

Wild Scotland

Aboard *Greg Mortimer* | 28 May – 07 June 2024





“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you did not do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.”

—Mark Twain

Wild Scotland

28 May – 07 June 2024

Troon

DAY 1 | Tuesday 28 May 2024

Latitude:
55° 33.51'N
Longitude:
004° 47.14'W

Wind Speed:
15 knots W
Barometer:
1022 hPa

Course:
Docked
Speed:
13.6 knots

Air Temp: 13°C

After breakfast, the local guides welcomed us aboard buses and shared stories of Scotland's capital city. Stretching just over one mile, five cobblestoned streets make up the walking precinct of the Royal Mile.

After a wonderful tour we made the two-hour transfer to the west coast, arriving at Troon a little earlier than usual, eager to get on board.

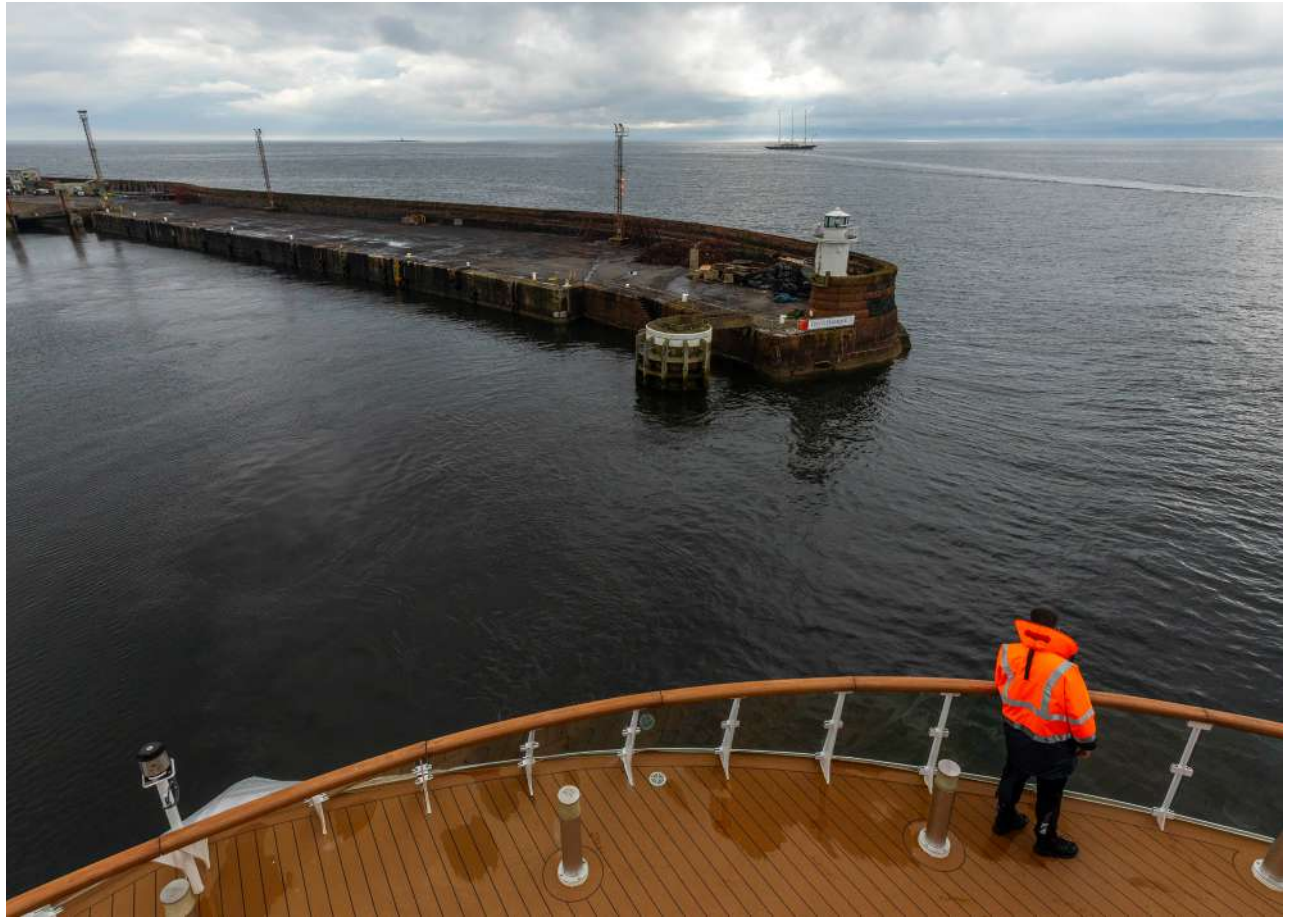
Once checked in, the ship's crew helped us navigate the decks to our cabins – our home away from home for the next 11 days. Daniel then called us into the Lecture Theatre to welcome us aboard. To

start, Daniel shared the story of how Aurora Expeditions came to be and explained why their egalitarian style of travelling is what truly enhances each day of our expedition.

Justine, and Hotel Director Alex, walked us through life on board and Dr Eliana ensured we knew how to stay healthy during our voyage.

Subsequently, we received our lifeboat and safety briefing, preparing ourselves for the abandon ship drill. Our safety officers and crew then guided us to the lifeboats, providing us with information on their locations.





Iona (Inner Hebrides) & Lunga (Treshnish Isles)

DAY 2 | Wednesday 29 May 2024

Latitude:
56° 19.0' N
Longitude:
006° 23.4' W

Course:
357°
Speed:
9.3 knots

Wind Speed:
3 knots NW
Barometer:
1020 hPa

Air Temp:
12°C

In Iona, we followed in the footsteps of those who had come and gone for centuries before us to the nunnery, the abbey and the grounds of Iona's renowned holy site.

As Iona slipped away on the horizon, we passed the island of Staffa, its basalt columnar cliffs an otherworldly scene, and its caves a cacophony of music only the ocean could make.

Our afternoon landing brought us to the rocky intertidal of Lunga. Navigating the rough path to the cliffs, we were treated to a great puffin party, but they were not the only birds we saw. Guillemots

passed overhead, along with razorbills, fulmars, kittiwakes and oystercatchers, surveilled by shags drying their plumage.

Back on board, we were invited to deck five for cocktails and canapes, before meeting our captain and his leading officers.

Captain Maxim has sailed Aurora Expedition vessels since the *Polar Pioneer* in 2017. So when it comes to sailing the *Greg Mortimer*, it is safe to say that his heart is in expedition cruising.









Skye: Loch Coruisk & Isle of Eigg

DAY 3 | Thursday 30 May 2024

Latitude:
57° 10.951'
Longitude:
006° 09.294'W

Wind Speed:
20 knots N
Barometer:
1023 hPa

Course:
320°
Speed:
At Anchor

Air Temp:
10°C

We started our day in the Isle of Skye, taking a lovely walk to Loch Coruisk. Although it was a bit windy and the Zodiac ride in was wet for some of us, it was still beautiful, as we passed by waterfalls on the way to the landing site.

After a delicious lunch on board, we headed back out to the Isle of Eigg, one of the small isles in the Inner Hebrides. When we landed, we met our local Eiggspert guides who took us for an Eiggcellent tour of the island. We split up into teams for long, medium and short walks and took to the hills.

We learnt about the history, the flora and fauna and what it's like to be an Eiggception to the norm and live life off-grid. The island is one of only a few places in the world to be powered by solar, wind and hydro alone. We also visited a community orchard where the residents grow a lot of their own food. It was inspiring to see people choosing this alternative and somewhat sustainable lifestyle.

Back on board, we learned about our plans for the next day and a little bit more about photography and puffins.







St Kilda: Hirta, Boreray & The Stacs

DAY 4 | Friday 31 May 2024

Latitude: 57° 46.9'
Longitude: 008° 10.3'W
Course: 277°
Speed: 7.6 knots
Wind Speed: 4 knots WNW
Barometer: 1035 hPa
Air Temp: 10°C

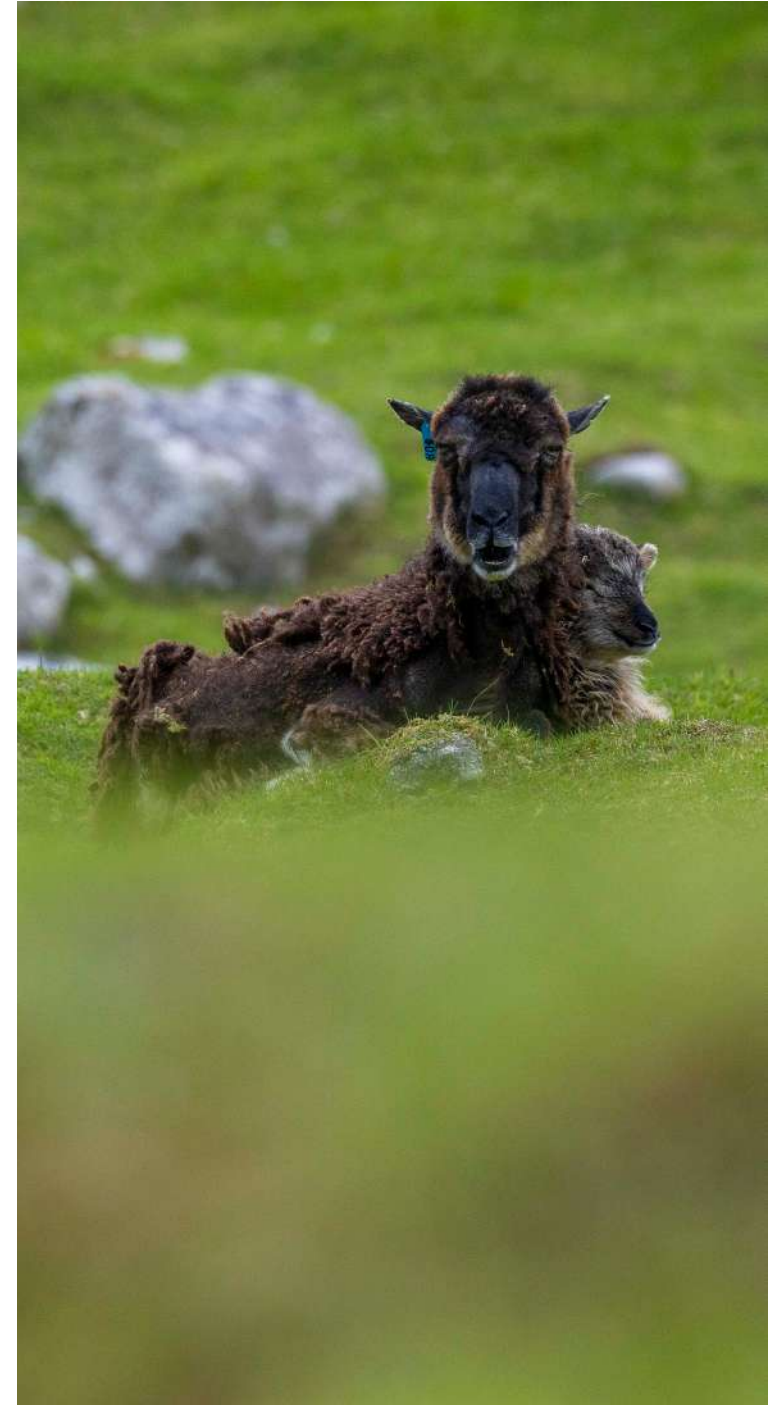
As we pulled into the crescent-shaped harbour, it protected us from the north-west swell and winds. The island's Warden Sue came aboard and briefed us on what to expect and the rules and regulations to observe. Following the briefing, we dropped Zodiacs and made our way ashore. A small group set off on a hike, destined for the highest bird cliffs in Scotland. Fulmars raced by on the way to their nesting sites, and starlings carried on noisily with their business. Puffins were a bit harder to find.

