

*Let your spirit set sail*



# Scotland's Wild Northern Coast

## The Orkney Islands and the Outer Hebrides

Sat 24 August 2019 ⇒ Sat 31 August 2019



The Eye of the Wind will spend the most beautiful weeks of the year in unique sailing waters: On this cruise, we will be exploring the northern coast of Scotland! The legendary archipelagos of the Orkneys and the Hebrides mark the starting point and destination of this cruise. On this journey, you will experience the nature of the wild, rugged coastal landscape and explore historic places from the time of the Vikings and other seafaring eras. With a fresh North Sea breeze and a comfortable cruising speed, relaxation on board is guaranteed – taking it slow is the quickest way to leave the hectic hustle of everyday life behind you!

### This is where you will go on board: Kirkwall, Orkney / Scotland

Our crew will welcome you on board in Kirkwall, the capital of the Orkney Island of Mainland. With a stop on the Scottish mainland, you can travel from many cities to the island's airport, which is only a few minutes' drive from the port. We will be happy to assist you with the individual planning of your arrival and departure. If you have any questions, please contact us in good time. Embarkation takes place at 19:00 hours. Afterwards, there will be dinner together in the comfortable lounge, where you will soon feel at home and be able to find your way around the Eye of the Wind's deck – and you will quickly get to know your fellow sailors.

On the Orkneys, you might think you are in Scandinavia: The landscape of the archipelago is characterised by a gentle, green, hilly landscape, traversed by blue fjords and bordered by sharp-edged cliffs and steeply sloping coasts. The bustling capital of Orkney has its origins in an old Norse settlement of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, with narrow main roads, mysterious lanes and only a few small houses around the port. Today, Kirkwall is a vibrant place with restaurants, museums, pubs and shops. The red sandstone cathedral of St Magnus, which is visible for miles around, is the impressive architectural centre of the city.

Many historic sites invite you to immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the island. Make the most of your stay and search for traces of centuries-old burial sites, stone circles (pictured right) and relics from the Viking Age. In Kirkwall itself, a visit to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century Earl's and Bishop's Palaces (pictured below right) is a must for visitors.

Our tip: How about a taste of the northernmost Scottish Whisky? At the Highland Park Distillery, you can follow the entire process from malting to distillation.





### All hands on deck or all laid back – the choice is yours!

After receiving safety instructions and an introduction to sailing from the ship's crew, you will soon be able to take part in the sailing yourself. Being at the helm, keeping a wind-powered tall ship on course, is a unique holiday experience – especially under a starry night sky! Your active assistance on deck and in the rigging is always voluntary, and our regular crew will explain everything you need to know. The reward of climbing to the top of the mast is an unforgettable view of the wide ocean. Of course, you may just lean back and enjoy watching the traditional seamanship and sailing manoeuvres in action, too.

### Our sailing waters: The North Sea between the Orkneys and the Hebrides

Depending on the progress of our journey, there are a number of possibilities to go on shore and explore nature there. The decision on which port or mooring spot to call on in the evening is usually made by the captain on the same day, and depends on the wind and weather conditions and the current. Whenever possible, your wishes will be taken into account, too. The Orkneys belonged to Norway until the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and you can still see this influence in the villages and their population today.

The coastal town of Stromness on the island of Mainland used to be an important base for the British Navy and for the fleets of the East and West India trading companies. Famous seafarers such as Sir Francis Drake and Captain Bligh set foot on this island, too. The huge Scapa Flow natural harbour has been used as a safe haven and quiet anchorage since the Viking Age. This historic bay was once the main anchorage of the English Navy and seen as an impregnable fortress against submarine attacks. Almost the entire German fleet of the First World War lies sunk on the seabed here.

### This is where you will disembark: Stornoway, Outer Hebrides / Scotland

After an exciting and interesting week, our cruise comes to an end in Stornoway on the east coast of the Isle of Lewis. The centre of the settlement and the administration of the Outer Hebrides also has an airport near the bustling seaport (pictured right), from where you can start your journey home with a sailor's bag full of maritime memories.

Stornoway offers a large variety of things to see and do: During a stroll along the port's quay you can watch the fishermen landing the catch of the day. The unmistakable smell of peat from the smokehouses is in the air where seafood is made into delicious island specialities.

To learn about the cultural heritage of the Outer Hebrides, you can visit the historic Lewis Castle (pictured right) with its museum and archive. Or you could go hiking through the surrounding forests and visit the Woodland Centre with its restaurants and arts & crafts.

If you want to go shopping in Stornoway, you will find many excellent opportunities at the Harris Tweed Hebrides Outlet and the Lewis Loom Centre. At the An Lanntair Art Centre, you can learn all about the traditional methods of the regional textile-weaving mills. Galleries offer local art exhibitions and events.





## Seven good reasons to go

- An outstanding sailing area: North Sea cruise to the Orkneys and Outer Hebrides
- Balanced ratio of shore leave, time at sea, daytime and nighttime sailing
- A nature experience with fresh air guarantee: sailing in a pleasant sea climate
- Sailing and manoeuvring on a 100-year-old windjammer – you may participate actively!
- Attractive starting and destination ports away from the tourist crowds: Kirkwall and Stornoway (Scotland)
- Excellent onboard cuisine, delicious meals from morning to evening
- Our crew will accompany you during the trip with competence and friendliness

## Journey time

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## Services included

- 7 nights' accommodation aboard the Tall Ship Eye of the Wind.
- Accommodation in a comfortable double cabin with hot and cold running water, shower, toilet, and air conditioning (single cabin surcharge).
- Full board (including all meals, soft drinks, coffee & tea).
- Lounge with TV/DVD and extensive on-board library.
- The tour price includes VAT.

## Not included

Arrival and departure, shore excursions and alcoholic beverages.

## Please consider the following notes on the itinerary

The indicated ports are optional. The ship's management reserves the right to change the itinerary at short notice depending on wind and weather conditions. Even in the summer months, passing low pressure areas, changing winds and precipitation must be expected. For this trip it is advisable to be equipped with foul weather gear. We are happy to advise you on the selection of suitable weather clothing.

## Photo credits

courtesy of H. P. Bleck; visitscotland; Steffen Schneider; FTS Archives.

Eye of the Wind

**FORUM train & sail GmbH**

Mandichost. 18  
86504 Merching  
Germany

[www.eyeofthewind.net](http://www.eyeofthewind.net)

Phone +49 (0)8233 381-227  
Fax +49 (0)8233 381-9943  
E-Mail [info@eyeofthewind.net](mailto:info@eyeofthewind.net)



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