



# WILD ISLES EXPEDITION



## THE WILD ISLES

**Holyhead to Shetland via St Kilda**

**Summer 2027**

*A journey through Britain's last wild coastlines.*

**The Wild Isles** is a 650 nautical mile expedition through some of the most spectacular and remote waters around the British Isles.

Beginning in Holyhead, North Wales, the expedition crosses the Irish Sea to the Isle of Man before continuing north through the North Channel and into the Hebrides. From there the route explores the Inner and Outer Hebrides, ventures into the Atlantic Ocean to reach the legendary islands of St Kilda, before continuing north through the Western Isles, Orkney, Fair Isle and finally the Shetland Islands.

Unlike many rowing expeditions that focus on a single crossing, Wild Isles is a journey of constantly changing landscapes, cultures and coastlines. From the

mountains of Snowdonia and the Isle of Man to the Atlantic isolation of St Kilda and the dramatic cliffs of Shetland, every stage brings a new destination and a new challenge.

Divided into three distinct sections with crew change opportunities in Oban and Lochinver, participants can join a single stage or take part in the entire expedition from Wales to Shetland.

## At a Glance

**Distance:** Approximately 650 Nautical Miles

**Start:** Holyhead, Wales

**Finish:** Lerwick, Shetland

**Crew Changes:** Oban and Lochinver

**Duration:** Approximately 4 Weeks (Weather Dependent)

## The Isles

- Isle of Man
- Islay
- Inner Hebrides
- Outer Hebrides
- St Kilda
- Lewis and Harris
- Orkney
- Fair Isle
- Shetland



# Join for a Passage or Complete the Entire Expedition

Crew change opportunities in Oban and Lochinver allow crew to join individual stages or undertake the full journey from Wales to Shetland.

## PASSAGE ONE

### The Irish Sea & Hebrides, 8-10 days

#### Holyhead to Oban

The opening section combines an Irish Sea crossing, the Isle of Man, the North Channel and the spectacular waters of Scotland's Inner Hebrides before arriving in Oban.

#### Route

Leg 1 – Holyhead to Douglas, Isle of Man

Leg 2 – Douglas to Port Ellen, Islay

Leg 3 – Port Ellen to Oban

Approximate Distance: 220 Nautical Miles

#### Crew Change – Oban

Join or leave the expedition in Scotland's west coast adventure capital. This marks the end of the first stage of the journey.



# PASSAGE TWO

## The Atlantic Frontier, 8-10 days

### Oban to Lochinver via St Kilda

This stage explores the Inner and Outer Hebrides and includes the expedition's signature Atlantic crossing to St Kilda.

#### Route

Leg 4 – Oban to Scarinish, Tiree

Leg 5 – Tiree to Castlebay, Barra

Leg 6 – Barra to St Kilda

Leg 7 – St Kilda to Stornoway

Leg 8 – Stornoway to Lochinver

Approximate Distance: 266 Nautical Miles

#### The St Kilda Crossing

The crossing from Barra to St Kilda is the defining challenge of the expedition. Lying far out in the North Atlantic, St Kilda is one of the most extraordinary destinations in Europe and the United Kingdom's only dual UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### Crew Change – Lochinver

A natural transition point between the Hebrides and Northern Isles sections of the expedition.



## PASSAGE THREE

The Northern Isles, 8-10 days

Lochinver to Shetland

The final section explores Scotland's northern waters, visiting Orkney, Fair Isle and Shetland before concluding in Lerwick.

### Route

Leg 9 – Lochinver to Stromness, Orkney

Leg 10 – Stromness to Fair Isle

Leg 11 – Fair Isle to Lerwick, Shetland

Approximate Distance: 152 Nautical Miles

### Expedition Finish – Lerwick

The Wild Isles Expedition concludes in Lerwick, capital of the Shetland Islands, after a journey through some of the most remarkable coastal landscapes in the British Isles.



