

SCOTTISH ISLES: 2019

TRIP NOTES



Castle Stuart, Inverness

Scotland and Ireland Golf Expedition



05 JUN – 12 JUN 2019



7 NIGHTS / 8 DAYS



STARTS IN DUBLIN

INCREDIBLE GOLF COURSES. SUPERB LANDSCAPES. RICH HISTORY. ANCIENT CULTURE.

No places are as linked to the history of golf as Scotland and Ireland. The earliest mention of golf is a 1457 Scottish Act of Parliament where, ironically, it was banned because it distracted from the military sport of archery! Today more than a dozen of the World's Top 100 Courses (Golf Digest) can be found in the region, a pedigree we are proud to match with the advanced capability and comfort of our expedition ship – *RCGS Resolute*.

This expedition offers a totally unique take on a traditional golfing holiday. Not only does your 'floating hotel' negate the need for constant packing and unpacking, but you'll also enjoy breathtaking views and convenient access to the golf courses, as we shuttle you effortlessly from one to the next.

Our voyage begins in Dublin. We then sail up the west coast of Scotland, passing the picturesque islands of Islay, Mull and Skye and playing golf at the hidden gems of Macrihanish and Askernish. From here we sail west to play Ballyliffin in Ireland. Further north we spend a day in the Orkney Islands before sailing south to Inverness, where we have access to two outstanding courses. At Aberdeen we find ourselves on the doorstep of both Cruden Bay and the Royal Aberdeen, our final courses before the journey ends in Edinburgh.

Non-golfers will also have plenty to do, with quaint Celtic seaside towns to explore, bike rides, afternoon hikes and some delicious afternoon teas.



Voyage Highlights

- > Play six of the world's Top 100 golf courses - in the birthplace of golf
- > Enjoy a unique coastal journey through Ireland and Scotland including the Outer Hebrides
- > Experience Scottish history from its famous clans and subtle whiskies, to 5000 year old Neolithic ruins and Celtic churches
- > Relax and enjoy the superb facilities and amenities on board *RCGS Resolute*

ON THIS TRIP

-  Unique golf experiences
-  Zodiac excursions
-  Onshore hiking options
-  Wildlife observation
-  Photographer-in-Residence
-  Sea kayaking program
-  Cycling excursions on shore
-  Stand Up Paddle boarding
-  Educational presentations
-  Active Cruising & Wellness

IMPORTANT VOYAGE LOGISTICS

The trip begins in Dublin, Ireland. We strongly recommend you arrive at least one day prior to the voyage departure. Dublin is a beautiful, historic city with more than enough castles, cathedrals, and pubs to entertain you for a day ... or two! Arriving early will also provide a 'buffer' in case your travel is delayed.

Aboard our expedition ship – *RCGS Resolute* – we chart a course from Ireland, up the west coast of Scotland, around the top and down the east coast, ending in Edinburgh. From the port in Edinburgh transfers will be provided to the city centre and to the airport.

Full arrival and departure instructions will be provided in your final travel documentation, but if you have any queries please ask us.



YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPEDITION ITINERARY

DAY 1 / DUBLIN, IRELAND (WEDNESDAY, 05 JUNE 2019)

Our epic journey begins this afternoon in Dublin. We gather at our central meeting point then transfer to the pier for embarkation. Once on board and settled in our rooms we enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner before casting off and heading north, up the rugged Irish coast. Later we can relax on deck with an Irish whiskey and compare our 'almost had a hole in one' golfing stories with fellow travelers.

DAYS 2 / CAMPBELLTOWN (SCOTLAND) – MACHRIHANISH AND MACHRIHANISH DUNES & SPA

Our first stop in Scotland will be to play either Machrihanish (#61) or adjacent Machrihanish Dunes. The Dunes were designed by David McLay Kidd, architect of the celebrated Brandon Dunes, in Oregon (USA) and 'The Castle Course' at St. Andrews. McLay Kidd grew up playing the nearby Machrihanish Golf Club which was created by Old Tom Morris in 1876. Inspired by Old Tom's principals of preserving the natural beauty and working with the fragile landscape, McLay-Kidd established "the world's most natural golf course". These two courses are naturally maintained – so much so, that you may see the odd Hebridean black sheep wandering through the rough.

The Dunes is also home to a spa for those who need a little pampering. Looking for a little activity? Any direction you head will take you to a beautiful shore line for a sandy stroll or a cliffside hike. The peaceful village of nearby Campbeltown was once known as the "whisky capital of the world" as it was home to 34 distilleries. Only three remain today and are all worth a visit.

DAY 3 / BALLYLIFFIN GOLF CLUB (IRELAND)

During the night we will have sailed west to Ballyliffin in Ireland. Ballyliffin Golf Club is widely regarded as the finest links complex in Ireland and prides itself on having world class presentation standards all year round, renowned for its hospitality, spectacular setting and outstanding facilities. The new Glashedy Links is a Pat Ruddy and Tom Craddock masterpiece,

fashioned around the incredible dunes, and is rated amongst the best links tracks in the world. Ruddy cherishes Glashedy as his own and has returned in recent years to fine tune the stunning bunkering of this magnificent links. This is also a superb destination for a large number of non-golfing activities, including kayaking, hiking, cycling, surfing and wildlife watching.

DAY 4 / THE HEBRIDEAN ISLANDS & THE 'LOST COURSE' OF ASKERNISH

Today we wake up anchored off the shores of South Uist, the second largest island of the Outer Hebrides. Awaiting the golfers is another course of great historical significance. Commissioned in 1891 by Lady Cathcart, the landowner, and also built by Old Tom Morris, this course thrived until the First World War. Then for almost 100 years it sat untouched and untended until in 2005 a group of locals, with the help of some of golf's biggest names, brought it back to life. A true links course providing a challenging test, we play through beautiful rolling dunes alongside the bracing Atlantic Ocean.

Golf is not the only history on these ancient isle. Those up for a hike can explore the beautiful white sand beaches while searching for the mysterious Standing Stones scattered throughout the Outer Hebrides. Cyclists can stretch their legs and take in part of the 300km Hebridean Way – a route that uses the tiny coastal roads to explore 10 of the islands in the archipelago. A visit to the Kildonan Centre with its excellent Museum and cafe is another interesting activity.

ABOUT THE COURSE RANKINGS - **Golf Digest**

The esteemed Golf Digest magazine recently published its third biennial ranking of the World 100 Greatest Golf Courses. The numbers shown against each course on our itinerary, represents the course ranking in the Top 100. For the golfing purist, you can see we have selected some of the most challenging, historic and picturesque golf courses on the planet. Are you up for the challenge?



DAY 5 / KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS

Today we anchor at the beautiful seaside town of Kirkwall, capital of the Orkney Islands. Wander through town exploring local crafts, art galleries, an unexpected collection of silversmith artists, or perhaps a tour and tasting at the Highland Park Distillery! A visit to St. Magnus Cathedral is an absolute 'must'. Started in 1137, it was built when the Vikings still ruled the Orkneys. Later in the day we head to Skara Brae, an outstanding Neolithic village and UNESCO World Heritage Site established over 5000 years ago. Yet another option is to visit the 'Italian Chapel' built by World War II Italian POWs, conveniently located near the Scapa Distillery and Visitor Centre. While there is a golf course in Kirkwall, golfers may want to take the day off to conserve their energy for the next two days of golfing challenges.

DAY 6 / INVERNESS, ROYAL DORNOCH & CASTLE STUART

Having spent the last few days 'off the beaten track', exploring a less known side of Scotland, we now rejoin golfing nobility, experiencing some of the most famous courses in the world. From our anchorage in Inverness we transfer to play a choice of two courses. Castle Stuart (#53), a fairly new layout, opened in 2009 and quickly made the world's top 100. With dramatic views over the Moray Firth out to the Black Isle, this championship course will test your mettle. The views are matched by the drama of these tees – holes 1 and 10 are cut into the cliffside and demand an adrenalin inducing drive to the fairways below. The Royal Dornoch (#2) officially opened in 1616, but the current club was established in 1886 by Old Tom Morris. Following the curve of the Dornoch Firth and its white sand beaches, this course rolls through hillocks, ridges, and classic dunes. If you have an interest in local history we'll head to Culloden Moor, where the Jacobites fought their final battle in 1745. The Living History presentation will bring this epic battle to life, right before your eyes. The more curious in the group may want to take a day trip to Loch Ness for a chance viewing 'Nessie' - the Loch Ness Monster.

DAY 7 / ABERDEEN, CRUDEN BAY & ROYAL ABERDEEN GOLF CLUB

We anchor today at Aberdeen, where again we have the choice of playing two different courses – Cruden Bay (#56) or the historic Balgownie course at Royal Aberdeen (#71). Those playing Cruden Bay will again find themselves walking in the footsteps of course designer Old Tom Morris. While Cruden Bay is, above all, a classic links course, it is also known for having a number of unusually quirky holes. The Royal Aberdeen Golf Club was founded in 1780 and is the sixth oldest golf club in the world. The course hosted the Scottish Open in 2014, won by England's Justin Rose. The 8th hole at Royal Aberdeen is a testing par 3 at 147 yards. The green is surrounded by no less than 10 bunkers and wayward tee shots will be punished.

