



SCOTLAND SLOWLY CRUISE

June 11, 2021 – 15 Days

10 days on board Ocean Endeavor

Scotland, like good whisky, is best savoured slowly. Nature and culture thrive on the isles. Hear music and stories. Revel in wildlife. Absorb the scenery. Immerse yourself in history. Visit Glasgow, the Western Isles, Orkney, the Shetland Islands, and Aberdeen. Learn from Scottish experts as we go. Search for whales and seabirds by Zodiac. Get a glimpse of island life. Raise a dram at world-famous distilleries. Wander among Neolithic ruins. Savour Scotland, slowly!

Activity Level: 3



TOUR

25

34 Meals Included:

13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 12 dinners

Fares Per Person: based on double/twin

\$12,610 Inside Category 3

\$13,935 Outside Category 4

\$15,975 Outside Category 6

Other categories may be available

Tour is exempt from GST

\$445 single supplement, limited numbers of cabins, book early

Experience Points:

Earn 170 points from this tour

Redeem 170 points if you book by February 4



ITINERARY

Day 1: Friday, June 11

We fly from Vancouver on an overnight flight to Glasgow, Scotland.

Accommodation: Overnight Flight

Day 2: Saturday, June 12

Welcome to **Glasgow**. Our driver/guide meets us at the airport. Scotland's largest city has a strong industrial past, but is noted for its reinvention and transformation. The historic city sees its future in the service industries such as tourism and conventions. Glasgow has received many prestigious awards, including the impressive title of UK City of Architecture and Design. Founded in the 6th century, Glasgow has grown to a metro population of 1.6 million people and is the largest seaport in Scotland. We stay two nights at the Doubletree Hotel in central Glasgow. The rest of the afternoon is leisure time, and a welcome dinner is planned.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation: Doubletree Hotel

Day 3: Sunday, June 13

Today's tour of Glasgow features many sights. Admission is included to the famed **Kelvingrove Art Gallery** and the magnificent 12th century St. Mungo's Cathedral.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Doubletree Hotel

Day 4: Monday, June 14

We meet the other ship passengers in Glasgow for an orientation, then drive to **Greenock** on the estuary of the River Clyde. Greenock has a rich maritime history and was a major shipbuilding and import centre. We board the **Ocean Endeavour**, our home for the next ten nights. Be sure to have a good vantage point on deck when the ship casts off and heads out into the ever-wider River Clyde. Savour your first fine dinner in the Polaris Restaurant and a "Welcome Aboard" event in the Nautilus Lounge.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 5: Tuesday, June 15

During the night, we cruise among many islands and through the Firth of Clyde to reach the Queen of the Hebrides, **Islay**. The island is the southernmost of the Inner Hebrides, known for its fine whisky and as a haven for seabirds. A tour goes to **Loch Finlaggan** historic site which was the home of the Lords of the Isles and Clan Donald in the 13th to 15th centuries. Nearby is the **Gruinart Nature Reserve**, a habitat for barnacle goose, hen harriers, and corncrakes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 6: Wednesday, June 16

The ship stops at **Iona**, just off the coast of Mull. We take a tour to Iona Abbey where St. Columba established his monastery in 563 - the burial place of kings. The restored complex preserves two outstanding 8th century crosses and a splendid collection of sculpture. Our next stop, heading north, is the **Isle of Staffa**, famed for basalt formations, amazing natural columns, and numerous caves. The best known is **Fingal's Cave**, originally known in Gaelic as "the melodious cave," and it provided the inspiration for Mendelssohn's overture.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 7: Thursday, June 17

Today is devoted to **Skye**, probably the best known of the Scottish isles. True romantics pack their bags and head 'over the sea to Skye' according to the poem written by Sir Harold Boulton in the 1880s. This is a fabulous day for birders, photographers, and hikers. We cruise the southwestern shore of Skye to visit Loch Coruisk, a freshwater loch accessed through Loch Scavaig. Here we find one of the finest mountainscapes in Britain, backed by the Cuillin Mountains.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 8: Friday, June 18

The **Outer Hebrides** are a fantastic collection of over 100 islands, located 70 kilometres off Scotland's west coast. Here we find the oldest evidence of human habitation in Scotland with Pictish, Norse, and Scottish influence. We search for the rich marine and bird life of the islands as conditions permit.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 9: Saturday, June 19

