optional shore excursions designed to show you the highlights of each of our ports of call. Our Shore Excursions team will be pleased to assist you with your choice of excursions to help make the most of your time ashore.

Pre-Registration
You can pre-register your shore excursions online by going to www.cruiseandmaritime.com/managemy cruise. It is strongly recommended that you use the pre-registration service as several of the excursions on offer may have limited capacity and all excursions are subject to availability. Please note Shore Excursions cannot be pre-registered over the telephone.

How to book on board
Just complete and sign the booking form with your excursion selections and hand it in at the Shore Excursions Desk.

Suite Benefits
Astor – Astor Suite
Azores – De Luxe Balcony Suites & Owners Suite
Magellan – Royal Suite
Marco Polo – De Luxe Suite

Guests booked in the Suites named above are entitled to confirmed shore excursions pre-registrations for tours with a minimum of 40. However, pre-registration for excursions must be received 4 days prior to sailing to qualify for this benefit.

Payment
Pre-registered excursions are automatically debited to your shipboard account. For any bookings made whilst on board, the Shore Excursions team will ask you to sign in agreement that the amount to be charged is correct and will then issue your tickets accordingly.

Excursion Prices
The shore excursion prices include transport, guides, meals and entrance fees according to the published description. Child prices apply to children aged between 3 and 12 inclusively. Children aged 13 years and above will require adult tickets. Infants under the age of 3 can travel on the excursion free of charge, as long as they do not occupy a seat and it is not a flight or overnight excursion. Please note that all minors (under 18 years) must be accompanied by an adult on shore excursions.

Cancellations
In the event of an excursion being cancelled, prior to operating, for reasons beyond our control, a full refund will be credited to your shipboard account. Pre-registered excursions - Alterations to pre-registered excursions, including cancellation, can only be accepted up until close of business 4 days before sailing. After this all pre-registered excursions will be considered as confirmed as pre-registered figures are sent to the ship and agents before sailing.
**Confirmed bookings** - From sailing day, until bookings close, a cancellation fee of 20% will be charged on any confirmed excursion cancelled by guests for any reason other than certified medical conditions. After bookings have closed the cancellation fee is 100%, unless the cancellation is for medical reasons duly certified by the Ship’s Doctor.

**Minimum requirements**
All excursions are subject to a minimum number of guests participating. If this minimum is not achieved the Shore Excursion team will advise guests and a refund will be applied to your on-board account.

**Excursion timings**
Durations and departure times are approximate and the final excursion departure times will be confirmed on board. Following the ship’s arrival in a port of call the relevant local authorities must complete various formalities in order to clear the vessel and give permission for guests to be allowed to disembark. The time this procedure can take varies from port to port and excursions may only commence once these clearance formalities have been completed. Please consult the daily programme which will advise you of the designated meeting time for the departure of the excursion. Members of staff will direct guests and request that you have the excursion ticket available to hand to the guide or driver as you board your coach. When choosing multiple shore excursions in a port, it is recommended that you leave at least one hour between an excursion returning and another departing.

**Choosing the right excursion**
The organised excursions are designed to be a pleasurable experience and an enhancement of your cruise. Therefore it is recommended, before you book an excursion, that you consider the physical requirements of that particular excursion, such as the amount of walking involved, to ensure that it is right for you. Please be aware that some archaeological sites, palaces, temples, museums and old city quarters can sometimes only be reached by walking on uneven paths or lots of steps, which could prove to be very difficult for those with limited mobility. The Shore Excursions team will be pleased to assist you with any further information that you may require about individual excursions.

**Transport**
Depending on the part of the world that you are visiting, the standard of transportation used for excursions may vary considerably. Please bear in mind that coaches may not be air-conditioned and accessibility may be challenging for some guests. In some ports, particularly in the more remote countries, local buses, taxis, minibuses, jeeps and even open trucks may be used where coach availability is limited or non-existent. The notes in the excursion description should indicate if this is known in advance, but the Shore Excursions team on board will be able to provide additional information.

**Whilst ashore**
Shore Excursions will operate in all weathers unless the Shore Excursion Manager is advised by the local agent that it is inappropriate or unsafe to do so. In general it is recommended that you wear appropriate clothing and, if necessary, weatherproof coats or jackets. Footwear should be sturdy, flat and comfortable as some walking will be necessary to gain full enjoyment from the excursion programme. When you visit churches and other religious sites, please bear in mind that conservative dress will be required. Please always take your cruise card with you and it is also prudent to have a photocopy of your passport. Leave on-board jewellery, valuables and other personal documents, and take only as much cash as you need for the excursion. You may find it beneficial on excursions to take with you a bottle of water, suntan lotion and insect repellent.

**Excursion descriptions**
These are deemed to be correct at the time of printing but the planned content of excursions is subject to change. It should be noted that some of the listed attractions in an excursion may be viewed in a different order to avoid possible congestion. The term ‘visit’ in a description implies an inside visit to a building, monument or attraction, whereas when the term ‘see’ is used in a description, it indicates an external view only. If not mentioned specifically in the excursion description, there is no time reserved for shopping.
**Activity & water based excursions**

You and all those in your party should be aware that some of the excursions offered may involve some degree of physical exertion and/or activity such as hiking, snorkelling, snow-mobiling, swimming, kayaking etc. When booking this type of excursion you are confirming that you and all those in your party are in good physical condition and for example only, have no history of conditions such as seizures, heart conditions, respiratory problems, dizziness or fainting. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit and well enough to take part in the activities booked and you are reminded to take care for your safety at all times. There is a possibility you may be asked by the shore excursion provider to sign a document which may limit the excursion provider’s liability. It is important that your holiday insurance covers you for the type of activity you are participating in. For any excursion which involves water you are advised to exercise care. Alcohol and eating a full meal should be avoided before swimming. If buoyancy aids are provided, they must be worn. Please bear in mind that the sea and swells can be unpredictable and lifeguards are unlikely to be present at all beaches/venues visited. All activities on the beach and in the sea are undertaken at your own risk.

**Excursion escorts**

In addition to a local guide, where possible a ship’s escort will accompany each excursion but we are unable to guarantee that every coach or group will have its own escort from the ship. These staff members fulfil the excursion duties around their own work schedules and occasionally rehearsals or emergency drills being called may prevent participation at short notice.

**Photography**

Prior to taking any pictures in churches, museums or palaces etc. please check with the guide that there is no restriction on photography or video filming in that location. In some ports of call special camera and video permits may need to be purchased in advance but full information will be given on board during the relevant cruises.

**Smoking**

For the comfort of all guests, smoking is not permitted aboard the excursion coaches/vessels.

**Important notes**

For the safety and assurance of guests, all the excursions are operated under the management of responsible and experienced local ground handling agencies, which hold the appropriate insurance cover to offer such services. Only the authorised Shore Excursion team on board are permitted to arrange or accept payment for such excursions or act as Excursion Agents during the cruise. **It is essential that before booking any shore excursion, you ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover the specified activity you will be participating in. This may necessitate an extra premium.** Your contract for shore excursions is separate and distinct from your contract for your cruise services, or your passenger ticket. Cruise and Maritime Voyages Ltd act as agents for Global Cruise Lines in the sale and provision of all shore excursions. For all shore excursion arrangements, your contract will be with Global Cruise Lines. This information represents the shore excursion plans and intentions at the time of printing. Subsequent events may unfortunately result in an unavoidable change to plans, which could affect the published itineraries and/or fares. In the event of such changes or alterations, wherever possible you will be advised and thus all shore excursion information must be considered as subject to alteration.

**Independent shore leave**

Once the vessel has been cleared, shore excursion participants on early departures will be called to disembark first and then you can go ashore on your own as well, as long as it is not forbidden due to visa requirements; or where the ship has only a very limited layover time in ports when a technical call is scheduled to disembark or embark shore excursion guests only. If you go ashore independently it is at your own risk. It is not possible to guarantee that there will be an adequate amount of taxis available in each port of call. On some occasions, a chargeable transfer bus service from the port to the respective city centre may be organised and full information will be given on board in such instances. Please note that you have to return on board 30 minutes prior to the planned departure of the vessel. The ship cannot wait for guests who go ashore independently and return late. Organised shore excursions offer the safest and best way to explore each city during each call.
Dublin is the capital of the Irish Republic and Ireland’s principal port. Dublin Bay, with its great sweep of coast from the rocky brow of Howth in the north to the headland of Dalkey in the south, is a fitting introduction to one of Europe’s finest capitals. In addition to its splendid public buildings, Dublin is particularly rich in domestic architecture of the 18th century. Fine Georgian mansions, many of them with historical associations, lend sober beauty to the city’s wide streets and spacious squares.

This tour will offer you an opportunity to experience Dublin’s unforgettable character and undeniable charm. Departing from the quayside, you will soon pass the majestic Customs House, located on the north bank of the River Liffey. It was designed by the 18th century English-born architect James Gandon. Crossing the river to Dublin’s south side, you will view The Old Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland, and the world-renowned Trinity College. Founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I, it is Ireland’s oldest College. Weather permitting you will stroll through the grounds of this magnificent College.

Your tour of the city will continue passing the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen’s Green. You will pass Dublin Castle, City Hall and Christchurch Cathedral en route to visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Founded in 1190, St. Patrick’s is perhaps best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, who was Dean here from 1713 to 1745. The pulpit from which he preached is still to be seen.

On the north side of Dublin’s River Liffey you will pass the Four Courts, Ireland’s courts of justice. The north side boasts the wide boulevard of O’Connell Street and here you will pass the General Post Office, scene of the 1916 rising and birthplace of the Irish nation. Enjoy some free time in Dublin city before returning to your motor coach for the return journey to the port and your awaiting ship.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35.
- Please note: The visit to the Cathedral includes up to 45 minutes of walking/standing and there are steps to enter the Cathedral. There is an additional 15 minute walk through the grounds of Trinity College over cobblestones. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The order of the itinerary may be adjusted depending on traffic conditions on the day. Guests may choose to remain in the city at the end of the tour and make their own way back to the ship if they wish.
Dublin is one of Europe’s liveliest cities, where medieval and 17th century buildings stand comfortably amid all the trappings of a 21st century city. Your voyage of discovery begins with a transfer by coach alongside the River Liffey to board the ‘Liffey Voyager’ for a relaxing 45-minute cruise along the river. Your guide will tell you something of the history of Dublin from the first arrival of the Vikings over 1,000 years ago, to the rapid development of the city during the 18th and 19th centuries. It subsequently declined during the 20th century, and today the huge redevelopment of Dublin’s Docklands will astound you. You will be told the story behind the iconic Ha’penny Bridge as well as Gandon’s masterpiece, the majestic Custom House, and about the background behind Dublin’s Royal and Grand Canals, and see where Oliver Cromwell landed in 1649. It may surprise you to learn how much of present-day Dublin now sits on reclaimed land, including Trinity College and the Spire in O’Connell Street, before you return safely to the quay where your coach is waiting.

