

# GREAT BRITAIN'S NORTHERN ISLANDS

**Lindisfarne (Holy Island), Orkney, Shetland, Thurso,  
Inverness, Fort William, Mallaig, Kyle of Lochalsh, Isle of Skye,  
Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist, Barra, Mull, Iona, Staffa,  
Oban and Glasgow**

**Saturday 25 June to Monday 25 July 2022**



Join us on a twenty-nine day tour of Great Britain's northern islands. From Lindisfarne (Holy Island) to the Shetland and Orkney Islands, through the Scottish Highlands and Inverness to Skye, and across to the Inner and Outer Hebrides. We enjoy scenic rail journeys along the English and Scottish east coast to Durham, Edinburgh and Aberdeen; ferry crossings to and from the Shetlands and Orkneys; highland rail travel along Scottish lochs; and the picturesque ferry crossings of the Inner and Outer Hebrides. Good quality hotels, freshly caught seafood and local delicacies, beautiful nature and scenery, birdlife, archaeology and history, and the culture and crafts of this dramatic part of the world. The tour is designed so you can join in London and leave from Glasgow, allowing you to enjoy other travel in England prior to the tour, or in Scotland after the tour. Return travel to London will also be arranged.

## **Flights to/from London**

There are myriad flight options from Australia to London, with options for stopovers in Asia or the Middle East in one or both directions. We will call to discuss your flight preferences.

## **Saturday 25 June 2022 – Australia to London**

Depart Australia to London. Overnight enroute. You may wish to spend more time in London prior to the tour, and we can assist with your arrangements for a few additional days in London.

## **Sunday 26 June 2022 – arrive London**

Transfer to our hotel in London, adjacent to London Kings Cross Station. You can enjoy a day exploring central London – the Southbank, along the Thames and around Westminster. The beautifully restored St Pancras Station is adjacent, and Underground and London Bus services connect to the city's many tourist attractions. The evening is free and overnight London.

## Monday 27 June 2022 (B/D) – London to Berwick-upon-Tweed and to Holy Island (Lindisfarne)

We join a morning departure from London's Kings Cross station, and travel first class along the East Coast Main Line to Berwick-upon-Tweed, on the Scottish border. Enjoy breakfast served at your seat as we travel through Peterborough, Doncaster, York and Newcastle. On arrival at Berwick we transfer to Holy Island, crossing a 5km causeway that is covered at high tide, cutting the island off from the mainland for around 5 – 6 hours a day. Surprisingly many travellers fail to heed the warnings of the encroaching high tide and even images of submerged cars are not sufficient deterrent. Holy Island is a special place in Northumbria, not only for its birdlife and beautiful nature, but as the site where St Aidan and St Cuthbert are remembered for their role in the 7<sup>th</sup> century when the island became the cradle of Christianity in north east England and for much of the rest of Europe. Enjoy an afternoon walk around the island, a great sunset with your favourite drink, and then dinner with local produce in our hotel. Overnight Holy Island.

## Tuesday 28 June 2022 (B/D) – Holy Island (Lindisfarne)

After breakfast we explore the island - its lovely nature, castle, museum and remains of Lindisfarne Priory – as well as relaxing in this special location. The remains of Lindisfarne Priory can be inspected, adjacent to the current church of St Mary, and the adjoining museum displays Saxon carvings as well as copies of the illuminated manuscripts of the Lindisfarne Gospels. Lindisfarne Castle is a 16<sup>th</sup> century miniature castle that has been transformed into an Edwardian country house with walled garden. Enjoy luncheon at one of the cafes or pubs on the island, and then enjoy a walk along the island's coastline – when day trippers have departed the island takes on a beautiful peace with the setting sun enjoyed with a pre-dinner drink. Dinner at the restaurant in our hotel. Overnight Holy Island.



## Wednesday 29 June 2022 (B/L/D) – north to Aberdeen and to the Shetland Isles

After a hearty breakfast on Holy Island we return to the mainland and join our East Coast Mainline rail service for the very scenic journey north to Aberdeen. Enjoy luncheon aboard as we head north towards Edinburgh, with great views over the North Sea. After Edinburgh we cross the Firth of Forth and then Firth of Tay on impressive bridges to Dundee, then along the scenic eastern coastline through Arbroath and Stonehaven to Aberdeen. Enjoy some free time to explore Aberdeen's city centre, before we transfer to the Northlink Ferry Terminal in the late afternoon and board our vessel for the overnight crossing to Lerwick on the mainland of the Shetland Islands. We have comfortable ensuite, oceanview cabins, with lower beds, for the overnight crossing. Enjoy a pre-dinner drink as we leave the Scottish mainland behind, then dinner aboard in the restaurant, with the late evening light over the North Sea. Retire to your cabin for a good night's rest at sea. Overnight Northlink Ferries.

## Thursday 30 June 2022 (B/L) – Shetland Islands - Lerwick

After breakfast aboard we arrive in Lerwick in the mid-morning, capital of Shetland. Shetland is so far removed from Scotland it is usually shown as an inset on maps. Closer to the Arctic Circle than to London, and easier to get to from Norway than from the British capital, it offers stunning landscapes, extensive birdlife - including puffins - and fascinating historical and cultural sights. With strong historic Scandinavian links, Shetland will impress you with its diversity and contrasts. With one hundred islands, fifteen inhabited, it is an archipelago of outstanding beauty, with a pleasant summer climate due to the Gulf Stream, and long summer nights. We enjoy four days and nights on Shetland, and we explore the north, north west, south and mainland Shetland. This morning we enjoy a walking tour of Lerwick to orient ourselves, and visit the Shetland Museum, with galleries devoted to the human history of Shetland, the island's maritime past, and Shetland knitting. We visit **Clickhimin Broch**, the substantial remains of a fortified site occupied from 700 BC to around the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> century AD. The Böd of Gremista, a restored 18<sup>th</sup> century fishing booth, was the birthplace of Arthur Anderson, one of the co-founders of the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, P&O. After we check in to our hotel there is some free time to explore, with dinner at leisure and overnight Lerwick.

## Friday 1 July 2022 (B/D) – Shetland Islands – Scalloway, Trondra and Burra

After a relaxed breakfast we head the short distance to Scalloway. Ten kilometres from Lerwick, and once the capital of Shetland, Scalloway is today a fishing port. The harbour is dominated by the ruins of Scalloway Castle - we'll visit the Scalloway Museum to learn of the *Shetland Bus* – the name given to Norwegian fishing boats during the Second World War that ferried refugees to safety from German occupied Norway, and returned with ammunition and resistance fighters. To Trondra and Burra, to admire the stunning landscapes and inspect the local crafts. Dinner and overnight at Lerwick.

## Saturday 2 July 2022 (B/L) – Shetland – Yell and Unst

After breakfast we explore the northern part of Shetland, visiting the Islands of Yell and Unst. We head via the coastal road of the Nesting Peninsula, towards Toft, and then join the ferry to cross to Ulsta on the Island of Yell. Predominantly a peat moorland, the green coast provides a home to otters and a rich birdlife. At the northern end of Yell we visit two art studios at Sellafirth – a textile and music centre where you will see demonstrations of weaving, and the Shetland Gallery, where artist Shona Skinner's works are displayed – she was in the Grampians, Victoria this year for an artist's convention! Then by ferry for the short crossing from Gutcher to Belmont and on to the island of Unst - the most northerly inhabited island in Britain. Boasting spectacular sea cliffs, sea stacks, sheltered inlets, heather-clad hills, sandy beaches and even a sub-arctic desert – it is a breeding ground for a wide variety of flora and fauna. A late lunch at the lovely Victoria's Vintage Tea Rooms in Haroldswick, and then a brief visit to Hermaness National Nature Reserve and its Visitors Centre. With wonderful views out to the off-shore stacks and skerries, including Muckle Flugga, we are at the most northerly lighthouse in Britain – built in 1857 by Thomas Steven, father of Robert Louis Stevenson. With nothing between you and the North Pole but water, you can contemplate what it is like to be at the end of the world ! We return with our two ferry crossings to the mainland, and then back to Lerwick. Dinner at leisure and overnight Lerwick.



## Sunday 3 July 2022 (B/L/D) – Shetland - Southern Mainland – Mousa, Jarlshof and Quendale

After breakfast head south to visit the two most important archaeological sights on Shetland. Driving past Fladdabister we arrive at the crofting communities of Sandwick, and from its Leebitton Harbour we join a small boat for the crossing to the **Isle of Mousa – home to the best-preserved broch in Scotland**. Built over 2,000 years ago, close to its original height of some 15 metres, it is an impressive structure with chambers, galleries, internal staircase and parapet. Mousa is also home to many seabirds and waders, as well as a colony of seals. Then to Hoswick and the Da Warp and Weft Visitor Centre where we'll enjoy a simple luncheon, as well as inspect exhibits of weaving, crofting, fishing and island life. Next door is the Shetland Woollen Company and also Neila's workshop - a contemporary Shetland textile designer. Then to Sumburgh Headland and Jarlshof – the former an RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) reserve, with lighthouse and a wonderful array of puffins, kittihawks, fulmars, guillemots and razorbills. At **Jarlshof** you'll see 4,000 years of human habitation – from Neolithic times through Norse settlement to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Return via Quendale – overlooking a wide sandy bay, and boasting the beautifully restored and fully working 19<sup>th</sup> century **Quendale Mill**. Back in Lerwick enjoy a drink looking across the harbour - dinner at our hotel and overnight in the village of Lerwick.

## Monday 4 July 2022 (B/L/D) – Shetland – Northmavine and Westside – and to Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Today we head to Northmavine, via Mavis Grind, a narrow isthmus where you can almost throw a stone from the Atlantic to the North Sea. Boasting rugged scenery and a spectacular coastline, visit Eshaness, with the amazing natural cliff features with evocative names such as Holes of Scraada, Grind o' da Navir and the Villains of Hamnavoe. We'll organise a lovely fresh seafood lunch stop at Brae, then head to the Westside – known for its varied landscape of sea cliffs, rolling green hills, bleak moorland, peaty freshwater lochs and many long sea lochs, or voes. In the late afternoon we return to Lerwick and board our Northlink Ferry for the evening crossing to the Orkney Islands. Dinner is served aboard the ferry during the crossing, and with a late evening arrival at Kirkwall, we transfer directly to our hotel on the waterfront promenade of the Orkneys capital, Kirkwall, a short distance from where our boat arrives. Overnight Kirkwall.

## Tuesday 5 July 2022 (B/L) – Kirkwall, Burray and South Ronaldsay, Orkney

Enjoy breakfast and a mid-morning start after our late arrival the previous evening. Although only 10 kilometres off the Scottish Mainland, separated by the Pentland Firth, the fiercely independent Orcadians refer to the mainland as the largest of the Orkney islands, not the Scottish mainland further south! Home to the densest concentration of prehistoric monuments in Britain, Orkney has a rare continuity of past and present. With three days to explore Orkney, we'll begin in Kirkwall. The huge and impressive 12<sup>th</sup> century St Magnus Cathedral dominates the city, and the ruins of the Bishop's Palace and the adjoining Earls Palace provide a good overview of recent Orkney history. At the Orkney Museum we will get a good overview of the archaeological treats that await us in the next two days, and the exhibition puts them into a useful chronological context. In the early afternoon we head south across the Churchill Barriers to Burray and South Ronaldsay. Enjoy a late lunch at the excellent Skerries Bistro at the southern tip of South Ronaldsay, then visit the **Tomb of the Eagles**, before we return towards St Margaret's Hope and Lamb's Holm. We visit the Italian Chapel, built by Italian prisoners-of-war, and enjoy views over Scapa Flow and the Churchill Barriers. A late afternoon return to Kirkwall, and dinner tonight is at leisure. Overnight Kirkwall.

