



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Highlands, Islands and Fjords

SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY
ABOARD *EXPLORIS ONE*

MAY 29–JUNE 8, 2025





Ålesund, Norway

DEAR NATIONAL TRUST TRAVELER,

Join in an exploration of the magnificent landscapes, remote islands, ancient settlements, and idyllic villages of Norway and northern Scotland, cruising during the peak of spring, with long days of bright-green scenery speckled with blooming flowers and rushing waterfalls in the fjords from snow melting in the mountains. This varied and balanced itinerary, from Inverness to the Orkney Islands, then along the Norwegian Coast above the Arctic Circle, combines the wonders of the natural world with the historical and cultural highlights of the area.

Among the special features, the cruise is bookended with time in some of the region's most remote and inaccessible island groups—Scotland's Orkney Islands and Norway's Lofoten Islands, both showcasing splendid wild landscapes and fascinating remains of ancient settlements as well as rich opportunities for bird and whale watching. Furthermore, this itinerary provides several days inside Norway's iconic fjords, including the awe-inspiring Sognefjord, Norway's longest, as well as the UNESCO-listed Nærøfjord.

Step ashore at peaceful, picturesque fjord-side towns and fishing villages off the beaten track—splendid Art Nouveau Ålesund, set on myriad islands stretching out into the ocean; Bronnoysund from which one can access Torghatten, a granite mountain that is a famed landmark of the Norwegian coast, and tiny villages on the Lofotens—all of which have inspired artists and photographers for over a century.

Delight in cruising for eight nights aboard the elegantly appointed and newly renovated *Exploris One*, designed to navigate demanding waters safely while offering the highest level of service and comfort. Each of its 72 suites and spacious staterooms offers breathtaking ocean views, with select accommodations boasting private balconies. While on board indulge in relaxation at the sauna, steam bath, and outdoor Jacuzzis, or treat yourself to a rejuvenating massage. Enjoy complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access throughout the cruise. Onboard dining experiences showcase regional cuisines, rivaling the culinary delights you'll encounter. The ship also boasts spacious deck areas and a Panoramic Salon, with a forward-facing view from where you can watch for passing wildlife and admire the beautiful scenery.

With kind regards,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

Other opportunities to travel with National Trust Tours and Criterion Travel

ENCHANTING MOROCCO AND THE CANARY ISLANDS

OCTOBER 30–NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Seven nights aboard the luxurious 69-cabin
Sea Cloud Spirit

SEYCHELLES AND MADAGASCAR

NOVEMBER 7–23, 2025

Twelve nights aboard the 59-cabin *Island Sky*

For a full list of travel programs visit
www.nationaltrusttours.com



Ring of Brodgar

Trip Highlights

DELIGHT in cruising Norway during the height of spring when temperatures are mild and flowers carpet the countryside.

EXPLORE Clava Cairns, a well-preserved and sacred landscape outside of Inverness, dating back to the Bronze Age, where prehistoric farmers laid their own to rest.

DISCOVER how the Vikings held a strategic foothold in the Orkney Islands for centuries and marvel at fascinating Stone Age sites, including the Ring of Brodgar and the 5,000-year-old stone-slab village of Skara Brae, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

LINGER in the dramatic and beautiful landscapes of the Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord, including its most dramatic and narrow arm, UNESCO-listed Naeroyfjord.

STEP ashore at peaceful, picturesque fjord-side towns and fishing villages off the beaten track—splendid Art Nouveau Ålesund, set on myriad islands stretching out into the ocean; and tiny villages in the Lofotens—such as Å and Reine—which have inspired artists and photographers for over a century.

TRAVEL back in time at the Lofotr Viking Museum, boasting the largest Viking longhouse ever excavated.

LOOK for wildlife along the cliffs of Runde, one of the largest nesting cliffs in Norway and in the Lofotens, a prime location in June for orcas, porpoises, and the mighty sperm whale.

