

# Wild Earth Travel

*Small Ships, Big Adventures*

**wildearth-travel.com**

**info@wildearth-travel.com**

## ISLAND HOPPING IN THE HEBRIDES - 8 DAY SCOTLAND CRUISE

If ever an archipelago was made for expedition cruising it is the islands off Scotland's west coast. You can travel the world visiting all manner of exotic and wonderful places, however some of the finest scenery, fascinating history and most endearing people may be found close to home. Nowhere is that truer than around Scotland's magnificent coastline, an indented landscape of enormous natural splendour with offshore islands forming stepping stones into the Atlantic.

One of Europe's last remaining wilderness areas affords the traveller a marvellous island hopping journey through stunning scenery accompanied by spectacular sunsets and prolific wildlife. Over the course of a week, with our naturalists and local guides we will explore the isles, and with our nimble Zodiac craft be able to reach some of the most remote and untouched places. There is no better way to explore this endlessly fascinating and beautiful region that will cast its spell on you than by small ship. In the northern summer there is a stillness and an almost wistful feeling in the air and this is the time when the enchanted visitor will be moved and seduced by the majesty of the islands, lochs and seascapes.

With just 100 or so fellow travelling companions, the atmosphere on board the MS Island Sky is more akin to a private yacht trip and when exploring ashore we will divide into small groups thereby enjoying a more comprehensive and peaceful experience. Learn something of the island's history, see their abundant bird and marine life, but above all revel in the timeless enchantment that these islands exude to all those

who appreciate the natural world.



ural world.

### ITINERARY

Day 1 Oban, Scotland.

Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow International Airport and Glasgow Central Railway station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner this evening as we sail.

Day 2 Staffa & Iona, Inner Hebrides.

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Awake this morning at Staffa, the south side where the perpendicular rock face features an imposing series of black basalt columns, known as the Colonnade, which has been cut by the sea into cathedral-like caverns, most notably Fingal's Cave. Weather permitting, we will use our Zodiacs to explore closer. Later this morning we sail to Iona which has been occupied for thousands of years and has been a place of pilgrimage and Christian worship for several centuries. It was to this flat, Hebridean island that St Columba fled from Ireland in 563 and established a monastery. Here his followers were responsible for the conversion of much of pagan Scotland and Northern England. No less than 62 Scottish Kings are buried in the Abbey. Visit the Abbey or perhaps walk along the white sandy beaches or go in search of the corncrake amongst the irises.

## Day 3 St Kilda & Stac Lee, Outer Hebrides.

Arrive over breakfast at St Kilda, a remarkable uninhabited archipelago some fifty miles beyond the Outer Hebrides. Dominated by the highest cliffs and sea stacks in Britain, Hirta, St Kilda's main island was occupied on and off for at least two thousand years, with the last 36 Gaelic speaking inhabitants evacuated at their own request in 1930. Immediately after the evacuation, the island was bought by the Marquess of Bute to protect the island's thousands of seabirds including puffin and fulmars, and in 1957 it was bequeathed to The National Trust for Scotland. St Kilda is one of only a few UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dual status reflecting its natural and cultural significance. The local ranger will join us on board before our expedition staff lead a number of guided walks on the island. This afternoon we will cruise past two of the largest gannetries in the world at Stac Lee and Stac an Armin. These impressive stacs rise 170 metres from the sea and are home to up to 60,000 breeding pairs of northern gannets.

## Day 4 Shiant Islands & Isle of Lewis.

This morning we will board the Zodiacs for a cruise around the spectacular basalt cliffs of the Shiant Islands, a group of little islands located a few miles

off the shores of Lewis. This is an excellent place to spot puffins, razorbills, guillemots, seals and hopefully white-tailed eagles. Later we arrive on the Isle of Lewis. On leaving the island capital of Stornoway, we will head across the island to the beautiful west coast. Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3000 BC. There are a total of 32 stones in a circular and avenue design. The stones stand like a petrified forest on the flat top of a peninsula which reaches out into East Loch Roag. We also visit the Dun Carloway Pictish Broch, probably built sometime in the last century BC, it would have served as an occasionally defensible residence for an extended family complete with accommodation for animals at ground floor level. Our final stop is the Gearranan Blackhouse Village, a reconstructed settlement of traditional black houses which were made using dry stone masonry and have thatched roofs, distinctively weighted down with rocks. Visit the small museum, enjoy a display of a typical crofting activity such as weaving and take in the views of this dramatic site on the wild Atlantic coast.

## Day 5 Canna & Isle of Skye, Inner Hebrides.

Strategically placed between the mountains of Rum and the Outer Hebrides, the island of Canna and its adjoining neighbour Sanday are bound together like some rare text that reveals over 60 million years of Hebridean geology and history. They have an amazingly rich archaeological landscape with remains dating to all periods of settled occupation in Scotland. Canna is run as a single farm and bird sanctuary by the National Trust for Scotland and enjoys the best harbour in the Small Isles, a horn-shaped haven. The fertile soil and its diversity of habitats mean that the island has an incredibly rich plant life with 248 native flowering plants recorded. We will see Canna House and wander across grassy basalt plateaus to the 600 foot cliffs on the north shore. Over lunch we sail to the Isle of Skye and from our anchorage in Loch Harport we make our way to the MacLeod stronghold of Dunvegan Castle. Remarkably, the castle has been almost continuously occupied by the MacLeods for nearly eight centuries. Discover the castle, a fascinating place that contains work from at least ten building periods, before we explore the gardens, following paths through woodland glades past pools and burns fed by a waterfall. The formal gardens were laid out in the 18th century and make a wonderful contrast to the moorland hills and sea. We will also keep a look out for the seal colony on the adjoining rocks. Alternatively, spend the afternoon at leisure in the town of Carbost or make a visit to the Talisker whisky distillery.