The archipelago known as **St. Kilda** is even further west than the Outer Hebrides and was inhabited until 1930. Today, St. Kilda is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, protecting fascinating ruins as well as natural heritage features. Seabirds thrive on the island of Hirta, which is also home to feral sheep left by the departing islanders. The highest sea cliffs in Britain are found here, soaring an awesome 400 metres above the water.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 10: Sunday, June 20

Lewis is the largest of the Hebridean Islands and a Gaelic stronghold. We visit the island's capital, Stornoway, where you can purchase its famous tweed. Also here is one of Britain's most important Stone Age sites, the **Callanish Standing Stones** which are said to be giants who were punished by St. Kieran for refusing to convert to Christianity.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 11: Monday, June 21

Over 70 islands make up the archipelago of the **Orkney Islands**, a beautiful land shaped by the sea. The climate is mild, the soil is fertile, and the people have a fondness for folklore. The Orkneys contain some of the oldest and best-preserved Neolithic sites in Europe. The town of

Kirkwall is dominated by the massive St. Magnus Cathedral, dating from 1137. We visit the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the 4,000-year old **Ring of Brodgar**, and The Hall of Clestrain, the childhood home of Arctic explorer John Rae.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 12: Tuesday, June 22

Even further north than the Orkneys are the isolated **Shetland Islands**. Only 16 of its 100 islands are inhabited. The Ocean Endeavour stops at Papa Stour which has a population of only 15 people. Erosion of the soft volcanic rocks by the sea has created an extraordinary variety of caves, stacks, arches, blowholes, and cliffs. Marine and bird life flourish at **Papa Stour** and we take a morning Zodiac cruise exploring the coastline's rugged beauty. This afternoon, we arrive at **Foula**, the most remote inhabited island in the U.K. Here, a few dozen folk make their homes, many preserving traditional methods of agriculture and subsistence. Arctic terns, red-throated divers, and great skuas may be observed here.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 13: Wednesday, June 23

We turn south and stop at **Fair Isle**, midway between the Shetlands and the Orkneys. Once a Viking hub, Fair Isle is now an idyllic island colony of artists and shepherds. The island boasts 350 bird species, including huge numbers of puffins and great skuas.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 14: Thursday, June 24

The mainland is back in sight and, after docking at **Aberdeen**, we say farewell to the Ocean Endeavour. We take a tour around Aberdeen, highlighted by a visit to **Dunnottar Castle** which dates to the 15th century and has a dramatic location high on a headland overlooking the

North Sea. We stay overnight at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: *Ocean Endeavour*

Day 15: Friday, June 25

Depending on flight schedules for 2021, we fly from either Aberdeen or Glasgow to Vancouver.

Meals included: Breakfast

SCOTLAND: THE PRIDE, THE PASSION, THE PEOPLE

Scotland is renowned for its rich heritage, its passionate people, and its contribution to the world past and present. Scottish culture has spread across the globe through emigration, and around 40 million people worldwide identify themselves as Scottish. Those whose ancestry reaches back to the land of Robert the Bruce, Sir Walter Scott, and Sean Connery hold strong to the traditions and characteristics of the people. There are so many recognizable Scottish icons: Gaelic, tartans, kilts, whisky, thistle, bag pipes, Robbie Burns, St. Andrews, and the Stone of Destiny. Far and wide, most Scots are fiercely proud to claim these as their own. From its thriving arts and music scene to its achievements in industry, medicine, science, law, and literature, Scotland's story is one of immense success. The Kingdom of Scotland emerged as an independent sovereign state in the early middle ages, but its fate has been inextricably linked with England and the whole of modern Great Britain. The continued existence of legal, educational and religious institutions distinct from those in the rest of the UK have all contributed to upholding Scottish culture and national identity since the Treaty of Union of 1706. Wells Gray Tours is excited to be offering this unique cruise to some remote places along the Scottish coast, as well as the fascinating islands of Orkney and Shetland.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

