Cruise Details

Name:	Europe’s Nordic Islands: Beautiful, Close, Unspoilt – Adventures For Explorers
Reference:	HAPAGSPI2814
Operator:	Hapag-Lloyd Cruises
Cruise Type:	Ocean
Cruise Rating:	Expedition
Ship:	HANSEATIC spirit
Regions:	Northern Europe
Departs On:	12 Sep 28
Departs From:	Reykjavík
Arrives On:	24 Sep 28
Arrives At:	Liverpool
Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

Itinerary

Day 1: Reykjavík (Iceland)

Arrives On: 12 Sep 28

Day 2: Heimaey Island (Iceland)

Mysticism and adventure characterise the Westman Islands off the south coast of Iceland. Heimaey is not only the largest and only inhabited island in the archipelago, but also the one with the most known volcanic eruptions. In 1973, the Eldfell volcano erupted and buried most of the village under itself. Thanks to a quick evacuation, mostly by fishing boats, all residents could be brought to safety in time. The lava landscape and the Eldheimar Museum bear impressive witness to the event. Your on-board expedition team offers hikes of various lengths. Take the opportunity, for example, to climb Eldfell or marvel at the lava formations on the cliffs.

Arrives On: 13 Sep 28

Day 3: Djúpivogur (Iceland)

Djupivogur, one of the oldest trading posts in Iceland, is a very remote destination on the relatively undeveloped east coast of Iceland. Here, the connection of the people of Iceland with nature and especially with the world of birds is elevated to an art form – with the work “Eggin i Gledivik” by the renowned Icelandic artist Sigurdur Gudmundsson: 34 huge granite eggs are lined up along 200 m (656 ft) of coast. They represent the species of birds that nest in the Djupivogur area, such as the red-necked grebe. Discuss with your experts on board the emotions that Iceland triggers in artists and in your soul: amazement, thoughtfulness and respect.

Arrives On: 14 Sep 28

Day 5: Orkney Islands (Scotland)

Off Scotland’s north coast, the 70 or so Orkney Islands bid you welcome with their delightful contrasting landscape. Grassy hills, steep cliffs and Caribbean-like white sandy beaches with turquoise waters characterise the archipelago. Neolithic sites, Viking heritage and a rich variety of bird life contribute to the unique character of the Orkney Islands.Discover charming Stromness, the “grey town by the sea”, which owes its name to its characteristic scenic houses. In the listed centre, inviting piers, imposing warehouses and trading houses combine history and maritime flair perfectly. An absolute highlight is the impressive former Viking settlement, which allows you to immerse yourself in the fascinating history of this region. But the Orkneys also mean wind, water and walking: enjoy spectacular views on nature trails. The experts at your side will take you on a journey of discovery to important testimonies of the past – from a Neolithic stone circle to a Stone Age village and a 17th-century manor house.Westray, one of the northernmost Orkney Islands, is untouched by time. Those who hike here wander between sky, sea and history. The landscape is characterised by small villages, weathered stone walls and endless coastal paths. Quiet paths through green pastures and along steep cliffs open up expansive vistas to the sea. Many birds populate the cliffs and give the coast its lively appearance. In the small village of Pierowall, the heart of the island, you will encounter history at every turn: Remains from the Neolithic period, the Iron Age, the Middle Ages and later periods bear witness to a long history of settlement. The mighty 16th-century Noltland Castle, the ruins of ancient churches and the enigmatic Westray Stone with its ancient symbols are all impressive sights. What secrets of Westray will you uncover?

Arrives On: 16 Sep 28

Day 7: Stornoway, Isle of Lewis (Scotland)

Unspoilt and wild: the Isle of Lewis – the northern region of Lewis and Harris, the main island of the Outer Hebrides – shows you the beauty of the rugged archipelago. With wild mountains and moon-like landscapes, calm lochs and idyllic beaches, Lewis emphasises the multifaceted beauty of

Scotland. The mystical stone circles, which take you back some 4,000 years in time, are also part of this. With the help of your on-board experts, you will feel like archaeologists, since the Outer Hebrides are famous for the excavations of Neolithic artefacts, medieval churches and even mummies. The other half of the island of Lewis is Harris, the home of tweed, which is truly appealing. The island's own pure new wool is the secret to the quality of the wool cloth produced here. Thanks to the long lay time in Stornoway, you will have plenty of time to enjoy the atmosphere of this harbour town until the evening. Experience Gaelic culture, atmosphere live music in cosy pubs and the special atmosphere of the Hebrides.