Your panoramic tour of the city will take you to the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, where you will have time to take a photo of the famous ‘Doorways of Dublin’. After passing the National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen’s Green, you continue past St. Patrick’s Cathedral. You will pass by the renowned Guinness Brewery, home of the famous ‘Black Stuff’ for which Dublin is famous, before travelling to Phoenix Park, Europe’s largest enclosed public park. Here you will see the residences of Ireland’s President and the American Ambassador. On the north side of Dublin’s River Liffey, you will view the domed home of the Four Courts, Ireland’s courts of justice, and your return to the ship is via the International Financial Services Centre.

By coach/river cruise boat, subject to minimum 35/maximum 45 per departure.

Please note: There is very little walking on this tour apart from a few steps to embark and disembark the river boat from a floating pontoon. This tour sometimes operates in reverse order to avoid congestion. Toilet facilities on this tour are limited—they are available at the visitor centre in Phoenix Park but not on the boat. The river boat cruise is approximately 40-45 minutes.
A Viking Adventure

Tour 103003 - Approx. 1½ hours

Your tour today will take you on an unusual adventure of Viking Dublin by land and by water. Join this fun and completely unique tour of Dublin in a special reconditioned World War II vintage amphibious military vehicle called ‘Duck’. Your costumed and colourful Viking Tour Captain will tell you all about the most exciting sights in Dublin: how the Vikings first settled in the City over 1,000 years ago and how Dublin has become a thriving, cosmopolitan European city. Finally, your Tour Captain drives the Duck into the waters of the historic Grand Canal Basin for the water portion of the tour. You may even be asked to give a Viking roar at passers-by!

In 837 sixty Viking ‘Dragon’ warships appeared at the mouth of the Liffey, the river on which Dublin is built. Five years later, the harbour of Dublin was taken by a Norwegian force, under the command of King Turgesius. They then ‘threw’ up a fort on the high ridge where Dublin Castle now stands. The River Poddle formed a natural boundary on two sides and would have been of primary importance in the choice of this site. These events created Dublin as a Viking city, a heritage of which Dubliners are still proud of.

You will see the sights where these early mariners settled and began trading, plus some of the city sights such as Trinity College, Merrion Square, the two cathedrals of Christchurch and St. Patrick and O’Connell Bridge. This Bridge spans the River Liffey at O’Connell Street, Dublin’s main boulevard. Enjoy the unique thrill of driving into the water, in your ‘Duck’, at the Grand Canal Harbour for a 20 minute trip of the inland waterway.

Each one of the Viking Tour Captains is a highly trained and certified driver guide. They are colourful characters and love to have fun. So, although they look like rough and tough Vikings, don’t be afraid to ask them a question about anything you see on the tour.

After this memorable adventure, you will return to Dublin Port and your waiting ship.

By reconditioned amphibious military vehicle, subject to minimum 20 / maximum 28.

Please note: This tour involves very little walking. There are 5 large steps to embark the vehicle and there is no storage for wheelchairs. Only 20 of the seats are under cover. Warm clothing is highly recommended as this is an open-sided vehicle. Children under 3 years of age are not permitted to participate.
Dublin Panoramic

Dublin is the capital of the Irish Republic and Ireland’s principal port. Dublin Bay, with its great sweep of coast from the rocky brow of Howth in the north to the headland of Dalkey in the south, is a fitting introduction to one of Europe’s finest capitals. In addition to its splendid public buildings, Dublin is particularly rich in domestic architecture of the 18th Century. Fine Georgian mansions, many of them with historical associations, lend sober beauty to the city’s wide streets and spacious squares.

Departing from the pier, you will soon pass The Customs House, located on the north bank of the River Liffey. It was designed by James Gandon and completed in 1791. Crossing the River Liffey to Dublin’s south side, you will view The Old Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland and Trinity College. Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1, it is Ireland’s oldest college. Your tour of the city will continue passing the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, the National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen’s Green.

The panoramic tour passes Dublin Castle, City Hall, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Founded in 1190, St. Patrick’s is perhaps best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, who was Dean here from 1713 to 1745. See the renowned Guinness Brewery, home of the famous Black Stuff for which Dublin is famous. Continue to Phoenix Park, Europe’s largest enclosed public park where the homes of Ireland’s President and American Ambassador are located.

On the north side of Dublin’s River Liffey, you will pass the Four Courts, Ireland’s courts of justice. The north side boasts the wide boulevard of O’Connell Street and here you can view the General Post Office, scene of the 1916 rising and birthplace of the Irish nation. Return to Dublin Port via the International Financial Services Centre.

* By coach, subject to minimum 35/maximum 240.
* Please note: This is a panoramic tour only with no entrances included. Photo stops will be made, traffic permitting. This tour involves very little walking, all of which is at guest’s discretion at the designated photo stops.

Coastal Panoramic & Irish Coffee

Enjoy panoramic views of Dublin Bay as you journey between the coastal towns of North County Dublin. Travel via Fairview and the northern suburb of Coolock before arriving at the beautiful seaside village of Malahide, a noted yachting centre. Since the 19th century, the population has exploded but Malahide Village has managed to retain an old-world elegance. A stop will be made to photograph Malahide Castle from the grounds. Set on 250 acres of parkland this was both a fortress and a private home for nearly 800 years.

Continue your coastal drive through the village of Portmarnock where the world famous Portmarnock Golf Club is located. This Club was, for many years, home of the Irish Open Championship.

Soon you will arrive in the quaint fishing port of Howth. Nestling against the ancient ruins of Howth Abbey, with the lovely fishing harbour and marina below, is the 11th century Abbey Tavern, a perfect spot to enjoy an included Irish coffee (or soft drink alternative) and savour the genuine atmosphere of old Ireland. Enjoy some short free time to wander through the marina with its extensive variety of private boats and fishing vessels.

Departing from Howth, drive over the summit, where you will enjoy wonderful views of Dublin Bay and the Dublin Mountains beyond. You will return to the port via Dollymount and Clontarf.

* By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 120.
* Please note: This excursion involves very little walking. All walking in Howth is optional. The path to the Castle is cobbledstoned. Alcoholic beverages will only be served to person aged 18 years and over and proof of age may be requested.
Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

Wicklow is a natural scenic wonderland with domed granite mountains and purple glens, of soft rolling hills and silvery streams rushing cool and clear from mountain and bogland into the rivers of the countryside. It aptly deserves the name ‘Garden of Ireland’.

Your tour heads south from Dublin to the wilderness of the Wicklow Mountains where Powerscourt Gardens are situated. The 14,000-acre estate, owned by the Slazenger family, is situated on the River Dargle. It is a blend of formal gardens, sweeping terraces, statuary and ornamental lakes together with secret hollows, rambling walks, walled gardens and over 200 variations of trees and shrubs. Open to the public for over 50 years, a major refurbishment was carried out in 1974, but tragically, a fire broke out in the early hours of 4th November that year leaving only the roofless shell of the main house. The walls of the main house dating back to the 16th century stood as a stark reminder of the fire until 1996 when the rebuilding process began. The result can be seen today with an exhibition of the history of the Powerscourt Estate.

The shop at Powerscourt is truly unique and its magnificent setting lingers long after the visit. It is divided into many different rooms all of which have their own traditional style and character. The Terrace Café looks out over the beautiful terrace and gardens and is the perfect place to enjoy a coffee and sample the delicious food, freshly cooked in-house each day.

Having enjoyed the beauty of this wonderful demesne, you will return to Dublin and Dublin Port.

**By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 30/maximum 120.**

**Please note:** All walking is at guest’s discretion at Powerscourt Gardens. The terrain in the Gardens may be uneven and there may be several steps. This excursion does not include any refreshments and anything purchased at Powerscourt Gardens will be at an additional cost. The House itself is not fully accessible and the only rooms visited are those now housing the shops and café.
INVERGORDON, Scotland

Dunrobin Castle

This tour takes you to visit the largest house in the Highlands, Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Duke of Sutherland, who was once the largest landowner in Scotland. From Invergordon you travel in a northerly direction passing the pretty, historic town of Tain, before crossing the Dornoch Firth to Dunrobin Castle, situated on the eastern seaboard of the County of Sutherland, near the fishing village of Golspie.

Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland’s great houses; the largest and one of the oldest continuously inhabited. Standing amidst lush, formal gardens that overlook the sea, this white stone chateau contrasts sharply with the usual dark stone Scottish castles. Like most ancient Scottish castles, Dunrobin started out as a Keep, or tower and is named after its originator, Earl Robin. Although the oldest part of the Castle dates from the early 1300’s, subsequent enlargements in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries created the splendid, gleaming, turreted Castle that you visit today.

Dunrobin Castle Gardens are equally as grand as the Castle. The magnificent formal 19th century Gardens were modelled on those at Versailles. These Victorian formal Gardens were designed in the grand French style to also echo the architecture of Dunrobin Castle, which rises high above them and looks out over the Moray Firth.

After viewing the Castle’s main rooms you may wish to make your way to the lawn area below to watch a birds of prey flying demonstration. The Castle’s professional resident Falconer demonstrates and explains the different hunting methods used by owls, hawks and falcons in a series of fascinating aerobatic displays. Falconry was originally developed as a means of hunting fast or difficult prey as food for the table, and Dunrobin Castle is proud to be able to showcase this ancient art.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 135.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 300-400m of walking over some gravel paths and a number of steps at the Castle. All walking in the Castle Gardens is at guest’s discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The Falconry display takes place daily Monday to Saturday at Dunrobin Castle at 11.30am and 2.00pm – it is not always possible to schedule the tour to coincide with these times. The Falconry display will not be conducted on Sundays or for visits in March.
Whisky & Royal Dornoch

From Inverness you head to Dornoch, surrounded by sand dunes and a very popular but select resort with grand Edwardian hotels and a championship golf course. The town’s oldest buildings are all clustered around its spacious and beautiful square and there will be a stop here to admire the impressive medieval Cathedral of Dornoch (exterior view) and explore independently.