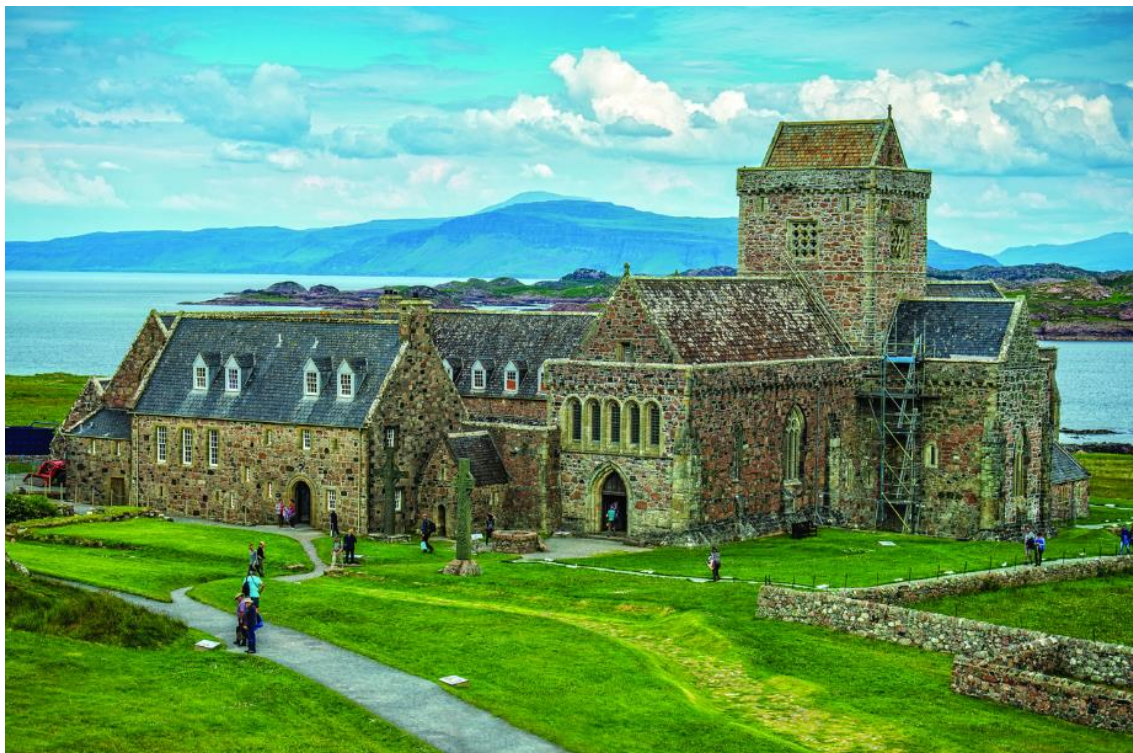
- Return flight from Vancouver to Glasgow
- Air transport taxes, security fees, luggage fees
- 3 nights accommodation & taxes in Scotland
- Transfer from Glasgow Airport to hotel
- Locally-guided tour of Glasgow
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery
- St. Mungo Cathedral
- Transfer from Glasgow hotel to ship in Greenock
- 10 days & nights on board Ocean Endeavour
- Gratuities for ship crew, guides and naturalists
- Lectures, expert guides, resource staff and other services on board ship
- Discovery Fund Fee (US\$250)
- Transfer from ship to Aberdeen hotel
- Locally guided tour in Aberdeen
- Dunnottar Castle
- Transfer from Aberdeen hotel to Glasgow Airport
- Wells Gray tour director June 11 to 14
- Luggage handling at hotels and ship
- **34 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 12 dinners

MS OCEAN ENDEAVOUR

The *Ocean Endeavour* was built in 1981 and has operated as a cruise ship in the Baltic, the Mediterranean, and throughout Scandinavia. Adventure Canada has leased the ship since 2014 and has undertaken major renovations to equip it for voyages to remote places. The ship is 137 metres long and has nine decks with six of them open to passengers. The ship carries 198 passengers. There is a variety of cabins ranging from Insides to Outsides and Suites. The outside cabins have portholes or windows, some with obstructed views. Each cabin has a private bathroom. None of the cabins have balconies. Cabins range in size from 9 to 30 square metres, generally smaller than large cruise ships. A few cabins are designated as singles with no single surcharge. The ship has two elevators which serve only Decks 4, 5 and 6. The Polaris Restaurant, Nautilus Lounge where most lectures are held, the Library, gift shop, and outdoor pool are on Deck 6. A hot tub is on Deck 7, a gymnasium and sauna on Deck 8, and an observation lounge on Deck 9.