STUDY LEADERS



Elisabeth Pierce



Mary Savina

Accompanying the journey, **Archaeological Institute of America** host **Elisabeth Pierce**, and **Carleton Alumni Adventures Faculty Lecturer Mary Savina**, will provide enriching presentations and discussions.



Atlantic Puffin

Itinerary

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MAY 29 & 30

DEPART U.S. / INVERNESS, SCOTLAND

Depart home on overnight flights to Inverness. Upon arrival on May 30th, relax before dinner. KINGSMILLS HOTEL (D)

SATURDAY, MAY 31

INVERNESS / EMBARK EXPLORIS ONE

Explore Inverness Old Town and its indoor Victorian market, with lunch on your own during free time in town. In the afternoon, you have the option to visit either Clava Cairns, one of Scotland's most evocative prehistoric sites, or historic Cawdor Castle with its three spectacular gardens before boarding *Exploris One* this afternoon.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS

Disembark in Kirkwall for a morning exploration of the Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae, part of the UNESCO Heart of Neolithic Orkney, the most important Neolithic sites in western Europe. Return to the ship for lunch and embark on one of two afternoon options: 1) Take a guided tour of Kirkwall, including the medieval St. Magnus Cathedral, with free time in the vibrant and pretty downtown; or 2) Visit The Quoy of Houton, listed as one of the top 10 UK coastal gardens, with the owner, a renowned horticulturalist, before returning on the coach by ship.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 2

SOGNEFJORD FJORD, NORWAY

Enjoy a full day at sea looking for wildlife from one of the ship's spacious decks, indulging in the ship's amenities and listening to lectures from our

team of experts. As evening approaches, arrive at the entrance of Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

VIK & NAEROYFJORD

Join a private fjord cruise of the UNESCO World Heritage Nærøfjord, narrowest and best known of the many arms of the Sognefjord. This fjord stands out as Norway's premier natural wonder, boasting steep mountainsides, hanging valleys, majestic peaks, snowfields, cascading waterfalls, and quaint hamlets. Visit one such hamlet, Gudvagen, an historic Viking village, nestled deep within Naerfjord, where there is free time to explore independently. Also discover the riches of Vik, a picturesque village along the banks of the Sognefjord, including the impressive Hopperstad Stave Church, one of Norway's 28 remaining stave churches and the oldest in the country. And don't miss the opportunity to sample the local 'gamalost cheese,' see Moahugane Burial Mounds, dating back to 200 AD, or walk the grounds of Djupvik, a unique mythological garden.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NORDFJORDEID

Enjoy a morning at sea with time for lectures before arriving in Nordfjordeid. Be welcomed by a stunning coastline, majestic mountains and valleys, expansive farmland, and a chance to see the mighty Briksdal Glacier, the largest in Europe. Here choose from various excursion options including kayaking with a guided hike to learn about the local ecosystem, driving to see the Briksdal Glacier and walk the Loen Skylift, or visiting with a local family in their private home to learn about the Norwegian way of life and culture followed by a trip to the Norwegian Fjord Horse Center.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

RUNDE & ÅLESUND

Get up early this morning to look for birds on the cliffs at Runde, a nesting site of over 240 species,



Viking Ship Wood Carving

including puffins, followed by a visit to beautiful Ålesund. Known for its Art Nouveau buildings and islands stretching out into the ocean, Ålesund offers three optional excursions including: 1) the medieval village of Sunnmøre, an open-air museum; 2) Viking's Island; or 3) an in-depth city walk including Mt. Aksla, followed by free time. In the afternoon, enjoy cruising with time for lectures. Spend the afternoon at sea, relaxing on board and keeping an eye out for whales.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

TORGHATTEN & BRONNOYSUND

Continue cruising north this morning with time for lectures. After lunch, arrive at the coastal town of Bronnysund to delve into its history and culture, surrounded by natural landscapes. Choose from optional excursions: 1) Hike Torghatten, known for its mythical mountain with a distinctive hole; 2) Enjoy a panoramic drive and visit Hildur's Farm for a taste of Norwegian farm life; or 3) Explore Norwegian aquaculture at the Norwegian Aquaculture Center. Reboard in the late afternoon and depart for the Lofoten Islands, crossing the Arctic Circle along the way.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