To connoisseurs of the ‘water of life’, no visit to the beautiful Scottish Highlands would be complete without a visit to the distillery that produces Glenmorangie, Scotland’s favourite malt whisky. Situated in the far north of Scotland, overlooking the shores of the Dornoch Firth, the name Glenmorangie comes from the Gaelic language and means ‘Glen of Tranquility’, a particularly appropriate description for the distillery’s calm and scenic location. Glenmorangie has been producing a fine range of malt whiskies for over 150 years. The methods by which the range is made today remain as unchanged as the surrounding landscape. The pure, mineral-rich water, so essential to Glenmorangie still comes from their own springs and the best malted barley is brought in from the surroundings areas. One of Glenmorangie’s most valued resources are the sixteen dedicated craftsmen who have, despite two world wars, fire, drought and other adversities, faithfully passed on their traditional skills from old hands to new. In more than 150 years, the distillery has had only six managers and generations of local families – the workforce which is only sixteen strong – has maintained a continuous tradition to the distillers art.

A guided tour will introduce you to the natural elements and the time-honoured traditional skills which make Glenmorangie so special. You will see the gleaming swan-neck copper stills – the tallest in the Highlands, casks of American oak, operating equipment and methods used in the various stages of the processing of malt whisky. Following the approximate 45 minute tour of the distillery, enjoy a taste of Glenmorangie with a sampling of a ‘wee dram’.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 90.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 1½ hours of walking/standing at the Distillery with a number of steps to climb, some of which are rather steep and narrow. Walking during free time is at guest’s discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. This tour may operate in reverse to that described. Independent free time in Dornoch is approximately 1 hour. Toilet facilities are available in Dornoch during free time, but they may require coinage. Alcohol will only be served to those aged 18 and over and proof of age may be required.
Loch Ness Monster Trail  
Tour 112004 - Approx. 4 hours

Starting out from Invergordon, you drive alongside the banks of the Cromarty Firth and pass through Beauly on your way to Drumnadrochit, where from a height affording lovely views you approach an area of water known the world over, Loch Ness, the deepest freshwater loch in the country.

Loch Ness is world famous, thanks to ‘Nessie’, although the possible existence of the monster is still a matter of considerable speculation. However, setting aside whisky-induced hallucinations, and wishful-thinking sightings, many eye witness accounts of Nessie come from people whose honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. No matter how logical one is, it is impossible to drive alongside Loch Ness without hopefully scouring the dark waters.

After travelling through Drumnadrochit you arrive at the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Experience to discover an insight into the Loch’s wider significance. Using a highly effective mix of lasers, digital projection and special effects, the exhibition charts the history of the monster by exploring Scotland’s geological past, its folklore and the various research projects carried out on the Loch. It also reveals the discoveries of some of that research including the environmental fingerprints left in the Loch’s layers by both nature and mankind.

Afterwards you return to Invergordon skirting the eastern loch shore.

- By coach, subject to minimum 35/maximum 135.
- Please note: There is approximately 200-300m (650-984ft) of mandatory walking involved on this tour. Time spent in the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Experience is approximately 1½ hours. Please be aware that the Centre is very dark and loud and is possibly not suitable for those who do not like dark spaces. Guests may bypass this section of the tour if necessary, but no part refund will be given. Flat, comfortable shoes are recommended.

Inverness Transfer  
Tour 112005 - Approx. 4½ hours

Inverness, the Highland capital, is an approximate 45-minute drive from the port of Invergordon. On arrival, you will be dropped at a central location and have approximately three hours free time for shopping and exploring. The River Ness runs through the heart of the town offering picturesque riverside walks and is crossed at several points by foot, road and rail bridges. The town offers an excellent choice of shopping with many shops specialising in woollens, tartans, tweeds and a range of hand-crafted items from around the Highlands and Islands.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 450.
- Please note: This is not a tour, but a return coach transfer for those guests who are interested in visiting Inverness independently. Maps of Inverness will be supplied to assist guests find their way around the town. This transfer is unguided. All walking is at guest’s own discretion. Please take note of, and adhere to, the time and meeting place of your return transfer. Toilet facilities are available in Inverness, but they may require coinage.
Rogie Falls Walk  

As a truly authentic representation of the beauty of the Scottish highlands, the Rogie Falls walk is bound to delight nature lovers. Set near to the village of Contin, Rogie Falls are a number of waterfalls that form part of the Black Water. The stunning Scottish scenery will provide the most magnificent photo opportunities and the informative guide will be on hand to explain more about the huge variety of wildlife and woodland that surrounds you.

A 50-minute coach transfer will take you to the starting point for your walk to Rogie Falls. At the beginning the pathway is surrounded by pine and silver birch. Silver birches are often used in Scotland as timber for houses, furniture, gates and fences, but these particular trees stand tall and strong, protected by the forest’s conservation status. Follow the walk through the pine and silver birch area and amble past boulders and moss to reach the riverbank. Here, you will have the opportunity to see the magnificent Rogie Falls from Silverbridge suspension bridge. Providing the best views of the Falls, the Bridge has recently been rebuilt by the Highland Council to remain in keeping with the character of this beautiful area. Look out for the man-made fish ladder which was built to help the salmon reach the top of the Falls when the water level is particularly low. At certain times of the year you will be able to see the salmon leaping up the Falls in order to spawn in the upper parts of the River. Look out for the magnificent array of birdlife that frequent the River, alongside the occasional pine marten, red squirrel and wildcat.

Having seen the River and Falls at its most beautiful angle, the scenic walk back to the coach will commence, with more views of the bubbling water and splendid woodlands.

By coach /on foot, subject to minimum 15/maximum 40.

Please note: This is a walking tour and involves approximately 1.5km (1 mile) of walking over uneven terrain. Suitable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather are essential. We do not consider this excursion to be suitable for guests with walking difficulties or wheelchairs. Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.

Loch Ness & Urquhart Castle  

Loch Ness is world famous, thanks to ‘Nessie’, although the possible existence of the monster is still a matter of considerable speculation. However, setting aside whisky-induced hallucinations, and wishful-thinking sightings, many eye witness accounts of Nessie come from people whose honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. No matter how logical one is, it is impossible to drive alongside Loch Ness without hopefully scouring the dark waters.

You will travel through the village of Drumnadrochit and on to Urquhart Castle for a visit. Urquhart Castle was built both as a fortress and as a residence. In war-time its strategic military position provided the lord and those under his protection with as secure a defence as it was possible to achieve. And, Urquhart Castle figured prominently in the Scots’ struggle for independence from England in the 14th century; in the 15th and 16th centuries the Castle and glen were frequently raided and plundered, chiefly by the Macdonald Lords of the Isles; and the place was last inhabited by government troops during the Jacobite troubles in the 1690s. Romantics say that ‘Nessie’ lives in a subterranean cave below the Castle. The pathway from the bus park down to the lower level of the Castle is fairly steep in part, but you can remain on the upper level and obtain fine panoramic views and photo opportunities from the Visitor’s Centre, where you can also view an informative film about the history of the Castle from the 6th to the 17th century.

Rejoining your coach, discover Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, nestled in a ring of mountains round the mouth of the fast-flowing River Ness as it flows into the Inverness Firth. Enjoy a panoramic drive of this highland town before returning back to the ship.

By coach /on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 180.

Please note: There is approximately 1½ hours of walking over uneven ground with steep gradients around the ruins at Urquhart Castle. We do not consider this tour to be suitable for guests with wheelchairs. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The Visitor’s Centre at Urquhart Castle has a cafeteria, souvenir shop & restroom facilities.
KIRKWALL, Orkney Islands, Scotland

Scenic Orkney

During this scenic circular tour, explore areas containing some of the most spectacular wildlife and places of botanical interest in the British Isles amid some of its most rugged and forbidding landscape.

From Kirkwall you travel in a southerly direction towards the former naval base at Scapa Flow, where you will hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the best-known stretches of water in the world.

You then head inland towards the heart of Neolithic Orkney, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999, where you stop for photos at the imposing Standing Stones of Stenness, one of the earliest stone circles in Britain.

There will be a stop for tea or coffee and delicious home-bakes at a local café tea room before heading for the sandy beach at Birsay Bay, from where you can see the wild and spectacular 300ft-high cliffs at Marwick Head a designated RSPB Reserve and arguably the best sea bird cliffs in Orkney. Across the bay lies the Brough of Birsay, a small tidal island around which Orkney’s political and religious power was centred for centuries and upon which stands David A. Stevenson’s Lighthouse, established in 1925.

At the magnificent cliffs of Yesnaby you will find one of the most dramatic seascapes in Orkney as well as the rare Primula Scotica, the Scottish primrose which blooms only in May and July. Finally you pass the great ceremonial stone circle known as the Ring of Brodgar, en route back to Kirkwall.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 135.

Please note: There is approximately 300-400m of walking on this tour with uneven ground at the Stones of Stenness and a grassy path. At Yesnaby, all walking is at guest’s own discretion and there are gravel paths and rocks - care should be taken. Public restrooms are available during free time in Yesnaby, but there may be a small charge to use them. Comfortable, non-slip footwear is recommended.
Skara Brae & Skaill House

Tour 113002 - Approx. 4 hours

During this scenic tour explore the beautiful West Mainland and location of one of the greatest concentrations of World Heritage prehistoric sites in Britain.

Leave Kirkwall, the capital and administrative centre of the Orkney Islands, and after passing through an area of rich farmland, stark rolling hills and moorland fringed by magnificent rugged cliffs, you arrive for a photo stop at the great ceremonial circles of Stenness and visit the Ring of Brodgar.

The next stop is Skara Brae, Orkney’s most exciting and oldest monument: a 5,000 year-old Neolithic village beautifully preserved and complemented by a recently opened visitors’ centre. Lying beside the pretty, sandy crescent of the Bay of Skaill, this ancient stone settlement was totally buried under sand for thousands of years before being revealed after a violent storm in 1850.

Among the fascinating relics found here are tools, beads, pottery and whalebone artefacts, spanning many ages of occupation based on a farming economy. Looking across at the village, it is easy to imagine how it would have looked all those centuries ago, and closer inspection of the dwellings gives a unique insight into how our ancestors lived.

The hardship of life in Skara Brae can be directly contrasted when you visit the nearby Skaill House, Orkney’s finest manor house built by a powerful bishop on the site of an ancient graveyard.

On the return you drive past the natural deep-water harbour of Scapa Flow, where H.M.S Royal Oak was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1939 with very heavy casualties.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 135.

Please note: Inside visits to Skaill House will only be possible between April and September. This tour involves a walk of more than 400m (1,300ft) each way from the coach park to Skara Brae over an exposed and uneven foot path. At the Stones of Stenness there is a grassy flat path. At the Ring of Brodgar there is a slightly hilly grassed path and 300-400m (1,300ft) of walking. There is a total of approximately 2 hours of walking/standing on this excursion. Flat, comfortable footwear and suitable outdoor clothing are recommended.

Leisurely Orkney

Tour 113003 - Approx. 3¾ hours

This tour takes you for a scenic drive through the southern Orkney Islands where you will have an opportunity to shop for local souvenirs and afterwards enjoy refreshments at a charming waterside location.

From Kirkwall, head in a southerly direction past St. Magnus Cathedral, towards the former naval base at Scapa Flow, where you will hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the best-known stretches of water in the world. Leaving Mainland, you will travel across the first of the Churchill Barriers, linking the islands. These were constructed during the Second World War to protect the naval base at Scapa Flow from enemy submarines. You arrive at the island of Lamb Holm to visit the beautifully hand-painted Italian Chapel. Known as the miracle of Camp 60, this remarkable structure was built by Italian Prisoners during the last World War. The Chapel has been preserved and maintained for its historical connection with the soldiers from Italy.

From here you drive across the second, third and fourth Barriers to the pretty village of St. Margaret’s Hope. Local legend says that the village is named after Margaret, Maid of Norway, who died near here on her way to marry King Edward II of England. Stop for a while to independently explore before you head north to relax with a tea or coffee and a scone in a local hotel. From here you return to Kirkwall.

By coach, subject to minimum 35/maximum 90.

Please note: This tour involves a total of approximately 300-400m (1,300ft) of walking over some uneven paths and steps. All walking in St. Margaret’s Hope Village is at guest’s discretion. Public restrooms are available during free time, but there may be a small charge to use them.
South Island & Distillery Tour 113004 - Approx. 3½ hours

Just outside Kirkwall, you visit the unique Highland Park Distillery, the world’s most northerly producer of whisky founded in 1798 producing highly acclaimed 12-year-old malt. After an interesting guided tour and audio-visual presentation, you will be offered the traditional ‘peedie dram’ and afterwards there will be time to browse in the attractive gift shop.

From here you drive close to the Second World War Naval Base of Scapa Flow and hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the most famous stretches of water in the world. The causeways that link the islands together were originally built from cement blocks to restrict access to the Naval Base in World War II, but are now surfaced with roadways to provide a service to the islands which were previously only connected by ferry. Having driven across the first of the Churchill Barriers you arrive on the island of Lamb Holm to visit the beautifully hand-painted Italian Chapel, built by Italian Prisoners during the last World War.

From here you travel across the second, third and fourth Barriers before returning via the same route to head to the centre of Kirkwall for some free time to enjoy this pretty town, dominated by the magnificent and beautiful 12th century red sandstone Cathedral of St. Magnus, known locally as the ‘Light of the North’ and the finest medieval building in northern Scotland. The most poignant memorial in the Cathedral is dedicated to the 833 sailors who lost their lives when a German U-boat sank the British battleship HMS Royal Oak just a few months after the declaration of war. Nearby there are many narrow, winding streets and lanes which have hardly altered over the centuries, and there will be free time to wander round and shop for souvenirs before returning to the ship.

By coach/on foot subject to minimum 30/maximum 45.

Please note: The itinerary of this tour may be reversed. The tour does not include entrance to the Cathedral, but you may wish to visit independently during free time. Photography is not permitted inside the Distillery. There is approximately 400-500m (1,600ft) of walking on this tour over uneven pathways and steps and flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. All walking during free time is at guest’s discretion. It may be possible that your visit will be during ‘silent season’ of the distillery (mid June to mid August). If this is the case then there will be certain areas which are not accessible although you will still learn about all the processes involved. Please note that this tour is restricted to guests aged 18 years or over due to alcohol consumption and Photo ID may be required. St. Magnus Cathedral will not be visited on Sunday calls.
**Ring of Brodgar & Orkney Discovery**  
**Tour 113005 - Approx. 4 hours**

On this discovery, your impressions of Orkney will be of greenness, combined with a feeling of space, where soft countryside merges with sky and sea into a delightful confluence of nature coupled with rich history and archaeology.

You will first head for a brief photo stop at the Standing Stones of Stenness, before continuing on to their nearby neighbour – the Ring of Brodgar. The four remaining Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar were thought to be part of a ceremonial way, possibly a burial route, or could have been a lunar observatory. The Ring of Brodgar - a perfect stone circle, which retains 27 of its original 60 stones, erected with mathematical precision some 5,000 years ago, is one of the finest stone circles anywhere. This great monument is superbly situated surrounded by the agricultural heart of Orkney and here you can speculate on their original use as you capture on film these unique prehistoric remains.

Next, you head for beautiful Yesnaby, located on the west coast of Orkney mainland and south of Skara Brae. Yesnaby is renowned for its spectacular Old Red Sandstone coastal cliff scenery which includes sea stacks, blowholes, geos and frequently boiling seas. Take some time to absorb the stunning views on a photo stop here. Then, drive south from Kirkwall along a coastal road overlooking historic Scapa Flow, a great inlet surrounded by protective islands.

You continue along the road to cross the first of the Churchill Barriers, linking the Mainland to Lamb Holm, where you will find the Italian Chapel. A short photo stop will show you this unique Chapel, built by the Italian Prisoners who were building the Churchill Barriers. This heart-stirring little chapel was created out of Nissen huts by the prisoners in their spare time. It is a miracle of faith, with delicate wrought-iron tracery, and frescoes, whose artist, Dominico Chiochetti, returned in later years to restore the original work. Your tour will then return to Kirkwall.

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- By coach/on foot subject to minimum 35/maximum 135.
- Please note: There is approximately 300-400m (1,300ft) of walking on this tour at the Ring of Brogdar with uneven ground, gravelled paths, grass terrain and inclines. All other walking is at guest’s discretion at the photo stops. Weatherproof, warm layered clothing and flat, non-slip shoes are recommended. There are limited toilet facilities on this excursion.

**Italian Chapel & Mull Head Walk**  
**Tour 113006 - Approx. 4 hours**

This excursion will take you south from Kirkwall along a road overlooking historic Scapa Flow, a perfect inlet surrounded by protective islands. You then cross the first of the Churchill Barriers, linking the mainland to Lamb Holm. It is here that you will visit the Italian Chapel, built by the Italian Prisoners who also constructed the Churchill Barriers. This heart-stirring little Chapel was created out of Nissen huts by the prisoners in their spare time. The Italian Chapel is now one of the most visited monuments in Orkney, and is a fitting memorial to those who lost their lives during wartime. Orkney’s historical sites span nearly 6,000 years from the first settlers to the present and the Chapel provides a sharp contrast to the older sites.

You continue by coach to Mull Head where you will begin a 1½ hour walking tour. This nature reserve extends to about 200 acres of sea cliffs, maritime heath and grassland. Mull Head was designated as a local nature reserve by Orkney Islands Council in 1993, due to its ecological, archaeological and geological interest. Explore the dense tapestry of plant communities, historic remains, and breathtaking scenery in this largely untouched wilderness.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 15/maximum 20.
- Please note: This excursion involves between 4½ - 5km (2.7 – 3 miles) of walking over some uneven ground and steps. The landscape at Mull Head is open and the weather is changeable so please dress appropriately. Sturdy walking boots are recommended.
TÓRSHAVN/KOLLAFFJØRÐUR, Faroes Islands

You travel up to the scenic, ridge-top road that runs along the southern part of Streymoy Island, pausing above Tórshavn for a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking this colourful capital city.

In the green, sheep pastures above Tórshavn, be on the lookout for stone cairns, which marked the footpaths between villages in olden times. Further north views of Kaldbak and Kollafjørður fjords open below you – a perfect photo opportunity. Your coach winds its way down into a valley leading to Leynar.

Arriving in Leynar you may choose to visit the local woodcarver and watch him work or take a walk on Leynar beach during a short stop. Afterwards a short drive will take you further west where you can discover the colourful village of Kvivik situated in a beautiful broad valley, running from the high mountains down to the sea. Explore the ruins of a well preserved Viking farmstead dating from the 10th century. Traditional stone fences still mark the boundary between infield pastures and the wild reaches of the mountains above, and an attractive stream runs through the middle of the village.

You then continue to the village of Kollafjørður, which lies along a broad fjord and is home to many salmon farms. Step back in time with a visit to the old Lutheran Church built in 1837, constructed in typical Faroese style with black-tarred wooden sides and a turf roof and white bell tower.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 120.

Please note: The tour may operate in reverse order to avoid congestion at the sites visited. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. This tour involves approximately ½ mile (1km) of walking, over mainly flat and gravelled ground, with 10-15 uneven steps at the wood-turner’s home. The shop at the wood-turner’s home accepts Euros and Sterling for any purchases. There is a steep hill to negotiate if you wish to visit Leynar Beach. There are tunnels included on this tour, the longest of which is approximately 1½ miles. Refreshments are not included in this tour but may be purchased during the stops. Please remember to take local currency. The area is popular with tourists, so the towns and shops may be crowded.
Coastal Villages  
Tour 300002 / 312002 - Approx. 3½ hours

After leaving the harbour you head for the village of Saksun, one of the most idyllic villages in the Faroes, with its small cove and deep sloping grassy banks almost completely enclosed by the surrounding mountains. A narrow, curving inlet is the only indication that the great swell of the Atlantic is just beyond, and oyster catchers, the national bird of the Faroes, abound along a shallow stream. Of special interest is the old turf-roofed farm house, Duvugardar. Now a museum, it is a well preserved and typical example of a Faroese farm house of any period from medieval times to the end of the 19th century. On display here are many interesting old domestic utensils and household objects and furniture. The local people have managed to retain many of the characteristics and values of the old established life of subsistence farming, fishing and hunting.

Your drive continues to Kollafjørður, which lies along a broad fjord and is home to many salmon farms. Step back in time with a visit to the old Lutheran Church built in 1837, constructed in typical Faroese style with black-tarred wooden sides and a turf roof and white bell tower.

As the coach makes the return to the harbour there will be a stop to admire the panoramic beauty of the colourful town of Tórshavn from a viewpoint.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 120.

Please note: The tour may operate in reverse order to avoid congestion at the sites visited. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. This tour involves a walk of approximately 1,312ft (400-800m) and 6-8 steps to the Museum. The terrain can be muddy and slippery under foot and quite hilly in places. The panoramic photo stops are weather dependent and if visibility is poor, coaches will not drive to the viewpoints. Throughout the tour, all guests must stay on the designated pathways. The drive to Saksun Village is approximately 1 hour.

Panorama & Tinganes  
Tour 300004 / 312004 - Approx. 2½ hours

From the harbour, travel up to the scenic, ridge-top road that runs along the southern part of Streymoy Island, pausing above Tórshavn for a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking this colourful capital city.

In the green, sheep pastures above Tórshavn, be on the lookout for stone cairns, which marked the footpaths between villages in olden times. Pause for another photo stop above Norðradalur (North Valley) where on clear days a dramatic view of the Island of Koltur stands gloriously before you. Further north, views of Kaldbak and Kollafjørður fjords open below you. Winding down into a valley, you pass several colourful villages. The journey back to Tórshavn takes you through a three-kilometre long tunnel and then along a fjord at sea level.

Arriving in Tórshavn you visit the old part of the city ‘Tinganes’ for a 30-minute walk in the narrow streets between the old houses with traditional turf roofs.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 200.

Please note: This tour may operate in a different order to that described. There is approximately 30 minutes of walking on this tour around Tinganes old town, including steps and uneven ground. Guests may choose to remain on the coach for the photo stops. Comfortable, flat walking shoes are recommended. For Kollafjørður calls, after the stop in Tinganes you will return through a three-kilometre long tunnel and then along a fjord at sea level.
Island of Vágar

Tour 300005 / 312005 - Approx. 4 hours

You leave Streymoy Island via Kaldbakfjord and the Kollafjørður Valley then pass through the new underwater tunnel to arrive on the Island of Vágar. This trip gives you the chance to see Vágar’s changing scenery and explore its villages. At Sandavágur you will visit the village church and then drive through Midvágur and pass the largest lake in the Faroe Islands before reaching Vatnsoyrar and then Bøur. Here you will see both old and new houses with green sod roofs.

There is a spectacular view of the Tindhólmur islet and the Island of Mykines in the distance as you drive the tunnel which takes you to Gásadalur, Vágar’s westernmost village, and the last road to be connected with the rest of the island.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40 maximum 120.
- Please note: There is approximately ½ mile (1km) of walking on this tour including a hill, steps and gravelled ground.

Home Visit

Tour 300006 / 312006 - Approx. 2 hours

This is a unique opportunity to visit a Faroese family as they open the doors to their home and invite you in. The hosts will show you around before inviting you to join them for a chat over a cup of coffee and some cake or cookies. This visit will give you an excellent opportunity to make acquaintance with locals and to see how a Faroese family lives.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 10 maximum 12.
- Please note: It is a short drive to the home. There will be about 4-6 stairs to negotiate. Owing to the low maximum on this tour, early booking is recommended. This tour involves a total of approximately 650ft (200m) of walking.

Scenic Faroes & Pancakes

Tour 300007 / 312007 - Approx. 4½ hours

From the port you will head north passing idyllic villages and the old whaling station at Áir. The only bridge over the Atlantic, as it is sometimes called, spans the narrow channel of Sundini to connect Eysturoy with the larger Island of Streymoy. Because the channel is so narrow, spectacular eddies form at the base of the bridge when the current is running strong with the tide. Your tour passes Eiði and crosses the mountains to Gjógv. On the way, you will have a view of ‘The Giant and The Hag’, two very distinctive sea stacks. You also pass the highest mountain in the Faroe Islands, Slættaratindur at 88m (2,887ft). In Gjógv, you will see a 183 metre-long (600ft) gorge which is a natural harbour for fishing boats. There will be a short stop in Gjógv to enjoy Faroese home-made pancakes and coffee or tea at Gjáargardur guesthouse before returning to the port.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40 maximum 90.
- Please note: This tour involves approximately 1km of walking in total, mainly during the visit to Gjógv Village, and of which much is at guests’ discretion. There may be some uneven ground and several steps involved at the viewpoints.

Faroe Panorama

Tour 300008 / 312008 - Approx. 2 hours

From the harbour, travel up to the scenic, ridge-top road that runs along the southern part of Streymoy Island, pausing above Tórshavn for a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking this colourful capital city. In the green, sheep pastures above Tórshavn, be on the lookout for stone cairns, which marked the footpaths between villages in olden times. Pause for another photo stop above Norðradalur (North Valley) where on clear days a dramatic view of the Island of Koltur stands gloriously before you. Further north views of Kaldbak and Kollafjørður fjords open below you. Winding down into a valley, you pass several colourful villages. The journey back to Kollafjørður takes you through a three-kilometre long tunnel and then along a fjord at sea level.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40 maximum 200.
- Please note: This tour may operate in a different order to that described. Guests may choose to remain on the coach for the photo stops.
LERWICK, Shetland Isles, Scotland

Scenic Shetlands

Tour 114001 - Approx. 3½ hours

Shetland is the crossroads of the northern seas and is unlike anywhere else in Scotland. The sight and sound of the sea is almost always present, woven into the island’s maritime heritage. Spectacular vertical stacks coated with seabird colonies, cliffs and coves curtained with wild flowers, hidden white beaches on an endless coast, small crofts and settlements sheltering by the sea edge are typical Shetland scenes. The pollution-free air has an unbelievable clarity beloved of photographers and painters.

You leave Lerwick and travel to the Pictish Broch at Clickimin, where you stop to view on foot (in the distance) a good example of a Broch Tower with surrounding buildings dating from the Iron Age. The tour then continues through Gulberwick and Over and heads in a westerly direction through small agricultural areas, passing the distinctive black and brown Shetland sheep grazing in pastures enclosed by neat dry-stone walls which are a feature of the landscape.

You then drive across heather-clad hills to Scalloway, former capital of the Shetlands and an important fishing village on the western side of Shetland. During free time you may wish to see Scalloway Castle, a forbidding ruin dominating the town, built by Earl Patrick Stewart in 1600 using forced local labour.

Your route then takes you northwards, passing the pretty Loch of Tingwall with its Norse heritage to Carol’s Pony Farm where you will have an opportunity to photograph the delightful Shetland ponies. The owner, or another member of staff, will be delighted to share their knowledge with you.

Travel through an area of uninterrupted views across farmland, small lochs and streams. The road passes a collection of farm buildings, and then suddenly there are belts of trees, the only ones of any significance on Shetland, rising abruptly amongst the barren hills. On the way back to Lerwick, a short stop is made at Shetland Jewellery, where traditional Shetland gemstones are still hand-crafted in the Celtic and Norse-inspired fashions.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum varies.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 150m (490ft) of walking. The ground at Carol’s Pony Farm can be muddy. Weatherproof clothing and non-slip shoes are recommended.
Shetland Contrasts

Tour 114002 - Approx. 4 hours

Shetland is a mosaic of over one hundred islands where land and water intermingle and the past and present merge. The most northerly part of the British Isles, it is inhabited by approximately 22,000 people and an abundance of wildlife. It is a land shaped by the sea, varying from dramatically sculptured cliffs to tranquil, sandy bays. There are over 100 islands ranging in size from the large island of Mainland, 351 square miles, to the numerous small skerries (islands) and islets along the coast. Both the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea wash Shetland’s coast, which is dramatic and beautiful. Lerwick has always been an important centre for fishing: not only are the home waters productive, but it lies on the edge of the valuable northern fishing grounds.

Leaving the harbour area, you drive through Lerwick and follow the coastal road in a southerly direction through crofting communities to Hovwick, where you stop at the small Visitor Centre where you can learn something about Shetland life and the world-renowned Shetland weaving industry.

Following the visit, you continue to Sumburgh, the most southerly tip of the Shetland mainland. Here sitting side by side in complete contrast are the modern airport and the famous archaeological site of Jarlshof, which has evidence of human habitation spanning 3,000 years. A violent storm in 1905 uncovered this remarkable archaeological site sprawled over a low green promontory by the sea, revealing remains from the Stone Age and settlements from the Bronze Age. Rectangular stone houses from an ancient Viking community can also be seen, and you will be able to explore independently the remains of these village settlements.

Tea and coffee and a biscuit will be served at either Hovwick Visitor Centre or Sumburgh Hotel during the tour.

On the return drive, keep your eyes peeled for the distinctive black and brown Shetland sheep grazing in pastures enclosed by neat dry-stone walls, and the delightful, inquisitive Shetland pony, once an essential part of crofting life.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/ maximum varies.

- Please note: This tour involves approximately 300-400m (1,300ft) of walking including some steps, so flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The stop at the Sumburgh Hotel is for refreshments only and has been reserved as part of the tour. The Hotel can only cater for the pre-booked group visit and not ad-hoc visits or lunch requests without reservations. At Jarlshof there are cobbled pathways. The path to the Broch and Wheelhouse area are too narrow for wheelchairs.
Lerwick Walking Tour

Tour 114003 - Approx. 3 hours

The ancient fishing port of Lerwick is the cultural and administrative hub of the Shetland Isles, the most northerly islands in Britain. Situated amidst an archipelago of islands with strong maritime links, the town has fascinating stories to tell as well as unique vernacular architecture to discover.

The town itself dates from the 17th century when it began to grow as a trading port for Dutch herring fishermen. Local merchants built Lodberries - houses and warehouses, each with its own pier, from which they could serve incoming fishing boats, directly from their own property - these are still there today, along the harbour front.

