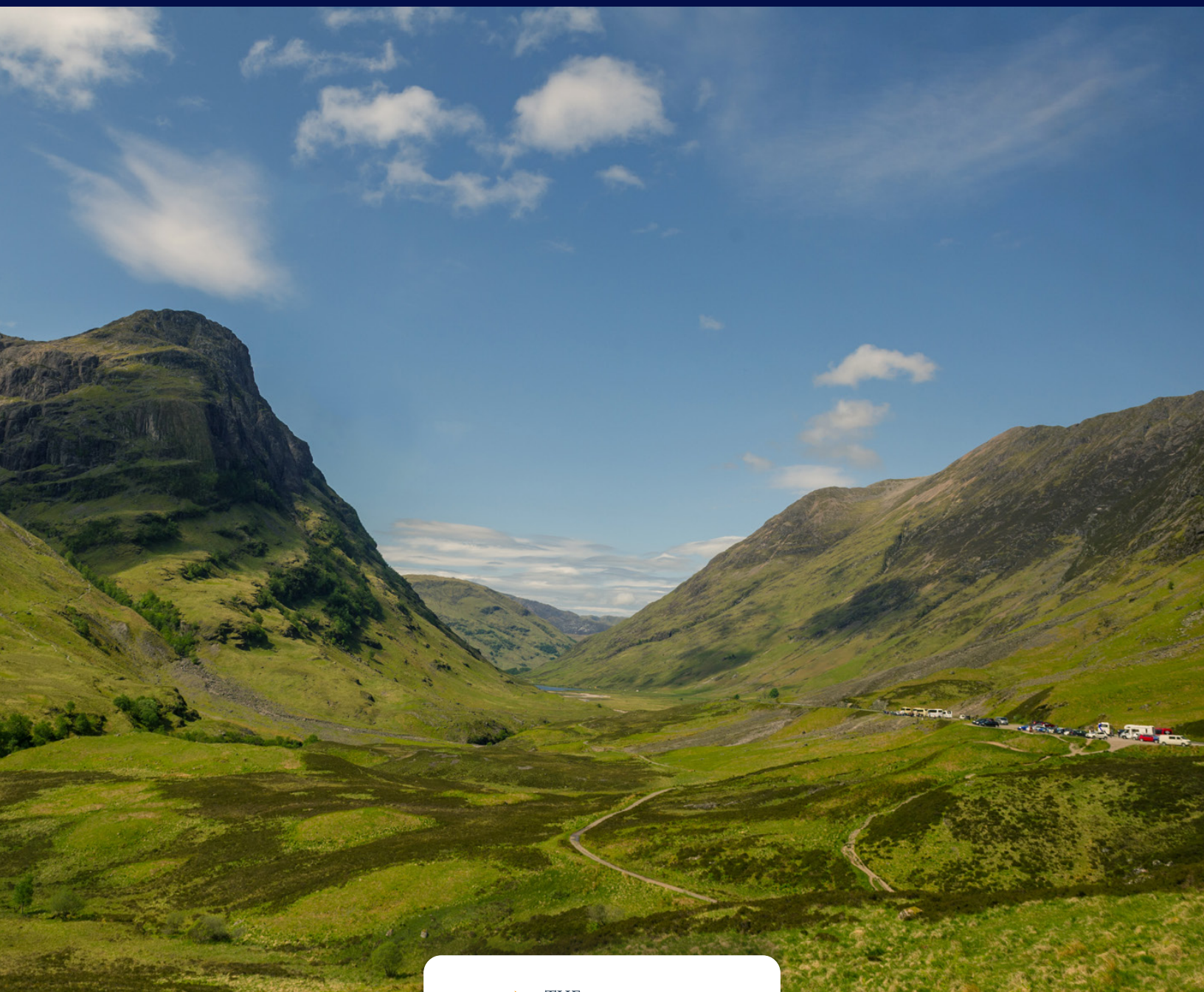


2027 Viking Age Scotland, Norway, and Denmark: Riches of the Ancient North *with Dr. Larissa Tracy*

May 3–13, 2027



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May 3–13, 2027

From \$12,900

double occupancy, per person



2027 Viking Age Scotland, Norway, and Denmark: Riches of the Ancient North *with Dr. Larissa Tracy*

This cruise traces a rich cultural arc from Scotland’s creative renaissance to the ancient worlds of the Hebrides, Orkney, and Shetland, where prehistoric stone circles, Neolithic villages, and Norse settlements reveal millennia of human ingenuity. Explore Glasgow’s vibrant arts scene, Oban’s innovative marine science, and the craft traditions that define island life. Dr. Larissa Tracy, Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of English at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, brings expertise in medieval literature, belief, law, medicine, and daily life, offering insight that deepens each destination.

