

Your expedition cruise in the

# BRITISH ISLES



© SHUTTERSTOCK/HURTIGRUTEN

## Dear guest

Thank you for choosing to travel with us. We are as excited as you are about your expedition to the British Isles. This will be a grand adventure exploring the rugged beauty, the wild nature and historic sites of these fascinating islands.

In this document, you will find important information about things you need to do before you go, what we recommend you pack, the experience when on board, and what to expect with wildlife and landings.

Clicking on the underlined links in the document will take you to our website, where you can find further details. Please make sure that you have an internet connection to do this.

You will receive one more mail from us approximately 2-4 weeks before your departure. This will contain your tickets for your itinerary and flights.

We very much look forward to welcoming you on board. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions:

**Reservations:** +1 (866) 552-0371

**Email:** [us.expeditions@hurtigruten.com](mailto:us.expeditions@hurtigruten.com)

**Web:** [hurtigruten.com/expeditions/](http://hurtigruten.com/expeditions/)

Kind regards  
Your Hurtigruten team

## Contents

Before you go	2
Practical information	3
Your haven to the horizon/ loving local food	4
Your active adventure	5
Expect the unexpected	6
Explore the British Isles	7
The art of whisky	8
Discover wildlife	9
Sustainability/ Hurtigruten Foundation	10

Frequently asked questions »

FOLLOW US



# BEFORE YOU GO

There are a few mandatory steps to complete before your expedition cruise in the British Isles.

1

**Fill in and return the Ship Manifest Information Form to Hurtigruten**

2

**Check your passport**

Please ensure your passport has a minimum of 6 months remaining validity at the end of your cruise.\*

3

**Entry requirements (visa)**

Please make sure that you have the correct visa travel document that is required at the time of your expedition.

4

**Check your travel insurance**

A comprehensive travel/health insurance policy that also covers medical evacuation is recommended.

For your convenience, we have listed all the required forms and important information about entry requirements on one web page.

[Entry requirements »](#)

## Weather and packing

Definitely check the weather forecast at your destination before you leave to ensure you pack the appropriate clothes. Make sure to pack clothes suitable for the weather you're returning home to, as well.

**We recommend you pack:**

- Clothes for both warmer and cooler days
- Insect repellent
- Polarized sunglasses and sunscreen
- A camera (in a waterproof bag)
- A memory card with a large capacity
- Wind- and water-resistant pants
- A warm hat that covers your ears, and a scarf
- Worn-in walking boots to use outdoors
- Lip balm with UV protection
- Swimsuit to use in our on-deck pool and hot tubs
- A pair of casual shoes for onboard use

[What to bring on your trip »](#)

You will receive a complimentary Helly Hansen expedition jacket and a re-usable aluminum water bottle.

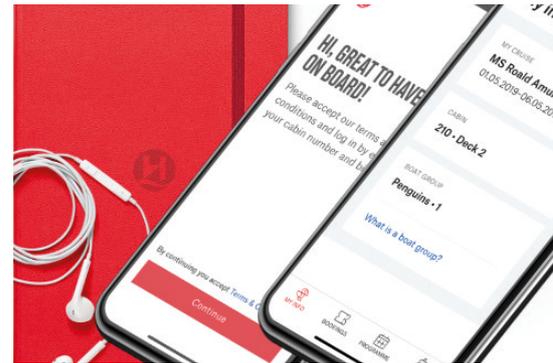


You can borrow boots,\*\* trekking poles, and all equipment needed for activities free of charge.

\* In addition, passport validity must be in accordance with national requirements in the country/countries you are traveling to.

\*\* Except on MS Maud and MS Otto Sverdrup.

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION



## Hurtigruten App

is your digital travel companion on our expedition ships.

Everything you need to know about your cruise, including your bookings, daily programme, restaurants and services on board, essential information about available excursions is at hand at any time.

It will be possible to log in once you are on board with your date of birth and your cabin number.

