

# Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords Voyage – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **24/06/2023**  
to **03/07/2023**

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

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



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 a **10-day cruise** on an exceptional itinerary to discover the rugged landscapes of the **Scottish Isles** and the beauty of the **Norwegian fjords**.

Begin your voyage in **Glasgow**, Scotland's cultural capital with a rich artistic and architectural heritage.

Your ship will first sail to **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.

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.

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.

*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.

Next cross the North Sea and sail towards **Alesund**, famous for the **art nouveau** architectural style in which its downtown was rebuilt after a terrible fire in 1904. Here you will also find the **Atlantic Ocean Park**, a unique aquarium featuring marine life found along Norway's Atlantic

coast.

Traverse the UNESCO World Heritage-listed **Geirangerfjord** to **Geiranger** and explore the fjord region overland – including a stop at the **Jostedal Glacier National Park Centre** – before rejoining your ship in **Hellesylt**. Alternatively, venture into the mountains to sample **goatmilk cheeses and caramels** at a local farm.

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

End your voyage in **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.

You will disembark 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.



# Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords Voyage – with Smithsonian Journeys

## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Embarkation 24/06/2023 from 15:30 to 16:30

Departure 24/06/2023 at 17:30

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.

### FORT WILLIAM

Arrival 25/06/2023 mid morning

Departure 25/06/2023 evening

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.

### KYLE OF LOCHALSH, SCOTLAND

Arrival 26/06/2023 early morning

Departure 26/06/2023 mid afternoon

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 . **Armadaile Castle and Gardens**, historic residence of Clan Donald, is also within easy reach of the town.

### SAILING ALONG SKYE BRIDGE

Arrival 26/06/2023 late afternoon

Departure 26/06/2023 late afternoon

**The Isle of Skye** is the largest in the **Inner Hebrides** archipelago. Nicknamed **the island of the mist**, its romantic and magical landscapes have inspired the greatest authors and filmmakers, such as the poet Walter Scott or Virginia Woolf. The almost deserted interior of the island and its coast are a concentration of the most emblematic **beauty of the Scottish Highlands**: rocky outcrops, basalt columns, hills and wide vales covered in peat bog and heather, lakes, waterfalls, fine sandy coves and cliffs. You may be lucky enough to see a **sea eagle** perched on their summits, watching the waves beneath which otters, sea lions, seals, dolphins and whales may be hiding.

## KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND

Arrival 27/06/2023 midday

Departure 27/06/2023 early evening

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.

## LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS

Arrival 28/06/2023 early morning

Departure 28/06/2023 early afternoon

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.

## ALESUND

Arrival 29/06/2023 midday

Departure 29/06/2023 evening

Surrounded by a multitude of islands, fjords and majestic mountains, the town of **Ålesund** surprises many visitors. In fact, it is internationally renowned for its **Art nouveau architecture**. After the terrible fire of 1904 which reduced a large part of the town to ashes, Norwegian architects inspired by the Art nouveau style contributed to its reconstruction, with a very picturesque result. Not far from Ålesund, you will also discover **Giske**, the native island of Rollon, the great Viking leader who commanded the Norse expeditions to Normandy, or the beautiful island of Godoy and the village of Alnes, which offers a grandiose panorama over the Atlantic Ocean and the surrounding islands.

## GEIRANGER

Arrival 30/06/2023 early morning

Departure 30/06/2023 midday

A must-see stopover in Norway, located halfway between Bergen and Trondheim, **Geiranger** offers the stunning beauty of a natural decor, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The splendour of the sheer cliffs, dark rock and crystalline water are the stars of the show here. The sides of the fjord offer many possibilities for hiking: the **Eagle's Road** takes you up to a steep stretch offering a gorgeous panoramic view. A visit to **Geiranger** village will immerse you in the rhythm of life in the little local community.

## HELLESYLT

Arrival 30/06/2023 early afternoon

Departure 30/06/2023 mid afternoon

**Hellesylt** is a small village located 20 kilometres from the Geiranger site. Here, you'll get a taste of a traditional Norwegian village. Colourful houses, wooden walkways, rustic stalls where you can have a refreshment before heading off to discover more of the local colour. The surroundings are **simply magnificent** with cliffs, mountains and lakes with peaceful waters. The village is crossed by a river whose charming cascade tumbles into the fjord waters.

## OLDEN

Arrival 01/07/2023 early morning

Departure 01/07/2023 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.

## FLAM

Arrival 02/07/2023 early morning

Departure 02/07/2023 early evening

Nestled in the heart of the fjord country, less than 200 kilometres from Bergen, the picturesque village of **Flåm** – 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 Flåm one of the country's main tourist destinations.

## BERGEN

Arrival 03/07/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 03/07/2023 at 08:00

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.