



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS

From the Scottish Highlands and Orkney Islands to Norwegian Fjords & Lofoten Islands Aboard the 72-cabin *Exploris One*

**May 30 – June 9, 2026
(11 days)**

Join us for an exploration of the magnificent landscapes, remote islands, ancient settlements and idyllic villages of Norway and northern Scotland, cruising when sunlight extends into the evening hours and temperatures are mild. Much more than a cursory introduction, 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 feature splendid wild and cultivated landscapes as well as fascinating remains of ancient settlements. In addition, this itinerary includes ample time in Norway's must-see fjords including Sognefjord, Nærøfjord, Nordfjordeid, and Bronnoysund. We also call at the lovely Art Nouveau architecture in the impossibly scenic port of Ålesund. Throughout, there will be ample time to relax and enjoy the amenities of *Exploris One*, including a full day at sea.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Optional excursions at most ports of call to cater to differing abilities and interests** including archaeological stops, garden visits, historical sites, and natural wonders with adventurous activities.
- Delight in cruising for **eight nights aboard the newly renovated *Exploris One***, designed to navigate demanding waters safely while offering the highest level of service and comfort.
- Explore **Inverness, the capital of the Scottish Highlands**, including its beautiful Old Town and indoor Victorian market; **Clava Cairns**, a top archaeological site in Scotland; or **Cawdor Castle** boasting three very different gardens.
- Discover how the Vikings held a strategic foothold in the Orkney Islands for centuries and marvel at the **UNESCO Heart of Neolithic Orkney**, four fascinating Stone Age sites.
- Linger in the dramatic landscapes of Norway's most beautiful fjords including **Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord**, with its dramatic and narrow arm, **UNESCO-listed Naeroyfjord**.
- Step ashore at peaceful, picturesque towns, fishing villages, and farms off the beaten track—splendid **Art Nouveau Ålesund**, set on myriad islands stretching out into the ocean; and tiny **villages of A, Reine and Nusfjord in the Lofotens**—all of which have inspired artists and photographers for over a century.
- Cruise along the base of the **cliffs of Runde**, one of the largest nesting cliffs in Norway and **look for whales in the Lofotens**, a prime location in June for orcas, porpoises, and the mighty sperm whale.

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EXPLORIS ONE

Previously known as the *Silver Explorer* and owned by Silversea Cruises, *Exploris One* began her new life with the French company Exploris Expeditions in 2023. Having known this vessel for many years, we know her to be ideal for small ship cruising. The vessel's shallow draft will allow us to navigate in areas that larger ships would not be able to access and whilst cruising, the vessel benefits from spacious deck areas from where you can watch for passing wildlife and admire the beautiful scenery.

Exploris One, renovated in 2023, combines adventure and an exceptional level of comfort. The 60 staterooms and 12 suites are all outside and finished to high standards. Le Grand Restaurant and the Outdoor Grill offer refined French and International cuisine. The Grand Salon and Panoramic Lounge provide opportunities for breathtaking views. Additional onboard amenities include: a dedicated conference room for lectures, hair salon, fitness center, massage room, sauna, and two hot tubs.



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ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIG	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Sat May 30	Depart U.S.		
Sun May 31	Inverness	Kingsmills Hotel	Arrive Inverness and transfer to hotel for welcome dinner and overnight. D
Mon June 1	Inverness	<i>Exploris One</i>	AM lecture followed by exploration of Inverness Old Town and indoor Victorian Market with lunch on your own during free time in town; Afternoon optional visits: 1) Clava Cairns or 2) Cawdor Castle & Gardens before embarking <i>Exploris One</i> this afternoon. BD
Tue June 2	Kirkwall, Orkney Islands	<i>Exploris One</i>	FD in Kirkwall beginning with morning visits to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site ; return to the ship for lunch and set out this afternoon on one of two options: 1) exploration of Kirkwall including the medieval St. Magnus Cathedral with free time in town; or 2) visit the finest green space on the island and an award-winning private garden with the owner, a famous horticulturalist. BLD
Wed June 3	Sognefjord Fjord	<i>Exploris One</i>	Full day at sea to enjoy the amenities of the ship and continue with the lecture series. Arrive at the entrance of Sognefjord for sunset . BLD
Thur June 4	Vik & Naeroyfjord	<i>Exploris One</i>	AM Embark on a privately chartered boat cruise of the UNESCO World Heritage Nærøfjord to Gudvangen, the innermost village on the beautiful and wild Nærøfjord ; explore the Viking Village and enjoy free time in town ; PM explore Vik, a picture-perfect village on the banks of the Sognefjord, home of Hoppestad Stave church , one of only 28 remaining and the oldest in Norway; try the local gamalost cheese; and visit the Moahugane Burial Mounds or Djupvik , home of a unique mythological garden on the banks of the Sognefjord. BLD
Fri June 5	Nordfjordeid	<i>Exploris One</i>	AM cruising with time for lectures; PM arrive Nordfjordeid with excursion options that include 1) kayaking with a guided hike to learn about local ecosystem; 2) a motorcoach excursion to see the Briksdal Glacier and take the Loen Skylift to the top of Mt. Hoven , 3) visit with a local family in their private home to learn about the Norwegian way of life and culture and the Norwegian Fjord Horse Center . BLD