## Wednesday 6 July 2022 (B/AT) – Orkney's archaeological sites - 5,000 years of human occupation

After breakfast we head west to explore some of the archeologically significant sites of Orkney. **Skara Brae** is the best preserved Stone Age village in northern Europe. The site dates from some 5,000 years ago, and was occupied for some 600 years. The standing **Stones of Stenness** contain the four remaining stones from the original 12 that date back to 5,000 BC, with the largest over 5 metres high. The **Ring of Brodgar** preserves 27 of the original 60 standing stones, and at **Maes Howe** we view the finest Neolithic burial chamber in Europe, dating from 2,750 BC. In the afternoon we head towards Birsay, the favoured residence of the Earls of Orkney in Viking times, and the seat of the first Bishop. The **ruins of the 16<sup>th</sup> century Earl's Palace** remain, and for those who wish, we'll walk from Marwick Head down to Birsay.



At low tide it may also be possible to walk to the Brough of Birsay, with its fascinating remains of Pictish, Norse and medieval life, including houses, barns and a sauna. (The visit depends upon tides and timing for the day.) We enjoy a late afternoon tea at the Birsay Tea Rooms, then return to Kirkwall, where there is the option to visit the 200-year-old Highland Park Distillery - Scotland's most northerly and one of the best. Dinner at leisure and overnight Kirkwall.

## Thursday 7 July 2022 (B/D) – Hoy, Orkney

Today we plan to visit of the smaller islands of Orkney – Hoy. Hoy is Orkney's second largest island and dramatically rises from the sea with mountainous moorland and glacial valleys, appearing more like a highland landscape than a typical Orkney low-lying island. It boasts the Scapa Flow Museum and Visitors Centre, detailing the role of Scapa Flow and the Churchill Barriers in Britain's history. It also retains a Martello Tower at Hackness, once built to appear along England's coastline around 1805 as a defence against invasion from the sea, particularly by Napoleon. The Longhope Martello's are unique in Scotland and were a newer design built around 1813-1815, however they were not designed to keep the French at bay but to protect the Baltic Convoys from the United States Navy and American privateers! We return to Kirkwall for dinner and overnight accommodation.

## Friday 8 July 2022 (B/L) – Stromness to Scrabster, and then rail from Thurso to Inverness

After breakfast we head south from Kirkwall to Stromness. We enjoy around 90 minutes to explore the twisted cobbled stone streets of this fishing village, before boarding the Northlink Ferry crossing for Scrabster on the Scottish Mainland. From here we make the short transfer to Thurso, and join a ScotRail service south to Inverness. With spectacular views of lochs, coast and countryside, the rail journey through northern Scotland is very beautiful. We'll serve some simple luncheon refreshments aboard as we enjoy the wonderful scenery. On arrival in Inverness we transfer to our hotel – dinner at leisure and overnight Inverness.

## Saturday 9 July 2022 (B) – Inverness

A relaxing day with some free time to explore the city. Situated where the River Ness meets the Moray Firth, it's the largest city and the cultural capital of the Scottish Highlands. Its Old Town features 19th-century Inverness Cathedral, the mostly 18th-century Old High Church and an indoor Victorian Market selling food, clothing and crafts. Whilst the contemporary Inverness Museum and Art Gallery traces local and Highland history, a visit to Culloden will create the last battle of the Jacobite Rising. Or make the short journey to Aviemore and experience the Strathspey Steam Railway on a short excursion. Dinner at leisure and overnight Inverness.

## **Sunday 10 July 2022 (B) – Loch Ness, Loch Lochy, Fort William, Jacobite Steam train and Mallaig**

We begin with an early start and scenic drive along Loch Ness to Fort Augustus, and then Loch Lochy to Fort William. Board the Jacobite steam train for a journey along the scenic rail line to Mallaig, across the famed Glenfinnan Viaduct. In Mallaig there is time for luncheon, enjoying some local fresh fish and chips, before returning to Fort William aboard our steam train and then by coach back to Inverness. Dinner at leisure and overnight Inverness.



## **Monday 11 July 2022 (B/D) – Kyle of Lochalsh and the Isle of Skye**

After breakfast our luggage is placed on our chartered coach, and we board the local train to enjoy what is described as one of the great train journeys of the world – and one of the finest in Britain. We travel through Beaulieu, Muir of Ord and along the west highland line, passing Loch Fannich to Loch Carron, Plockton to Kyle of Lochalsh. With the morning light on the countryside and reflections on the lochs, you'll quickly agree this is a rail journey with scenery deserving the title of one of the great rail journeys. On arrival enjoy a simple luncheon and explore Kyle of Lochalsh, before we then join our coach and cross to the Isle of Skye. As many will know, the Isle of Skye was linked to the mainland by a bridge in 1995, replacing the ferries that would create long queues in the warm summer months. We spend two days exploring Skye, and stay at the excellent Cuillin Hills Hotel, Portree, with beautiful views of the Sound of Raasay. An excellent meal is served tonight in their restaurant. Overnight Isle of Skye.

## **Tuesday 12 July 2022 (B/D) – the Isle of Skye**

Portree, the island capital, has a picturesque, pastel cottage-lined harbour, overlooked by 'The Lump'. To the north is the Trotternish peninsula, home to startling geological features such as the Quirang, Kilt Rock and the Old Man of Storr. However, it is the Cuillin that is the most outstanding feature on Skye, the peaks visible from all over the island, one of the most impressive sights in Scotland. With twenty Munros in the Red and Black Cuillin, they are a paradise for walkers and climbers. The influence of the sea is also never far away with sea fishing and wildlife cruises from various locations, from which you might be able to spot seals, lovable otters, great golden eagles or the even bigger sea eagles. Bonnie Prince Charlie fled over the sea to Skye with the help of Flora MacDonald. Although we'll have taken the bridge the romance embodied by the flight of 'The Young Pretender' still lingers. There's just something about Skye that will stay with you forever. A full day of sightseeing on the Isle, and an excellent dinner at the Cuillin Hills Hotel. Overnight Isle of Skye.