REINE (LOFOTEN ISLANDS)

Enjoy a full day exploring the picturesque Lofoten Islands, where you'll visit charming fishing villages like Å, Reine, or Nusfjord, each offering unique insights into local life. Discover the rich Viking heritage at the Lofotr Viking Museum, home to the world's largest Viking longhouse, and visit a local farm indulging in a lunch ashore where you'll learn about the islands' efforts in sustainable farming. Conclude the day with the Captain's farewell reception and dinner.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,R,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

DISEMBARK/HOME

Transfer to Bodø airport, or those with late flights may take an optional morning tour in Bodo, or you may begin the optional post-voyage extension. (B)



Balmoral Castle

OPTIONAL PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION

MAY 26–30, 2025

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS IN DEPTH

Fly from home to Inverness, Scotland, and transfer to a nearby country estate for a three-night stay at an idyllic, 5-star hotel, along the banks of the River Ness. Over the coming days, explore the highlights of the Scottish Highlands including Culloden Moor, the last battlefield of the Jacobite Rebellion; a cruise on Loch Ness with a visit to historic Urquhart Castle; a private tasting and tour at a top malt whisky distillery; and a walk through the grounds and gardens of Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the Royal Family since the mid-1800s.

NESS WALK HOTEL

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Giant Water Lilies—Oslo Botanical Garden, Norway

OPTIONAL POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION

JUNE 8–11, 2025

ART & GARDENS OF OSLO

After exploring Bodø, fly to Oslo for a three-night stay at the elegant and historic Grand Hotel, opened in 1874, and for over 140 years the host to international guests, world leaders, celebrities and the Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Extension highlight include: Hovelsrud Farm and Garden, an award-winning estate restored to its 1840's splendor in a stunning lakeside setting; Oslo Botanical Garden, founded in 1814, that uniquely showcases plants Vikings brought back from their extensive travels inside a 108-foot-long grounded Viking ship; the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist, Gustav Vigeland, displaying more than 200 of his works in bronze, granite, and wrought iron; and the Fram Museum of Polar Exploration, artfully telling the story of Norwegian polar exploration.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



EXPLORIS ONE

Formerly named the *Silver Explorer* under Silversea Cruises' ownership, *Exploris One* embarked on a new chapter in 2023 under the helm of French company Exploris Expeditions. Having known this vessel for many years, we recognize its suitability for intimate small-ship voyages. Our exclusive charter will host a maximum of 114 guests, alongside our dedicated staff. Benefit from the vessel's shallow draft, enabling access to secluded areas inaccessible to larger ships. Delight in the expansive deck spaces, perfect for wildlife spotting and soaking in picturesque vistas while cruising. Renovated in 2023, *Exploris One* seamlessly blends adventure with luxurious comfort. Its 60 staterooms and 12 suites, all exterior facing, boast impeccable finishes. Savor refined French and International cuisine at Le Grand Restaurant and the Outdoor Grill. The Grand Salon and Panoramic Lounge offer sweeping panoramas. Onboard amenities include a dedicated lecture room, a hair salon, fitness center, massage room, sauna, and two hot tubs. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, as well as Wi-Fi access, are complimentary throughout the cruise.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