Cross into Norway to encounter the legacy of the Hanseatic League, dramatic fjord landscapes, and rural coastal traditions. Conclude in Denmark’s luminous Skagen artists’ colony, enriched throughout by Dr. Tracy’s dynamic and engaging perspectives.

Your Journey Expert



Dr. Larissa Tracy is a Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County and former Professor of Medieval Literature. Her research focuses on 13th- to 15th-century English literature that looks back to the pre-Conquest period in England and the Viking Age. Professor Tracy is also a scholar of Viking culture with extensive research into Old Norse traditions. She has appeared in several National Geographic, Discovery Channel, and History Channel documentaries, including *Dark Marvels* and *The Unbelievable!* hosted by Dan Aykroyd. Professor Tracy received her PhD in Medieval Literature from Trinity College Dublin. Among the books she's authored are *Torture and Brutality in Medieval Literature*, *Medieval and Early Modern Murder*, and *Wounds and Wound Repair in Medieval Culture*. She is the host of the video podcast *Medieval Mischief and Mayhem*. For The Great Courses, she produced the Audible Original *The Culture of Knighthood in Medieval Romance* and is developing a new Great Course on *Medieval Christianities*.

Highlights

- Travel alongside your expert for a uniquely immersive journey, connecting the landscapes, medieval legacies, and archaeological sites of Scotland and Scandinavia with the beliefs, laws, literature, and cultural forces that shaped life across the Middle Ages.
- Visit Kilmartin Glen, one of Scotland's most important prehistoric landscapes, with over 350 ancient monuments, standing stones, burial cairns, rock carvings, and hillforts, spanning over 5,000 years of human history.
- Travel to and experience the meaning of the megaliths at prehistoric sites throughout the Scottish Islands and marvel at the creativity of the people who raised families in settlements like Skara Brae.
- Trace Bergen's rise as a Hanseatic trading hub with visits to medieval churches, merchant assembly rooms, Bryggen's historic waterfront, and a panoramic ride up Mount Fløyen.
- Immerse yourself in the beauty of the fjords and learn something of the way life is lived in the countryside of southern Norway.
- Discover the artistry of the Skagen Painters as you tour their *fin de siècle* retreat in the Danish city for which they are named.



Viking Age Scotland, Norway, and Denmark

Riches of the Ancient North

with Dr. Larissa Tracy

Itinerary



Day 1: Arrive in Glasgow, Scotland

Arrive at either Glasgow Airport (GLA) or Edinburgh Airport (EDI), where you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Voco Grand Central Hotel (or similar) in Glasgow for overnight stay. This evening, join fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys expert for a welcome reception. Dinner is at your leisure.

Included Meal: Reception

Accommodation: Hotel Voco Grand Central (or similar)

Day 2: Glasgow Renaissance

Long known for shipbuilding and heavy industry, Glasgow has blossomed into one of Europe's most exciting cultural capitals, where grand Victorian architecture meets a thriving contemporary arts scene.

Begin at the magnificent Gothic Glasgow Cathedral and Necropolis—the only cathedral in Scotland to survive the Reformation intact—before exploring the revitalized city center. In St. George's Square, admire statues honoring Robert Burns, James Watt, Sir Robert Peel, and Sir Walter Scott. At Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, discover the Mackintosh tearoom, the Glasgow Boys, and the Scottish Colorists. Savor a traditional lunch at Mharsanta before embarking *Le Champlain*.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*

Day 3: Kilmartin Glen and the Stones of Time

Depart Oban for Kilmartin Glen, one of Europe's most important prehistoric landscapes, shaped by over 5,000 years of human belief, power, and ritual. Densely packed with burial cairns, standing stones, and stone circles, many older than the Egyptian pyramids, the glen offers a remarkable window into ancient Scotland. The visit begins at Kilmartin Museum, introducing key archaeological discoveries before continuing into the glen itself, where monuments are encountered in their natural setting. Rather than viewing sites in isolation, the experience explores how they relate through alignment, movement, and landscape. The tour also traces Kilmartin's later role in the medieval kingdom of Dál Riata.