## **Wednesday 13 July 2022 (B/D) – the Outer Hebrides to Tarbert, Harris**

Today we head to Uig on the west coast of the Isle of Skye, and join the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry for the 100 minute crossing to Tarbert, on the Isle of Harris in the Outer Hebrides. The ferry port of Tarbert is the hub of Harris - not that there is much competition on this dramatic island of mountains and beaches. The mountains form a grand backdrop to the town, situated in a valley that slopes down to the port. In fact, Tarbert lies between the two 'islands' of North and South Harris, although technically Harris is in fact part of one island, joined with Lewis to the north. Harris itself is divided into North and South Harris, by a narrow isthmus. The mountains of North Harris contrast with the rolling moors and lochans of the north of Lewis, while South Harris boasts some of the best beaches in the country, such as Luskentyre, backed by the shell-sand pasture known as machair where late spring and summer flowers create vivid colours and set the scene for much of the west coast of the island. We spend two nights based on the island of Harris.

#### **Thursday 14 July 2022 (B) – Harris and Lewis**

A full day exploring the two islands of Harris and Lewis. The main hub on Lewis is Stornoway, by far the largest settlement on the Outer Hebrides. There are also lots of crafting and fishing villages along the north-west coast, for where archaeology buffs will make a beeline to see the famous standing stones at Callanais, a fascinating group of nearly 50 megaliths dating from around 3000 BC which never fail to impress. The Arnol Blackhouse is a preserved example of the many 'blackhouses' that lie deserted on the island. The west coast has brilliant beaches, while much of the island is made up of peat bog, the favoured habitat of a variety of rare breeding birds. Butt of Lewis, the far northerly tip of the island, is home to many seabirds, and is an excellent spot for watching whales, dolphins and porpoises. We'll explore the island and return to Tarbert for dinner at leisure at our accommodation. Overnight Harris.

#### **Friday 15 July 2022 (B/D) – to North Uist, Benbecula and South Uist**

Today we head south and cross to North Uist and explore through Benbecula to South Uist. North Uist is characterised by its 'drowned landscape' of peat bogs and lochans, and its string of bountiful beaches. We arrive from Uist by ferry at Lochmaddy, once a major herring fishing port. There are several prehistoric sites nearby, such as the huge chambered burial cairn of Barpa Langais. Wildlife abounds amongst the island's unusual landscape of tidal strands, lochan, bog and flowery machair. Otters enjoy the peace and quiet, which is broken on summer nights by the rasping call of the male corncrake - one of Britain's rarest birds. Benbecula is a place where legend and lore is woven into an amazing island landscape, with stunning stories and spectacular scenery on offer across the island. The east side of South Uist is mountainous, the highest point being just over 600m at Beinn Mhor. The west is characterised by some of the best beaches anywhere - a long line of sandy stretches backed by dunes and flower-filled machair – and the island's main settlement, and port, at Lochboisdale. We stay overnight on South Uist and dinner is included.



#### **Saturday 16 July 2022 (B/D) – Eriskay and to the Isle of Barra**

Today we head to the island of Barra - long famed for its beauty - boasting beaches, hills, machair and moor - all in a small island - Barra is a special place to visit. The most southerly of the inhabited islands in the Outer Hebrides, Barra was the stronghold of the Clan MacNeil and last resting place of the author Compton Mackenzie, who wrote Whisky Galore - the romanticised story based on the facts of the 1941 shipwreck of the SS Politician and subsequent salvage of 240,000 bottles of whisky by the islanders of neighbouring Eriskay. We cross from Eriskay to Barra on the Calmac ferry, and then travel to our accommodation for the next three nights – the Castlebay Hotel. Originally opened in 1880, the modernised Castlebay Hotel overlooks Kisimul Castle and the islands of Vatersay, Sandray, Pabbay, Berneray and Mingulay. Enjoy an afternoon stroll before dinner, which is included, and overnight Castlebay.

#### **Sunday 17 July 2022 (B/L) – the Isle of Barra and Kisimul Castle**

Sitting at the southern end of the island chain of the Outer Hebrides, Barra and Vatersay offer a mix of contrasting island experiences – there is a strong sense of community created by crofters and seafarers who live side by side on these isolated islands – we'll taste the fruits of their labours and enjoy the local food and drink. We visit the iconic Kisimul Castle – accessible by small boat, and perhaps the smallest preserved castle in Scotland. Kisimul Castle looms up from its rocky base in Castlebay. The bay is the first safe anchorage in the Outer Hebrides north of Ireland. In turbulent times its control was essential to the security of anyone living in Barra, so too to anyone seeking control of the islands further north. We view the Barra seals at Seal Bay for a stunning snapshot of the islands natural heritage, and enjoy the peaceful and dramatic landscape of these remote islands. Barra is accessible to the mainland by air and ferry, and the latter arrives at the main settlement, Castlebay. The airport is one of the most unusual in the world, with flights landing on the beach at Cockle Strand in between tides. At high tide the runway disappears beneath the waves. We plan on enjoying a glass of sparkling and nibbles to welcome an arriving aircraft ! Overnight Castlebay.

## Monday 18 July 2022 (B/L) – Vatersay

After a relaxing start to the day we head to Vatersay. The most southerly inhabited island of the Outer Hebrides, Vatersay has a number of attractions that speak to the perilous and vulnerable nature of life on the edge – as well as many examples of the breathtaking island beauty that make the eternal struggle against the elements well worthwhile. For an idea of the environmental hazards of this Hebridean outpost we visit the Annie Jane Monument at the west bay of Traigh Siar and learn how 350 souls sadly lost their lives off these spectacular shores when the eponymous emigrant ship beached here in the severe sea storm of 1853. We head to the shore below Heishival Beag, where the wreck of an RAF Catalina seaplane that tragically crashed on the hill killing three of her nine crew can still be seen. At the deserted village of Eoradail on Vatersay we learn what history has taught these Outer Hebridean islanders, allowing them to adapt their existence and survive across the centuries. Dinner at leisure at the hotel and overnight Castlebay.

## Tuesday 19 July 2022 (B/D) – to Oban and the Isle of Mull

An early start to the day as we join a ferry for the journey from Barra to the mainland at Oban, and then change ferries for the journey across to the Isle of Mull and the port of Craignure. Mull is the largest of the islands of Argyll and the third largest in Scotland. It has a rich cultural heritage, some of the most stunning land and seascapes, and impressive wildlife. The island's main town, Tobermory, is famed for the cheerful colours of its waterfront buildings and the yachts bobbing in the natural harbour. We stay in Tobermory for three nights to enjoy two full days around Mull and to Iona. Dinner is included tonight, and overnight Tobermory.

## Wednesday 20 July 2022 (B/L) – Iona

For the Gaels, Iona is I Chaluim Chille - the isle of Colm Cille, an Irish priest and prince who was to become revered as Saint Columba. A tiny island, of typically Hebridean beauty, it holds a unique place in the story of Scotland and kindles the imagination of thousands who journey there each year. It is also where people have lived, worked and worshipped over many centuries. To and from its shores have come monks and pilgrims, clan chiefs and kings, artists and craftsmen, farmers and fishermen. From here St Columba spread the word across the ancient kingdom, and the island instils an inner peace, no more so than in the tranquil Iona Abbey, and his life is celebrated at the Columba Centre at Fionnphort. People have lived on the island since the Iron Age, but it was in 563 that St Columba left Ireland and set up a monastery on the island. Iona became a holy place where Scots kings were buried until the 11th century when it was superseded by Dunfermline. In 1560 the abbey was left derelict due to the reformation in Scotland and it would remain so until in 1899, when ownership was handed over to the Iona Cathedral Trust. Restoration was started in 1902. The Iona Community, established in 1937, continued the restoration, which was completed in 1965. An inspiring day in our visit to the Isles. We return to Tobermory and overnight accommodation. Enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants on the town's idyllic waterfront.



## Thursday 21 July 2022 (B/L) – Mull, Staffa, Fingal's Cave and puffins

Today we take to the sea and visit the spectacular Isle of Staffa with its dramatic Fingal's Cave. Nowhere else is there a sea cave formed completely in hexagonally jointed basalt. Its appeal lies in the size, the sounds, the colours, and the remarkable symmetry of this 227 foot cavern, and by nature's gift of fractured columns which form a crude walkway just above high water level, allowing exploring visitors to go far inside. Felix Mendelssohn's visit to Fingal's Cave in 1829 gave us the *Hebridean Overture*. We also visit the remote island of Lunga to see puffins up close – climb to the edge of the island's verge and you can almost 'touch' the puffins as they fly in and out of their burrows. (There is a moderate level of difficulty climbing over beach stones and ascending a poorly formed walkway to reach the top of the island.) In the late afternoon there is free time to explore Tobermory, possibly its whisky distillery, and enjoy a lovely dinner of fresh local produce at one of Tobermory's great restaurants. Overnight Tobermory.



### **Friday 22 July 2022 (B) – to Oban**

This morning we head along the coast of Mull to Craignure. We'll visit the Macquarie Mausoleum - Lachlan Macquarie was born in 1761 on the Isle of Ulva. He later became one of the most recognisable characters of Colonial Australia and was described as "The Father of Australia," due to his work as Governor of New South Wales from 1810-1821. Set in a grassed area surrounded by a circular stone wall with wrought iron gates, the Macquarie Mausoleum is a plain sandstone structure with two marble panels enclosing the entrance doorways. It holds the remains of Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie and their children, Lachlan – and Jane, who died in infancy. Then to Duart Castle, the ancestral home of Clan McLean on the Isle of Mull, which proudly guards the sea cliffs of the Isle. Brought back from ruin in 1911, the Castle treasures 800 years of history of one of Scotland's oldest Clans, the Maclean's, and it is one of the last surviving privately owned Clan Castles in Scotland. In the mid afternoon we join a ferry for the 50 minute crossing to Oban. Until the Glasgow to Oban railway line opened in 1880, Oban was a simple fishing village, but since then it has grown into the largest port in north-west Scotland. The sheltered harbour brims with fishing and pleasure boats and ferries off to the Outer Hebrides. You'll have the opportunity to sample some of the local seafood fresh off the boats, and visit the Oban Whisky Distillery (O) for a tasting and tour of their product that has been famous since 1794. Dinner is included and overnight Oban.

### **Saturday 23 July 2022 (B/L) – to Glasgow**

Late morning we head to Glasgow – a change from the quiet and peace-filled locations of the past few weeks. Overflowing with style and culture, Scotland's biggest city is a revelation to its growing number of visitors. Its blend of internationally-acclaimed museums and galleries, stunning architecture, vibrant nightlife, fabulous shopping and superlative wining and dining prove irresistible. Dinner at leisure in this dynamic city. Overnight Glasgow.

### **Sunday 24 July 2022 (B/D) – to Glasgow**

A day to enjoy the art galleries, the famed Burrell Collection (due to be re-opened after 6 years and a £67.4 M revamp) or simply walk around this reinvigorated Scottish city. From Glasgow Cathedral, the St Mungo Museum of Religious Life & Art, the Pollock Centre, Kelvingrove, the Necropolis and more – a vibrant and energetic Glasgow enjoys a year-round buzz that visitors just love, with an arts scene that regularly produces cutting-edge productions and attracts high-profile exhibitions. Glasgow has been the UK's City of Architecture and Design, and its architecture is certainly an attraction in itself, particularly its impressive Victorian structures and of course, the unique masterpieces of one of the city's most celebrated sons, architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh. We enjoy a farewell dinner with some fine Scottish produce as our tour ends. Overnight Glasgow.

### **Monday 25 July 2022 (B) – Glasgow to London, Australia and beyond**

After breakfast our tour ends. You can return to Australia, or make other plans to stay in and around Scotland, London or further afield. Let us know what you wish and we can assist with your travel plans. Flights depart Glasgow via Dubai or London for Australia, or you can return to London by train for overnight flights through Asia or other Middle East ports to Australia.

