



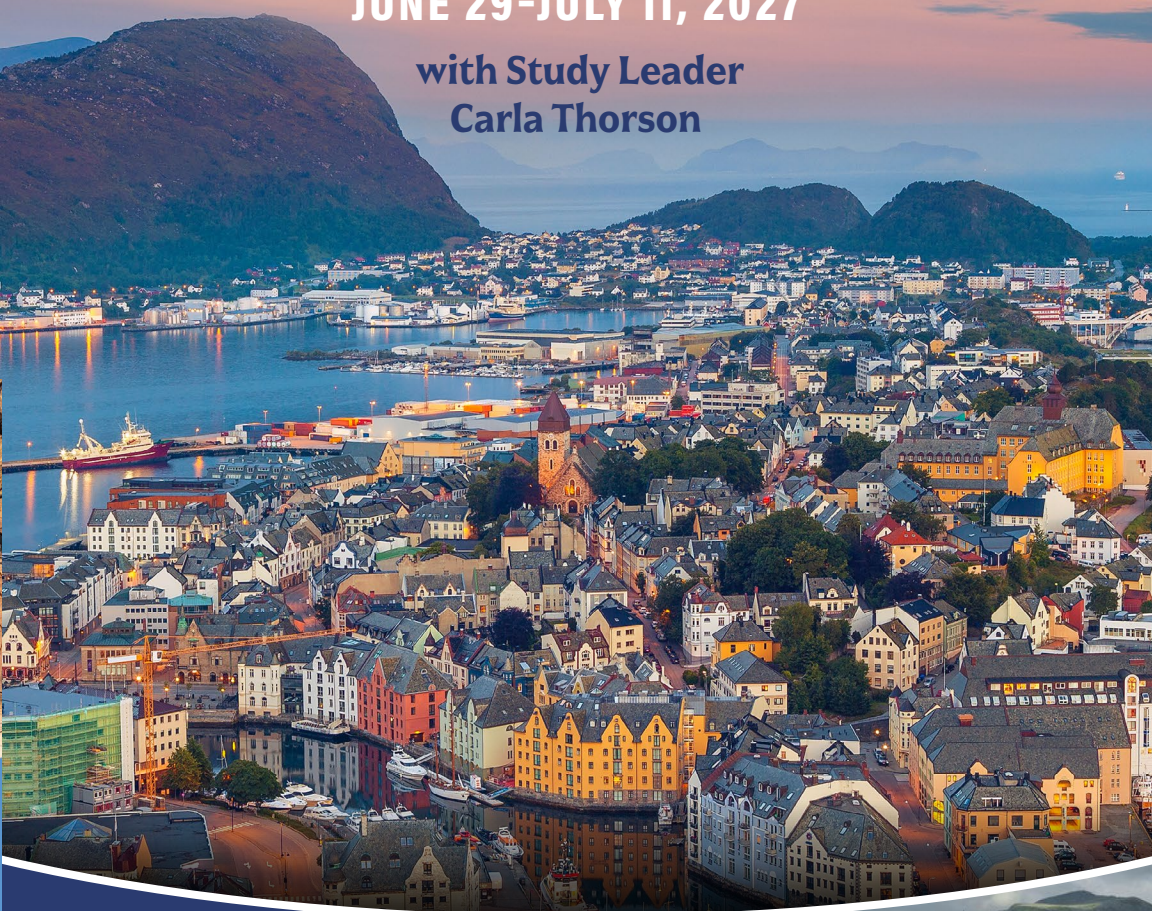
WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS

**From the Scottish Highlands to
Norway's Coastal Splendor**

JUNE 29-JULY 11, 2027

**with Study Leader
Carla Thorson**



**Aboard the
59-Cabin
*Hebridean Sky***





Dear Curious Travelers,

JOIN IN AN EXPLORATION of Norway's magnificent landscapes, ancient settlements, and idyllic villages, cruising during the season of the Midnight Sun, when long northern days illuminate snowcapped peaks, glittering glaciers, cascading waterfalls, and fjords framed by bright green valleys. Beginning with an overnight stay in historic Aberdeen, this varied itinerary traces the pathways of Vikings and early settlers, combining the wonders of the natural world with the historical and cultural highlights of Norway's dramatic coastline.