Including Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*





Day 4: Prehistoric Stone and Preindustrial Wood

The Standing Stones of Callanish mark the first encounter on this voyage with prehistoric megaliths. The 32 stones in this structure were erected some 5,000 years ago—about the same time as Stonehenge. But unlike Stonehenge, the Stones of Callanish remain open and accessible. You are welcome to walk among them and muse about the role such a structure may have played in the lives of those who built it.

A short distance from Callanish is the Carloway Weaving Mill, where artisans produce iconic Harris Tweed in the traditional way. To be certified as Harris Tweed—the only cloth in the world protected by its own Act of Parliament—a garment must be hand-woven by a weaver living in the Hebrides and made from wool that was both spun and dyed in the islands.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*



Day 5: Orkney Islands and the Scottish Stone Age

Discovery of the prehistoric world of the Orkney Islands begins with a visit to the remarkably well-preserved Neolithic village of Skara Brae. Inhabited over the course of six centuries from ~3180 to ~2500 BCE, it predates both Stonehenge and the Great Pyramids. The site consists of eight stone-built houses, connected by covered passageways, with furniture (stone beds and chairs) still intact. Constructed partially underground to protect it against harsh winds, the settlement invites reflection on the resilience and resourcefulness of those who eked out an existence in such barren conditions.

From the shelter at Skara Brae, continue to two grand ceremonial sites nearby—the Ring of Brodgar, a circle of stones erected about 2500 BCE, and the somewhat older Standing Stones of Stenness—both of which were part of a massive ceremonial space that encompassed the isthmus on which they are located as well as the surrounding hills.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*



Day 6: Discovering the Astonishing Archaeology of the Shetlands

Your morning begins with tales of Norse history from your expert guide as you drive south from Lerwick to beautiful St. Ninian's Isle, where panoramic views of the North Atlantic are breathtaking. Visit the chapel here, where a hoard of ornate silver—the most important collection of Pictish silverwork ever found—was discovered in 1958.

Continue to the extraordinary archaeological site of Jarlshof, uncovered by a violent storm in the winter of 1897. Years of excavation have revealed layer upon layer of stone structures spanning at least 5,000 years of human history: late Neolithic houses; a Bronze Age village; an Iron Age broch; several Norse longhouses; a medieval farmstead; and the 16th-century laird's house.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Bougainville*



Day 7: Bergen, Norway: The Legacy of the Hanseatic League



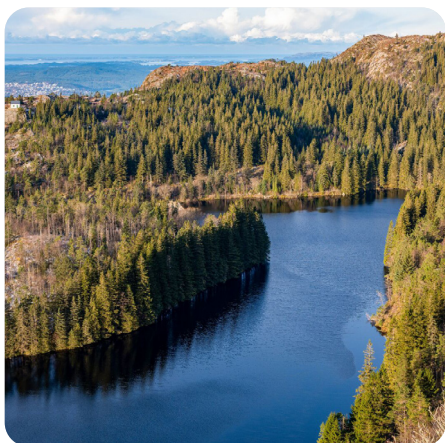
The consortium of merchants known as the Hanseatic League dominated trade in Northern Europe from the 12th century until the 16th, and Bergen owed its prosperity during those years to its role as the League's northernmost member. Your visit to this still-vibrant city focuses on this medieval legacy. Begin with a visit to Fantoft Stave Church, a striking reconstruction of a medieval wooden church showcasing traditional stave architecture and Norse-inspired carvings. Continue with a guided visit to Bergen Cathedral, then walk to St. Mary's Church, Bergen's oldest surviving building, viewing its exterior and learning about its strong Hanseatic connections.