Back at the landing site, we separated into two groups – historians and birders – and strolled through the grassed hills, passing the wild

sheep as we went. Lambing season was just coming to a close and the newborns were well and truly chasing after their mothers. When the island was evacuated in 1930, the sheep left behind became wild and took over as custodians of the island.

The afternoon saw us being skilfully guided by the captain as he led a ship's cruise around the island of Boreray and the Stacs. The tall rock sea-stacks climbed out of the sea, draped in the purest of green grasses in some places and thousands of bird nests in others. Gannets had seemingly taken over any remaining rocky crevice. They flew past the ship, carrying food and nesting materials as they went.







Calanais & Pabay Mòr, Isle of Lewis

DAY 5 | Saturday 1 June 2024

Latitude:
58° 18.0'N
Longitude:
006° 51.7'W

Course:
141°
Speed:
7.3 knots

Wind Speed:
8 knots SW
Barometer:
1039 hPa

Air Temp:
11°C

The Calanais Standing Stones are at the centre of a major Neolithic sacred landscape, on a hogback ridge with a 360-degree view of the open horizon, on the western shore of the Isle of Lewis.

During lunch, the ship re-positioned around the island of Great Bernera to West Loch Roag. The crystal-clear waters here provided a wonderful Zodiac cruise among numerous small islands, inviting us to explore their rocky coastlines and sandy beaches, caves and natural arches.

The uninhabited island of Pabay Mòr was also a joy to wander through, with its bedrock of Lewisian gneiss overlain by 'machair', a unique environment supporting a rich habitat of grasses and wildflowers. Although now only populated by sheep since the island was cleared for grazing, evidence of its former occupants was everywhere – from the ruins of the medieval church at one end to the ponds where live lobsters were once stored before sale at the other. At one point, we were thrilled to observe a golden eagle soaring overhead.







At Sea, Orkneys: Papa Westray

DAY 6 | Sunday 02 June 2024

Latitude:
59° 11.9'N
Longitude:
004° 27.5'W

Course:
074°
Speed:
7.8 knots

Wind Speed:
29 knots SW
Barometer:
1036 hPa

Air Temp:
10°C

Our slow morning at sea let us process the early voyage, and marked a transition from the Gàidhealtachd, the heartland of Scottish Gaelic culture, to the Northern Isles, where influences on history and culture are much more Nordic in flavour.

Our first landing was Pierowall on the island of Papa Westray in Orkney, known to locals just as Papay. The name links it firmly with our last landing, Pabay Mòr, another place where wandering Irish monks, sailing the North Atlantic, settled and found both spiritual and corporal sustenance.

Some of us explored the North Hill nature reserve, one of the finest examples of globally rare maritime heathland habitat in the Northern Isles, and home to the rare Scottish primrose (*Primula scotica*) and other beautiful wildflowers.

Before departing, we had a wonderful taste of island hospitality at the Papay Bar, with a warming wee dram or local ale to accompany the waltzes and reels played by the house band and to help with toe-tapping to the music. Back aboard the vessel we enjoyed an indoor BBQ dinner, complete with Glühwein, music and party hats.







Shetlands: Jarlshof & Mousa Broch

DAY 7 | Monday 3 June 2024

Latitude:
59° 55.1'N
Longitude:
001° 13.1'W

Course:
182°
Speed:
5.1 knots

Wind Speed:
32 knots WSW
Barometer:
1032 hPa

Air Temp:
10°C

This morning, on rounding Sumburgh Head, strong westerlies were picking up and the swell was an impressive couple of metres. However, after a bit of scouting, we came into West Voe and the sea state began to ease.

The Pictish wheelhouse is one of the best preserved in Scotland. Its unique design and low height would have offered a mix of private and communal space to the inhabitants, protecting them from the elements, and is easily imagined by the modern-day visitor.

In the afternoon, we headed to the tiny island of Mousa. Slightly fewer guests opted to brave the conditions, which were windy and

wet to say the least. However, we were rewarded by the opportunity to explore Mousa Broch, an imposing Iron Age double-walled round stone tower.

Today was also a chance to stretch the legs on a longer walk, where we spotted redshank, oystercatchers and arctic skuas, and common seals hauled out on the rocks. Underfoot were carpets of thrift, sea squill, and a dwarf willow, the tiniest 'tree' (more like a mat!) found in these northern isles. Despite the wind, the kayakers ventured along the sheltered cliffs of the mainland and still managed to squeeze in a visit to the Broch.







Fair Isle, At Sea

DAY 8 | Tuesday 04 June 2024

Latitude:
59° 45.6'N
Longitude:
001° 19.9'W

Course:
210°
Speed:
10.7 knots

Wind Speed:
26 knots SSE
Barometer:
1012 hPa

Air Temp:
9°C

We initially investigated the approach to an anchorage at the South of the island, but due to the wrapping around effect of the wind, the anchor site was not viable. We therefore opted to sail back around towards the north, where we dropped anchor and began our visit to Fair Isle.

Many of us walked to the bird colony close to the landing site and spent the start of the morning on the hill, witnessing the puffins getting buffeted by the wind. We then took the road to the Community Hall, with some opting for car transfers, and the rest walking the 2.5 kilometres up the hill in a headwind, while enjoying the beautiful windswept scenery along the way.

In the Community Hall, we were treated to some lovely tea and cakes. However, the real highlight was perusing and purchasing the incredibly beautiful, traditional Fair Isle knitwear.

Satisfied with bellies full of tea, coffee and cake it was time to head back to the ship for lunch. During lunch, Daniel was contacted by the HM Coastguard who wanted to use the *Greg Mortimer* as a prop in one of their exercises. The coastguard wanted to practise winching people onto the ship from one of their helicopters, and to take some selfies with our safety officer.









Shetlands: Noss & Lerwick

DAY 9 | Wednesday 5 June 2024

Latitude: 60°09.6' N
Longitude: 00°57.8' W
Course: 212°
Speed: 4.8 knots
Wind Speed: 5 knots WSW
Barometer: 1011 hPa
Air Temp: 10°C

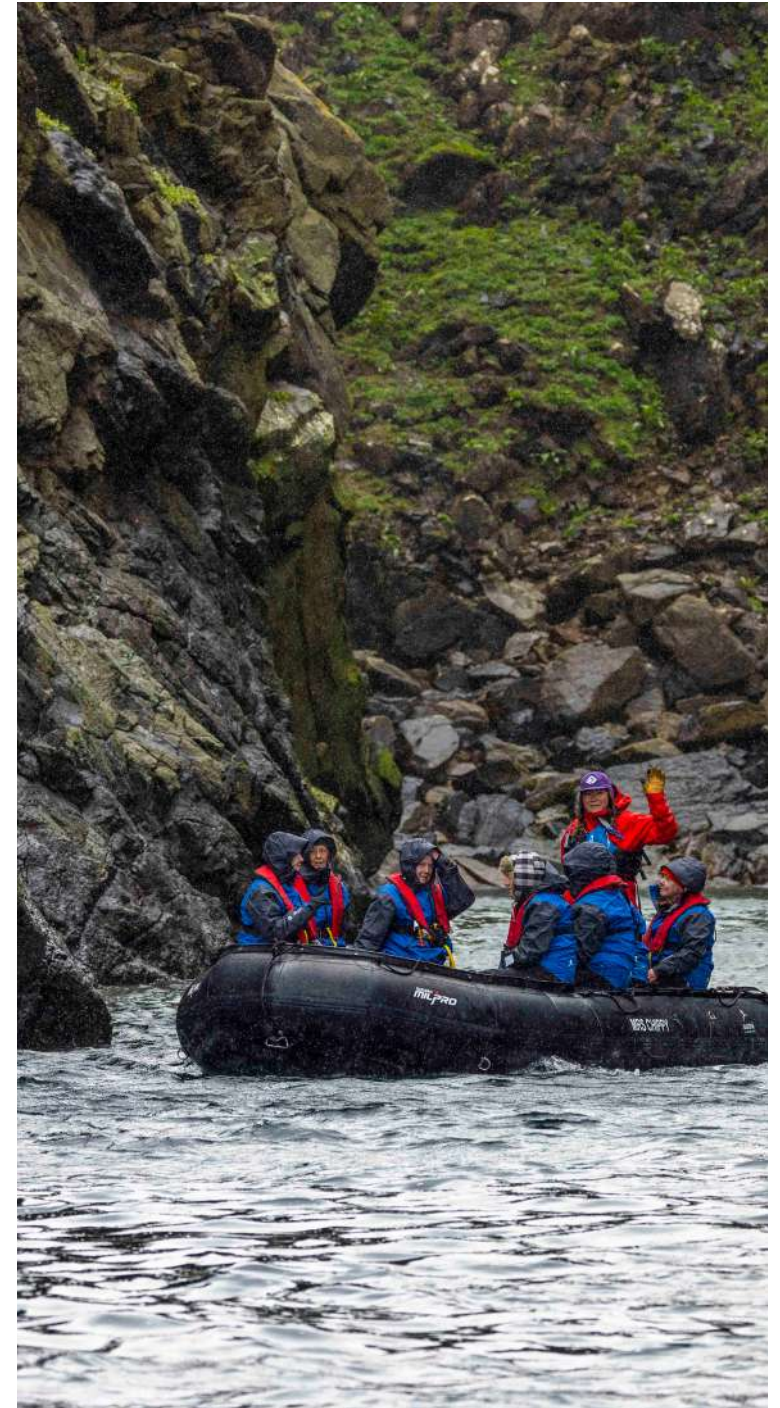
The Isle of Noss gave us an incredible show of soaring gannets, fulmars and great skuas as well as slightly less graceful guillemots, razorbills and puffins. The vertical walls of red sandstone shielded us from the stronger gusts, and at the same time, offered a unique and more intimate perspective as we explored along the waterline in our Zodiacs.

The afternoon brought us to the town of Lerwick, its name coming from Old Norse meaning 'the bay of clay'. It was a real treat with its 'booming' population of 7,000 inhabitants. Many might have found it impressively crowded seeing it was the biggest settlement we have visited since the beginning of our voyage. We were welcomed

to the Shetland Museum and Archives with its fantastic exhibitions taking us across the geological and human history of the Shetland Islands, the former dating back to 4000 BCE. The walk around the old town gave us not only a sense of the history of the place, but also its weather, as we wandered through the streets in torrential rain, sunshine and hail, almost all at once. The town also gave us the opportunity to acquire some souvenirs from the islands: books, knitwear, 'puffin poop' and the taste of local ales to name a few.









Kirkwall

DAY 10 | Thursday 6 June 2024

Latitude:
58°59.6' N
Longitude:
002°612' W

Course:
126°
Speed:
2.6 knots

Wind Speed:
13 knots from
WSW
Barometer:
1016 hPa

Air Temp:
8°C

Kirkwall is the largest town in the Orkneys Islands and it located in the heart of mainland Orkney. The name comes from the Old Norse meaning 'Church Bay'.

After breakfast, the local guides welcomed us aboard buses and we went to explore some of the most iconic areas around and outside the town. One of the highlights was the stunning Ring of Brodgar, a Neolithic henge and stone circle. It is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, known as the Heart of the Neolithic Orkney.

Another fantastic site was Skara Brae, a Neolithic stone settlement, founded 5,204 years ago.