Expedition staff are experts on Scotland including geology, glaciation, history, culture, and flora and fauna. There are frequent lectures, educational presentations, and interactive workshops. Evening entertainment is offered. There is a fully-stocked library for additional reading about the cruise destinations. During many days, there are expeditions ashore or to nearby attractions, using the ship's 18 zodiacs.


All meals are included in the Polaris Restaurant and there are also on-deck barbeques and afternoon tea. Coffee, tea, and snacks are available 24 hours a day. Hors d'oeuvres and snacks are served during evening programs. Alcoholic beverages can be purchased in the lounges and at dinner.



TOUR NOTES

- Please look at the *Ocean Endeavour* deck plans at www.adventurecanada.com then click on “Ships”. This will help you choose your cabin/category more easily.
- Due to extremely high demand for expedition-style voyages, the *Ocean Endeavour* may be full for this cruise months in advance. Wells Gray Tours has a few cabins blocked in categories 3 (inside) and 6 (outside), and we can check availability in other categories. Single fares will increase after the cabins designated for singles are sold out. Book early for best choice.
- Cancellation penalties are higher than normal for a Wells Gray tour and effective dates are further out. These penalties are applied by the cruise line and cannot be altered, even for name changes.
- Comprehensive insurance is mandatory and Adventure Canada requires proof of at least \$75,000 in emergency evacuation coverage due to some remote places on this itinerary. If you do not buy insurance through Wells Gray Tours, it is essential that you check your policy carefully. Insurance with your credit card or employee benefits may not cover what you need.
- A passport is required and must be valid until you return to Canada. A visa is not required.
- The currency on board the ship is the US dollar for liquor purchases and the Canadian dollar for the gift shop. For the days in Glasgow and Aberdeen and purchases during the shore excursions, you will need the British pound. You can order the pound or US dollar from your bank 1-2 weeks before departure.
- A Wells Gray tour director will accompany travellers starting at the flight connection airport (probably Vancouver or Calgary) and will be with you during the Glasgow touring days. On June 14, you will be in Adventure Canada’s capable hands for the drive to the dock in Greenock and cruise. There is no tour director with you on June 24 & 25 in Aberdeen or for the flight home.
- The planned itinerary is on pages 2-4, but many factors such as weather and sea conditions can cause changes to the route or the shore excursions.

TOUR 25 **Tour 25:** This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of tour is limited to 25 participants or less, a more intimate travel experience.

 **Activity Level 3:** This tour is very active including getting in and out of zodiacs, and walking on beaches with no trail. The ship’s elevator accesses 3 of the 6 passenger decks. It is extremely important to read Adventure Canada’s registration form about this tour, so you can assess whether you are capable of handling the activity (go to www.adventurecanada.com then click on “Booking Info”). This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers, and scooters cannot be used. Seeing everything requires active participation. Prior to accepting your booking, you will be required to sign a declaration that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour. The ship’s staff have many responsibilities,

so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance if this tour is too active for you.

TOUR POLICIES

Payments: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due February 4, 2021. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to November 4, 2020, your tour payments will be refunded less a cruise line fee of \$800 per person. From November 5, 2020, to February 4, 2021, the cancellation charge is \$1,200 per person. From February 5 to March 4, the cancellation charge is 65% of the tour fare. After March 4, there is no refund. Be sure that your travel insurance policy covers these penalties.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes and surcharges from the airlines, cruise line and other tour suppliers can occur at any time. The cruise fare is charged to Wells Gray Tours in US dollars, and exchange rates are impossible to predict a year in advance when this tour was arranged. All these changes are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure. Any decreases in costs will also be passed on.

Home pickups: are available within Greater Vancouver for an additional charge of \$40 per person round trip. Please request no later than at final payment.

Photo Credits: Adventure Canada

Experience Points: This tour earns 170 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until February 4.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Victoria 65842, Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924

VICTORIA
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Closed holidays &
weekends

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Closed holidays &
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Closed holidays &
weekends

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