Proceed to Bergenhus Fortress to visit the interior of Håkon's Hall, one of Norway's most significant medieval royal buildings. A short walk leads to the Schøtstuene Assembly Rooms, where Hanseatic merchants once governed trade and commerce. Enjoy a guided walk through the Hanseatic Quarters of Bryggen, the UNESCO-listed waterfront of wooden warehouses and narrow lanes that vividly recall Bergen's trading past. Visit the Archaeological Museum to view artifacts that place the Hanseatic era within the broader sweep of regional history. Then, walk to Bryggen Tracteursted for a three-course lunch in a historic setting. Following lunch, walk to the Fløibanen and ascend Mount Fløyen. Enjoy a guided panoramic view of Bergen, its harbor, and surrounding fjords before descending and walking back to the ship.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*

Day 8: Fjords—Up Close and Personal



The Norwegian fjords are most often admired at a distance from the decks of ships. This excursion takes a different approach by driving through fjord itself. Before heading south along the North Sea Road, you'll have an opportunity to witness Varberg, where Vikings had strategic watchtowers. Today, it's a higher altitude viewpoint bridging ancient maritime history with modern coastal surveillance. Your day continues with visits to two charming villages along the way before the heart of this experience begins at Jøssingfjord. As you descend into the fjord, towering granite walls rise nearly vertically on both sides, and the road clings to the mountainside as if it were carved out of the rock. Around each bend, new angles of the fjord's stark beauty are revealed, and you have the sense of being drawn into a monumental landscape shaped by ancient glacial forces.

On returning to Egersund you'll have an opportunity to experience a guided walk through Sokndal village before heading to lunch at the Grand Hotel, with views of the surrounding area.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*



Day 9: Norwegian Rural Life



The picturesque fishing village of Høllen, about 12 miles southwest of Kristiansand, is a quiet community typical of rural southern Norway. A stroll along the waterfront gives a sense of the pace of life away from big cities, as does a brief stop in neighboring Søgne. But it is at the Vest-Agder Open Air Museum that the history of rural Norway comes to life.

Relocated and reconstructed farmhouses, stables, and cabins dating from the 17th to early 20th centuries are gathered at the museum and arranged in small “villages.” Combined with extensive exhibits on farming traditions, crafts, and domestic culture, these villages demonstrate how families lived and worked and entertained themselves in earlier times. The excursion ends with lunch at Sjøhuset Restaurant, featuring local flavors and coastal ambiance.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*

Day 10: Denmark’s Skagen Artists’ Colony



From the 1870s to the early 20th century, the tiny Danish fishing village of Skagen—much like the French Riviera at roughly the same time—became a magnet for northern European artists drawn to its rugged coastline and luminous light. These artists, later known as the Skagen Painters, achieved international recognition and created some of Denmark’s most celebrated works.

Explore their legacy on a guided tour that includes the Skagens Museum, founded in 1908 by the artists themselves; Ancher’s Hus, the preserved home of painters Michael and Anna Ancher; Brøndums Hotel, where artists exchanged ideas and critiqued each other’s work; and Drachmanns Hus, the home of poet, author, and painter Holger Drachmann.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: *Le Champlain*

Day 11: Copenhagen | Disembark



After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to Copenhagen International Airport (CPH) for flights homeward.

Included Meals: Breakfast



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with Dr. Larissa Tracy



What's Included:

- Comprehensive 9-night cruise aboard the deluxe *Le Champlain*
- One pre-night at the Hotel Voco Grand Central (or similar) in Glasgow, Scotland, with welcome reception (dinner on own) on May 3, 2027
- One PONANT EXPLORATIONS Tour Director dedicated to The Great Courses Journeys from the Pre-Night on May 3, 2027, through the end of the voyage/disembarkation on May 13, 2027
- Half day of touring in Glasgow, Scotland, lunch on own, with transfer to pier for embarkation on May 4, 2027
- One exclusive The Great Courses Journeys onboard hosted cocktail reception
- Onboard lectures given by The Great Courses Journeys Expert
- Enjoy one exclusively tailored Great Courses Journeys shore excursion at each port of call led by expert local guides
- Captain's gala dinners and cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee and pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner
- Meals ashore as listed in the itinerary
- Open bar aboard ship excluding premium alcohol, including select wines with lunch and dinner
- 24-hour complimentary room service
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite)
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on official arrival and departure days, May 3, 2027 and May 13, 2027, respectively
- Port taxes and charges
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers on tours