The landscapes and wildlife were also something to admire during

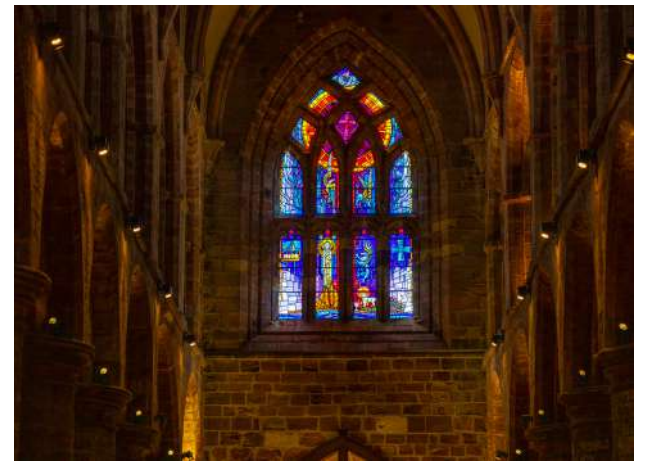
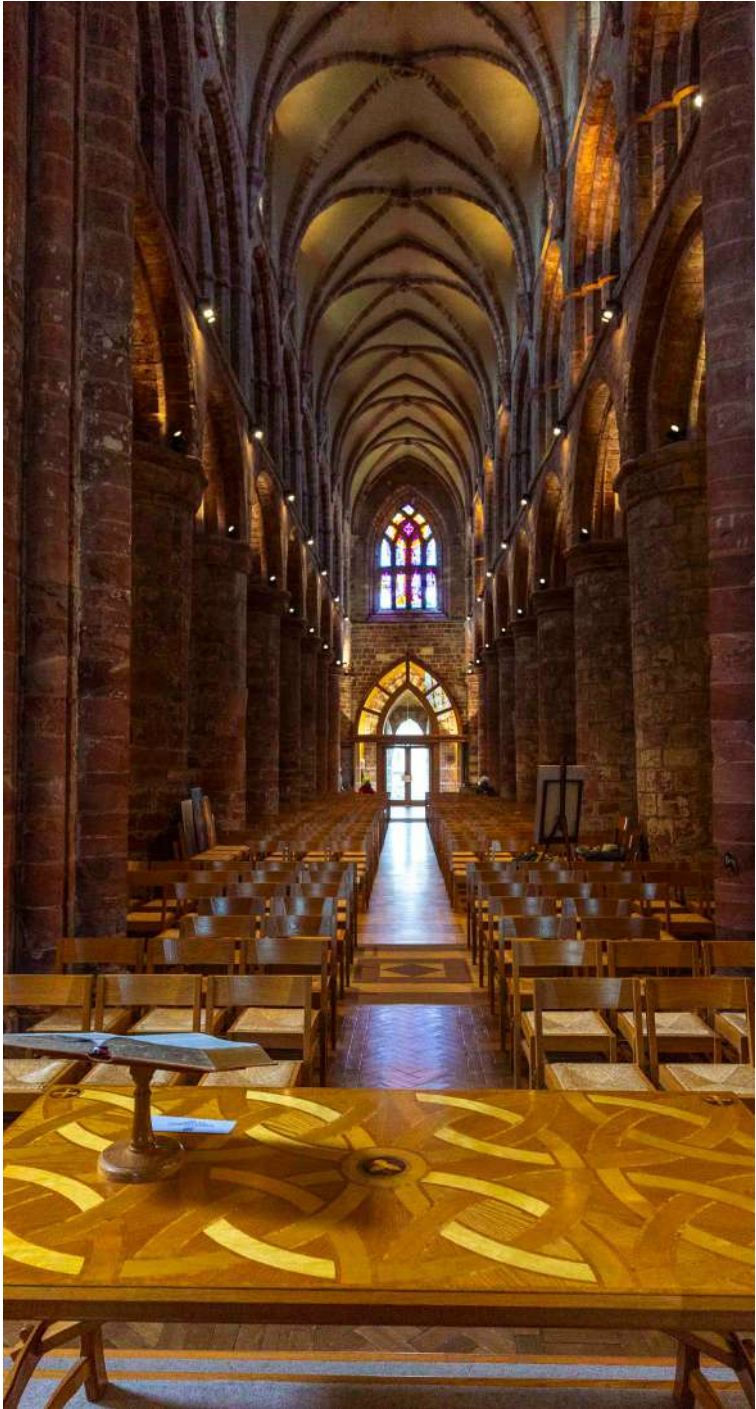
the entire experience, from beautiful flowers and vegetation to a variety of birds, like oystercatchers and swans, (some with their chicks), among others.

After the bus tours we arrived back in town to explore the beautiful St Magnus Cathedral. Known as the 'Light in the North', it's the northernmost cathedral in Scotland and was founded in 1137 by the Viking Earl Rognvald in honour of his uncle, St Magnus.

Once back on board, we prepared for the final day of our incredible voyage. Justine offered the disembarkation briefing, so everybody would know when and where to go. Shortly after, we were invited to the Captain's Farewell cocktails, with Captain Maxim and his team.







Aberdeen

DAY 11 | Friday 07 June 2024

Latitude:
57°14.0'N
Longitude:
001°54.0'W

Wind Speed:
22 knots SSW
Barometer:
1023 hPa

Course:
206°
Speed:
8.2 knots

Air Temp:
11°C

Aurora Expeditions thanks you for joining us aboard *Greg Mortimer* to the Wild Corners of Scotland. We hope to see you on the high seas again some day!



BBQ







Kayaking Log

with Kayak Guides: Peter Wainwright, Anula Jochym, Teal Morgan, Wes McNeil

Wednesday 29 May AM – Iona 6.5 km

It was a magical feeling to set foot on the white-sand beach of Traigh Mòr on Iona, and a pleasant way to launch from the beach for our first kayak outing. As it was our introductory session, we focused our time on the water on making sure the rudders were working effectively and on coaching some paddle strokes, particularly sweep strokes. For most of the kayakers it was their first time on Iona, so with everyone now set up for success for the rest of the trip, the majority landed on the beach by the ferry jetty. Having visited the island before, Rhonda and Robert were keen to keep kayaking, so we worked our way north past the abbey as the tide began to change against us. We then ferry-glided across the Sound of Iona, rounding Eilean nam Ban, and letting the 2-knot tidal current sweep us down through the clear waters of the 'Bull Hole' and back towards the ship. A lovely introduction to Scotland.

