



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Highlands, Islands and Fjords

SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY
ABOARD *EXPLORIS ONE*

MAY 29–JUNE 8, 2025

FEATURING ARCHAEOLOGIST
ELIZABETH PIERCE





Flowers of Norway

DEAR TRAVELER,

Join **Archaeological Institute of America** lecturer and host **Elizabeth Pierce** on this exploration of ancient settlements, remote islands, magnificent landscapes, and idyllic villages from Inverness, Scotland, to the Orkney Islands and along the Norwegian coast above the Arctic Circle. Cruise during the peak of spring, with long days of bright green scenery speckled with blooming flowers and rushing waterfalls from snow melting in the mountains. Dr. Pierce will be part of a **team of onboard experts** who together will offer a **series of lectures and informal discussions**.

“Elizabeth Pierce’s lectures, dinner conversation, and answers to questions on excursions were stellar.”
—Susan, California

This varied and balanced itinerary combines the wonders of the natural world with the historical and cultural highlights of the area. Our cruise is bookended with time in some of the region’s most remote and inaccessible island groups—Scotland’s Orkney Islands and Norway’s Lofoten Islands—and **offers rich opportunities for bird and whale watching**.

In Scotland, visit **Clava Cairns**, a group of three Bronze Age burial mounds and, in the UNESCO Site “Heart of Neolithic Orkney,” marvel at the Neolithic standing stones of the **Ring of Brodgar** and the 5,000-year-old village of **Skara Brae**. In Norway, visit the 12th-century **Hopperstad Stave Church**, the oldest stave church in the country; and the distinctive pagan **Moahaugane Burial Mounds**, which were constructed between A.D. 200–400.

Enjoy several days inside Norway’s iconic fjords, including the awe-inspiring **Sognefjord**, Norway’s longest, as well as the UNESCO-listed **Nærøyfjord**. Step ashore at peaceful, picturesque fjord-side towns and fishing villages off the beaten track—splendid Art Nouveau **Ålesund**, set on myriad islands stretching out into the ocean; **Brønnøysund**, from which one can access **Torghatten**, a legendary mountain with evidence of five different Neolithic settlements that were inhabited for millennia; and tiny villages of **Å**, **Reine**, or **Nusfjord** in the Lofotens. A **pre-cruise extension** in the Scottish Highlands and a **post-cruise extension** in Oslo are also available.

Delight in cruising for eight nights aboard the elegantly appointed and **newly renovated Exploris One**, designed to navigate demanding waters safely while offering the highest level of service and comfort. Each of its **72 suites and spacious staterooms** offers breathtaking ocean views, some with private balconies.

The program is co-sponsored by other organizations, so I encourage you to contact us today at **(800) 748-6262** or aia@studytours.org to reserve your preferred suite or stateroom.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cummings
Education & Program Manager, AIA Tours
Archaeological Institute of America

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AND THE AIA TOURS PROGRAM

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world’s archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA’s network of scholars and worldwide contacts.



Ring of Brodgar

Trip Highlights

DELIGHT in cruising Norway during the height of spring when temperatures are mild and flowers carpet the countryside.

EXPLORE Clava Cairns, a well-preserved and sacred landscape outside of Inverness, dating back to the Bronze Age, where prehistoric farmers laid their own to rest.

DISCOVER how the Vikings held a strategic foothold in the Orkney Islands for centuries and marvel at fascinating Stone Age sites, including the Ring of Brodgar and the 5,000-year-old stone-slab village of Skara Brae, both UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

LINGER in the dramatic and beautiful landscapes of the Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord, including its most dramatic and narrow arm, UNESCO-listed Naerøysfjord.

STUDY LEADER



Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Elizabeth Pierce was a journalist before pursuing her Ph.D. in Archaeology from the University of Glasgow, Scotland. The main focus of her doctoral research was on the material culture of the Norse in the North Atlantic region. Since then, Elizabeth has taught all levels of university courses on the Vikings at institutions in the U.S., Canada, and Scotland. She has worked on archaeological excavations in Iceland and around Scotland, including Shetland. For the past several years, Elizabeth has worked as a lecturer on expedition ships in the polar regions and northern Europe. She recently co-edited a volume of new Viking research in Scotland. Her current research focuses on the Scandinavian presence in eastern Scotland from the Viking Age to the 13th century. Elizabeth lectured for the AIA on a Baltic Sea cruise in 2018, and lectured for the AIA on cruises between the Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords annually from 2014 to 2017, all to excellent reviews.