Accommodations



Luxury Ship *Le Champlain*

The five-star *Le Champlain*, part of the PONANT EXPLORATIONS' expedition yacht series, features 92 cabins accommodating 184 guests. Designed with advanced eco-friendly technology, its "Clean Ship" certification highlights energy efficiency and marine protection. Compact yet luxurious, it navigates shallow bays and sensitive environments while offering safe, comfortable voyages with custom stabilizers. **(9 nights)**

Hotel Voco Grand Central

Glasgow, Scotland

Hotel Voco Grand Central Glasgow is a historic 4-star hotel attached to the iconic Glasgow Central Station. Rooms range from cozy singles to spacious suites and are equipped with free Wi-Fi, USB ports, luxury linens, and quality toiletries. On-site dining includes the marble-clad Champagne Central bar for cocktails or afternoon tea, and a restaurant offering hearty Scottish fare. Its central location offers easy access to shopping and nightlife, and the area around the hotel is known for its fine restaurants. **(1 night)**



SPA



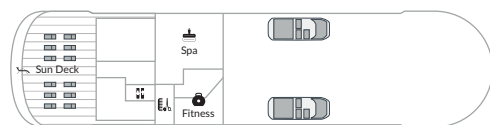
RESTAURANT



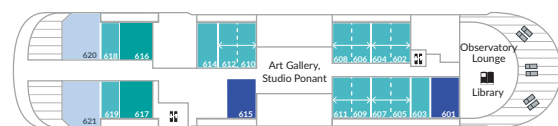
OWNER'S SUITE

Le Champlain Deck Plan & Pricing

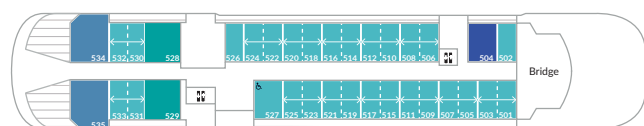
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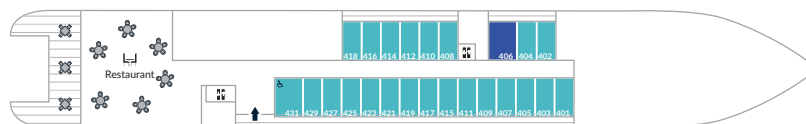
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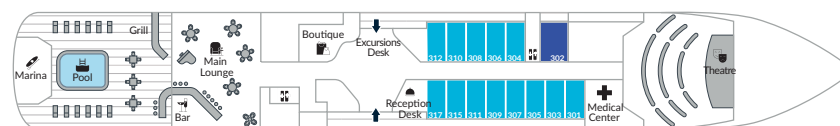
DECK 5



DECK 4



DECK 3



DECK 0 / The Blue Eye underwater lounge

- Deluxe Stateroom Deck 3
- Prestige Stateroom Decks 4-5-6
- Deluxe Suite Decks 3-4-5-6
- Prestige Suite Decks 5-6
- Privilege Suite Decks 5-6
- Grand Deluxe Suite Deck 6
- Owner's Suite Deck 5

Suites 431 and 527 are designated for guests with reduced mobility.

CATEGORY	DOUBLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>	SINGLE OCCUPANCY <i>per person</i>
Deluxe Stateroom - Deck 3	\$12,900	\$13,390
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 4	\$13,399	\$13,880
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 5	\$13,615	\$14,100
Prestige Stateroom - Deck 6	\$13,903	\$14,390
Deluxe Suite - Decks 3, 4, 5, 6	\$16,585	\$17,070
Prestige Suite - Deck 5	\$17,386	\$17,870
Prestige Suite - Deck 6	\$17,746	\$18,230
Privilege Suite - Decks 5, 6	\$18,034	\$18,520
Grand Deluxe Suite - Deck 6	\$18,394	\$18,880
Owner's Suite - Deck 5	\$23,510	\$41,670

Departure: Viking Age Scotland, Norway, and Denmark: Riches of the Ancient North
May 3–13, 2027 | Deposit: 25% of Tour Fare

You will be allocated a cabin within The Great Courses Journey's allotment, specific cabin requests based on availability.

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