Wednesday 29 May PM – Lunga 7.2 km

With the unique volcanic cone of The Dutchman's Cap in the distance, we launched below the cliffs of Lunga. Heading north, we weaved a path between the many skerries that together with the larger islands of Lunga and Fladda, make up the wonderful Treshnish Isles. These islands were teeming with birdlife, and the azure waters with their tall kelp forests were clearly rich in marine life. We passed dozens of grey seals hauled out on the rocky islets, and at other times, seemingly playing a game of 'pin the tail on the donkey' by creeping up behind our kayakers while trying to avoid being spotted. After returning from Fladda, we landed for a walk around Lunga, falling in love with the island's magical charm and its main occupants – the charismatic and slightly comical puffins. It was a paddle of quite magical qualities.



Number of Kayakers: 10

Total Paddle Outings: 10

Total Distance Paddled: 61 km

Kayakers:

Jim (James) Dhaeze

Nick (Nicholas) Evans

Mari Fleri

Rhonda Langham

Robert Langham

Liz (Elizabeth) Macmillan

Jane (Lenora) McNeilage

Debbie (Deborah) Pierce

Bill (William) Pierce

Judy Reese

Thursday 30 May AM – Skye: Loch Coruisk 3.25 km

It was a moody day with clouds spilling over the dark gabbro rock of the Black Cuillin Hills. The northerly wind was funnelling through the gap at the mouth of Loch Coruisk and gusting over 30 knots. While doing a downwinder seemed attractive, the obvious aesthetic route was to paddle towards Loch Coruisk, with the objective of reaching the head of Loch Scavaig, and then following the trail up to see the caldera of the old volcano that formed the Cuillin Hills and is now the freshwater body that is Loch Coruisk. While the near shore had been relatively sheltered when we scanned it from the bridge before, we were now paddling hard into an almost relentless headwind just to make progress. It was with a tiny bit of relief that we reached the head of Loch Scavaig. It was a paddle that felt much longer than the 3.25 kilometres that we covered!

Thursday 30 May PM – Isle of Eigg 4.2 km

We worked our way past the jetty and ferry terminal between the main island of Eigg and Castle Island, before rounding the corner of the island and kayaking under the dramatic skyline of An Sgurr above. We took advantage of the intricate shoreline to weave our way through the channels and rocks, waiting and paying attention to the pattern of the swell to time our passages safely. Anula expertly coached the kayakers in rock-hopping, and everyone progressed a bit more in their skills. Having spotted a large cave not far above the shore, we clambered out of our kayaks to explore the 'Massacre Cave'. It was here in 1577 that 195 Eigg Islanders hid from the MacLeods from Skye. The MacLeods were on the island to retaliate after some of them had been sent back to Skye castrated after being caught raping some of the Macdonald girls on Eigg. The MacLeods found the hidden islanders and attempted to smoke them out of the cave. It is said that all the islanders suffocated.

Friday 31 May AM – St Kilda: Hirta 4 km

The magical island of St Kilda hid mystically in the sea fog as we approached early in the morning. We launched from the Zodiac on the northwest side of the island of Dùn (Fort Island) and paddled eastward, being immediately overwhelmed by the sheer quantity of birdlife swirling around us and wheeling overhead, choking the skies. Before we reached the eastern point of Dùn, we came across our surprise of a three-way arch. After Anula assessed the first arch, we decided to go for the second arch. This arch served as a portal into an other-world dimension as we encountered arches, passages, cliffs and scenery of awesome proportions, including swell and clapotis of equal scale. We continued exploring through arches and caves, finding grey seals. We made it back through the gap between Hirta and Dùn into the relative calm and tranquility of Village Bay, finding yet one more remarkable tunnel to explore before making our way back to the ship.

Saturday 1 June AM & PM – Calanais to Pabay Mòr 16.5 km

We paddled through a channel into the wind and tide. Looking at all the intertidal life, we were treated to a pod of common dolphins that had a young calf hidden among them. Continuing on, we fought some 2 knots of current under the bridge connecting Lewis to Beàrnaraigh, and then crossed to our 'Lunch Island' (Fuaidh Mor). After lunch we were back on the water to do the final leg of our journey. We crossed over to the next island of Bhacsaigh, where the coastline started getting more intricate and steeper. Anula led us around, taking us through some beautiful rocky channels and caves until we reached Pabay Mòr. We paddled northwards, exploring and finding as many arches as we could until we found a beautiful lagoon, known locally as the Pabbay Lagoon, with white-sand beaches and seals to greet us. Inside this lagoon was another smaller lagoon with Caribbean-like azure waters, and a stone wall that trapped the outgoing tide when it was used as a lobster keep.



Sunday 2 June AM & PM – At Sea & Papa Westray 4.8 km

Only two brave kayakers signed up to Kayak at Papa Westray. Mari and Debbie teamed up to take on the 30 knots of wind. Having launched in what little lee the low-lying island of Papa Westray provided, we were quickly blown northwest up the island. We found a dozen or so caves carved into the 20-metre-high sandstone cliffs, many of them linked, and we explored our way in and out of the cavern system. After, we loaded in the Zodiac and headed off to the Holm of Papa to explore a 'surprise'. Anchoring the Zodiac and kayaks in a narrow cleft, we clambered up the rocks to the top of an obviously human-made mound of earth with a hatch in it. Opening the hatch, we saw an iron ladder leading down to a remarkably intact Neolithic chambered burial cairn. By torchlight we explored the tunnels, glad to be out of the wind for a bit. With an excited buzz from our unexpected archaeological side-venture, we headed back to the Zodiac and raced over to Papa Westray to join the others for a well-earned drink in the local pub/community centre.

Monday 3 June PM – Mousa 3.2 km

Another day of 30+ knot winds meant it looked unlikely we would be able to kayak. However, on arrival in the Sound of Mousa, we could see that the cliffs on the lee shore of Burreland on the mainland were providing enough shelter to make a safe and pleasant outing. Having driven the kayaks upwind and brought the kayakers to the same spot we launched, we began weaving our way down the coastline. Rounding a point, we faced a bit more of an open crossing to reach the next island of calm beneath tall cliffs. Once back in relative shelter we resumed exploring the cliffs and admiring the nesting fulmars. We listened to Wes experiment with the acoustics in a sea cave by singing. Finally, in order to maximise our time ashore, Daniel the EL gave us a ride back across the windy Sound of Mousa and landed us right in front of the Broch, where Carol was there to give us a wonderful historical interpretation. As this text relates to the previous text, it should be attached to that text and not in a separate paragraph.



Wednesday 5 June AM – Noss 4 km

On arrival, we Zodiaced over to a lovely sheltered cove in what could be considered marginal conditions. Luckily, the weather gods were on our side and the wind was blowing behind us. We paddled eastwards with a 40-knot gust blowing from behind, making it more of a sailing trip very briefly. Rounding the northeastern point provided more leeward shelter as the cliffs got larger and larger, and we paddled beneath the towering nesting seabird cliffs above. Thousands of gannets, guillemots and fulmars, with a couple of great skuas thrown into the mix, soared overhead creating a cacophony of bird calls. At the Noup of Noss the cliffs rose over 180 metres above our heads. The swells rolled in crashing against the rocks giving plenty of whitewater, which we observed seals playing in. We finished off paddling into a very large cave before getting back into the Zodiac to go back to the ship to and enjoy a peaceful afternoon in Lerwick. A great surprise outing when we had more or less given up all hope of kayaking on the west coast.

Thursday 6 June – AM Kirkwall 7.5 km

Robert and Wes set out on this final paddle at Kirkwall. Since the harbour is fairly industrial there is not as much to see, so we focused our paddle primarily on skill-building. Despite this focus we did get spectacular distant views of the low-lying grasslands, hills and distant old structures, including Balfour Castle. We also came upon fulmars nesting close by in the low banks along the water's edge. As we went along our way, we would take occasional breaks in sheltered spots to practise paddle stroke and edging, the goal being to paddle without using a rudder.

The winds, however, were relentless and we spent much of our energy learning how to hold a course in various wave and cross-wind combinations. Despite not making a great distance, we paddled for many hours. After fighting our way northwest, our final reward was to paddle downwind and learn how to paddle in following seas, catching the occasional surf, and refining our rudder stroke. It was a most satisfying and fun paddle. We wholly earned our lunch on this one.







Paddling Log

with Kayak Guides: Teal Morgan, Wes McNeil, Peter Wainwright, Anula Jochym

Wednesday 29 May AM – Iona 2.7 km

We wasted no time getting out for the first paddle in our inflatable kayaks. We towed our kayaks from the ship, a short distance south of the Port of Iona, to begin our shakedown paddle. We were fortunate that the wind was rather mild compared with what was to come, and we had a delightful paddle in and among the skerries. As soon as we got into our kayaks from the Zodiac, we were greeted by our first grey seals, their heads rising and spying on us as fast as we could. After we explored the skerries a bit more, we paddled north and beyond the dock to get a nice waterside view and pictures of the iconic Iona Abbey, one of the oldest significant religious centres of western Europe. We then stretched our legs for a bit while the guides returned the kayaks to the ship.

Wednesday 29 May PM – Lunga 2.8 km

To escape the wind we slipped to the eastern side of Lunga in the Treshnish Isles, an area famous as a sanctuary for seabirds. We paddled north, along black basaltic volcanic cliffs made colourful by a blanket of deep green mosses and encrusted with orange lichens. Occasionally we would take a moment for a little more instruction on paddle strokes, but would quickly return to watching the nesting kittiwakes on the small rock ledges, and the parasitic skuas sweeping along looking for opportunities. The big delight, of course, was to see the puffins up close, swimming along on the water's surface. Once past the northern tip, we pulled in to take advantage of the hike to see the puffins nesting on the cliff edge above the ocean on which we had just paddled.



Number of Paddlers: 5
Total Paddle Outings: 4
Total Distance Paddled: 13.1 km

Paddlers:
David Bradley
Melissa Bradley
Hazel Brown
Bruce Cowley
Helen Cowley

Thursday 30 May PM – Isle of Eigg 2.5 km

We launched from the Zodiac behind the jetty in a nice sheltered little cove and continued westward, exploring the intricate coastline of the the south east shore of Eigg. As we reached the southern coast of the island we became more exposed to the wind and chop wrapping around from the north-west, but just as we rounded the corner, we encountered an otter swimming and playing in the water. At this point we crossed to Castle Island, where we paddled northwards and talked about some fun barnacle facts before reaching the jetty to explore Eigg by foot.

Thursday 30 May PM – Isle of Eigg 4.2 km

This was one of our more ambitious paddles, with 1.5-metre swells and a 10–15-knot wind. We were able to start at the ship and paddle north, tucking in tight to the shore of Bhacsaigh to stay in the lee. At the northern end, we braved the larger swells to beat into the wind and across the tidal stream to Pabay Mòr. Once along its rugged coast, we passed into a small bay by threading a narrow needle hole between two small islets. We weaved our way north again, building ever more confidence in the larger swells. The cliffs grew steeper and revealed to us a narrow sea cave. The swells being significant, we paddled backwards into the cave to keep our bow facing the ocean. This was the best strategy in case a large wave was to come.