Among the special features of this itinerary is time spent in remote and historically significant island settings, beginning with the Shetland Islands, where prehistoric remains and Norse heritage endure at remarkable sites such as Jarlshof. Sailing onward along Norway's coast, spend several days within some of the country's most celebrated fjords, including Sognefjord, Hardangerfjord, and Lysefjorden, where sheer cliffs rise beneath Preikestolen.

Step ashore at peaceful fjord-side towns and villages including Ålesund, explore valleys and farms in Sunnfjord, and visit Rosendal and Loen, where glacier landscapes, serene lakes, and mountain views reveal the grandeur of western Norway. Throughout the voyage, uncover layers of Scandinavian history, from Viking remains and ancient churches to traditional communities shaped by sea and mountain landscapes.

Delight in ten nights aboard the elegant *Hebridean Sky*, privately chartered for this voyage and ideally suited to navigating Norway's coastal waters in comfort, with spacious suites, inviting public spaces, and attentive service throughout.

To reserve your space, please visit [https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/270629 SNH/tour](https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/270629%20SNH/tour) For more information, call our office at (800) 942-5004 or email travel@wacphila.org.



We look forward to traveling with you,

Andrew Haught
Director of Travel
World Affairs Council
of Philadelphia



SCAN ME

with your smart phone or
tablet to register online.

STUDY LEADER **Carla Thorson** is an accomplished executive in the San Francisco Bay Area and global nonprofit community, now steering Call of the Sea, managing two traditionally-rigged tall ships and on-the-water education for future generations. With almost 20 years of experience in program design, strategy, and development at the World Affairs Council, the Global Philanthropy Forum, and the



Commonwealth Club, she has a deep appreciation for the role nonprofits play in building community and advancing shared goals. She also has a background in higher education as a professor of political science, focused on international relations and geopolitics at St Mary's College, UCLA and Cal State LA. In her current role, she promotes marine conservation, environmental sustainability and the maritime traditions that are so important to the Bay area and the world. She has previously led voyages to Svalbard, Iceland, Finland, the Baltic, and Antarctica.



Jarlshof, Scotland



Norway

HIGHLIGHTS

LINGER in Norway's most beautiful fjords including Sognefjord, Norway's longest, Hardangerfjord, the Queen of fjords, and Lysefjorden beneath Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock).

UNCOVER layers of ancient history with visits to Scotland's mysterious Pictish Stones, the Viking ruins of Jarlshof in the Shetland Islands, Stavanger's world renown Archaeological Museum, and the Hopperstad Stave Church, one of the oldest in Norway.

CALL ON Rosendal for an opportunity to walk in beautiful Hatteberg Valley or take in the icy magic of Folgefonna Glacier.

DISCOVER Loen's Kjenndal Valley, with sweeping glacier views, serene lake crossings, and a breathtaking ride on the Loen Skylift.

WATCH for extraordinary wildlife — puffins, gannets, and sea eagles overhead, and minke whales, porpoises, and seals in the waters of Norway's southern fjords in summer.

EXPLORE the valleys and farms of Sunnfjord, a quieter, more intimate fjord experience, and connect with local life during a day in Bygstad, a quiet inland community seldom visited by cruise itineraries.

STEP ASHORE at peaceful, picturesque towns, fishing villages, and farms off the beaten track—splendid Art Nouveau Ålesund, set on a cluster of coastal islands, and charming Lillesand, for its picturesque collection of traditional, white-painted wooden houses.

CONCLUDE in Oslo with the option to extend your journey at the Grand Hotel, annual venue of the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony, to explore Oslo's vibrant city center, Vigeland Sculpture Park, and Bygdøy Peninsula museums.



Lillesand

Sognefjord



Stave Church



ITINERARY

Tuesday, June 29 - Wednesday, June 30

DEPART HOME / ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND

Depart U.S. on overnight flights to Aberdeen, Scotland. Arrive in Scotland's historic "Granite City" and transfer to the heart of the city. In the evening, gather with fellow travelers for a festive welcome orientation and reception.

Sandman Signature Aberdeen Hotel and Spa (R)

Thursday, July 1

ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND

Spend the morning exploring **Old Aberdeen**, including **St. Machar's Cathedral**, or take an excursion along the **Pictish Stones Trail** to see intricately carved relics of Scotland's ancient people. Enjoy a traditional Scottish lunch before embarking your ship and setting sail in the evening for Norway. *Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)*

Friday, July 2

LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS, SCOTLAND

Arrive this morning in **Lerwick, capital of the Shetland Islands**, to explore its lively harbor and Norse heritage. Visit nearby **Jarlshof**, an extraordinary archaeological site spanning 4,000 years from ancient dwellings to Viking longhouses. Gather this evening for the Captain's welcome reception and dinner. *Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)*

Saturday, July 3

VIK, SOGNEFJORD, NORWAY

Wake this morning in Norway, cruising majestic **Sognefjord**, the country's largest and deepest fjord. Come ashore in the village of Vik to visit the ornate **Hopperstad Stave Church**, the 12th-century **Hove Stone Church**, and the **ancient Mohaugane burial mounds**. Sample "**gamal ost**," a traditional **Viking-era cheese**, still crafted locally, before spending the afternoon on deck sailing through dramatic fjord scenery.

Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)

Sunday, July 4

ÅLESUND NORWAY

Enjoy a relaxing morning crossing the North Sea as the lecture series continues. Spend the afternoon in **Ålesund**, one of Scandinavia's most picturesque towns. Choose from three optional excursions:

- 1.** a visit to a historic World War II bunker carved into the mountain above the city;
- 2.** a coach tour through the scenic Giske Islands; or
- 3.** an in-depth guided walking tour of the city, including Mt. Aksla.

Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)

Monday, July 5

LOEN, NORWAY

Disembark in the beautiful village of Loen for a drive through the dramatic **Kjenndal Valley** for a boat cruise across **Loen Lake**, surrounded by towering peaks and glacier arms. Enjoy homemade waffles at Kjenndalsbre Fjellstove before continuing to the **Kjenndalsbre Glacier** viewpoint, an arm of the mighty **Jostedal Glacier**. Return to Loen for a free afternoon to explore independently before an evening sail through Nordfjord. *Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)*

Tuesday, July 6

BYGSTAD, NORWAY

Our lecture series continues this morning while cruising to Bygstad, an inland community where ships seldom venture and home to the hidden gem of **Sunnifjord**. Come ashore for a guided valley walk past cascading waterfalls,



emerald pastures, and idyllic farms framed by steep mountains. Visit **local homesteads** to learn about life in this fjord land community where traditions endure.

Hebridean Sky (B,L,D)

Wednesday, July 7

ROSENDAL, NORWAY

Choose from a variety of excursions: visit the elegant **Baroniet Rosendal**, Scandinavia's only Renaissance-era manor, where formal gardens and aristocratic history reveal Norway's ties to continental Europe; discover the power of ice at the **Folgefonna Glacier & Nature Center**, offering insight into Norway's dramatic glacial landscapes; or hike the scenic Hattberg Valley, surrounded by waterfalls, forests, and soaring mountains. *Hebridean Sky* (B,L,D)

Thursday, July 8

**HARDANGERFJORD,
QUEEN OF THE FJORDS**

Arrive in **Hardangerfjord**, one of Norway's most celebrated fjords, for its breathtaking combination of snow-crowned peaks, thundering waterfalls, and fertile orchards. Disembark in the traditional **village of Eidfjord** with the chance to visit **Hardangervidda Nature Center** and the roaring **Vøringsfossen Waterfall**, one of Norway's most spectacular. *Hebridean Sky* (B,L,D)

Friday, July 9

LYSEFJORDEN & STAVANGER, NORWAY

Awake in picturesque **Lysefjord**, cruising its 23-mile length beneath the towering cliffs of **Preikestolen (Pulpit Rock)** and **Kjerag Mountain**. Continue to Stavanger, the coastal gem of Southern Norway with its colorful old town or visit the **Archaeological Museum's** rich treasure trove of Viking-era artifacts. *Hebridean Sky* (B,L,D)