Overlooking the harbour, you see Fort Charlotte - built in 1665 and later rebuilt in 1780 - named after Queen Charlotte, George III’s consort. Fine views over the harbour can be gained from the fort which, though not in use today, was once a prison and a Royal Navy reserve base. 465 German passengers were once billeted here after the ship Lessing, bound for America, was shipwrecked off the Fair Isle in 1868.

The Victorian Town Hall on Hillhead Street displays fine architecture and offers a delightful insight into the development of the islands through its stained glass windows - these depict the main events in Shetland’s history, in pictorial narrative.

Opened in June 2007, the Shetland Museum provides an interesting insight into island life, past and present. You will enjoy some free time to view the various displays about local archaeology, folk life, social and maritime history, as well as exhibitions of contemporary art.

You also explore the intriguing ‘closses’ (narrow lanes), which run from the harbour area to the top of the hill, home to many secret tales from the lives of the town’s inhabitants, including the smugglers who used to run clandestine operations beneath the town. This walking tour will allow you to take in all of these highlights, and provide an excellent backdrop for further exploration of the town.

On foot, subject to minimum 15/ maximum 30.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 3 hours of walking/standing, up steep lanes and over cobblestones. Sturdy walking boots and waterproofs are essential. Warm, layered and comfortable clothing is recommended. If the ship is docked at Holmsgarth pier, the Port Authority Shuttle Bus will be used to transport you to the starting point for the tour.
North Shetland & Eshaness Cliffs  
Tour 114004 - Approx. 4½ hours

Sixty miles north of Orkney and half-way to Norway, Shetland has its own character, very different from that of Orkney although they share much of their history. Bear in mind that nowhere in Shetland are you more than three miles from the sea and this sprawling archipelago where land and water intermingle has constantly changing vistas and magnificent scenery which you enjoy on this leisurely tour northwards to Hillswick and Eshaness Cliffs.

Travel through the Tingwall Valley, so called after the site of the old Norse parliament. Passing through the picturesque hamlet of Voe, and the village of Brae you pass across the narrow 300 yard strip of land at Mavis Grind where the North Sea and Atlantic Ocean seem almost to meet, cutting mainland Shetland in two. Stop at Braewick Café to enjoy some light refreshments before setting off again for your next destination - Eshaness Lighthouse.

The landscape then becomes much more rugged and scenic with red granite cliffs very much in evidence as you head around St. Magnus Bay travelling in a westerly direction to Eshaness, a designated European Geopark. Here the spectacular Atlantic coastline has no comparison elsewhere in Shetland and you can view the striking and precipitous sea cliffs, and the rock formations carved by the unrelenting power of the ocean.

As you continue your panoramic sightseeing you may see the delightful inquisitive Shetland pony, once an essential part of crofting life. The shaggy coats (in the winter) and flowing manes of the ponies equip them to withstand severe weather conditions. You will also see the small agricultural areas where sheep farming is important, the distinctive black and brown Shetland sheep grazing in pastures, some enclosed by neat dry-stone walls, and small crofting communities nestled on narrow peninsulas never far from the inlets of the sea.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 90.
Please note: This tour involves approximately 100m (320ft) of walking. The remainder of the walking is at guest's own discretion at the photo stops. Comfortable footwear is recommended. The spotting of Shetland Ponies is not guaranteed. Refreshments include tea/coffee and a scone.

Sea Kayaking  
Tour 114006 - Approx. 3 hours

Enjoy the scenic views of Shetland coastlines from a very unique perspective. Led by a professional instructor, you will begin this excursion with a private tutorial on how to use your kayak.

Kayaking is a fun, unconventional and environmentally friendly way of enjoying the beautiful Shetland scenery. Your group leader will be on hand to make sure you have a full and informative time without leaving any negative effect on the environment you have come to see. Learn more about the stunning area you are visiting, whilst learning how to manoeuvre your own private mode of transport. Famous for its remote islands and abundance of wildlife, there is sure to be lots to see. The tranquillity of gliding through the waves on your kayak seems a fitting way of seeing such beautiful panoramic landscapes. A waterproof camera is recommended as there will be plenty of photo opportunities throughout the trip.

Following your relaxed tour on the water you will return back to solid ground and take the short trip back to Lerwick port.

By taxi or minivan/kayak, subject to minimum 4/maximum 8.
Please note: Before you book this excursion, you must refer to the General Shore Excursion Information & Conditions, in particular the paragraph 'Activity & Water Based Excursions'. You must also ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover this specified activity. Prior to embarking on the tour there will be a safety brief and paddling instructions. All participants will be provided with lifejackets. No kayaking experience is required as the guide will show you all you need to know. Participants must be in good physical condition, not suffer from any back problems or conditions which could be affected by the kayaking. All participants must be competent swimmers. Flat shoes with rubber soles should be worn. Children under the age of 33 must be accompanied by an adult. A mix of one-man and two-man kayaks is used. As this excursion includes water based activities you should bear in mind that the water is unpredictable and so please exercise caution. A towel and a dry change of clothes are recommended as you may get wet. This tour may be cancelled at short notice if weather conditions are considered unfavourable by the operator.
REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

The Golden Circle

This memorable tour encompasses the ‘Big Three’ - Gullfoss, Geysir and Thingvellir. They are collectively known as the ‘Golden Circle’ and will introduce you to many of the natural wonders for which Iceland is justly renowned.

From the quayside you travel inland in an easterly direction to Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, one of Iceland’s top tourist attractions. It is revered as the nation’s most sacred historic shrine, as one of world’s oldest legislative assemblies, the Althing, originally convened here in A.D. 930. Of particular interest are the Law Speaker’s Rock and the remains of the turf shelters. These shelters were once used as dwellings during the two-week assemblies which were held on alternate years. Thingvellir abounds not only in history but in outstanding natural beauty, with its stunning lake, lava landscape and rugged chasm walls on the rift where Europe meets America at the Continental Divide.

Leaving Thingvellir, your tour continues to Gullfoss Waterfall, the most magnificent of the country’s many waterfalls, whose thundering waters throw a perpetual rainbow over a lunar landscape. Here the River Hvítá drops 96ft (29m) in two falls, creating an awesome spectacle. After a short drive you arrive at the Geysir area, where hot springs are in abundance, and the most active one, Strokkur, is likely to spout a high column of boiling water up to 60ft (18m) high every few minutes. On a fine day it is possible to see in the distance the Langjökull Glacier, the second largest in Iceland.

Your return journey crosses the mountain plateau of Hellisheiði, covered by post-glacial lava fields. Arriving back at Reykjavík, you make a stop at the Pearl vantage point, a dome of glass built on top of hot water storage tanks, for a superb panoramic view of Iceland’s capital and the surrounding area before the tour concludes at the quayside. Lunch including a starter, main course of local salmon and soft drink or light beer is included on this tour.

- By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 500.
- Please note: This tour involves a total of approximately 2 hours of walking; however some sights can be viewed from the coach. The terrain at most of the sites is rough and uneven. There are approximately 10 steps at Thingvellir National Park. Sturdy, closed toe shoes and a rainproof jacket are essential. Should you choose to walk close to the Gullfoss Waterfall, you are advised that there is a steep gravel and mud path and many steps, which can often be slippery when wet. When at the Geo-thermal area you are requested to pay attention to the guide’s warnings and remain on the pathways, not crossing the roped-off areas. To avoid congestion, the sites may be visited in a different order to that described. Lunch may be earlier for some groups and it should be noted that the lunch stop is also the stop to see the Geysirs. Please be advised that at some comfort stops there may be a charge of approximately 200 Icelandic Kroner for use of the facilities. The tour duration can vary between 8-8½ hours.
Panoramic Reykjavík

This classic city tour takes in all the highlights of the Northernmost Capital in the world, Reykjavík. You leave the harbour and head towards the Laugardalur or ‘warm water valley’ passing the city’s main sports and recreation area with its outdoor geothermal swimming pool. From Laugardalur you continue on the scenic road that leads you to Bessastaðir peninsula, where the residence of the President of Iceland is located. From this beautiful peninsula you have a great view over Reykjavík.

You return to the hustle and bustle of the inner city, driving past the open-air museum at Árbæjarsafn. Cross the Elliðaá, one of the world’s cleanest salmon rivers known to flow through a capital city and then make a stop at The Pearl or Perlan. Here, the panorama from the viewing platform is clear, making it a great place for a view of Reykjavík.

You then drive past the Hallgrímskirkja Church, and head for the charming old quarter of Reykjavík with its colourful wooden houses and narrow streets. The drive continues through the University of Iceland complex and alongside the city lake, Tjörnin, before heading towards the old harbour area where there will be a short photo-stop. Returning to the pier you follow the coastline and pass by the famous Höfði house where the summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev was held in 1986.

By coach, subject to minimum 40/maximum 200.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 30 minutes of walking although most sights can be seen from the coach and so this is at your own discretion at the photo stops. Additional photo stops may be added depending on traffic and weather conditions. The Pearl Dome has two very spacious lifts providing access to each floor of the Dome and to the viewing platform. Views are subject to favourable weather conditions.

Leisurely Reykjavík & the Blue Lagoon

Start with a drive over the lava fields of the Reykjanes Peninsula towards the Blue Lagoon, which owes its existence to a nearby geothermal power plant. The water of the Lagoon is warm, mineral-rich and reputed for its healing properties. This natural and very popular health spa is now a major attraction in the region. You will have approximately one hour to spend viewing the Blue Lagoon. Regrettably there is insufficient time on this tour for you to bathe in the Lagoon. The complex does however have a tax-free shop and café.

During a short sightseeing tour of Reykjavík you will drive through the Breiðholt residential area, offering extensive views over the city, the bay and mountains beyond. Pass the Árbæjarsafn to where many houses from Reykjavik’s past have been moved and restored. Continue to the Laugardalur valley, a recreation area with sports facilities, including an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Drive past Höfði House, site of the 1986 Reagan/Gorbachev Summit meeting, before stopping at the Pearl, a glass dome on top of geothermal water tanks. The Pearl also serves as a vantage point offering the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent view by way of the viewing platform.