Skara Brae

Itinerary

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MAY 29 & 30

DEPART U.S. / INVERNESS, SCOTLAND

Depart home on overnight flights to Inverness. Upon arrival on May 30th, relax before dinner. KINGSMILLS HOTEL (D)

SATURDAY, MAY 31

INVERNESS / EMBARK EXPLORIS ONE

Explore Inverness Old Town and its indoor Victorian market, with lunch on your own during free time in town. In the afternoon, you have the option to visit either Clava Cairns, one of Scotland's most evocative prehistoric sites, or historic Cawdor Castle with its three spectacular gardens before boarding *Exploris One* this afternoon.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS

Disembark in Kirkwall for a morning exploration of the Ring of Brodgar and Skara Brae, part of the UNESCO Heart of Neolithic Orkney, the most important Neolithic sites in western Europe. Return to the ship for lunch and then set out on one of two afternoon options: 1) Take a guided tour of Kirkwall, including the medieval St. Magnus Cathedral, with free time in the vibrant and pretty downtown; or 2) Visit The Quoy of Houton, listed as one of the top 10 UK coastal gardens, with the owner, a renowned horticulturalist, before returning by coach to the ship.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 2

AT SEA

Enjoy a full day at sea looking for wildlife from one of the ship's spacious decks, indulging in the ship's amenities, and listening to lectures from our

team of experts. As evening approaches, arrive at the entrance of Sognefjord, Norway's longest and deepest fjord.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

VIK & NAERØYFJORD, NORWAY

Join a private fjord cruise of the UNESCO World Heritage Nærøyfjord, narrowest and best known of the many arms of the Sognefjord. This fjord stands out as Norway's premier natural wonder, boasting steep mountainsides, hanging valleys, majestic peaks, snowfields, cascading waterfalls, and quaint hamlets. Visit one such hamlet, Gudvagen, an historic Viking village, nestled deep within Nærøyfjord, where there is free time to explore independently. Also discover the riches of Vik, a picturesque village along the banks of the Sognefjord, including the impressive Hopperstad Stave Church, one of Norway's 28 remaining stave churches and the oldest in the country. And don't miss the opportunity to sample the local 'gamalost cheese,' see Moahaugane Burial Mounds, dating back to A.D. 200; or walk the grounds of Djupvik, a unique mythological garden.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

NORDFJORDEID

Enjoy a morning at sea with time for lectures before arriving in Nordfjordeid. Be welcomed by a stunning coastline, majestic mountains and valleys, expansive farmland, and a chance to see the mighty Briksdal Glacier, the largest in Europe. Here choose from various excursion options including kayaking with a guided hike to learn about the local ecosystem, driving to see the Briksdal Glacier and walk the Loen Skylift, or visiting with a local family in their private home to learn about the Norwegian way of life and culture followed by a trip to the Norwegian Fjord Horse Center.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

RUNDE & ÅLESUND

Get up early this morning to look for birds on the cliffs at Runde, a nesting site of over 240 species,



Viking Ship Wood Carving

including puffins, followed by a visit to beautiful Ålesund. Known for its Art Nouveau buildings and islands stretching out into the ocean, Ålesund offers three optional excursions including: 1) The medieval village of Sunnmøre, an open-air museum; 2) Viking's Island; or 3) An in-depth city walk including Mt. Aksla, followed by free time. In the afternoon, enjoy cruising with time for lectures. Spend the afternoon at sea, relaxing on board and keeping an eye out for whales.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

TORGHATTEN & BRØNNØYSUND

Continue cruising north this morning with time for lectures. After lunch, arrive at the coastal town of Brønnøysund to delve into its history and culture, surrounded by natural landscapes. Choose from optional excursions: 1) Hike Torghatten, known for its mythical mountain with a distinctive hole through it; 2) Enjoy a panoramic drive and visit Hildur's Farm for a taste of Norwegian farm life; or 3) Explore Norwegian aquaculture at the Norwegian Aquaculture Center. Reboard in the late afternoon and depart for the Lofoten Islands, crossing the Arctic Circle along the way.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

REINE (LOFOTEN ISLANDS)

Enjoy a full day exploring the picturesque Lofoten Islands, where you'll visit charming fishing villages like Å, Reine, or Nusfjord, each offering unique insights into local life. Discover the rich Viking heritage at the Lofotr Viking Museum, home to the world's largest Viking longhouse, and visit a local farm indulging in a lunch ashore where you'll learn about the islands' efforts in sustainable farming. Conclude the day with the Captain's farewell reception and dinner.