Saturday, July 10

LILLESAND, NORWAY

Arrive in **Lillesand**, a quintessential Norwegian summer town. Thanks to our smaller ship, dock in the heart of town and step directly into its charming streets for a guided walking tour. This afternoon, cruise to Oslo through pine-fringed skerries, red boathouses, and quiet summer cottages along Norway's southern coast. Gather this evening for the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner. *Hebridean Sky* (B,L,R,D)

Sunday, July 11

OSLO, NORWAY / HOME

After breakfast, disembark in Oslo. Travelers may transfer to the airport for flights home or join an optional post-trip extension featuring a walking tour of historic Oslo, the Vigeland Sculpture Park, Opera House, and museums on the Bygdøy Peninsula, including the Fram and Kon-Tiki. (B)



Inverness



Oslo

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

PRE-TOUR June 26-30, 2027

THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

Spend three nights in historic Inverness at a 4-star hotel dating back to 1785. Cruise the legendary Loch Ness, explore Urquhart Castle, and tour a top malt whisky distillery. Wander through an estate hailed by David Attenborough as "one of the glories of wild Scotland," and stroll the grounds of Balmoral Castle, home of the Royal Family since the 1800s. Adventure and history await around every corner.

Extension Rates (Per Person)

Double Occupancy: \$3,590

Single Occupancy: \$4,780

POST-TOUR July 11-14, 2027

ART & ARCHAEOLOGY IN OSLO

After disembarking from the *Hebridean Sky*, explore Norway's capital city of Oslo for three nights, staying at the elegant and historic Grand Hotel, opened in 1874, and for over 140 years the host to international guests, world leaders, celebrities, and Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Highlights include Vigeland Sculpture Park, *Norsk Folkemuseum*, and the Fram Museum of Polar Exploration.

Extension Rates (Per Person)

Double Occupancy: \$2,990

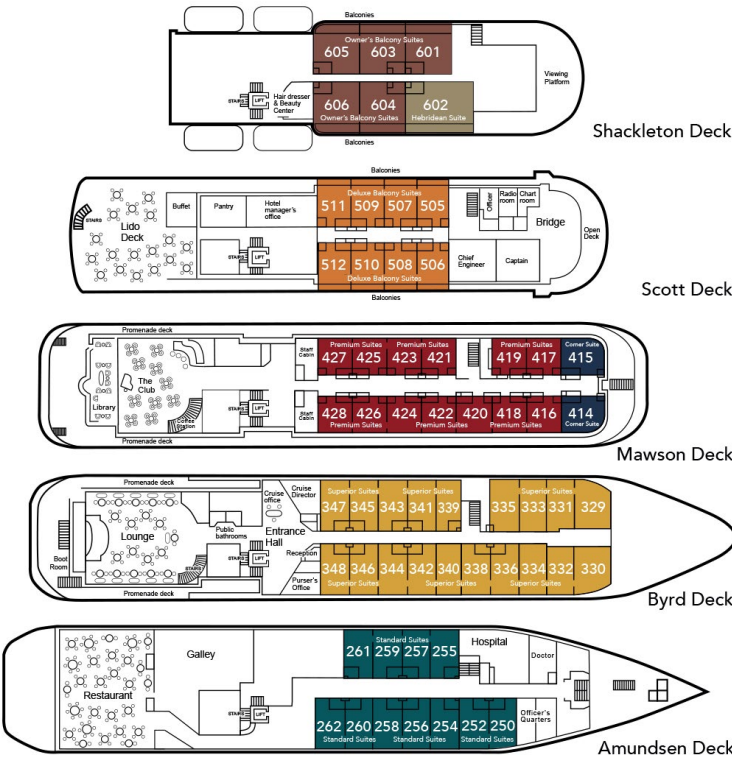
Single Occupancy: \$3,785

Further details will be sent to confirmed participants.

Hebridean Sky

The *Hebridean Sky* has 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. Each suite has ocean views, and several suites have private balconies. All suites feature a sitting room, ensuite bathroom, flat screened TV, spacious wardrobes, a dressing table, and beds that can be configured as twins or a double. After a major refurbishment in 2016, and further enhancements since, the *Hebridean Sky* now boasts beautifully designed public spaces including a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. Onboard chefs prepare international and regional cuisine served at a single open seating in the Restaurant or on the Lido Deck, weather permitting. A friendly crew provides exceptional service with a 1:2 crew to passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers, and a fleet of Zodiacs to access remote shorelines and islands.

PROGRAM RATES (per person):		DOUBLE	SINGLE
A	STANDARD SUITE (forward cabins 250 & 252) 226 sq ft, portholes	\$10,990	\$17,590
B	STANDARD SUITE 226 sq ft, portholes	\$11,990	\$19,190
C	SUPERIOR SUITE 237 sq ft, picture window	\$13,990	\$22,390
D	PREMIUM SUITE 226 sq ft, picture window	\$15,990	—
E	CORNER SUITE 237 sq ft, picture windows	\$17,490	—
F	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 225 sq ft plus 43 sq ft balcony	\$18,990	—
G	OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 237 sq ft plus 86 sq ft balcony	\$20,490	—
H	HEBRIDEAN SUITE 264 sq ft plus 101 sq ft balcony	\$22,490	—



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE
One hotel night and ten nights aboard *Hebridean Sky* ■ Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eleven breakfasts, ten lunches and ten dinners ■ Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations ■ Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates ■ Baggage handling ■ Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers ■ Port charges ■ Entrance fees ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners aboard the ship ■ Filtered water on motorcoaches ■ Complete packet of pre-departure information ■ Professional tour manager throughout the program

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 group arrival and departure dates ■ 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; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone, internet and email charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature

WHAT TO EXPECT
This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites over cobblestone, hills, and uneven terrain. Hiking options are available in some ports, with distances of up to three miles. In some instances, elevators are unavailable, and stairs may not have handrails. You will need to climb into and out of Zodiacs for several excursions ashore—and there may be additional use of the Zodiacs to take advantage of opportunities that arise. Participants should be fit and in active good health. Limited medical facilities are available on-board *Hebridean Sky*. All participants will be required to follow safety protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws.

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 or by e-mail at tourflights@vwti.com. 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 provided to confirmed participants.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 96 participants, including travelers from World Affairs Council, Harvard Alumni Travels, Princeton Journeys, and Archaeological Institute of America.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

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

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions, including Statement of Responsibility, will be made available to you at the time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

An initial deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/270629_SNH/tour or complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Balance of payment is due **March 1, 2027**. After March 1, 2027, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit

card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. 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% non-refundable. After the March 1, 2027 final payment deadline, all payments are 100% non-refundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate.

NOTE: Neither the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

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 passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. 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, the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia 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.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

Photos from Dreamstime.com: Cover ©Rudi1976; Norway/letter ©RadomA-rReA3/4NA1/2; puffins ©Karl Ander Adam; Jarlshof Scotland © Nigel Hoy; Lillesand ©Rico; Alesund ©Andreyi Armiagov; hillside ©Natalia Sokolovska; Sognefjord ©Alefra1994; Stave Church ©Golasza; Inverness ©Lachris77; Oslo ©Ziyaduddin Shinwari; Viking ship ©Asmus Koefoed.

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS

From the Scottish Highlands to Norway's Coastal Splendor

JUNE 29-JULY 11, 2027



RESERVE ONLINE

RESERVATIONS Please visit https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/WAC/270629_SNH/tour. You may also complete and return this reservation form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or email the completed form to res@criteriontravel.com. For questions or more information, call our office at (800) 942-5004 or email travel@wacphila.org.

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 others on this program?

☐ Yes, _____

PAYMENT

☐ Please charge the deposit to my (circle one):
VISA / MC / AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel)
for _____ place(s) on **HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS**.

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed preference: ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

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

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS

JUNE 29 -
JULY 11, 2027

From the
Scottish Highlands
to Norway's
Coastal Splendor
WITH STUDY LEADER
Carla Thorson



WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL OF
PHILADELPHIA
& PARTNERS

One Penn Center 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1660
Philadelphia, PA 19103

(800) 942-5004 • WACPHILA.ORG/TRAVEL • TRAVEL@WACPHILA.ORG