DAY	OVERNIG	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Sat June 6	Runde & Ålesund	<i>Exploris One</i>	Early morning cruise around the bird cliffs at Runde , nesting site of over 240 species including puffins then visit beautiful Ålesund , with Art Nouveau buildings and islands stretching out into the ocean; optional excursions include: 1) Medieval village of Sunmøre , an open-air museum; 2) Viking's Island , or 3) in-depth city walk including Mt Aksla & free time; PM cruising with time for lectures. BLD
Sun June 7	Bronnoysund	<i>Exploris One</i>	AM exploration of Bronnoysund paired with optional excursions: 1) hike the mythical mountain of Torghatten ; 2) enjoy panoramic drive and visit to Hildur's Farm ; or 3) Norwegian Aquaculture Center ; PM cruise across the Arctic Circle with time for whale-watching. BLD
Mon June 8	Reine (Lofoten Islands)	<i>Exploris One</i>	Full day in Lofoten Islands , stopping in photogenic small fishing villages such as Å, Reine, and Nusfjord ; visit the Lofotr Viking Museum , home to the world's biggest Viking house; and learn about Lofoten Sustainable Farming during lunch ashore. Captain's farewell reception and dinner. BLRD
Tue June 9	Home		Transfers to Bodø airport or optional morning tour in Bodø for those with late flights. B

Optional Pre-Voyage Extension
SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS INDEPTH
May 27 to 31, 2026

Fly from home to Inverness, Scotland for a three-night stay. Over the coming days, explore the highlights of the Scottish Highlands, including Culloden Moor, the last battlefield of the Jacobite Rebellion, cruise on Loch Ness with visit to Urquhart Castle, and a private tasting and tour at a top malt whisky distillery. Also, stroll through the grounds of Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the Royal Family since the mid-1800s. Additional details and rates will be provided to confirmed participants.

Optional Post-Voyage Extension
Art & Gardens of Oslo
June 9 to 12, 2026

Fly from Bodø 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. Highlights include Fram Museum of polar history and Vigeland Sculpture Park, the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist, Gustav Vigeland, showing more than 200 of his works in bronze, granite and wrought iron.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Retail Program Fees:

Premium Stateroom, Deck 3, per person, sharing	\$8,990
Ocean Stateroom, Deck 3, per person, sharing	\$9,990
Superior Stateroom, Deck 4, per person, sharing	\$10,990
Deluxe Stateroom, Deck 4, per person, sharing	\$11,990
Balcony Stateroom, Deck 5, per person, sharing.....	\$13,490
Navigator Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing	\$14,990
Discovery Suite, Deck 5, per person, sharing	\$16,990
Grand Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing	\$18,490
Owner's Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing	\$19,990
Premium Stateroom, Deck 3, single	\$13,900
Ocean Stateroom, Deck 3, single	\$15,990

Fees Include:

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Group transfers for all participants upon arrival in Inverness, Scotland and departure in Bodø, Norway on main tour arrival and departure dates • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Baggage handling • Gratuities to ship crew, porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • All alcoholic (except premium drinks) and non-alcoholic beverages included on board *Exploris* • Criterion Tour Manager

Fees Do Not Include:

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • 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, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature