

Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords Voyage – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **17/06/2023**
to **24/06/2023**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **Bergen**
to **Glasgow, Scotland**



Shore excursion in each port of call + transfers
included

In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially tailored for English-speaking travellers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture. Join PONANT aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville* for an **8-day cruise** on an exceptional itinerary to discover the beauty of the **Norwegian fjords** and the rugged landscapes of the **Scottish Isles**.

Begin your voyage in **Bergen**, famous for its Hanseatic wharf, Bryggen, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that still carries traces of the rich historic past of the city founded by the Vikings.

Your ship will first sail to **Flåm** where you will board the **Flåm Railway** to take a beautiful train journey high into the mountains of western Norway. Stunning rivers, waterfalls and cultural landscapes will be found around every bend.

Continue to **Olden**. From this small and charming village, located a few miles from Jostedal National Park, home to one of the last ice caps in Europe, you can admire the magnificent **Briksdal Glacier**.

Le Dumont-d'Urville then sails for **Lerwick**, the main port in the Shetland Islands. Nearby is the **Jarlshof** prehistoric and Norse settlement, where Neolithic people first settled more than 4,000 years ago – it is one of the most spectacular excavated sites in the British Isles.

Your ship sails next towards **Kirkwall**, capital of **Orkney**, where numerous seabirds, such as gannets and European shags, take residence. The **Standing Stones of Stenness**, built around 5,400 years ago, are a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

From **Kyle of Lochalsh**, spend a day including the unparalleled Isle of Skye. Not to be missed on the mainland is **Eilean Donan**, one of the most recognisable castles in the world and an iconic symbol of Scotland. You may recognise the castle as the Scottish headquarters of MI6 in the James Bond film

The World is Not Enough.

End your voyage in **Fort William**, from where you can immerse yourself in local lore during a cruise of fabled **Loch Ness** or take a tour and enjoy a dram of **scotch whisky** at a local distillery.

You will disembark in **Glasgow**, Scotland's warm cultural capital with a rich artistic and architectural heritage.



The information in this document is valid as of 06/07/2022

Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords Voyage – with Smithsonian Journeys

YOUR STOPOVERS :

BERGEN

Embarkation 17/06/2023 from 15:30 to 16:30

Departure 17/06/2023 at 17:30

Located at the end of **Byfjord, Bergen** was the capital of Norway in the 12th and 13th Centuries and has preserved some very beautiful monuments from the time when it was home to royalty. Wandering through Bergen's streets means going back in time, in search of the hidden treasures that have been listed as **World Heritage Sites by UNESCO**. A veritable openair museum, Bergen is home to a thriving artistic community of painters, potters, jewellers. The Bergen cable car offers you a splendid panorama over the port and the surrounding fjords. Do not miss the visit to the old quarter with its narrow streets, a testimony of the power of the hanseatic League that controlled trade in Northern Europe at the end of the Middle Ages.

FLAM

Arrival 18/06/2023 early morning

Departure 18/06/2023 midday

Nestled in the heart of the fjord country, less than 200 kilometres from Bergen, the picturesque village of **Flâm** – pronounced Flôm – offers you an experience of **authentic Norway**. You can mosey around the brightly coloured streets and admire the majestic contours of the surrounding mountains. The town is also the departure point for the mythical train route **Flamsbana**, 20 kilometres long, whose journey offers a superb view of the scenery, as sublime as it is pristine. This attraction makes Flâm one of the country's main tourist destinations.

OLDEN

Arrival 19/06/2023 early morning

Departure 19/06/2023 early afternoon

With its two wooden churches, one red and the other white, plus its breathtaking view of the mouth of the river Oldeelva, **Olden** looks just like a picture post card. Located a few kilometres from the Jostedalsgreen park, home to one of the last **glacier polar icecaps**, this little village is a definite must for exploring the blue languages of the **Briksdal** or Kjennalen **glaciers**. Make sure you find some time to visit the Norwegian Glacier Museum. Absolutely amazing. Another gem is lake Lovatn and its turquoise waters inviting you to quiet contemplation.

LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS

Arrival 20/06/2023 midday

Departure 20/06/2023 early evening

The small and charming **capital of the Shetland Islands**, with its sea front of old houses and narrow streets, offering travellers its old districts and a warm port atmosphere. **Geopark Shetland**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, is located to the north. Incredibly well-preserved archaeological sites and ruins prove that the islands' occupation dates back to the first Neolithic colonies. **The Shetland Museum** and Archives recounts the Shetlands' history of heritage and culture: Lerwick's abundant waters were even fished by the Dutch in the past.

KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND

Arrival 21/06/2023 early morning

Departure 21/06/2023 midday

Capital of the **Orkney archipelago, Kirkwall**, which means "church bay", is an ideal stopover before continuing on to the **Northern Isles**. Sheltered in a wide bay, the lively town welcomes the visitor with its charming paved alleyways edged by old houses and craft shops. **Tankerness House**, the oldest homestead in the town, is a must-see landmark. But the true architectural treasure of the aptly named Kirkwall is none other than its remarkable red and gold stone cathedral. And because whisky is inseparable from Scotland's identity, stop at the Highland Park Distillery for a highly instructive visit.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH, SCOTLAND

Arrival 22/06/2023 early morning

Departure 22/06/2023 evening

Kyle of Lochalsh ("Straits of the Alsh Inlet") is a small port town at the foot of the bridge connecting the mainland to the **Isle of Skye**. It is set amidst extraordinary natural beauty and serves as a gateway to the Scottish Highlands and to several castles that preserve the history and traditions of the clans who once ruled here. **Eilean Donan Castle**, on a tiny island overlooking the confluence of three lochs, is one of the most picturesque and most-filmed castles in Scotland . **Armada Castle and Gardens**, historic residence of Clan Donald, is also within easy reach of the town.

FORT WILLIAM

Arrival 23/06/2023 early morning

Departure 23/06/2023 early afternoon

A port town on the eastern shore of Loch Linnhe, **Fort William** is sometimes described as the "Outdoor Capital of the UK." Because it sits at the base of **Ben Nevis**, the highest peak in the British Isles, and is in close proximity to the dramatic landscape of **Glencoe**, it is a popular destination for hikers and rock climbers. For those looking for a less adventurous experience, the nearby **Ben Nevis Distillery** offers tours and tastings, and **Old Fort** and **Old Inverlochy Castle** are interesting historical sites.

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Arrival 24/06/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 24/06/2023 at 08:00

In the heart of the **Clyde Valley**, the bustling city of **Glasgow** contrasts starkly with the wild beauty of the surrounding countryside. Scotland's biggest city overflows with landmarks from its extensive artistic heritage and outstanding

architectural tradition. The city's chequerboard layout makes walking through the major pedestrian thoroughfares easy: go with the flow and let the lively street atmosphere take you past the many Victorian monuments. Don't miss the collections on display in the numerous museums and art galleries. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding example.