



Ocean Youth Trust Scotland



The Arctic Challenge

Sailing from Wick to the Lofoten Islands

MONDAY 13th JULY to FRIDAY 24th JULY '09

“...if it’s scenery you want, for my money, you should head straight for Norway. Turn your back resolutely on temperate latitudes and sail ever northwards until finally you fetch Lofoten.”

Tom Cunliffe, *Essential Sailing Destinations*



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10 reasons to take part

It's the adventure of a lifetime

Realise your own potential

Build your confidence

Step up to an exciting and genuine challenge

Meet new people and make new friends

Help a worthwhile charity during its 10th anniversary year

**Sail to somewhere you've never been before
or wouldn't sail to on your own boat**

Sail on a fantastic well-found ocean-going
racing yacht with experienced crew

Gain or build your off-shore sailing experience & sea miles

Work towards RYA sailing qualifications

PREVIOUS PAGE PICTURE CREDITS

left: MOSKENES, LOFOTEN ISLANDS by Frithjof fure/innovation Norway right: ALBA ENDEAVOUR (sister ship to Alba Explorer) by Marc Turner



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Many thanks for your interest in the Arctic Challenge. It's going to be amazing and we hope you can be part of it.

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland inspires positive change in young people through the challenge of adventure under sail. But why should the opportunity stop when you're older?

This trip has been designed to provide a home-grown challenge right on Scotland's doorstep and with its short 12 day duration, is a unique alternative to commercially run ocean sailing. It's the only off-shore charity challenge that we know of and because you're sailing, it's eco-friendly too.

Who else is taking part?

There are only 12 crew places that will be taken by people of all ages (min. 18 years), backgrounds and levels of sailing ability. It's ok if you've never sailed before.

Who is leading the trip?

Dougie Walker, one of OYT Scotland's staff skippers is leading the trip. He and First Mate, Ian Nicholls are commercially endorsed Yacht Masters with around 85,000 miles between them. They have sailed in the UK, Greenland, Norway, the Mediterranean and New Zealand. The rest of the sea staff (2nd & 3rd mates, watchleader and bosun) will be chosen at the end of February from our trained volunteers.



What is the itinerary?

PLANNING

To help you plan the trip and everything you might need to take part, participants are invited to join us for a session on Tuesday 17th March.

TRAINING

To ensure you're prepared, you can join the on-board training from 0900 Mon 27th – 1600 Tue 28th April on the Clyde. You'll be able to meet the sea staff, fellow crew and your boat. Participation is not dependant on doing the training session but we do recommend it. OYT Scotland is a recognised Royal Yachting Association Training Centre. Please let us know on the booking form if you'd like to use the Arctic Challenge to complete the following RYA Certificates: Start Yachting, Competent Crew or Watchleader.

THE VOYAGE

We plan to sail from Wick on Monday 13th July and head for the Arctic Circle for a 'crossing the line' ceremony, making landfall in Norway's Lofoten Islands. The return to Peterhead is scheduled for Friday 24th July. As the crew flies its 1600 land miles altogether. Getting there and back in the 12 days is the challenge: sailing is completely weather-dependant. The best case scenario is in fair weather, you'll sail to the Lofoten Islands in 5 days, explore the area for 4 days and take 3 days to return home. Alternatively, it could provide some serious 'ocean sailing' that gives you valuable rough weather experience.

A TYPICAL DAY

This trip will be very hands on - there are no passengers. You will be sailing, cooking, eating, sleeping and cleaning, along with 18 people. You'll be split into two watches. The on-watch will steer the boat, navigate, change sails and keep a lookout. Off-watch, you'll have time to whale-watch, sleep, read, chat, write up your personal log-book and post your blog from the on-board pc.



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With the light nights at this time of year, you can make the most of sightseeing when the boat is underway or at anchor. Once in the Lofoten Islands you'll be able to discuss options for harbours to visit and exploring ashore.

At the end of this exciting trip, to welcome you back to Scotland, we'll be holding a reception on Friday evening 24th July in Peterhead. The First Minister has been invited to attend.

To mark your great sailing and fundraising efforts, you will be presented with an OYT Scotland certificate and if appropriate, any RYA certificates.

What else do I need?

KIT

Space is limited so we recommend you travel light. A kit list will be provided in due course that includes warm clothes, sleeping bag and wellies but nothing out of the ordinary.

INSURANCE

We recommend you take out travel insurance.

Will I be safe?

OYT Scotland has an excellent safety record and places the utmost priority on the safety of crewmembers and staff. Our boats are fully coded by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency and are carefully maintained throughout the year.

We recommend that you have a good level of fitness eg you'll need to be able to go up and down the companionway ladders and have upper body strength to operate winches and haul ropes. We are sorry that due to the nature of our fleet, we cannot accept participants with limited mobility. Please contact us if you'd like to know more.

WHAT IF I FALL ILL?

OYT Scotland skippers and first mates hold Ships Medical certificates. It is our intention to have a qualified doctor as part of the volunteer sea-staff. Even if you're a salty sea-dog, you might succumb to sea sickness.

They say the only real cure is to hug a tree. There are few trees in the North Sea, so we recommend that you ask your pharmacist for suitable remedies beforehand.

Tell me more about Ocean Youth Trust Scotland

Ocean Youth Trust Scotland inspires positive change in young people through the challenge of adventure under sail. Residential voyages aboard our fleet of purpose built vessels provide a uniquely powerful and extremely effective environment for their personal development.

Sail training voyages present a genuinely demanding and often unpredictable challenge requiring a high degree of interaction, team work and mental and physical commitment. Tasks involved in the smooth running of the vessel create almost unlimited opportunities for achievement. Young people come away having increased their self-confidence, responsibility and respect, their ability to learn from experience and to work with others.

OYT Scotland is now 10 years old, though its roots go back to the 1960s. We operate 3 sail training vessels on which 1200 young people sail annually, led by around 120 active volunteers. We were named International Sail Training Organisation 2008 for our excellence in youth work at sea and volunteer training.

Most of our voyages take place from March to November around the beautiful Scottish coastline, though we often venture further afield to Ireland, England, Wales, France, Spain and Denmark. We have been within the Arctic Circle twice before as part of youth voyages to Iceland.

How will young people benefit from the Arctic Challenge?

Proceeds from the Arctic Challenge will help to provide adventure under sail for more young people. Demand for our voyages is high but not all young people who want to sail with us can afford to do so. Your participation helps to keep our costs as low as possible.



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