

# ST KILDA



*"St Kilda is a truly magical place with a fascinating history, which is why it's one of only 35 World Heritage Sites. It really gets under your skin."*  
Sally Nowell

Dates Sat 12 - Tue 22 Jul 2025

Price £4,725

Deposit £900 Single Supp £0

Leader Sally Nowell

**Walking** On land, easy walks of 2-5 miles. Walking boots essential. On board, trainers, waterproof sandals or deck shoes are ideal

**Weather** From flat calm, hot & sunny, to choppy, wet & windy (12°-20°C)

**Onboard** Be prepared for all weathers. Waterproof clothes including gloves are recommended. As a precaution, you may wish to bring seasickness medication with you.

**Insects** Biting insects may be encountered on some islands, please bring repellent

**Meals** All included from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11

Good quality, freshly prepared food, great home baking ... and plenty of it!

**Accom** Elizabeth G – 2 Double and 2 Twin ensuite cabins

**Group** 8

## Just some of what we hope to see:

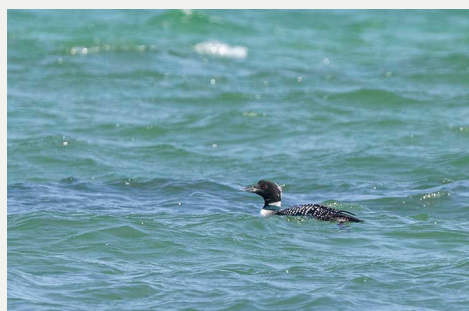
Golden Eagle	Eider
White-tailed Eagle	Rock Dove
Great Northern Diver	Raven
Arctic Tern	Hooded Crow
Little Tern	Short-eared Owl
Great Skua	St Kilda Wren
Arctic Skua	Hen Harrier
Manx Shearwater	Peregrine
Storm Petrel	Greenshank
Leach's Petrel	Twite
Black Guillemot	Minke Whale
Puffin	Harbour Porpoise
Gannet	Common Dolphin
Guillemot	(Risso's Dolphin)
Razorbill	(Basking Shark)
Kittiwake	Common Seal
Fulmar	Grey Seal
Shag	Otter

As the most remote part of the UK, St Kilda holds a certain magic and mystery. We'll explore this archipelago, plus some of the hidden treasures and wildlife of the islands of the Hebrides.

- A memorable journey through the Hebrides aiming for St Kilda
- Visit the remote UNESCO Reserve and World Heritage Site of St Kilda
- Expect encounters with whales, dolphins and Otters enroute
- Golden and White-tailed Eagles and seabirds including Puffins, skuas and petrels
- Land on deserted beaches and remote islands
- Enjoy delicious food, a friendly crew and 'go-where-we-want'
- Spend a week onboard the comfortable Elizabeth G!

We meet in Oban where our boat and crew will be waiting for us. We are sure to be buzzing with excitement about the week ahead and will be keen to get our feet on the deck of the Elizabeth G.

The first sight of our home for the next few days is sure to be a thrill, as we settle into our surroundings which will become very familiar as the week progresses. After a safety briefing and introduction to the crew and Elizabeth G we'll set sail. Elizabeth G is a converted 23m ice-class boat, with spacious, comfortable guest cabins, a huge deck-level saloon and wonderful wildlife watching decks - she's perfect for our exploration. She is large enough to navigate these waters yet small enough to glide unnoticed into the remotest lochs. Once or twice a day we'll land on islands, using our zodiac and spend nights moored in sheltered sea lochs, enjoying first class dinners.



As we cruise out of Oban harbour we shall be looking for Black Guillemot and with luck Otter; which can be seen here along the shore. Initially we'll cruise up the Sound of Mull. This area can be excellent for dolphin spotting so on deck we'll be looking out for Common and Bottlenose Dolphin along with Harbour Porpoise. This is also a great area for White-tailed Eagles, who will be on the hunt as they will be busy feeding young. We'll find a sheltered anchorage to overnight and enjoy our first meal onboard.

**2-10** Our weather-dependent itinerary is at the discretion of our experienced skipper. Beyond the Ardnamurchan peninsula we shall traverse seas that host dolphins and whales, to reach the stunning Inner Hebridean island of Canna. As we approach we shall start to see evidence of the fantastic birdlife that this island hosts during the breeding season. Birds will be out on the water feeding but the cliffs will also be full of auks,





*"St Kilda is our ultimate destination on this trip, but we also sail around the Inner and Outer Hebrides, exploring hidden coves and remote islands, from the comfort of our fabulous boat. It's going to be a real adventure."* Sally Nowell

Kittiwakes and Puffins. Our eyes will be on the skies too, as both Golden and White-tailed Eagles are present in this area. As we cruise the shorelines, we shall be looking for Otters and Eider and with luck we should see Red-throated Divers offshore.

We hope to see swathes of Manx Shearwaters and hopefully the tiny Storm Petrel dancing on the water surface. Great Skuas may accompany our journey to the Outer Hebrides, where sparkling sea and sand appear to merge. The islands are home to some wonderful wildlife and as we explore parts of Harris and North and South Uist, we shall be listening for the sound of Corncrake calling from the iris beds. Around the rugged coasts we'll look for cliff nesting raptors such as Peregrine Falcon and White-tailed Eagle. There is always the chance of Short-eared Owls and Hen Harrier where the land lies low. Arctic and Little Terns may fly close to the boat and fish delicately in the shallows around the sandy bays. On shore the wildflowers of the Hebrides, known as Machair, should be in full bloom and are always a feast for the eyes. We might feel we are in a tropical paradise as the beaches we can access with our boat are as pristine and picture perfect as you can imagine. Bays of turquoise waters and white shell sand will take our breath away.

When the sea conditions allow, we'll cross the open water between North Uist and St Kilda, spending as much time there as possible. The crossing to St Kilda takes about eight hours and is rarely calm, so we have to choose our time carefully. One hundred miles west of mainland Scotland, St Kilda is a wild and spectacular place, a UNESCO Reserve and World Heritage Site, it is home to over one million seabirds. The cacophony of

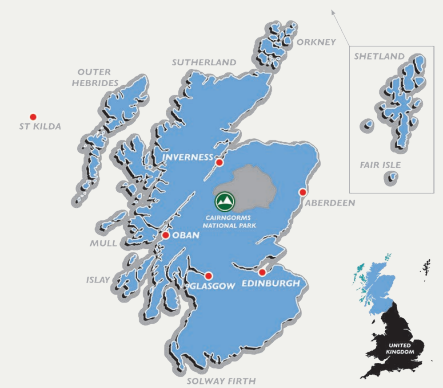
bird sound on the cliffs of Hirta, the largest of the islands, is amazing and at Conachair are the highest seacliffs in Britain at over 430 metres tall!

We'll anchor in Village Bay where the village ruins call to mind voices of this vanished community and now play host to St Kilda races of Wren and Field Mouse. This is the only place we can land in the St Kilda archipelago; here we will really feel the impact of the history of the islands.

Soay is circled by steep cliffs and gives its name to its dark coated, wild Sheep. Cloud swirls around Boreray, a mass of impregnable jagged black volcanic rocks and just offshore the monolithic pillars of Stac Armin and Stac Lee tower above us. Here Gannets fall from the sky and plunge into the fish-rich waters. We are truly at 'the Islands on the edge of the World'. On St Kilda is the UK's largest Storm Petrel colony and there is also a small population of breeding Leach's Petrel.

Our time will pass all too quickly and we'll have to make the return crossing to North Uist, through the Sound of Harris and perhaps along the coast of Coll, Tiree or Skye, depending on what time we have remaining.

Eventually we return to Oban, where the bustle of modern life is a world away from the natural wonders that we'll have left behind. After breakfast we shall say our farewells after what will have undoubtedly been a trip of a lifetime.



### Outline Itinerary

- Day 1** Arrive in Oban and board our home for the coming days. Cruise up the Sound of Mull and anchor for the night 10 nights on Elizabeth G
- Days 2-10** Birdwatching and wildlife exploration around the Hebridian Islands and when weather permits, cross the exposed open water between North Uist and St Kilda
- Day 11** After breakfast we say our farewells

**Hebrides Cruises:** Elizabeth G, Gannets  
**Jane Hope:** Manx Shearwater, Great Northern Diver, Great Skua,  
**Stef Lauer:** St Kilda Village  
**Rob Martin:** White-tailed Eagle