## Day 6 Loch Scavaig & Inverie.

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We have the morning at the lovely Loch Scavaig. Just beyond is the freshwater Loch Corruisk with its breathtakingly beautiful view over the Cuillins. This is great walking country, but for those who prefer a less energetic morning our Zodiacs will explore the coast looking out for seals. This afternoon we arrive at the Knoydart Peninsula and the village of Inverie which is the largest settlement in mainland Britain without a road connection. Our expedition team will lead walks in the surrounding forest with great views down to Loch Nevis. Alternatively, choose to explore the town and visit the Old Forge which is listed as mainland Britain's most remote pub.

## Day 7 Lunga & Tobermory.

We continue to the Treshnish Isles, an archipelago of uninhabited volcanic islets. The island of Lunga is the largest and has been described as 'a green jewel in a peacock sea' and is a summer nesting place for thousands of seabirds. Our final afternoon is on the Isle of Mull and the pretty port of Tobermory. Spend the afternoon at leisure in the town walking amongst the colourful buildings, visit the town's distillery or maybe take the coastal walk to the Rubha nan Gall lighthouse.

## Day 8 Oban.

Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Glasgow Central Railway Station and International Airport at a fixed time.

## Please Note:

During this voyage you will be visiting out of the way destinations and will be accompanied by an expedition team. Landings and excursions will be made by Zodiac landing craft. This cruise will appeal to the more adventurous and those who enjoy the natural world. Itineraries are subject to change.

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## YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Island Sky</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury Small Ship</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>90 metres</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>1992 / 2010 / 2017</b>

The MS Island Sky offers an intimate and luxurious cruising experience, designed for travelers who appreciate peace, high-quality service, and a relaxed atmosphere. The ship features elegant public spaces, including a main lounge for daily briefings and talks, The Club with a pianist and a 24-hour tea and coffee station, and a well-stocked library with internet access. Guests can enjoy al fresco dining on the Lido Deck, a walk-around promenade for scenic views, and a top-deck observation area ideal for relaxation and wildlife spotting. The ship also includes a small hair salon, a doctor on board, and a lift serving all decks for added convenience. Complimentary satellite Wi-Fi is available, though signal strength may vary.

Accommodations include 59 spacious and well-appointed suites, all with outside views, seating areas, and en-suite bathrooms. Some suites offer private balconies or sliding glass doors for enhanced ocean views. Amenities include a mini-fridge, flat-screen TV, Molton Brown toiletries, air-conditioning, and a safe. The Island Suite boasts an extended balcony, complimentary minibar, and laundry service. Dining is a refined yet relaxed affair, with an emphasis on fresh, locally sourced ingredients and a single open seating. Guests

can enjoy buffet-style breakfasts, a la carte lunches and dinners, daily afternoon tea, and included wines. The ship's culinary team creates exceptional meals, often incorporating local specialties, while the friendly staff ensures a welcoming and social dining experience.

Life onboard is serene, focusing on enriching experiences rather than organized entertainment. Guests can enjoy informative talks, port briefings, and casual evening music rather than large-scale shows or games. The ship is equipped with modern safety and navigation technology, including roll stabilizers for a smooth journey. The atmosphere is akin to a private yacht or boutique hotel, where like-minded travelers can immerse themselves in nature, history, and culture.



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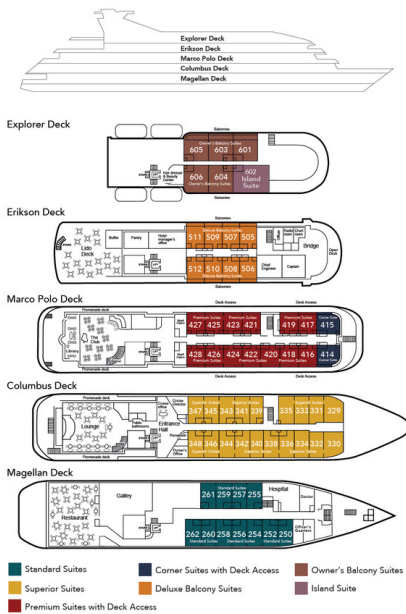
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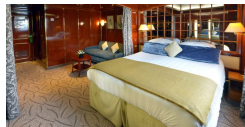
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Columbus Deck Superior Single



Columbus Deck Superior Suite



Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite



Explorer Deck Island Suite



Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite



Magellan Deck Standard Single



Magellan Deck Standard Suite



Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite



Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite



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## PRICING

**08-Jun-2025 to 15-Jun-2025**

<b>Magellan Deck Standard Suite</b>	<b>4295 GBP pp</b>
<b>Columbus Deck Superior Suite</b>	<b>4495 GBP pp</b>
<b>Marco Polo Deck Premium Suite</b>	<b>4895 GBP pp</b>
<b>Marco Polo Deck Corner Suite</b>	<b>5395 GBP pp</b>
<b>Erikson Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite</b>	<b>5995 GBP pp</b>
<b>Explorer Deck Owner's Balcony Suite</b>	<b>6295 GBP pp</b>
<b>Magellan Deck Standard Single</b>	<b>6295 GBP pp</b>
<b>Columbus Deck Superior Single</b>	<b>6495 GBP pp</b>
<b>Explorer Deck Island Suite</b>	<b>6795 GBP pp</b>

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