DAY 8 / EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND (WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2019)

This morning we arrive at Edinburgh, the Scottish capital and your disembarkation point. After breakfast it is time to bid farewell to your crew and fellow travellers as we disembark *RCGS Resolute*. A transfer to downtown Edinburgh, and Edinburgh Airport, is provided for all guests, however Edinburgh is well worth a day or two of exploration if your schedule allows.

YOUR EXPEDITION INCLUDES:

- ✓ Comprehensive pre-voyage information package to help you prepare for your trip in Scotland
- ✓ Transfers to the ship on embarkation day and from the ship to the airport or local hotel on disembarkation
- ✓ Shipboard accommodation in your selected cabin category with daily housekeeping. Cabins feature outside views with windows or portholes that open on each deck
- ✓ High quality, eco friendly, Canadian made natural amenities in every cabin
- ✓ All breakfasts, lunches* and dinners on board throughout your voyage with daily afternoon tea. Lunches at the golf courses are not included
- ✓ 24-hour tea, coffee, hot chocolate in bar lounge plus in-cabin tea, coffee, hot chocolate replenished daily
- ✓ Experienced Expedition Leader and professional expedition team and a Golf Program Co-ordinator
- ✓ Daily off-ship excursions by zodiac boat separating into small groups for shore landings
- ✓ Guided hikes and walks on shore of various durations for guests of all abilities
- ✓ Visits to wildlife locations, historic sites, places of outstanding natural beauty and community visits. Several whisky tastings are also included
- ✓ Educational presentations and talks by experts in their field (ie. historians, naturalists, etc). Onboard or on shore
- ✓ Resident photographer available to assist all guests
- ✓ Access to computers in the multimedia lab for image downloads, file back-up and management
- ✓ An emergency trained medical physician onboard every voyage
- ✓ Dedicated hospitality team including Hotel Manager, four chefs, professional bar staff and Adventure Concierge staff
- ✓ Onboard sauna, plunge pool, jacuzzi and fitness centre including personal trainer and massage options (charge applies for massage and spa treatments)
- ✓ Access to well stocked library full of reference books and holiday reading
- ✓ An activity program that includes stand-up paddle boarding, sea kayaking and cycling options on shore
- ✓ End of voyage video, photos and take home USB
- ✓ Port fees and all permits to access visited areas

Golf Inclusions and Features

- ✓ Green fees at all courses listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Transfer of all players plus clubs/equipment from ship to shore (and back) - and to the course at all locations
- ✓ Pull carts are available at all locations – either included in green fees or hired from the Pro Shop for a small fee. Some courses also offer powered pull carts. Experienced caddies are available for a fee at all locations and must be arranged prior to arrival.
- ✓ *Pre-packed lunches will be available for all golfers. Or golfers may choose to utilize the clubhouse and dining facilities when on shore. Meals or drinks purchased on shore will be at passengers own expense.
- ✓ A friendly competition will take place over the duration of the voyage featuring both scratch and handicap scores at each course and a combined total score. Additional competitions could include 'longest drive' and 'nearest the pin' challenges. Specific details will be provided in your pre-voyage information package.

✓ Expedition Cruising Gear – included

Should you choose to participate in any of the non-golfing activities, an equipment package is available to use when off the ship or on shore. This includes waterproof jacket, pants and other items. The jacket and pants are rated for 'expedition cruising' and would not be suitable when playing golf in inclement weather. We recommend you bring your own outer gear suitable for playing golf in adverse conditions.

The Expedition does not include:

- › *Any international or local airfare unless otherwise specified in the voyage itinerary*
- › *Pre or post-cruise hotel accommodation unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (or pre-arranged)*
- › *Personal expenses on board such as alcoholic beverages, bar charges or laundry expenses*
- › *Telecommunication charges (ie. email, satellite phone). Note: cell phones will work in many locations on this voyage*
- › *Baggage, cancellation or medical travel insurance related expenses (comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory on all One Ocean Expeditions voyages)*
- › *A voluntary gratuity at the end of the voyage for expedition staff and ship crew (suggested amount – \$US12-15 per day)*

THE RIGHT SHIP = THE BEST EXPERIENCE



RCGS Resolute

RCGS Resolute offers exceptional onboard facilities and provides an ideal platform for expedition cruising in locations such as coastal Scotland. Outstanding observation areas both inside and from the outer decks allow you to be completely absorbed by the coastal landscapes along the way. Our priority is to craft specially designed itineraries that provide you with maximum time in the pristine locations we visit. The vessel has capacity of just 146 guests and we break into small, special interest groups. Along with the wonderful golfing opportunities provided on this voyage, there are hiking options onshore, visits to small coastal communities, historic sites, famous whisky distilleries and we enjoy outstanding wilderness areas. Cruising in the zodiacs photographing the landscapes, or observing coastal marine and bird life is a highlight for many. For the more adventurous, sea kayaking is another memorable experience. To learn more about this exceptional vessel, request a copy of the [Ship Fact Sheet](#) containing detailed technical specifications and additional information about cabins, amenities and inclusions.