From here we paddled to see an impressive sea arch. We could feel the full force of the ocean while taking it all in. Right at this point, the waves exploded in front of us and

we realised we could not move forward, so we transferred to the Zodiac to get round the corner and into a beautiful protected bay. The bay was very calm, while the winds wailed outside. We could see the backside of the big arch. Around the bay was a low lying grassland of heather and mosses. Leading out from the bay was a shallow inlet into a human-made lobster/ fish trap. This piece of engineering was left over from when this island was inhabited, probably by Christian hermits, as the name Pabay Mòr is derived from Old Norse, meaning 'island of the priest'. In a moment there is not a breath of wind and not even the sound of the waves on the outside. We ended our paddle in a place of palpable peace.





Map

WILD SCOTLAND SCO017G 28 May – 7 June 2024

Sites Visited:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Iona | 9. Papa Westray |
| 2. Lunga | 10. Sumburgh – Jarlshof |
| 3. Skye: Loch Coruisk | 11. Mousa |
| 4. Isle of Eigg | 12. Fair Isle |
| 5. St Kilda: Hirta | 13. Noss Island |
| 6. St Kilda: Boreray & Stacs | 14. Lerwick |
| 7. Lewis – Callanish | 15. Kirkwall |
| 8. Pabaigh Mòr | |



Artwork



Artwork by:
Rhonda Langham

Artwork



Artwork by:
Ann Cunningham



Our Expeditioners

Christina Amgwerd-Sheaff	Bob Campenot	Stuart Fletcher	Chris Harbard	Laureb Klein	Judy O'Connor	Pam Rossotto
Kim Anderson	Mary Campenot	Trish Fletcher	Alan Harper	Michael Lam	Adrian O'Connor	Juliet Scrine
Jan Andrews	Amy Choboy	Suzanne Fuller	James Harper	Belinda Lam	Peggy O'Connor	Peter Scrine
Duncan Andrews	Helen Cowley	Hamish Gidley-Baird	Linda Harris	Lorna Lanford	Graeme Ozanne	Paul Shea
Rae Aronsten	Bruce Cowley	Janet Gidley-Baird	Michael Hausman	Robert Langham	Lynn Percy	Rob Shepherd
Ross Avenell	Kaye Crandall	Andrew Given	Annette Hausman	Rhonda Langham	Linda Petrusa	Rita Shepherd
Carol Baird	Michael Creaney	Judy Given	Brian Haynes	Juana Mae Long	Debbie Pierce	Jean Simonitsch
Carmel Barbagallo	AnnCunningham	June Gonzales	Juliet Heimberg	Larry Long	William Pierce	Lisa Smiley
Ed Bartels	Graham Cunningham	Henry Gonzales Jr	Wayne Henschke	Craig MacLeod	Carol Pierce	Georgina Webb
Scott Baxter	Jim Dhaeze	Susan Gordon	RosealynHenschke	Carrie MacLeod	Sally Potosky	Larry Wilson
Keoghan Bellew	Dorothy Dhaeze	Sandy Grant	Trisha Higgins	Elizabeth Macmillan	Terri Powell	Mary Wilson
Lesley Bellew	Peter Dixon	Cathy Grant	Robyn Hoare	Caroline Mc Intyre	Louis-Jack Pozner	Aaron Wright
David Bradley	Wendy Dixon	Mark Green	Conny Jamison	Jane McNeilage	Rona Pozner	Jacqueline Yustein
Melissa Bradley	Shirley Dobson	Dianne Grimaldi	Jody Johnson	Rhonda Miranda	Carol Ray	Ron Yustein
Hazel Brown	Pauline Eglington	Charles Hagan	Harry Johnson	Jean Mukherjee	Peter Reed	
Mandy Burton	Nick Evans	Judy Hagan	Makiko Katayama	Bryan Nicholas	Fanny Reed	
Anna-Lou Campbell	Eddie Fazal	Peg Hall	Tatsu Katayama	Joan Nicholas	Judy Reese	
Andrew Campbell	Carol Fazal	Kenneth Hall	Helen King	Carol Nicoll	Kathy Reid	
	Mari Fleri	Mary Hannigan	Bede King	Kristy Niehaus Bulleit	Robin Rolston	

Expedition Team

Expedition Leader: Daniel Stavert

Assistant Expedition Leader: Isabelle Howells

Onboard Expedition Manager: Justine Bornholdt

Onboard Expedition Manager Trainee: Heidi Dohn

Naturalist and Citizen Science Coordinator: Vicky Inglis

Geologist: Melina Pelzmajer

Historian/Archaeologist: Carol Knott

Naturalist: Fran Pothe Cary

Expedition Guide: Tamsin Both

Photography Guide: Adrian Wlodarczyk

Lead Kayak Guide: Peter Wainwright

Senior Kayak Guide: Wes McNeil

Kayak Guide: Teal Morgan

Kayak Guide: Anula Jochym

Medic: Steph Kempton

Onboard Expedition Assistant: Ana Prado

Zodiac Master: Sergei Hincu

Senior Officers & Heads of Department

Master: Maxim Makarovskiy

Chief Officer: Andrey Zakalashnyuk

Safety Officer: Vladimir Kolesnikov

Bosun: Bobby Payumo

Deck Cadet: Carlos Florido Carvalho Da Silva

Ship Doctor: Javier Martinez Rodriguez

Support Doctor: Eliana Caro Garzon

Chief Engineer: Dimitar Vasilev

First Engineer: Iurii Peretiaka

Hotel Director: Alex Barkar

F&B Manager: Rajesh Murao

Chief Purser: Pia Blanca

Executive Chef: Edgar Mangalinao

Sous Chef: Hubert Ramiro Barreto

Head Waiter: German Orlando Cayasso Wilson

Hotel Controller: Orlando Costa

IT Officer: Ihor Yesmieniev

Receptionist: Joy Acelar

Receptionist: Jonathan Valdez

Head Stateroom: Roniel Garcia

Spa Manager: Venila Vythilingum

Able Seaman: Angelo Sban Antonio

Able Seaman: Iwan Setiawan

Able Seaman: Hardik Dipakbhai Rao

Able Seaman: Roberto Ixtan Mejia

Able Seaman: Nikola Georgiev

Able Seaman: Francis Marvin Linga

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Peter Wainwright





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