



Harris, Outer Hebrides



## EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S REMOTE ARCHIPELAGOS

St. KILDA, COLONSAY, IONA, the OUTER HEBRIDES, LEWIS,  
SHIANT ISLES, SKYE, the SMALL ISLES & MULL

with Amelia Dalton, wildlife expert **ANDY BUNTEN**  
& musician **Martin Treacher**

**6<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**



Killer Whales off Mull



Iona Abbey



In the long summer days of early June, we voyage south from Oban passing the 'Isles of the Sea', the uninhabited **Garvellachs Isles** to the charming island of **COLONSAY**, our first magical visit. Here, we can stroll around the famous gardens of **Colonsay House** or wander through the fields of wildflowers to the empty sands of **Kildoran Bay**. Continuing to the south west lies **Mull** and the holy island of **IONA**, where the Abbey is lit with ethereal reflections from the sea. A walk across the island takes us to the 'Bay at the Back of the Ocean' where St Columba landed in 563AD. Next, we call at **TIREE**, an island of wide horizons, empty beaches spaces, Iron Age remains and is redolent of Viking raids. Here we can visit the fascinating museum illustrating the building of Robert Louis Stevenson's **Skerryvore Lighthouse** – "the noblest of all the deep-sea lights". Turning west, we cruise the **Sea of the Hebrides** remarkable for its abundant marine life: **basking sharks, killer whales, seals** and **dolphins** are a regularly seen here. We sail past **Barra Head** at the south of the Hebrides as our ship makes her way to the remote and spectacular **ARCHIPELAGO of ST KILDA**, one of only 20 UNESCO sites worldwide listed for both environmental and cultural heritage.

*"St Kilda is truly a unique and extreme outpost archipelago - physically, spiritually and historically.  
Having visited 48 times, I am longing to return." Amelia*



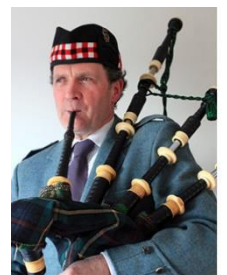
*St Kilda Archipelago*



Once home to Britain's most remote island community, we cruise the outer stacs to anchor in **Village Bay** and explore the main island of **HIRTA** where the village is strung like pearls around the bay. Abandoned in the 30's the tiny museum brings to life the inhabitants' extraordinary struggle for survival. Wildlife is everywhere, including the endemic **St Kilda wren** and **field mouse**. **Arctic skua** chase **puffins** returning to their nesting burrows amongst the scentless mayweed on the jagged spine of **DUN**. The towering, formidable mass of **BORERAY** has fearsome sea cliffs rising over 1,260 foot: **guillemots, kittiwakes, razorbills, fulmars** and **gannets** jostle on the rocky ledges of the bleak **stacs** of **Lee** and **An Armin**.

**ANDY BUNTEN** is a popular speaker on many expedition ships and well known as a knowledgeable 'birder' and marine mammal expert. He has brought amusement and knowledge to many of my previous wildlife expeditions from Costa Rica to Madagascar. He was Director for the RSPB in the NE and much experience in these waters. (TBC)

**MARTIN TREACHER**, is now director of entertainment at Skibo Castle but used to be musician on *Hebridean Spirit* piping the ship in/out of ports from Dar es Salaam to Mumbai. He will play the piano, sing and provide joyful evening entertainment.





We cruise past the lonely **FLANNAN ISLES**, much prized for the excellent grazing and made famous by the mysterious and still-unexplained disappearance of the three lighthouse keepers. Rounding the **Butt of Lewis**, the most northerly tip of the **OUTER HEBRIDES** we arrive at **Stornoway** on **LEWIS** to see the ancient **standing stones of Callanish**, discover the intricacies of dying and spinning **Harris Tweed** as well as visit the only **legal whisky distillery** in the Outer Hebrides, uniquely created in barrels made from the hull of the famous vessel **M.V. Monaco**



*Butt of Lewis.*



*Compton MacKenzie's cottage, Shiant Isles*



*Callanish Stones, Lewis, Outer Hebrides*

Our third archipelago, tethered in the Minch, is the **SHIANT ISLES**, again busy with seabirds nesting on the huge basalt columns linking with Staffa and the Giant's Causeway lava flow. Ashore, we stroll the machair grass, dotted with cushions of sea pinks, see **Compton MacKenzie's cottage** whilst puffins whirr overhead. Next to **SKYE** to the dramatic castle of **Dunvegan**, dating from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the castle has been the ancestral home of the Clan MacLeod. Tucked into the head of the loch, the Castle has charming gardens and a resident seal colony. Voyaging south, we visit **CANNA**, the most sheltered and charming of the **Small Isles**. Verdant and peaceful, this is an exceptional island. **Corncrakes** nest regularly in the tiny fields, **puffins** make their burrows on the stacs; **dog roses**, **asphodel**, **Hebridean butterflies** and **spotted marsh orchids** abound in these high summer days of long light. In the afternoon, we call at the pretty fishing harbour of **Tobermory** with its lively little shops, distillery and famous pub. Finally, we cruise up the **Sound of Mull** to Oban. Lined with cliffs and dotted with lighthouses, crofts and castles, such as Duart, this beautiful, sheltered stretch of water encapsulates the glories of the West Coast.



