

## SCOTLAND – THE HIGHLANDS, SEA LOCHS & HEBRIDES ISLANDS

8-days / 7-nights of moderate cycling exploring Western Scotland, Oban and the Isles of Mull and Jura



This cycling cruise through the Scottish Highlands and Inner Hebrides islands offer a unique perspective on this remote, wild and beautiful region. This is an opportunity to explore Scotland's spectacular scenery, crystal-clear waterfalls, charming villages, and medieval castles. Learn about the long and often bloody history of Scotland, and enjoy the peat-smoked flavours of Scotch whisky – *uisge beatha*, 'water of life' – whilst listening to traditional music in a friendly pub. We start and end our tour in the attractive market town of Oban.

The trip will sail on a tall ship, a renovated and refitted former herring lugger, an ocean-going two-masted schooner, equipped with 10 cosy, comfortable cabins, all with ensuite shower/toilet. Meals are served in the saloon in the deckhouse, and if you join the captain astern you may even get the opportunity to steer the ship.

Our moderate graded cycling tours require a good level of fitness, which can be acquired from steady cycling practise. The daily itineraries of 20 - 60km will take you through hilly terrain and there are some long and steep climbs, but there is also plenty of time to rest or walk as you choose. You may experience Scotland's wild weather in the form of strong headwinds – or tailwinds if you are lucky. We travel mostly on quiet sealed roads and occasional field paths. A limited number of **E-bikes** are available for a surcharge, please ask when booking. These pedal-assist electric bikes give a power boost to help you ascend those steeper hills.

**Cost from:** \$2465 per person twin share

Single cabin supplement from \$570 (limited availability)

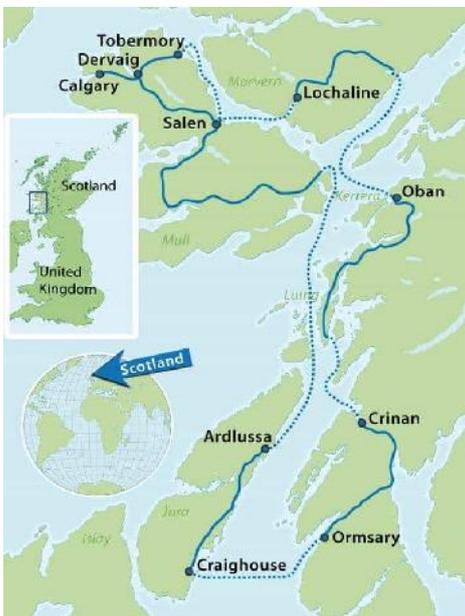
**Departs:** 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2019

**Includes:** 8-days / 7-nights on a tall ship with crew, double / twin or single cabins with shower/toilet, half-board on 7 days (breakfast and either lunch or dinner), English speaking tour guide, guided cycling tours as described in the itinerary, bicycle hire, overview-maps for the daily tours (available on board).

**Not included in tour:** Personal expenses, meals taken onshore, gratuities, local fees and entrance charges for museums and attractions, drinks (a flat rate of £50 per person for bottled water, coffee and tea paid on arrival). Bicycle insurance and transfer to Oban from Edinburgh can be arranged – please ask for pricing and details.



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



## Suggested itinerary – subject to weather and sailing conditions

### Day 1 (Sunday) Arrive Oban

Plan to arrive in Oban, the gateway to the Inner Hebrides, by 5.00pm, although if you arrive earlier, you may stow your luggage on board. During a late dinner, get to know your crew and tour guides.

### Day 2 (Monday) Oban and Isle of Luing

**Cycling @ 22 miles (36km)**

We set out from Oban on our bikes, heading southward over undulating terrain and along the shores of a small loch to Cuan Sound, where we take a ferry to the 'slate island' of Luing. Slate quarrying was once the economic mainstay of Luing and the shining grey slate was used to re-roof the Abbey at Iona and in the construction of many notable buildings on the mainland. Now tourism, lobstering and beef cattle are the main industries. We cycle across the island past fields and farmland and the picturesque white-washed parish church to the harbour at Toberonochy, where we meet our ship and sail to a secluded bay where we anchor for the night.

### Day 3 (Tuesday) Mull of Kintyre

**Cycling @ 21 miles (35km)**

We sail from our mooring point to the small harbour village of Crinan to begin our ride. We cycle alongside the Crinan Canal, which opened in 1801 providing a shorter, safer shipping route from the industrialised region around Glasgow to the islands and village of the West Highlands – previously ships were forced to sail in the dangerous waters round the Mull of Kintyre. At Lochgilphead we turn southwards to the Kintyre peninsula (made famous by the Paul McCartney song), cycling through stunningly scenic landscapes to Loch Caolisport and cross over to the Island of Jura, where we spend the night.

### Day 4 (Wednesday) Isle of Jura

**Cycling @ 17 miles (27km)**

After breakfast we cycle northwards on the island of Jura, home to just 200 human inhabitants and over 5000 red deer and we should catch a glimpse of these majestic creatures as we cycle. Renowned author George Orwell spent the last years of his life on Jura for the solitude and isolation it provided, and wrote *Nineteen Eighty-Four* in a remote cottage on the wild north coast of the island. We pass the conical Paps of Jura, rising 2,575 feet (785 metres) from the moors, and come to the small harbour where we meet our boat. Our fearless and experienced crew guide the ship safely past the swirling waters of Corryvreckan, one of the largest natural whirlpools in the world. We moor for the night in a quiet bay on the Isle of Mull.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

### **Day 5 (Thursday) Isle of Mull: Loch Spelve – Tobermory**

**Cycling @ 37 miles (60km)**

This ride takes in the spectacular beauty of Scotland's natural scenery. The route takes us through hilly terrain and along the coast. Around every corner another breathtaking view opens up. After the road divides and most vehicles turn off towards Iona, we have the road pretty much to ourselves, with sheep and shaggy highland cattle grazing peacefully. We cycle along a coastal road past Loch Na' Keal to Salen and re-join the ship. We sail to Tobermory where we moor in the bay tonight. This pretty little town, with its colourful houses, has a traditional Scottish pub where you may like to have dinner and a dram (at your own arrangements).

### **Day 6 (Friday) Isle of Mull: Tobermory – Salen**

**Cycling @ 31 miles (50km)**

Our route explores the northern part of Mull, with some challenging climbs, and afterwards we can reward ourselves in a cosy tearoom. We continue on to the brilliant white beach and crystal clear water of Calgary Bay, one of the most beautiful beaches in Scotland. We cycle across the island and join the coast road shortly before reaching Salen, where our boat awaits us. A brief cruise takes us to Lochaline on the Morvern peninsula.

### **Day 7 (Saturday) Morvern Peninsula: Lochaline – Kingairloch**

**Cycling @ 16 miles (26km)**

A short sail across the Sound of Mull to Lochaline on the Morvern peninsula, then we cycle a beautiful route across the peninsula. After a first ascent, we reach an almost traffic-free road leading through virtually treeless highlands. The route runs along hillsides, wild mountain streams and moorland and then back to the coast where we meet the ship and sail to Oban. We have some time at leisure this afternoon for a stroll through Oban – McCaig's Tower, a never completed replica of the Colosseum in Rome, is well worth a visit. If time permits you may like to visit the Oban Distillery, one of the oldest in Scotland, before our farewell dinner on the ship.

### **Day 8 (Sunday) Disembark**

Tour ends after breakfast in Oban. Transfers to Edinburgh airport departing at a set time can be arranged at extra cost, please ask for details when booking.



All cycling distances given are approximate. We offer this as a Bike & Boat cycling tour however, you can decide each day if you want to cycle with the group and tour guide, ride independently using the maps provided, or stay with the boat and cruise. Whilst non-cyclists are always welcome on these departures, please note there are no alternative sightseeing arrangements made for cycling days.

The tour requires a minimum number of passengers to operate. Suggested itinerary may vary subject to wind and weather conditions or operational requirements.

**Outdoor Travel** offers **Bike & Boat** cycling cruises to many areas of Europe including the Amalfi Coast or Sicily in Italy, the Dalmatian coast of Croatia, and islands of Greece, the Lycian Coast of Turkey and also in Vietnam. **Bike & Barge** cycling cruises are available on many of the canals and rivers of Europe including the Seine, Loire Valley and Burgundy or Provence in France and on the 2-week route between Paris and Bruges through the Somme WW1 battlefield and memorial sites in northern France. We also offer several routes in Holland, Belgium and Germany – along the Saar, Moselle and Rhine – or along the Danube in Austria or Romania. Bike & Barge holidays are also available in the Venice region of Italy, along the Amalfi Coast or in Sicily.

**Inn-to-inn cycling tours** are available in most destinations in Europe, the USA (including California's Napa Valley), in China, Japan, Africa and New Zealand - ask for details.

**Contact the experienced staff at Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia