

TEXAS  **EXES**[®]
— FLYING LONGHORNS —

Scottish Isles & Norwegian Fjords



SCOTTISH ISLES & NORWEGIAN FJORDS

Across the mist-enshrouded peaks, sensuous glens, and velvet moors of Scotland, and through the unsurpassed natural beauty of Norway's mighty fjords, the legacies of Viking and Celtic clans are entwined with rich traditions and compelling archaeological heritage. On this unforgettable sea journey, stand in awe before 5,000-year-old ancient ceremonial standing stones; uncover Neolithic houses, a Bronze-Age village, and an Iron-Age broch; step inside sacred ancient abbeys, Viking cathedrals, and legendary castles; and traverse majestic fjords aboard the breathtaking FLÅM RAILWAY. As you cruise along the North and Norwegian seas, and the mighty Sognefjord, you'll witness unparalleled, spectacular coastal and fjord scenery. Along the way, experience the enchanting and sacred, emerald teardrop Isle of Iona; the archipelago of the sandstone-rimmed Orkney Islands; and the spectacular bird life, sky blue lochs, and famous ponies of the Shetland Islands. Our exclusive travel program takes you on the sea, and on the road, "less traveled," for a rare glimpse of the wild and poetic beauty of these epic destinations that will leave an indelible imprint on the hearts of those who embrace this adventure. Pre- and Post-extensions offer additional tours in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Copenhagen.

Front cover: Sognefjord



Bryggen, Bergen



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Dear Texas Ex:

This exclusive itinerary traces the cultural crossroads of Scottish and Nordic civilizations during the best time of year, when the weather is mild and the days are long—a rare voyage accomplished only aboard a small ship cruising into smaller ports where larger vessels cannot venture. Cruise for seven nights aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star LE CHAMPLAIN, featuring only 92 suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony.

Journey from dynamic Glasgow to charming Bergen—where rows of colorful, gabled houses on the historical, UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Bryggen waterfront evoke the city's past as a center of Hanseatic League trade. Navigate the ancient shipping lanes of the Vikings and gain an intimate perspective of Norway's spectacular mountain landscape aboard the FLÅM RAILWAY, one of the world's most scenic train rides.

On the Inner Hebridean Isle of Iona, marvel at the sacred abbey. Bask in the dramatic scenery of Isle of Skye, with its 11 peaks of the Cuillin Mountains, and visit the evocative Eilean Donan castle. See the untamed shorelines, serrated sea stacks, and crystal-clear waters of the Orkney Islands and learn more about the islands' fascinating Neolithic history. Immerse yourself in the Norse history of the tradition-steeped Shetland Islands.

This outstanding itinerary is brought to you by the Texas Exes Flying Longhorns travel program, which supports the association's mission of promoting and protecting The University of Texas at Austin and uniting its alumni around the world. While you do not have to be an alumnus of UT to travel with us, we do ask that all Flying Longhorns travelers have an active membership in the Texas Exes. Memberships start at just \$50.

The association is a huge proponent of continuing education and there is no better classroom than our world. Experience rich history and culture in the company of your fellow Longhorns! Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? We're standing by to answer all of your questions and/or take your reservation. Capacity is limited on this popular program and it may sell out quickly. Additional information about all Texas Exes Flying Longhorns trips can be found at travel@texasexes.org

Best regards,

Your Flying Longhorns Travel Team,
Margaret, Janice, and Leslie

**Contact the Flying Longhorns office to secure your spot:
1-800-594-3900 or travel@texasexes.org**



Scotland's National Drink

France may be known for its wine, and Ireland for Guinness, but only the Scots can claim Scotch whisky—as it's spelled—as their national drink. It's no wonder they call it "water of life," which comes from the Gaelic "*uisge beatha*." With a unique heritage stretching back more than 500 years, the craft and longevity of creating a complex and diverse range of Scotch whiskies is a serious and

competitive multi-billion dollar annual industry. To be deemed "Scotch" whisky, distillers must adhere to strict regulations. The scotch must be made in Scotland, from fermented grain mash—and aged in oak barrels for at least three years to achieve its signature color and flavor. There are



six types of scotch that are all produced in different ways, but serious scotch drinkers prefer single malt. When tasting scotch, you might refer to its woody, grassy, fruity, peaty, or fragrant notes. Be sure to sample a wee dram of Scotch whisky, preferably in a proper whisky nosing glass. Savor the warm aroma, unique taste, and singular experience of Scotch whisky, and don't forget to toast by saying, "*Slàinte!*"