*Spotted Heath Orchid*

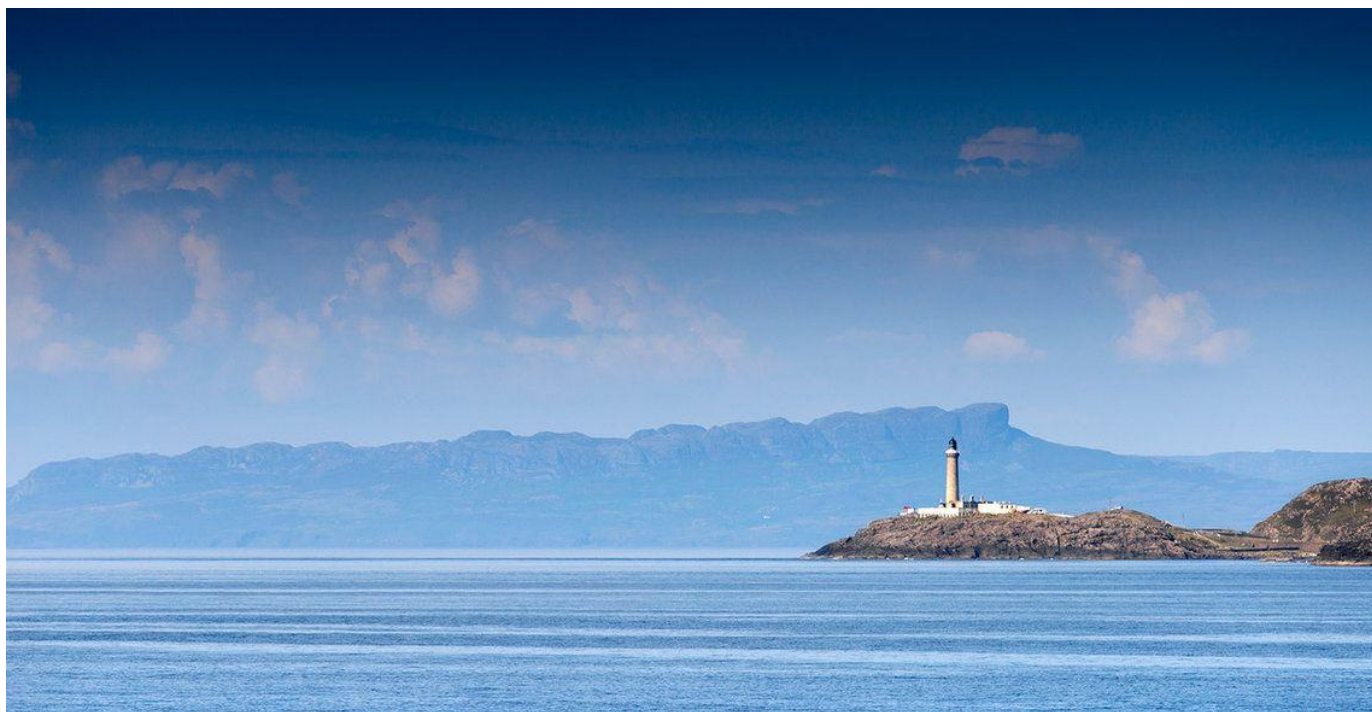


*Canna House View*



*Hebridean Blue Butterfly*





#### **ITINERARY \*: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023: Glasgow & EMBARKATION**

*Arnamurchan Light with Isle of Eigg beyond*

Transfer from Glasgow to Oban. Embark on **Hebridean Princess**. Cruise south past **Isle of Kerrera & Garvellachs**

#### **Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> June: ISLES of COLONSAY & IONA**

**Colonsay**, visit the **Gardens** and see the superb collection of rhododendrons, or walk over the island to **Kildoran Bay**. Afternoon **Iona**, visit the **Abbey**, explore the island, or play a round of **golf** on the quirky little course.

#### **Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> June: ISLE of TIREE & Cruising the Sea of Hebrides.**

At Hynish on **Tiree** we visit the **Skerryvore Lighthouse Museum**.