### **Tuesday 26 or Wednesday 27 July 2022 – Australia or beyond**

For those returning directly to Australia, arrival in Australia.

Thank you for joining the tour and we are confident you will have had a memorable experience with us.

## ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

Accommodation is in 4 - 4½ star hotels. In some locations the best available may not be 4 star, and in some locations we have selected superior hotels as part of the experience of the location. Many meals are included as shown - breakfast is included most mornings, and we have included lunch and dinner on many other occasions. Meals included are indicated as (B) Breakfast, (L) Luncheon, (LR) Light Refreshments and (D) Dinner.

## PERSONAL SERVICE AND MEETING INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

SJR prides itself on its personal service and attention to detail. The tour is escorted by the organiser/s of the itinerary. You are assured of the utmost service and our commitment to your satisfaction. We recognise that each passenger has different interests, and we will aim to provide the opportunity to allow you to rest from the group, explore by yourself or visit special sites you've read about – if you wish. Detailed advice and assistance will be given to help you, and most travel requirements can be made for you.

## FARES AND BOOKING PROCEDURES

The tour is limited in size, with a maximum of 20 participants, with bookings confirmed in order of receipt of a deposit of \$3,000 per person. **The tour fare is \$18,965\* per person (twin share) plus airfares from Australia, with a \$3,870\* single supplement for hotels.** The tour fare includes all hotels and sightseeing, rail and coach travel as indicated, all bus, tram, metro and light rail transfers when part of the group; all accommodation on a double/twin share basis (single accommodation is available on payment of the single supplement); sightseeing and entrance fees to sites as indicated, and meals as shown in the itinerary for each day. The fare does not include meals not identified, drinks, excess baggage charges, gratuities, telephone calls, laundry, any items of a personal nature, travel outside the organised group. Due to the variety of interests of individuals, and the range of sites, museums etc. available for inspection on some days, we have included key features in the tour cost. Inspection and entry fees when not part of the planned group activity are not included in the tour cost. Additional or optional activities or entrance fees (shown as (O) in the itinerary, are not included in the cost. Bookings should be made on the attached form. The deposit of \$3,000 per person should be forwarded by cheque, payable to St James Rail, along with the booking form, to:

SJR, PO Box N400, GROSVENOR PLACE, 1220

You can also pay the deposit by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT):

Account Name:	Scenic Journeys by Rail
BSB:	033364
Account Number:	612826
Reference:	Your name and 'UK'

If paying by EFT, include the reference above and your surname, and email to [sjr@digitor.com.au](mailto:sjr@digitor.com.au) to advise you have paid. Please forward the booking form to the postal address above.

Debit/credit card payment is available, with merchant fees of 1.00% for Visa/MasterCard. Please call us to make payment by debit/credit card.

## COVID VACCINATION STATUS AND COVID TESTING

It is highly likely that some airlines, and entry to the United Kingdom itself, may require proof of full vaccination. Undertaking COVID testing prior to flights and on arrival in Great Britain, may also be required. As the specific requirements applicable in June 2022 are currently not defined, it is your responsibility to meet these requirements.

## BOOKING, CANCELLATION AND TRAVEL CONDITIONS

**Bookings** will be accepted on the attached form. **Changes to the itinerary** - as the tour operates to some remote parts of Great Britain, where accommodation and travel options are limited, the tour organiser reserves the right to change and amend the itinerary at his sole discretion based on necessary changes to travel plans due to air, sea and land schedule changes and hotel availability. **Currency fluctuations** – the tour organiser reserves the right to adjust the tour price based on significant foreign exchange movement between the Australian Dollar and the British Pound. **Cancellation** fees apply as follows: the initial deposit is non-refundable. After payment of further deposits towards the final tour cost, costs for tickets, accommodation, sightseeing etc made on your behalf will incur cancellation charges equal to the cancellation charges incurred to us, imposed by suppliers/operators, plus a fee to cover administrative costs – more than three months prior to departure, \$1000 per person; within three months, \$2000 per person. No refund will be made for cancellations after 1 March 2022. All cancellation or administration charges imposed by the suppliers/operators of components of this tour must be borne by you, the passenger.

**Responsibility** - St James' Rail acts only as the organiser of the tour. On acceptance of tickets and travel documents for this tour, which may be evidenced in writing by a ticket, voucher, letter, or other document, you accept that neither St James' Rail nor representatives from any other firm supplying services in conjunction with this tour programme, shall be liable in contract or in tort (actionable wrong) for any injury, loss, damage, accident, sickness, delay or additional expense to you or your possessions arising directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond our control, or which are not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part, including, but not limited to, civil disturbance, fire, floods, acts of God, acts of Governments or other authorities, changes in itinerary, weather, strikes, war, transportation disruption, failure of machinery or equipment, industrial action, pandemic, quarantine or any other cause. Where travel is by scheduled carrier, or charter service, that carrier's responsibility is limited in accordance with their conditions of carriage. Similarly all luggage is your responsibility, and we cannot be held liable for any loss or delay however caused. The care of your travel documents are your own responsibility. All expenses incurred by loss must be borne by you. Airline regulations and conditions are written on the airline tickets and are issued to passengers subject to their acceptance of these conditions. Changes in exchange rates, taxes and any land arrangements costs may alter the price of the tour, and St James' Rail reserves the right to change, amend or cancel this tour and/or itinerary if necessary. We reserve the right to amend the itinerary en route to account for unforeseen changes or conditions, or to improve the tour experience for the majority, as determined by the tour leader. **Passports, visas, vaccinations, health requirements** – a valid passport with six months validity from the end of the tour is required. Obtaining all visas, vaccinations or other health requirements to meet the expectation of airlines or foreign governments is your responsibility. St James' Rail cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses incurred as a result of a passenger not holding valid and necessary passport, visa, vaccination or health documents. **Special conditions relating to COVID-19** – if the tour is unable to proceed due to Government restrictions, SJR may at our election: postpone your travel arrangements to a future date, in which case we will issue you with a credit note equal to amounts paid at the time of postponement; or cancel your travel arrangements, in which case our contract with you will terminate. If we cancel your travel arrangements and our contract terminates, neither of us will have any claim for damages against the other. However, we will refund payments made by you less unrecoverable third-party costs and less fair compensation for work undertaken by us up until the time of termination and in connection with the processing of any refund. SJR will refund payments it is able to recover or not incur from the various suppliers of services to this tour. Refunds will be made when the funds have been received by SJR from third party suppliers. **Full details of terms and conditions:** if you would like a copy of the full terms and conditions applicable to all SJR tours please contact us and we will forward a copy to you.