| | DOUBLE | SINGLE |
|---|----------|----------|
| PREMIUM STATEROOM / DECK 3 Two portholes, bathroom with shower, 157 / 167 sq. ft. | \$8,990 | \$13,495 |
| OCEAN STATEROOM / DECK 3 Picture window, bathroom with shower, 192 sq. ft. | \$9,790 | \$13,990 |
| SUPERIOR STATEROOM / DECK 4 Picture window, bathroom with shower, 175 / 190 sq. ft. | \$10,290 | — |
| DELUXE STATEROOM / DECK 4 Large picture window, bathroom with shower, 192 sq. ft. | \$10,990 | — |
| BALCONY STATEROOM / DECK 5 French balcony, bathroom with shower, 206 / 216 sq. ft. | \$11,990 | — |
| DISCOVERY SUITE / DECK 5 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto two French balconies, a full-sized tub, and separate shower, 422 sq. ft. | \$13,990 | — |
| NAVIGATOR SUITE / DECK 7 Floor to ceiling glass doors onto a private balcony with furniture, sitting area, a full-sized tub, and separate shower, 400 sq. ft., including balcony. | \$14,490 | — |
| GRAND SUITE / DECK 7 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto a private balcony with furniture, a full-sized tub, separate shower, and walk-in closet, 618 sq. ft., including balcony. | \$15,990 | — |
| OWNER'S SUITE / DECK 7 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto a large private balcony with furniture, a full-sized tub, separate shower, and walk-in closet, 728 sq. ft., including balcony. | \$16,990 | — |

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including nine breakfasts, seven lunches, nine dinners, one hotel night and eight nights aboard Exploris One

- Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations
- Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel
- Port charges
- Entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners
- Filtered water for water bottles on motorcoaches
- Complete packet of pre-departure information
- Professional tour managers throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

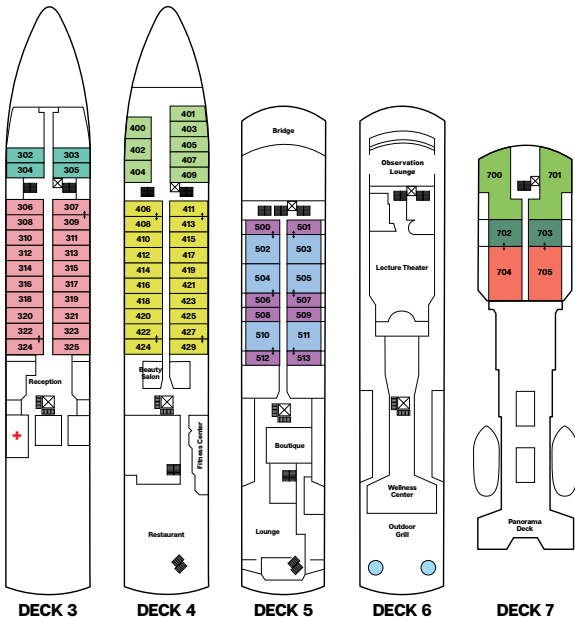
This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Hiking options are available in some ports, with distances of up to three miles. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for several excursions ashore—and there may be additional use of the Zodiacs to take advantage of opportunities that arise. Participants should be fit and in active good health. Limited medical facilities are available on board Exploris One. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by National Trust Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 114 participants.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses





National Trust for Historic Preservation

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HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS
SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY

MAY 29-JUNE 8, 2025

RESERVATION FORM

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785.

Or, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1 BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to payable to Criterion Travel, for _____ place(s) on Highlands, Islands & Fjords.

Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my

VISA MasterCard American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin Category Preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference King / Queen Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)

I plan to share accommodations with:

I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a non-smoker smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of January 29, 2025 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

- Medical expenses and immunizations
Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days
Travel and trip cancellation insurance
Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options
Airline baggage charges
Meals not specified in the itinerary
Dishes and beverages not part of the included meals
Liquor or soft drinks except as noted
Laundry or dry cleaning
Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges
Room service
Other items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USI Travel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical, and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for ANY reason at all and be reimbursed up to 75% of your pre-paid, nonrefundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). To purchase travel insurance today, call: (800) 937-1387. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785. Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is January 29, 2025. For those who register on or after January 29, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set

forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After final payment deadline on January 29, 2025 all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2024/2025 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.


California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20005

www.nationaltrusttours.com
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info@nationaltrusttours.com

Find us on  National Trust Tours

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Sacramento, CA

Highlands, Islands and Fjords

SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY
ABOARD **EXPLORIS ONE**

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