Afternoon cruise west crossing the **Sea of the Hebrides** renowned for **abundant marine life**.

#### **Fri 9<sup>th</sup> June: ST KILDA ARCHIPELAGO & Flannan Isles**

Anchored in **Village Bay** we walk and explore the island of **Hirta**. Cruise the **archipelago** and **sea stacks** before heading north to pass the **Flannan Isles**, turn south round the **Butt of Lewis** to **Stornoway**.

#### **Sat. 10<sup>th</sup> June: OUTER HEBRIDES: Stornoway, ISLE of LEWIS.**

Our visits on **Lewis** include the **Callanish Stones**, a typical **Harris Tweed Mill** favoured by **Chanel** and **Vivienne Westwood** and taste whisky at the **Aghainn Dearg Distillery** using barrels made from European oak of the hull of the **MV MONACO**.

#### **Sun. 11<sup>th</sup> June: SHIANT ISLES & ISLE of SKYE, Loch Dunvegan.**

Beach landing and walking at the **Shiant Isles** in the morning. **Afternoon** to the magnificent **Castle of Dunvegan**, the fortified stronghold of the Clan MacLeod tucked into the head of the loch in the north west peninsula of **SKYE**.

#### **Mon. 12<sup>th</sup> June: SMALL ISLES, Canna & ISLE of MULL, Tobermory**

Walking and exploring **Canna** to see birds, flowers and butterflies. Afternoon on **MULL**, at the pretty little port of **Tobermory**: visit the west coast's most little town, pubs, book shops and the island distillery.

#### **Tues. 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Cruise Sound of Mull. Disembark in Oban, transfer to Glasgow**

*\* If necessary, this itinerary may change to take advantage of differing weather & tidal conditions.*



*Hebridean Butterfly*



*St Kilda Mouse*



*Puffin & Sea Pinks*





**Our ship the *M V HEBRIDEAN PRINCESS***



Exploring the islands and convoluted west coast can only be done properly by ship. In comfort and style, we voyage on board the ship chosen by HM the Queen and specially built for these waters. She carries 47 passengers and a truly 'fully inclusive' policy, attentive crew, sumptuous cabins and of course excellent food, to cruise these intricate waters in safety. Stunning views of far-flung islands, sea bird colonies, castles and crofts can be enjoyed from the open decks or through the large windows of the **Tiree Lounge, Library, Look Out and Conservatory.**

**CABINS** are individual, each is different from the next but all are extremely comfortable and furnished in traditional 'country house' style. There are good single cabins, some with a full-sized bath, others with a shower. There are doubles and twins, with portholes or windows, balconies and there is one suite.

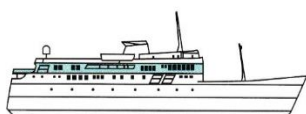
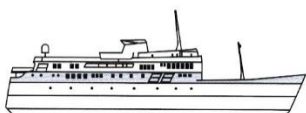
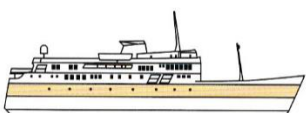
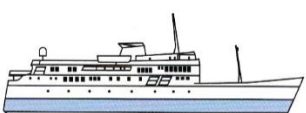
**All have tea/coffee making facilities, a fridge with fresh milk, robes, hair dryer & ironing board.**







The diagram shows the main deck layout. At the bow (left), there are two Motor Lifeboats. The central area is the Open deck area, which contains the Funnel. On either side of the Open deck area are Lounges & clubs. At the stern (right), there are two Guests' forward viewing areas. The ship's orientation is indicated by the Port (left) and Starboard (right) labels.

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IONA:

*The Bay at the Back of the Ocean with the Treshnish Isles beyond*

**Costs are specially negotiated with an Early Booking Discount of 9% Discount only available to clients of Amelia Dalton Travel, Ltd.**

**Cost includes:**

- All meals on board plus snacks & picnics organized ashore.
- Champagne, wine (except 'Library Wine' List) beers, spirits, soft drinks, tea, coffee on board.
- Company of **AMELIA DALTON**
- transfers: 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June from Glasgow airport (or station) to Oban & return.
- Complimentary car parking in Oban
- Ship's bikes, fishing trips & speed boat rides.
- Wifi and use of the ship's Ipads in the Library.
- Gratuities to crew and guides.

**Cost does NOT include:**

- Travel insurance
- Travel to / from Glasgow-Oban-Glasgow designated transfers
- Personal expenses e.g. phone calls, private visits ashore, laundry.

**FULL FARES per person**

**Before 9% Early Booking discount**

**Doubles/Twin:** from £5,640 to £11,270

**Balcony Cabins:** £12,970

**Arran Suite:** £12,970

**Singles:** from £7,690 to £12,220

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