EXPLORIS ONE (B,L,R,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

DISEMBARK/HOME

Transfer to Bodø airport, or those with late flights may take an optional morning tour in Bodø, or you may begin the optional post-voyage extension. (B)



Balmoral Castle

OPTIONAL PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION

MAY 26-30, 2025

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS IN DEPTH

Fly from home to Inverness, Scotland, and transfer to a nearby country estate for a three-night stay at an idyllic, 5-star hotel, along the banks of the River Ness. Over the coming days, explore the highlights of the Scottish Highlands including Culloden Moor, the last battlefield of the Jacobite Rebellion; a cruise on Loch Ness with a visit to historic Urquhart Castle; a private tasting and tour at a top malt whisky distillery; and a walk through the grounds and gardens of Balmoral Castle, the Scottish home of the Royal Family since the mid-1800s.

NESS WALK HOTEL

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Giant Water Lilies—Oslo Botanical Garden, Norway

OPTIONAL POST-VOYAGE EXTENSION

JUNE 8-11, 2025

ARCHAEOLOGY, ART & GARDENS OF OSLO

After exploring Bodø, fly to Oslo for a three-night stay at the elegant and historic Grand Hotel, opened in 1874, and for over 140 years the host to international guests, world leaders, celebrities and the Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Extension highlights include: Hovelsrud Farm and Garden, an award-winning estate restored to its 1840s splendor in a stunning lakeside setting; Oslo Botanical Garden, founded in 1814, that uniquely showcases plants Vikings brought back from their extensive travels inside a 108-foot-long grounded Viking ship; the world's largest sculpture park made by a single artist, Gustav Vigeland, displaying more than 200 of his works in bronze, granite, and wrought iron; and the Fram Museum of Polar Exploration, artfully telling the story of Norwegian polar exploration.

GRAND HOTEL

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

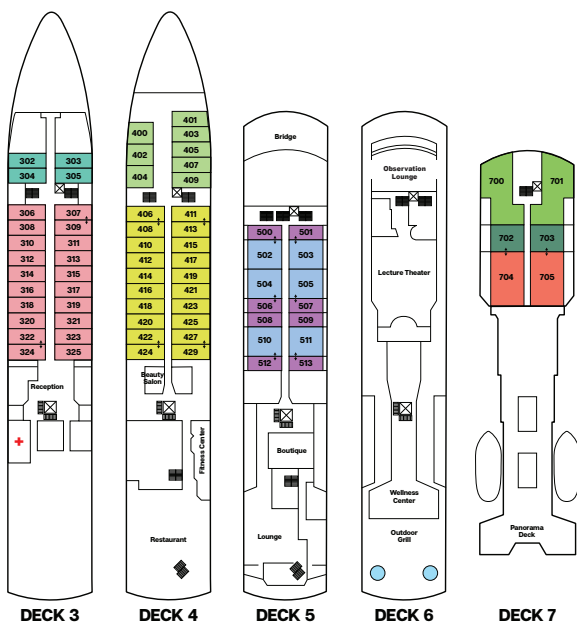


EXPLORIS ONE

Formerly named the *Silver Explorer* under Silversea Cruises' ownership, *Exploris One* embarked on a new chapter in 2023 under the helm of French company Exploris Expeditions. Having known this vessel for many years, we recognize its suitability for intimate small-ship voyages. Our exclusive charter will host a maximum of 114 guests, alongside our dedicated staff. Benefit from the vessel's shallow draft, enabling access to secluded areas inaccessible to larger ships. Delight in the expansive deck spaces, perfect for wildlife spotting and soaking in picturesque vistas while cruising. Renovated in 2023, *Exploris One* seamlessly blends adventure with luxurious comfort. Its 60 staterooms and 12 suites, all exterior facing, boast impeccable finishes. Savor refined French and International cuisine at Le Grand Restaurant and the Outdoor Grill. The Grand Salon and Panoramic Lounge offer sweeping panoramas. Onboard amenities include a dedicated lecture room, a hair salon, fitness center, massage room, sauna, and two hot tubs. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages, as well as Wi-Fi access, are complimentary throughout the cruise.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