Arrives On: 18 Sep 28

Day 8: Port information not found

The Inner Hebrides offer very special experiences. Around 80 islands and countless islets form a landscape of rugged coastlines, ancient clan castles and legends that are closely interwoven with the history of Scotland. Your manoeuvrable expedition ship will really be in its element here.Lush, green highlands, rugged coasts and the heritage of kings and clans: head deep into the rugged island world of the Hebrides and feel the soul of Scotland – for example, on the wildly romantic Isle of Skye. Here you will be greeted by the famous rock formation, the Old Man of Storr, watching over the island. Portree is more tranquil: in this picturesque fishing village, you will encounter colourful facades which stand out in contrast against the black cliffs and green highlands. From here, you can explore the surrounding area with its lochs, mountains and castles, which are wonderful examples of Scottish architecture.Once you arrive on the small Isle of Canna by Zodiac, you will find yourself in a tranquil paradise that offers peace and seclusion like nowhere else in Scotland. The island's history dates back to the Neolithic period. Early Christian church ruins and Celtic crosses provide your experts on board with an opportunity to immerse you deeply in the history of times gone by. In the 20th century, John Lorne Campbell and Margaret Fay Shaw left their mark on the island – their collection of songs and stories is now kept at Canna House. For hikers, the unspoilt nature and rich bird life offer direct access to Scotland's pristine wilderness.The Isle of Mull is considered an El Dorado for nature and history lovers. Tobermory welcomes you with its colourful houses and lively harbour. The island provides an authentic setting for fascinating insights into the history of Scottish clans such as the MacLeans. Their ancestral home, the imposing Duart Castle, has stood proudly on the coast for around 700 years. Hikers can expect a challenging but rewarding climb up Ben More, with 360-degree views of coastlines, bays, green valleys and neighbouring islands such as Iona and Staffa. With a bit of luck, you may spot white-tailed eagles, otters, dolphins and puffins. The Isle of Mull is the ideal place to escape everyday life and let yourself be carried away by the rhythm of nature.

Arrives On: 19 Sep 28

Day 11: Oban (Scotland)

Oban welcomes visitors with its dramatic Scottish coastal scenery. Situated in a protected bay behind the Isle of Kerrara, the town is the ideal starting point for exploring the west coast of Scotland and the Hebrides. Once a small fishing village, Oban now has numerous places worth a visit, including McCaig's Tower, a decorative replica of Rome's Colosseum, and the ruins of Dunollie Castle, the former seat of the MacDougall clan. The fish restaurants at the port are a great place for gourmets to try fresh seafood, while the granite cliffs and bays attract tourists and anglers in equal measure. Queen Victoria named Oban "one of the finest spots we have seen".

Arrives On: 22 Sep 28

Day 12: Peel (Isle of Man)

Located between Great Britain and Ireland, the Isle of Man is an autonomous Crown dependency with its own government and fascinating identity. The island captivates visitors with its impressive natural landscape – from green hills and moorlands to rugged coastlines and idyllic beaches. The Manx culture is also unique, with its language, music and myths.The picturesque harbour town of Peel is located on the west coast of the Isle of Man. During your individual shore visit, you will discover history in the open air – for example, at Peel Castle, which towers over St Patrick's Isle. Its origins date back to the Viking age. The long sandy beach, which is right next to the old town, is perfect for relaxing walks. Peel is known as the "Manx Kipper capital": try traditionally smoked herring in one of the historic smokehouses. The House of Manannan, an award-winning museum, offers fascinating insights into the Celtic, maritime and Viking history of the Isle of Man.Cruising off Calf of Man is all about birdwatching. Even after the breeding season, numerous species such as kittiwakes, shearwaters and cormorants can still be spotted. The rocky coastline is also a favourite retreat for grey seals – a place of tranquillity, wilderness and unspoilt beauty.

Arrives On: 23 Sep 28

Day 13: Liverpool (England)

Arrives On: 24 Sep 28

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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