[Download the app »](#)

## Your adventure is safe with us



## Wish to be more prepared?

From laundry and onboard Wi-Fi to prohibited items not allowed on board - here's everything you need to know before your expedition with us.

[Practical information »](#)

Hurtigruten ships have been a fixture on the Norwegian coast since 1893. Today, our ships sail to the Arctic and Antarctica, and many destinations in between. On each ship you will find modern facilities carefully blended with true character.

[Discover our fleet »](#)

We care deeply about your safety, health and wellbeing. This is as true now as it has always been ever since we first began sailing in 1893, perhaps even more so. We've introduced several new procedures throughout all our ships, designed to keep you safe.

[Our safety policy »](#)

# YOUR HAVEN TO THE HORIZON

**Your expedition ship is your home away from home; casual, comfortable, and complete with everything you need for your adventure and more.**

If you pictured an expedition as being on a rusty old frigate with faded décor, prepare to have your expectations blown away. From the get-go, you'll see that life on the ship is relaxed and the atmosphere calm and informal. Each public area of the ship has been designed with your viewing pleasure in mind. As you set foot on exotic shores together, you'll naturally grow closer with your fellow explorers. Enjoy swapping stories in the various seating areas dotted around the ship which usually have great views.



© AGURTXANE CONCELLON

# LOVING LOCAL FOOD

**Prepare your tastebuds for mouth-watering meals on board.**

These will often be inspired by the region's unique flavours and cooking styles. Then add in Signature Seafood Evenings and tastings that really showcase specialties of the local cuisine. Wherever possible, ingredients are sourced at local businesses in the ports we visit, reducing food miles and supporting coastal communities.

You'll also be spoilt for choice with sophisticated plant-based menus of gorgeous 'green' food, potentially healthier for you and for the planet too.



© ANDREAS KALVIG ANDERSON

# YOUR ACTIVE ADVENTURE



## **Landings and small boats (RIBs)**

Your expedition ship will take you to wild places—places where there are no jetties or docks to get ashore! This is where our small boats (RIBs) come in. From landing on beaches or remote islands to sailing into Scottish lochs and wide English estuaries, our small boats (RIBs) are a comfortable way of bringing you straight to the natural wonders of the British Isles.

## **Nature walks\***

Together with the Expedition Team or local guides, join walks to viewpoints and sites of interest. Wherever you go, you'll have plenty of chances to enjoy the views of these most scenic spots on foot.

## **Town and city walks**

There are many fascinating villages, ports, and cities around the British Isles to explore on foot.

## **[Science Center »](#)**

The microscopes and other high-tech equipment in our Science Center allow for hands-on demonstrations and workshops, deepening your understanding of the places we visit. Participate in Citizen Science projects, which in turn contribute to important research.

## **Lectures and talks**

On board and ashore, our Expedition Team gives in-depth lectures on a variety of topics to bring your cruise to the next level. They choose subjects specific to the British Isles.

## **Shore excursions\***

Optional excursions offer special experiences that bring you closer to the British Isles.

## **Experts in exploration**

Your Expedition Team are your passionate and knowledgeable hosts. They'll ensure you enjoy exciting and informative experiences safely and sustainably. Experts in their fields and adventurers in their own right, they deliver engaging lectures and talks, organise a variety of onboard activities, accompany you on landings, and take the lead on handpicked hikes.

# EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



An adventure can be summed up into two things: journeying somewhere exciting and being adaptable to whatever comes our way. Both apply on your expedition cruise with us.

© TED CREEK / HURTIGRUTEN

When you embark on an expedition with us, you'll be travelling to some of the most remote and pristine places on our planet. It's an adventure to beautiful coastal areas where nature is at its most raw, wildlife roam free, and where the elements rule. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

## Open exploration

Itineraries on our expedition cruises are therefore not completely set in stone. This gives us the flexibility of responding to challenging elements and to grasp new opportunities for exploration as they arise. Whether wind or waves block our way or we see whales we want to observe for a while, the option to divert from our

course is an essential and exciting aspect of expedition cruises.

Our plans may sometimes need to be altered slightly or even changed completely, bringing us to places and surprises not originally on our route, but which will still be just as impressive. Certain days on several of our itineraries even have multiple possible sites we can visit. You can trust the ship Captain together with the Expedition Team to pick the best option, based on the conditions on the day.

It is this unpredictability and adaptability that are at the core of any expedition, and what makes it an adventure so different from

a standard cruise. Embark on a journey with us; a journey where you'll embrace pure adventure, become real explorers, and expect the unexpected. Together, we'll create unique and unforgettable experiences, working with nature, never against it.

# EXPLORE THE BRITISH ISLES

Discover some of the highlights and possible sites you might see on your expedition cruise in the British Isles.\*

© SHUTTERSTOCK/GETTY IMAGES/HURTIGRUTEN



## Isles of Scilly

This enchanting English archipelago off the Cornish coast boasts beautiful, uncrowded, and unspoiled islands and islets surrounded by turquoise waters and reefs.



## Rathlin Island

This L-shaped island boasts Northern Ireland's largest seabird colony and is ideal for exploring by bike or on foot to admire the natural beauty and enjoy the tranquillity.



## Islay

Famed for its whisky distilleries and woolly garments, 'whisky island' is a wildlife paradise with over 200 species of birds, superb cliff-top walks, an archeological site, and a golf course.



## Stornoway

Originally a Viking settlement, the now capital on the Isle of Lewis & Harris offers interesting museums, the Gothic Lews Castle, and the mysterious Callanish standing stones.



## Fishguard

This charming Welsh fishing village is split in two by a steep, winding hill. Enjoy beautifully landscaped gardens, ruins of Fishguard Fort, and views of the Pembrokeshire coast.

## Did you know?

At least **six** ravens are kept at the Tower of London in England at all times. Otherwise, according to the legend, the kingdom and the tower will fall.

Founded in **1720**, the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Ireland proudly holds the title of the oldest yacht club in the world.

In **15th** century, golf was invented in Scotland. The 18-hole round was created at the Old Course at St. Andrews in 1764.

There are still over **600** castles in Wales today. Wales has more castles per square mile than any other country in the world.

About **40,000** interlocking basalt columns make up the Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland. Most of the columns are hexagonal.

[The highlights »](#)

# THE ART OF WHISKY

DISCOVER  
with us



Few other spirits have managed to beguile connoisseurs across the world as whisky has.

© LEON HARRIS - BETTY IMAGES / HURTIGRUTEN EXPEDITIONS

## Creating the “water of life”

The origin of whisky is hard to pinpoint. One theory suggests that the distillation process vital to producing whisky may have been invented in Mesopotamia some 4,000 years ago, and applied to alcohol production around 800 CE. The knowledge could have then been brought to Europe by travelling monks over the next few hundred years. But no one knows for sure. It is generally safe to say that whisky as we know it originated somewhere in the British Isles.

The word “whisky” is of Gaelic origin, coming from the word “Uisge”, a shortened version of “Uisge Beatha”, which translates to “water of life”. The Irish spelling, “whiskey”, is also used in the US. The Scottish variation, “whisky”, is used in Canada and Japan. As we’re

about to focus on Scottish whisky, we’ve gone for that spelling.

## The criteria for “scotch”

For the traditional whisky lovers among you, nothing probably quite beats an authentic Scottish whisky. For a Scottish whisky to be considered a proper “scotch”, it must be made of water and malted barley, and aged for at least three years in an oak barrel. There can be no additives, except for water and colouring, and it must be bottled with no less than 40% alcohol. An authentic scotch must also be made in Scotland.