	DOUBLE	SINGLE
PREMIUM STATEROOM / DECK 3 Two portholes, bathroom with shower, 157 / 167 sq. ft.	\$8,990	\$13,495
OCEAN STATEROOM / DECK 3 Picture window, bathroom with shower, 192 sq. ft.	\$9,790	\$13,990
SUPERIOR STATEROOM / DECK 4 Picture window, bathroom with shower, 175 / 190 sq. ft.	\$10,290	—
DELUXE STATEROOM / DECK 4 Large picture window, bathroom with shower, 192 sq. ft.	\$10,990	—
BALCONY STATEROOM / DECK 5 French balcony, bathroom with shower, 206 / 216 sq. ft.	\$11,990	—
DISCOVERY SUITE / DECK 5 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto two French balconies, a full-sized tub, and separate shower, 422 sq. ft.	\$13,990	—
NAVIGATOR SUITE / DECK 7 Floor to ceiling glass doors onto a private balcony with furniture, sitting area, a full-sized tub, and separate shower, 400 sq. ft., including balcony.	\$14,490	—
GRAND SUITE / DECK 7 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto a private balcony with furniture, a full-sized tub, separate shower, and walk-in closet, 618 sq. ft., including balcony.	\$15,990	—
OWNER'S SUITE / DECK 7 One bedroom, living room with sitting area, floor to ceiling glass doors onto a large private balcony with furniture, a full-sized tub, separate shower, and walk-in closet, 728 sq. ft., including balcony.	\$16,990	—



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including nine breakfasts, seven lunches, nine dinners, **one hotel night and eight nights aboard Exploris One** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on program arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • **Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers** • **Gratuities to shipboard personnel** • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Filtered water to refill water bottles on motorcoaches • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active program, at times with full days and considerable walking at some sites, combined with periods at sea with time to relax aboard the ship. *You should be able to walk moderate distances over varied terrain; some of the most memorable sightseeing can only be accomplished on foot.* In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. Participants should be fit and in active good health. Limited medical facilities are available on board *Exploris One*. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 114 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, American Horticultural Society, Carleton College Alumni Adventures, Harvard Alumni Travels, National Trust Tours and Yale Alumni Academy.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

- U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of program arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Cancellation policies that apply are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due 120 days prior to departure (January 29, 2025). We accept checks, payable to "Eos AIA-ScotlandNorwayCRI5/25" as well as VISA, MasterCard and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

PARTICIPANT CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the January 29, 2025 final payment deadline: All payments are 100%

nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose entry into any country and/or hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied.

TRIP CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

If the program is cancelled by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by AIA Tours or Criterion, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as AIA Tours and Criterion are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion shall have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary and study leader presented for this tour are subject to modification and change by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, AIA Tours and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

RESPONSIBILITY

By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Due to space limitations these are not AIA Tours' complete Terms & Conditions, which are available upon request, can be viewed on-line at www.aiatours.org, and will be sent to you along with a Release of Liability requiring your signature.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY

MAY 29-JUNE 8, 2025

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your space, please complete this form and send it to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938. Deposit checks should be made payable to "Eos AIA-ScotlandNorwayCRI5/25." You may also call AIA Tours at 800-748-6262 or 603-756-2884. Fax: 603-756-2922. Email: iaa@studytours.org. Website: www.aiatours.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos AIA-ScotlandNorwayCRI5/25" for _____ place(s) on Highlands, Islands & Fjords.

Please charge my deposit of \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) to my

VISA MasterCard American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin Category Preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference Queen Twin

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)

I plan to share accommodations with: _____

I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a non-smoker smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of **January 29, 2025** I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the General Information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite 1, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

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Highlands, Islands and Fjords

SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY
ABOARD **EXPLORIS ONE**

MAY 29 - JUNE 8, 2025

FEATURING ARCHAEOLOGIST
ELIZABETH PIERCE



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