## INSURANCE

Travel insurance is highly recommended to protect yourself against cancellation fees, health and other travel risks. If you cancel your participation in the tour, either prior or during the tour, cancellation costs will apply. An insurance policy can be sent to you from our travel agent, Jones and Turner Travel Associates, Paddington, 2021, for your consideration. Obtaining insurance cover is your responsibility.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

Please call us on (02) 9326 9660, 0418 585 838, email at [sjr@digitor.com.au](mailto:sjr@digitor.com.au) or visit [www.stjamesrail.org](http://www.stjamesrail.org)

# ORKNEY ISLANDS

*North  
Atlantic  
Ocean*

**Isle of Rousay**

*Midhowe*

*Skara Brae* **Mainland  
Orkney**

*Ring of Brodgar*

*Stenness*

*Maeshowe*

**Kirkwall**

*North  
Sea*

*Dwarfie Stane*

**Isle of  
Hoy**

*Old Man of Hoy*

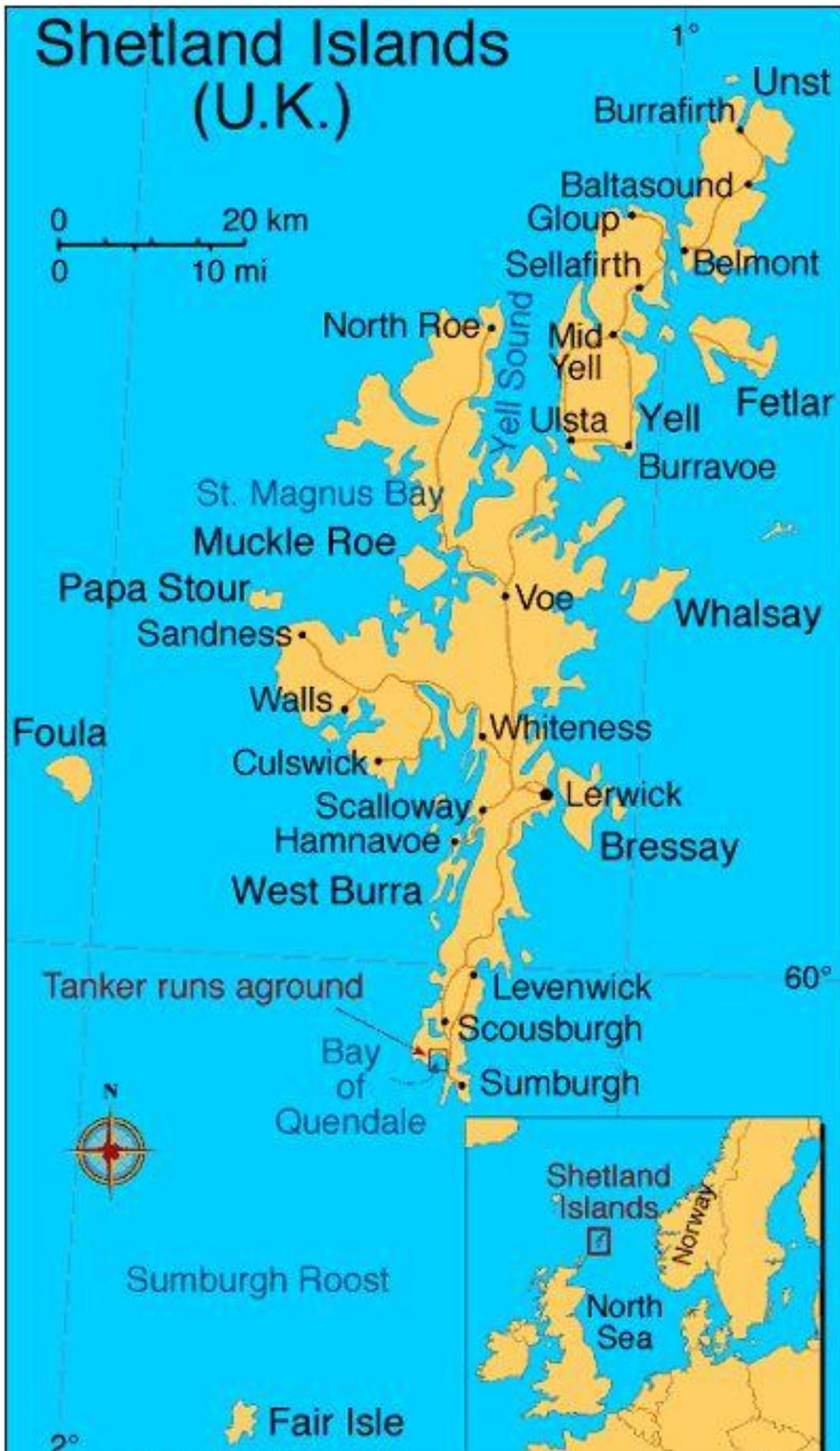
**Shetlands**

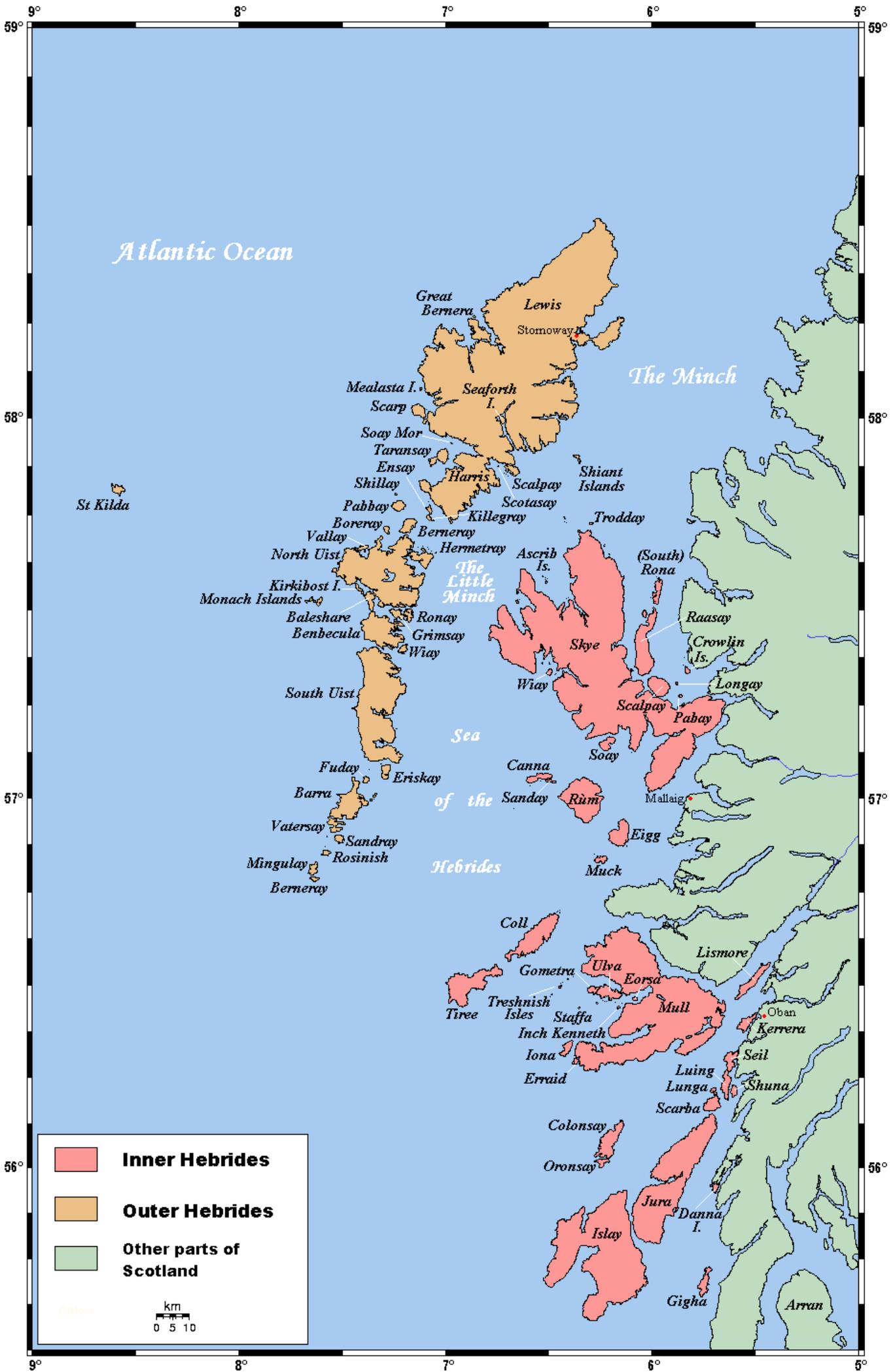
**Orkneys**

**Scotland**



# Shetland Islands (U.K.)





# GREAT BRITAIN'S NORTHERN ISLANDS

## Saturday 25 June to Monday 25 July 2022

### Booking Form

#### YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

Name: .....

Address: ..... Suburb: ..... Postcode: .....

Home tel: ..... Work tel: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

#### BOOKING DETAILS (Full passenger names EXACTLY as shown in the passport:)

Passenger 1 Name: .....

Date of Birth: ..... Passport No: ..... Expiry Date: .....

Frequent Flyer: Airline ..... No: .....

Passenger 2 Name: .....

Date of Birth: ..... Passport No: ..... Expiry Date: .....

Frequent Flyer: Airline ..... No: .....

#### PAYMENT

..... I have enclosed \$ ..... as deposit (\$3,000 per person) for the above booking. Please make cheques payable to St James Rail.

..... I have paid by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) as described previously. Please email SJR to advise and send this form.

Account Name: Scenic Journeys by Rail  
BSB: 033 364  
Account Number: 612826  
Reference: Your name and 'UK'

A letter will be sent acknowledging receipt of your deposit and providing further details.

#### AIR TRAVEL TO/FROM LONDON

..... Please book me/us to travel to London on Saturday 25 June 2022, and from Glasgow on Monday 25 July 2022.

***(We will call to advise of the best fare option at the time of booking.)***

..... Economy class air travel ..... Premium Economy class air travel ..... Business class air travel

..... Please call me to discuss air travel options.

..... I will make my/our own air travel arrangements and meet you in London on Saturday 25 June 2022

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Single rooms: ..... Double rooms: ..... Twin (two bedded) rooms: .....

A single supplement is payable for sole use of rooms in hotels.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS**

Please indicate any dietary or any other sort of special request :

.....  
.....

**INSURANCE**

..... Please send an insurance policy from Jones and Turner Travel Associates, Paddington.

**YOUR SIGNATURE**

I have read the reservation conditions outlined above and accept them on behalf of myself and my party by whom I am authorised to make this agreement.

Signature of person making reservation: ..... Date: .....

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Cancellation charges will apply as advised in this itinerary. An insurance policy can be forwarded from our travel agent at Jones and Turner Travel Associates, Paddington, NSW 2021.

Telephone +612 9326 9660  
Email sjr@digitor.com.au

Mobile +61 418 585 838  
Web [www.stjamesrail.org](http://www.stjamesrail.org)

September 2021