Before returning back to the ship you will drive into the older part of the city, dominated by the imposing Hallgrímskirkja Church whose high steeple serves as a landmark. Moving closer to the centre of the city, on our way back to the pier, you see the City Hall and Reykjavík’s main square, Lækjartorg.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 100.

Please note: The journey time to/from the Blue Lagoon is approximately 45 minutes each way. There is a walk from the parking area to the main building at the Blue Lagoon of approximately 490ft (150m) each way. The paths at the Blue Lagoon are paved. There is insufficient time for bathing at the Blue Lagoon on this tour. The sites may be visited in a different order to that described. Views are subject to favourable weather conditions.
Relaxing in the Blue Lagoon

Your tour starts with a drive past Perlan, ‘The Pearl’, a glass dome built on the top of the hot-water storage tanks in Reykjavík, and then through Reykjavík’s suburbs towards Hafnarfjordur. From there, you continue through the rugged lava fields of the Reykjanes peninsula towards the Blue Lagoon, one of the most popular attractions in Iceland.

The Blue Lagoon owes its existence to the nearby geothermal power plant and offers a tax-free shop, café and excellent changing-room facilities. This pool of pure, mineral-rich geothermal seawater located in the middle of a lava field attracts more than 100,000 visitors a year in search of health, relaxation and recreation.

You will stop for approximately one-and-a-half hours in order to indulge in the warm waters of the Lagoon which are approximately 37-39°C and reputed for their healing properties. The blue colour of the water, the steam and the four-metre-high lava wall surrounding the Lagoon succeed in creating a unique atmosphere. During your visit there will be time for refreshment or to browse for souvenirs in the gift shop before returning to the ship.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 40/maximum 100.**
- **Please note:** The journey time from Reykjavík to the Blue Lagoon is approximately 45 minutes each way. Please remember to take swimwear and a towel. The Lagoon is not a pool for regular swimming, rather a unique, relaxing bathing experience. It is expected that you take a shower and wash without swimwear before entering the Lagoon. Separate dressing rooms and showers are provided for men and women, with lockers, large enough for a small sports bag. Towels and swimsuits can be hired. You enter the Lagoon at your own risk and are responsible for any children accompanying you. The Blue Lagoon establishment does not assume responsibility for any personal valuables. You may not bring food or drinks for consumption on the premises or into the Lagoon. It is recommended that you wear a bathing cap or use a hair conditioner, as the silica has a drying effect on hair. Avoid getting silica into your eyes. Removal of silica from the Lagoon is not permitted. The temperature of the Lagoon is between 37-39°C/100-110°F. Many pregnant women bathe in the Lagoon, but it is important that every woman evaluates her physical condition before entering. It is important to drink plenty of fresh water and avoid being hungry during the visit. Guests with special medical conditions such as high or low blood pressure, heart disease, circulatory problems, diabetes or any other illness should avoid staying too long in the Lagoon. A break from bathing should be taken if guests feel uncomfortable or drained at any point. The Blue Lagoon’s natural sand bottom may be uneven and slippery.
Super 4x4 Adventure

Nowhere but in Iceland will one find vehicles like those you travel in during this excursion. Crafted for uniquely tough conditions, each ‘Supertruck’ is custom built with up to three separate transmissions, two separate steering systems, fully in-cab adjustable four corner air suspension, turbocharged engines, an array of radio equipment, marine-type satellite navigation and the largest available legal road tyres in the world. Expert drivers will take you to places magically created by the power of volcanoes, ice and time on this Super 4x4 Adventure.

Shortly after leaving Reykjavík, drive up the mountain Ulfarsfell, where you have a spectacular view over Reykjavik and the bay. Onwards to Nesjavellir, where you make a short stop at a vantage point with a panoramic view over Lake Thingvallavatn, the active volcano Hengill, the geothermal powerplant of Nesjavellir and its surroundings.

Nesjavellir Power Plant, which was formally opened in 1990, powers a 190-megawatt geothermal plant, using the nearby field of boreholes, developing the largest high-temperature field in Iceland. This incredible geothermal field is in fact one of the main sources of hot water harnessed to heat houses in Reykjavík.

From Nesjavellir you take the gravel road alongside Lake Thingvallavatn, driving past farmlands of the south with the landscape and scenery changing until you arrive at the birch grown area of Thrastarlundur. Here in this beautiful area there will be a short comfort stop before continuing your adventure.

After re-boarding the vehicles, you head off the beaten track, by way of a trail known as ‘The Thousand Waters.’ The supertruck winds its way through numerous rivers, mud banks and streams. Before you arrive back in the Capital, these magnificent machines are put to their final test by climbing some of the nearby hills. From here it’s back to reality and tarmac as you head back to Reykjavík.

By super 4x4, subject to minimum 8/maximum 40 per departure.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for those with injuries or conditions which may be affected by the bumpy ride. Pregnant women and children under 8 may not participate. When more than one vehicle is used, the guide will commentate from the front vehicle with a radio system relaying the commentary to those behind. The Super 4x4’s have high steps to negotiate when boarding. Views and the route taken are subject to weather conditions.
Krýsuvík, Viking Museum & the Blue Lagoon  
Tour 305008 – Approx. 5 hours

This tour combines a visit to the geothermal area of Krýsuvík, an opportunity to see one of Iceland’s most visited tourist attractions, the Blue Lagoon and to learn something of the island’s history with a visit to the Viking Museum.

Departing the pier you drive through the picturesque town of Hafnarfjörður and on to Kleifarvatn Lake, one of the deepest lakes in Iceland where a short photo stop will be made. You continue on to the geothermal fields of Krýsuvík – one of the most striking landscapes in Iceland. Stroll along the boardwalk to witness the powerful jets of steam escaping from deep below the earth’s crust and the multi-coloured pools of boiling mud. Back on the coach, you head across the impressive volcanic plateau of Reykjanes before driving through the bustling fishing village of Grindavík and on to the Blue Lagoon.

The Lagoon owes its existence to a nearby geothermal power plant. The water is warm, mineral-rich and reputed for its healing properties. This natural and very popular health spa is now a major attraction in the region. You will have approximately one hour to spend viewing the Blue Lagoon. Regrettfully there is insufficient time on this tour for you to bathe; the complex does however have a tax-free shop and café.

Continue across the lava-covered peninsula to the outskirts of the little town Njarðvík where you will visit the recently opened Viking Museum, home to ‘Icelander’, a fully seaworthy replica of an average-sized Viking ship. ‘Icelander’ is 23m (75ft) long and 5.25m (17ft) wide and was used by the shipbuilder Gunnar Eggertsson to travel to America and back in 2000 to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of his countrymen navigating to and discovering North America. From here it is an approximate one hour drive back to Reykjavík.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 200.

Please note: This tour involves a total of approximately 1½ hours walking for full enjoyment over some uneven ground. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. When at the Geothermal area you are requested to pay attention to the guides warnings and remain on the pathways, not crossing the roped-off areas. There is a walk from the parking area to the main building at the Blue Lagoon of approximately 490ft (150m) each way. The paths at the Blue Lagoon are paved. There is insufficient time for bathing at the Blue Lagoon on this tour. The sites may be visited in a different order to that described.
Get ready for an unforgettable excursion! Not only does this tour visit the most popular attractions in Iceland, it also takes you on an exhilarating snowmobile adventure on Iceland’s second-largest glacier.

Joining your custom built ‘Supertruck’ at the pier, your journey begins with a drive over the moorlands of Mosfellshöði, an ancient undulating lava field, before visiting Thingvellir National Park. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of Iceland’s top tourist attractions, revered as the nation’s most sacred historic shrine, as one of the world’s oldest legislative assemblies, the Althing, originally convened here in A.D. 930. Thingvellir abounds not only in history but in outstanding natural beauty, with its stunning lake, lava landscape and rugged chasm walls on the rift where Europe meets America at the Continental Divide.

Continuing your journey you will visit the popular Geysir area, where hot springs are in abundance, and the most active one, Strokkur, is likely to spout a high column of boiling water up to 60ft (18m) high every few minutes. On a fine day it is possible to see in the distance the Langjökull Glacier, the second largest in Iceland and the next stop on your adventure. Reaching the Glacier you will be kitted out with thermal suits and helmets and provided with safety information and instructions on how to control the snowmobile. Decide who will take control first and then begin your approximate hour long journey across the white, desert-like landscape. If you both want a turn at driving, there will be an opportunity to swap half way through.

Leaving the Glacier behind, rejoin your ‘Supertruck’ for a transfer to the Gullfoss Waterfall, the most magnificent of the country’s many waterfalls, whose thundering waters throw a perpetual rainbow over a lunar landscape. Here the River Hvítá drops 96ft (29m) in two falls, creating an awesome spectacle. Relax and enjoy the passing Icelandic scenery as you make your way back to the ship in Reykjavík.

Refreshments are included at a local hotel near Gullfoss and consist of a hot bowl of soup with bread, tea/coffee and water.

- **By super 4x4/snowmobile/on foot, subject to minimum 10 maximum 40.**
- **Please note:** For this tour option you must be participating with another person whom is known to you and whom you are happy to share a snowmobile with. If you would like to have your own snowmobile or are participating alone, you must register for tour 305010, not this option. This tour is not suitable for those with injuries or conditions which may be affected by a bumpy ride. Pregnant women and children may not participate. When more than one 4x4 vehicle is used, the guide will commentate from the front vehicle with a radio system relaying the commentary to those behind. The Super 4x4’s have high steps to negotiate when boarding. All participants must be at least 18 years of age. At least one of you must be prepared to drive the snowmobile and so must have a valid driving licence and zero blood alcohol level. You must take your driving licence with you to present to the operator. Please wear warm, layered clothing and sturdy walking shoes as you will be walking on snow/ice at the Glacier and uneven ground at the other sites. Gloves and sunglasses are recommended. Please be advised that at some comfort stops there may be a charge of approximately 200 Icelandic Kroner for use of the facilities. Before registering for this tour you must ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover these specified activities. It is your responsibility to obtain adequate insurance. Full instruction will be given and it is essential that you follow the guide’s instructions when driving the snowmobile. On this excursion all participants are required to sign an additional waiver provided by the operator for the activity they are participating in. Full details will be available on board.

This tour operates in exactly the same way as tour 305009, however instead of sharing a snowmobile you will have one to yourself.