Many say that the secret to great Scottish whisky is the local water. Scottish distilleries are invariably located near a high-quality source and benefit from a wet climate. The rain filters down through the pristine

moorland peat, picking up the local character of the ground, and perhaps adding to the character of whiskies produced here.

## Come to Islay for a dram

Scottish whisky is divided into five different styles, each coming from a different region: Lowlands, Highlands, Speyside, Campbeltown, and Islay. The island of Islay on the western shore of Scotland is home to nine iconic distilleries, each producing a distinctive, smoky style of scotch, with a touch of salt from the nearby sea. You’ll be able to visit one of them and enjoy a dram, or several, of whisky on an expedition cruise with Hurtigruten. Slàinte mhath!

# DISCOVER WILDLIFE



The landscapes, coasts, and seas of the British Isles play host to a multitude of wildlife, both large and small, which are sure to surprise and delight

© SHUTTERSTOCK

## **Fauna of the British Isles**

The complex geology, diverse natural habitats, and mild climate of the British Isles make them home to a huge array of wildlife. Multitudes of seabirds nest on craggy islands amid seas supporting 16 types of cetaceans. The shores and beaches are havens for crustaceans, rockpool life, and shorebirds.

## **Dolphins**

Several dolphin varieties inhabit the waters of the British Isles. Known to be naturally playful and inquisitive, dolphins seem to enjoy following in the wake of the ship, jumping acrobatically with the waves. It's normal to spot bottlenose, short-beaked, common, and Risso's dolphins, as well as harbor porpoises. Pods of dolphins can be several hundred

strong, with the common dolphin forming the largest groups.

## **Seals**

The seal is one of the largest animals you're likely to spot. There are two varieties of seal in the British Isles: the common seal and the grey seal. Common seals (a.k.a. harbor seals) are the smaller type. You're likely to catch them around harbors (as you may have guessed) or on beaches. Grey seals can be much bigger—up to 660 lbs—and sometimes congregate in groups of up to several hundred.

## **Seabirds**

It would be an understatement to say that the British Isles are rich in seabird life. Aside from gulls and the iconic puffin, the coasts and islands

of the British Isles are internationally important breeding grounds for many types of seabird. For example, 90% of the world's Manx shearwaters can be found here, along with 68% of the northern gannets and 60% of the great skuas.

Remember that these are natural habitats, so we cannot guarantee sightings of certain animals during your trip. Mother Nature will do as she pleases, and no sightings can be set in stone.

# SUSTAINABILITY

**Exploring our blue planet for more than a century has taught us the importance of being green.**

Over decades, our Captains and crew, Expedition Teams and returning guests have witnessed the impact of climate change on vulnerable polar areas with their own eyes. We want the Arctic, Antarctica, and everywhere in between to remain places of pristine nature, pure water and clean air.

Sustainability is therefore at the heart of who we are and what we do. From the beautiful natural world to remote communities, we want to ensure our expedition cruises protect them both. In line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, we're able to offer you greener and more sustainable expedition cruises on and for the planet.

Want to know more?

Visit [our sustainability web page](#) »



© GENNA ROLAND

## HURTIGRUTEN FOUNDATION

**Collaborating for change:  
Creating a footprint we can be proud of.**

Hurtigruten Foundation is a platform for taking a stance and volunteering in worthwhile causes – together. Working closely with guests, partners and organizations, Hurtigruten believes we make a genuine difference, by minimizing our operational impact and maximizing the positive contribution we make to local communities. Since the Hurtigruten Foundation was established at the end of 2015, a total of 3,200 000 NOK has been donated to date for 34 projects in eight countries.

Hurtigruten Foundation is funded by direct donations and several onboard initiatives, including auctions, fund-raisers, and primarily the "Green stay" programme, where a donation is made for every day you ask us not to clean your cabin, thereby saving energy, detergents and water. We invite you to join us and leave a footprint we can be proud of!

Visit [the Hurtigruten Foundation web page](#) »