SCOTTISH CLANS & NORWEGIAN VIKINGS

The Men of the North were cast as barbarians who plundered their way across the known world during the enigmatic Viking Age, which prevailed for almost 300 years between the 8th and 11th centuries. They sailed on dragon ships from Norway to settle in Scotland around A.D. 800—in Jarlshof on the Shetland Islands and in the Hebrides, where over one hundred villages are still known by their originally settled Norse names, solidifying the enduring historic link between Norway's Vikings and Scotland's clans. Some of Scotland's best-known clans—the Clan Donald and Clan MacLeod—came from Norse ancestry, influencing the distinct dialects still spoken today on the Orkney and Shetland Islands. The nuances and rich histories of these two complex and deeply intertwined cultures await your discovery across these verdant and storied lands.



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart your home city for Glasgow, Scotland.

Glasgow, Scotland/Embark

Day 2

Arrive in Glasgow and transfer to embark LE CHAMPLAIN. Set sail accompanied by soulful sounds of a Scottish bagpiper. (D)

Isle of Iona

Day 3

Visit the Inner Hebridean Isle of Iona, the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland and burial place of Scottish kings. Revel in an in-depth, guided visit to its restored abbey and marvel at the intricate Celtic crosses. Return to the ship for lunch on board with the option for leisure time back on shore to experience its idyllic beauty. Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Kyle of Lochalsh/ Isle of Skye

Day 4

Visit Eilean Donan Castle, one of the world's most recognized castles—located on a tiny island in the midst of some of Scotland's most dramatic scenery. Named for the 6th-century Irish saint who established the first community on the island, learn the rich history of this castle, dating to the 13th century, and its clansmen. Take a scenic drive to admire the Isle of Skye with its 11 peaks of the Cuillin Mountains and dramatic peninsulas. Visit a historic, award-winning distillery for an authentic taste of Scottish whisky. (B,L,D)

Kirkwall/Orkney Islands

Day 5

Dock in Kirkwall, then head into the west of Mainland, Orkney's largest island, to visit the

Neolithic Heartland of Orkney, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

View the sacred Standing Stones of Stenness and visit the early Orcadian settlement of Skara Brae to see the dwellings revealed from beneath the sand dunes. Then, follow the coastline of Scapa Flow, made famous for its role in both World Wars, before visiting St. Magnus Cathedral. Also known as the "Light of the North," the cathedral was built by Vikings during their 500-year reign over the islands. Listen to a Scottish bagpiper as you re-board the ship in Kirkwall. This evening, enjoy a storyteller's performance of traditional Scottish tales. (B,L,D)

Lerwick/Shetland Islands

Day 6

Dock in Lerwick and travel to the island's southernmost point as you pass through the rural



Trolldhaugen



Fantoft stavkirke

Shetland ponies



Iona Abbey



townships of Fladdabister with a view of the magnificent Mousa Broch—weather permitting—the tallest and best preserved broch in the world. Visit the archaeological site of Jarlshof, pending UNESCO designation, uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1896 to 1897. See the remains of more than 5,000 years of human history, including an Iron Age broch and wheelhouse, late-Neolithic stone houses, a Bronze Age village, Norse longhouses, and a 16th-century laird’s house. Look for sightings of Shetland’s famous ponies on the way back to the ship. (B,L,D)

**Sognefjord, Norway/
FLÅM RAILWAY**

Day 7

This morning, board the FLÅM RAILWAY, one of the world’s most scenic train journeys, traveling 13 miles through

20 tunnels to Myrdal’s mountaintop station. Watch as snowcapped mountains and cascading waterfalls—including the awe-inspiring Kjosfossen—unfold along this branch of the world-renowned BERGEN LINE alongside intriguing hamlets. Back on the ship, cruise the mighty Sognefjord, passing traditional farmsteads and villages flanked by majestic mountains and glaciers. Rejoin the ship to cruise past stunning waterfalls and steep mountainsides. (B,L,D)

Bergen

Day 8

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Bergen as you travel to the summer home and living museum of famed Norwegian composer Edvard Grieg. Stroll the grounds of Troidhaugen, Grieg’s home for 22 years, where he composed many

of his best-known works. The living museum features an exhibition center, concert hall, composer’s cabin, and Grieg’s villa dating from 1885. Then, visit the Fantoft *stavkirke*, a 12th-century wooden stave church demolished by fire in 1992, and painstakingly rebuilt in its original post and lintel construction. Take a walking tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bryggen, Bergen’s historic waterfront. Enjoy time at leisure then the Captain’s Farewell Reception and Dinner this evening. (B,L,R,D)

**Bergen/Disembark/
Return to Home City**

Day 9

Following breakfast, continue on the Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (D)

Skara Brae, Orkney Islands





LE CHAMPLAIN Join us aboard the exclusively chartered, 5-star LE CHAMPLAIN, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design for a new standard of cruising. Each of the 92 5-star staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand deluxe suites have a panoramic window and private terrace. Accommodations offer 2 twin beds or 1 queen bed, individual climate control, private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: May 31 to June 8 (Embarkation: June 1 at 4:00 pm)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Savings through Dec. 15, 2023	Rate after Dec. 15, 2023
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3. (limited availability)	\$5,795	\$6,440
7	Prestige stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 4.	\$6,115	\$6,795
6	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 5.	\$6,565	\$7,295
5	Prestige stateroom with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 6.	\$7,285	\$8,095
4	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 3. (limited availability)	\$8,185	\$9,095
3	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 4, midship. (limited availability)	\$8,905	\$9,895
2	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 5.	\$9,805	\$10,895
1	Deluxe suite with expansive sliding glass door, private balcony . Deck 6.	\$10,525	\$11,695
Prestige Suite II	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)	\$11,425	\$12,695
Prestige Suite I	Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)	\$12,145	\$13,495
Privilege Suite	Large suite with expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony , sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)	\$12,865	\$14,295
Grand Deluxe Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace , full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Decks 6. (limited availability)	\$13,765	\$15,295
Owner's Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. Deck 5. (limited availability)	\$14,665	\$16,295

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7, & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$450 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment.

This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

Final payment due February 1, 2024

To secure your spot, Contact the Flying Longhorns office: 1-800-594-3900 or travel@texasexes.org

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions, and surcharges at any time.

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PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Edinburgh and Glasgow May 28 to June 1, 2024 (Tour Begins: May 29)

Discover two of Scotland's greatest cities and their histories of clans, medieval knights, and royal intrigue on a 3-night itinerary that includes visits to Edinburgh and Glasgow. Tour Edinburgh, visit Edinburgh Castle, and see the Crown Jewels of Scotland. Explore the heart of Scotland to see the sites of Trossachs and Loch Katrine. Visit Glasgow and Stirling castles, and the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum. Accommodations are in the ideally located SHERATON GRAND EDINBURGH.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1,755**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$2,085**



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Norway and Copenhagen June 8 to 13, 2024 (Tour Ends: June 13)

Our 5-night itinerary extension explores Denmark's storied past, from the reign of Vikings to Danish royalty, while basking in majestic scenery. Visit Stalheim, and then travel aboard the BERGEN RAILWAY, from Voss to Oslo, over Europe's highest mountain plateau. Take a scenic walking tour of Oslo and visit the Opera House. In Copenhagen, visit the Viking Ship Museum and explore the ancient Roskilde Cathedral. Take a canal cruise through the city to see Copenhagen's iconic sites. Stay in historic hotels and spend one night aboard an award-winning SEAWAYS FERRY.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$2,855**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$3,845**

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO \$3,260 PER COUPLE

Bagpiper near Eilean Donan castle



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