- **By super 4x4/snowmobile/on foot, subject to minimum 10 maximum 40.**
- **Please note:** Please refer to the important notes under tour 305009.
STORNOWAY, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

Hebridean Highlights

This tour takes you around the stunningly beautiful Isle of Lewis, largest of the Hebridean Islands, made famous by Mendelssohn in his moving and melodious masterpiece, ‘Hebridean Overture’. It is a wild, windy and totally unspoilt part of Scotland, where landscapes range from brilliant, golden sands to heather-backed mountains. The island is the heartland of Gaelic culture with long-standing traditions and relics, where people’s lives are still dominated by traditional pursuits like crofting, fishing and weaving. Visit some of the most important pre-historic sites in Scotland, as well as legacies of the earlier crofters.

After leaving Stornoway, the capital of the Outer Hebridean Isles and home to the Western Isles Council, which strives to promote the Gaelic language and culture, you cross the typical peat moors of central Lewis with their boulders and hillocks to Arnol for a visit to the Black House Museum, housed in a cottage typical of the islands. A peat fire burns in the centre of the floor, and there is no chimney. These structures were warm, dry and quiet when the wind outside howled. The Museum gives a splendid example of how crofting families lived, with exhibits of implements and simple furnishings, until as recently as the Second World War.

Along the rugged coastline on Loch Carloway stands the exceptionally well preserved Carloway Broch, a 2,000 year old circular, dry-stone built, fortified tower. Visit the Broch which stands on a hillside overlooking the sea. Collapsing stonework has exposed the interior galleries and stairs which are clearly visible.

Continuing your circular itinerary along the west coast you arrive at the Callanish Standing Stones, rated as the most important in Britain after Stonehenge. These Stones date from 1500 B.C., are laid out in the form of a cross with a circle in the centre, and were aligned with the sun and the stars to provide the seasonal cycle on which the early Neolithic farmers were so dependent. There are 47 stones remaining, the tallest over 15 feet high. It was not until 1857, when five feet of peat was dug away, that the original height and extent of the Stones was seen. During your visit here, you can walk around the field-like terrain for close up views of the Stones and great photo opportunities.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum varies.

Please note: To fully enjoy this tour, there is a total of approximately 2 hours of walking involved, however, this is at guest’s own discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and the Standing Stones but it is on a steep uphill gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. At Carloway Broch there is also grassy and muddy terrain with slopes and stone paths with low arches to enter the Broch, although the visitor’s centre, close to the coach park, is housed in a re-constructed Broch. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.
This tour takes you to picturesque South Lewis and over to Harris - a gentle landscape known around the world for its Harris Tweed, a hand-woven cloth made from pure new Scottish wool and dyed using natural colours from indigenous plants.

Leaving Stornoway, the capital of the Outer Hebrides, you travel southward skirting the fjord-like sea lochs of Loch Erisort and Loch Seaforth. The road then climbs steadily past the towns of Bowglass and Ardvourlie before navigating through a mountain pass which offers up excellent views of the rugged countryside. The views include the peak of Clisham, which at over 2,600ft, is the highest mountain in the Outer Isles. Native wildlife may be spotted, including red deer, otters and golden eagles. There are also rocks here which have been discovered to be the oldest in the world. Powerful forces of ice and sea in the distant past have carved and polished a dramatic landscape of stark sea-cliffs, sweeping beaches and rugged heather uplands.

One of the most desirable wool textiles in the world, Harris Tweed, is produced in the Outer Hebrides and you will have the opportunity of visiting one of the small shops and adjacent tweed storehouse in the town of Tarbert. See how the product is weaved and you will have the chance to purchase some lengths of tweed or small souvenir products. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in Tarbert, which overlooks Loch Tarbert and is the largest village on the island.

Leaving Tarbert you pass through a dramatic lunar landscape of rocks dotted with tiny lochans as you descend towards the vast expanse of Luskentyre Bay. From here you head for Horgabost Beach where you will have some additional free time to enjoy the bleached white sand. This lovely setting which is framed by the turquoise sea, backed by steep dunes and set against the backdrop of the mountains to the north, is a wonderful place to relax and take some memorable photos. From this location, you can also view the beautiful, uninhabited island of Taransay, the setting for a hugely popular television programme, ‘Castaway’. Following your stop at Horgabost Beach, you return to Stornoway.

By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum varies.

Please note: Most of the walking involved on this tour is at guests’ own discretion during free time and at the various stops. The Harris Tweed shop is approximately 500m (1,600ft) from the coach. There are some inclines and steps to negotiate and sand at Horgabost Beach. As the weather can change throughout the day, it is recommended that guests dress in layers and wear flat, comfortable walking shoes. At the weaving demonstration in Tarbert, guests must be aware that the factory is not large in scale, and so space can be very restricted. There are public bathroom facilities in Tarbert, but coinage may be needed to use them. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.
The Isle of Lewis is shaped by the sea and harsh climate. Steeped in history, the Island has been inhabited for over 6,000 years with nothing but the sea between it and North America. On the exposed Atlantic coast of the Isle of Lewis the black house village of Gearrannan lies steeped in history and sited in an environment of outstanding physical beauty. Since 1989 a local community trust has been painstakingly restoring the once derelict properties and croft land to recreate an authentic settlement. Traditional methods have been used to recreate the dry-stone masonry and thatched roofs of the original croft houses. A typical ‘black-house’ was a long rectangular building forty to fifty feet in length, with an interior width of ten to twelve feet. All the corners in the outside walls were rounded, and great care was taken to ensure that the outer walls, which were of undressed stone, had a slight slant to allow the rain to drip off and not seep into the interior. The thatched roof was a fundamental characteristic of the black-house.

Your tour of the coastal crofting village gives you the opportunity to experience traditional rural activities and to learn about the rich history of the area. You will see how generations lived together, all entirely Gaelic speaking.

Beyond, is Loch Roag, an inlet of the Atlantic, and slightly to the north are the Standing Stones at Callanish. They form the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles, being exceeded in importance only by Stonehenge. It is a dramatic place, set in moor-land overlooking the loch and surrounded by hills. There is a well-marked megalithic avenue comprising 19 monoliths, ending in a circle of 13 stones, with rows of other stones fanning out, and forming probably remains of additional circles. During your visit here, you can walk around the field-like terrain for close up views of the Stones and there are also great photo opportunities. From here the tour turns inland again and crosses fairly desolate open moorland before reaching Stornoway.

⚠️ By coach/on foot, subject to minimum 35/maximum 90.

⚠️ Please note: This tour involves approximately 1½ hours of total walking/standing over some rough and uneven terrain. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and Standing Stones but it is on a steep uphill gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. There are a few steps and uneven ground at the Museum. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.
Great Bernera Trail

Great Bernera, once a large Norse settlement, is an island lying on the north-west coast of Lewis. With less than 300 people living here, Great Bernera is a stunning, undisturbed area of natural beauty. The island’s serene landscape provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an extensive walk of the area. A one hour transfer by coach will take you to the Bernera Community Centre and Museum in Breacleit where you will begin your walk. Man-made structures stand side by side with the islands natural environment, with footbridges in place allowing you to cross the beautiful loch Tob Bhalaasaigh. The route takes you past an array of derelict houses and along the western coastline, with spectacular views of the ocean lapping against the shoreline. Great Bernera is famed for its lobster and as you continue your walk, you will pass an unassuming stone enclosure of water which is actually a lobster pool. Having followed the trail further, you will find some truly breathtaking views of the hills of Uig, a range of imposing inland mounds. The walk will then take you over more difficult terrain, with boggy patches and steeper inclines. However, the hard work put into this part will pay off as a stretch of beautiful white sandy beach unfolds in front of you at the foot of the glen. Here, you shall find a reconstruction of an Iron Age house. This house is based on real constructions that lie beneath the sand, re-covered for their own protection.

Notice the Time and Tide Bell, resting out at sea, which rings at high tides as part of an art project that is implemented across the whole of Britain. It is here that you will join your return path. Look out for the roadside memorial that commemorated the 1874 Bernera riots, before arriving back at the starting point where your mini-bus will be waiting to transfer you on an hour long journey to Stornoway.

By mini-bus/on foot, subject to minimum 15/maximum 15.
Please note: This is a strenuous walking tour involving approximately 2½ hours (7 miles) of walking over uneven ground. The terrain is difficult in areas, with boggy patches and steep inclines around the beach. Sturdy, waterproof walking boots are essential. We recommend bringing a bottle of water with you and dress according to the weather.

Lews Castle Segway

A relatively new mode of transport, Segway’s provide a fun, easy and innovative way of exploring Lewis Castle in all its glory. After a short transfer by car you will have a safety briefing, and collect your helmets, before you step aboard your Segway. This two-wheeled, self-balancing, battery-powered electric vehicle, controlled by shifting your weight forward and backward on the platform is definitely fun to try. Enjoy the fresh air whilst controlling your own individual vehicle, designed to operate in a responsible, environmentally conscious way. Using your Segway you will be able to ‘glide’ around the historical grounds of Lewis Castle, enjoying a variety of different paths and terrains. Once owned by Sir James Matheson, a Chinese opium trader, used as accommodation for air crew in World War II and also a place to house the students of Lewis Castle College, this beautiful Victorian Castle has a fascinating history. Today, the Castle is owned by the Stornoway Trust who have restored this historical building to its former glory and created some wonderful trails around the grounds which ensure that all the best sights are seen.

By car/Segway, subject to minimum 5/maximum 5.
Please note: This tour involves very little walking as it is conducted on Segways, but guests will be required to stand up for the duration of the tour. The Segway tour lasts approximately 1 hour. Helmets provided must be worn throughout the tour. Some areas of the trail are quite exposed so appropriate clothing for the weather conditions on the day is recommended. The minimum age to participate is 12, and any under 14’s must be accompanied by an adult. Guests must be able to step onto and off the machine unaided and must be comfortable standing for a full hour. Weight limits are 7 stone (45kg) lower limit and 19st (117kg) upper limit. Before you book this excursion, you must refer to the General Shore Excursion Information & Conditions, in particular the paragraph ‘Activity & Water Based Excursions’. You must also ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover this specified activity. On this excursion all participants are required to sign an additional waiver provided by the operator for the activity they are participating in. Full details will be available on board.