## Key Highlights

- Crossing the Irish Sea
- Transit of the North Channel
- Exploring the Inner Hebrides
- Visiting Barra and the Outer Hebrides
- Offshore crossing to St Kilda
- Arrival at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hirta
- Crossing the Minch
- Exploring Orkney
- Landing on Fair Isle
- Finishing in Lerwick, Shetland



## What to Expect

The Wild Isles Expedition takes place aboard Roxy, Rannoch Adventure's ocean rowing boat.

Expect a combination of day rowing, overnight passages, island visits and life aboard Roxy. Rowing schedules will vary depending on weather, tides and route requirements.

All itineraries are weather dependent and may be altered if conditions require.

Participants will experience some of the most remote coastlines in the British Isles whilst operating as part of a close-knit expedition team.

The rewards are exceptional. Participants will visit islands and coastlines that very few people ever experience from the water.

## Accommodation

Accommodation during the expedition will primarily be aboard Roxy.

Life aboard an ocean rowing boat is part of the adventure. Participants should be prepared for expedition-style living in a close-knit team environment and should expect flexibility as conditions dictate.

Overnight accommodation ashore may occasionally be arranged where operationally appropriate, but should not be assumed as part of the expedition.



## Meals

All expedition meals and snacks are provided during the expedition.

Drinking water is available aboard the vessel and participants may bring a limited amount of personal snacks if they wish.

Any meals taken ashore are not included within the expedition price.

## Safety & Medical

- Professionally led by experienced Rannoch Adventure staff
- Full onboard safety equipment provided
- First aid kits and general medical supplies carried onboard
- Satellite communications and tracking equipment carried
- No alcohol or smoking permitted onboard

## Training & Fitness

The fitter you are, the more you will enjoy your expedition.

Participants should be comfortable spending long periods outdoors and undertaking sustained physical activity.

A combination of endurance and strength-based training is recommended in preparation for the expedition.

No previous ocean rowing experience is required, training will be given, although a positive attitude, resilience and willingness to work as part of a team are essential.



## Essential Kit List

- Sleeping bag suitable for use aboard Roxy
- Marine foul weather clothing
- Technical base layers
- Warm mid-layers
- Hat, neck buff and gloves
- White-soled deck shoes
- Personal toiletries
- Waterproof phone case
- Sunglasses and sun protection
- Personal medication

A detailed expedition kit list will be provided upon confirmation of a place.

## Contingency Planning

The safety of the crew and vessel will always take priority over the planned route. While the objective is to complete the full route via St Kilda, the expedition has a number of flexible alternatives that allow the journey to remain both challenging and rewarding should weather conditions prevent progress on the intended track.

Should conditions make the crossing to St Kilda unsafe or impractical, the expedition will instead spend additional time exploring the spectacular waters and islands of the Outer Hebrides, including Lewis, Harris and North Uist. These islands offer outstanding opportunities for coastal exploration, wildlife encounters and while remaining within more sheltered waters.

Similarly, should conditions in the Northern Isles make a crossing from Orkney to Shetland inadvisable, the expedition will remain within Orkney waters and undertake an extended exploration of the archipelago with over seventy islands, dramatic sea cliffs, historic sites and world-class coastal scenery, Orkney provides ample opportunity for an engaging and worthwhile alternative programme. And/or head south down the east coast of Scotland.

These contingency plans ensure that, regardless of weather conditions, participants experience a memorable expedition while maintaining the highest standards of safety and seamanship.

## What's Included

- Place aboard Roxy
- Professional expedition leadership
- Expedition food and snacks
- Safety equipment
- Tracking and communications equipment
- First aid and medical supplies

## What's Not Included

- Travel to and from the expedition
- Accommodation before and after the expedition
- Personal equipment and clothing
- Personal insurance

## Price

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Single passage      | £1,950 |
| Two passages        | £3,500 |
| Complete expedition | £5,000 |

## Apply for a Place



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