BEFORE YOU BOOK – IMPORTANT VOYAGE DETAILS

COMPREHENSIVE PRE-VOYAGE INFORMATION

Upon receipt of your deposit and booking forms, a detailed booklet will be sent to you providing additional information to help you prepare for your voyage. This resource is full of useful facts and covers practicalities such as suggested clothing, life on board the ship, wildlife, geography and history as well as details about the activities available throughout your voyage. Information regarding passports and visas, budgeting, as well as travel insurance requirements are also found in this helpful document.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

On all One Ocean Expeditions' voyages, you must have comprehensive travel insurance. Your booking agent can recommend a policy designed to cover participants on these voyages. Your policy must provide coverage for your medical costs in case of hospitalization, emergency travel and repatriation.

Please check the terms of your policy carefully, particularly with regard to limits of cover. Also ensure you are familiar with the procedure for making claims. Once you have paid your deposit or full payment, certain fees will apply if you have to cancel your trip (see the cancellation provisions in our booking terms and conditions). For this reason you should take out travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit, which should then protect you in such a situation. You will be required to send us travel insurance policy details prior to your voyage.

OPTIONS FOR NON-GOLFERS ON THIS VOYAGE

While the focus of this trip is golf, for those non-golfing partners or friends, we will offer a comprehensive program of alternative activities and sightseeing in these beautiful locations. Cruising in the zodiac boats, short and long hikes on shore, visits to historic locations and small Scottish communities are all part of the experience. There will be options for cycle touring, discovering the beautiful white sand beaches, or other water-based activities such as sea kayaking or stand-up paddle boarding. Our expert team will be available and provide a great range of on shore and water based experiences while the golfers enjoy the challenges of these celebrated and challenging golf layouts.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Coastal Scotland is a fascinating place for young and inquisitive minds. These voyages are family friendly and we offer special rates for children and youth (up to 21 years of age at time of travel) when travelling with a family member. For children younger than 12 years of age at the time of travel, please contact your booking agent, or our office to discuss the options.

THE ONE CLUB – EXPEDITION ALUMNI

Come as a passenger, leave as a friend. Once you have experienced one voyage with us, it's likely you will want to experience another. Your commitment to travel with us is rewarded with our commitment to you, our valued guest. As members of the One Club Expedition Alumni, your loyalty is rewarded with a range of great travel benefits when you return for your next voyage — no matter the destination. Ask your booking agent for details.



IMPORTANT: The information provided here is given in good faith and has been compiled with all reasonable care. However some of the information may become out of date. Please keep this in mind and check with us if you want to be sure about anything. The document was correct at time of printing. If you have any queries, please contact your voyage booking agent or our office. We are here to help you.



Supporting Local Communities

Many locations on this voyage are well off the tourist trail. Our visit provides an economic boost through port and visitor fees and when guests come into contact with the local economy, through purchasing of arts, crafts and produce. We employ a number of Scottish staff on the ship to share with you their fantastic knowledge, history and cultural traditions. And you will come into contact with our local Scottish ground staff along the way.



World Leading - the World Over

For several years One Ocean Expeditions and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society have maintained a collaborative relationship grounded in geographical education, exploration, science, social and economic community development, Canadian national identity and experiential travel. We are proud to be the exclusive marine travel partner of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and affiliates.



The right team = exceptional service

You will come to appreciate the dedication of our expedition team when onboard the ship. The highest staff to guest ratio in the industry (1:4) allows you to experience the broadest range of activities possible, catering to all interests and abilities. We are committed to providing exceptional service and are known for our flexible, yet professional approach and an ability to 'make things happen'.

INTERESTED IN THIS EXPERIENCE?

When choosing to travel with One Ocean Expeditions we ensure your experience from start to finish is straight forward and well organized.

Start by customizing your journey and mapping out the trip ahead.

If this sounds like the right trip for you, please discuss your ideas and plans with your preferred booking agent. They will reserve a cabin for you on your chosen voyage. This provides time to book flights to the embarkation points of this voyage and to plan other pre or post voyage travel requirements. Please remember that you will require comprehensive travel insurance to join our voyages. This is best arranged at the time of booking. Following confirmation of your reservation, you will need to complete a detailed **One Ocean Expeditions Booking Package** plus other pre voyage documentation to accompany your deposit. At this point your voyage of discovery is underway.

Take advantage of our experience, which spans decades of expedition travel.
Should you have any questions, we are here to help at any time.

YOUR NOTES:

Trip Note Updated: 17AUG18 - JM