

An Adventurous Walking Tour of the remote Faroe Islands

<http://www.kudutravel.com/tours/faroes-walking-tour>

24 – 31 August 2020

The Faroe Islands lie 200 miles north of Scotland and at latitude 62°N in the North Atlantic Ocean. The weather, though warmed by the Gulf Stream, is notoriously changeable and never truly warm, but for the intrepid traveller the Faroes present stunning scenery, clean air, some marvellous walks and welcoming people.

During our week's stay, we visit 5 of the 18 islands of this remote archipelago, an autonomous country within the Kingdom of Denmark. We stay in the best available hotels, always well heated and with en suite facilities. With 2 Kudu tour leaders, we offer a daily choice of walks: longer walks (times as specified) for those keen to cover ground and appreciate the scenery, and shorter walks, at an appropriately slow pace, for the less energetic or those especially interested in wildflowers and birdwatching.

HIGHLIGHTS of our Faroe Islands walking tour include:

- Daily walks in dramatic scenery with fjords, sheer cliffs, waterfalls and villages of bright-coloured wooden houses
- Discovering the capital Torshavn - the Tinganes peninsula, home of the Faroese parliament since the 9C; the lively yacht harbour and the excellent 'New Nordic' restaurants
- Opportunities to observe many species of land and sea birds at close range - oystercatchers, curlews, snipes, puffins, gannets, fulmars, kittiwakes, arctic terns, great & arctic skuas, razorbills & guillemots
- Learning about the history and contemporary culture of a unique small nation

Itinerary

DAY 1

D included

Meeting in the afternoon at Vagar airport on the eponymous island, we transfer to the nearby comfortable modern hotel, our base for 2 nights while exploring the western part of the archipelago. On our introductory walk, there will be sheep grazing on grass scattered with hundreds of Heath Spotted Orchids and it won't be long before we spot our first oystercatcher. In the summer at this northerly latitude, we can enjoy views of the surrounding dramatic landscape late into the night.

DAY 2

B, L, D included

A 45 minutes' ferry ride takes us beyond the uninhabited island of Tindolmur (with 262 m sheer cliffs) to Mykines, the Faroes' most westerly island. En route we begin our observation of fulmars, puffins and gannets in large numbers. From the harbour, surrounded by cliffs full of kittiwake nests, we walk up to the small picturesque village, the only settlement on the island, with bright-coloured timber houses and turf roofs. We continue west towards the lighthouse on the neighbouring island of Mykinesholmur, across the footbridge connecting the two islands (4 hrs round trip, some parts are steep - the height difference is around 100 m and we climb it 3 times during the day). We see puffins everywhere and have to tread carefully to avoid stepping into one of their many burrows.

DAY 3

B, L, D included

In the morning we walk along the shore of the Sorvagsvatn Lake and observe its water fall to the sea some 30 m below (2.5 hrs round trip). In the nearby small museum, we learn the history of the 'friendly occupation' of the Faroe Islands by Britain during WW2 before driving to the remote hillside village of Saksun on Streymoy Island (1 hr). The 19C stone church set dramatically above a lagoon and black sand beach is the starting point of our exhilarating walk to Tjornuvik (weather-permitting, 3.5 hrs, 700 m ascent and descent). Our final destination today is Gjogv in northern Eysturoy and our welcoming guesthouse built in traditional Faroese style.

DAY 4

B, L, D included

After breakfast we set off on foot for the steep climb (400 m) to reach an isolated highland valley. We follow the river downstream and hope to see Faroes' highest sea stack off shore before returning to our picturesque fishing village for some free time in the afternoon. We have an opportunity to look at the way potatoes, turnips and carrots are grown in the rich volcanic soil to make the best of the short growing season or walk to the 200 m long sea-filled gorge which gives the village its name.

DAY 5

B, L, D included

We pause in Leirvik to see the remains of a 10C Viking farm before using an undersea tunnel to cross to the island of Bordoy. Our walk this morning follows the shoreline and, across the channel on Kunoy island, we see the abandoned village of Skard, a silent witness of a 1913 tragedy in which most of the male inhabitants of the village were lost in a vicious storm, while out fishing. After lunch in a popular bakery in Klaksvik, the second town of the archipelago, we visit the impressive Christianskirkjan (Christian Church) built in the 1960s in ancient Nordic style. Later, we have the option to walk to the top of Klakkur mountain (413 m) for panoramic views of the town below, wedged between two bays and the surrounding islands. We spend the night in a comfortable hotel overlooking the harbour.

DAY 6

B, L, D included

Back on Streymoy, we walk for 2 hrs in an area with several water reservoirs, used for generating hydroelectricity, before descending into Vestmanna, a busy fishing town by Faroese standards. We hear some blood-curdling stories from early Faroese history in the Saga Museum before we enjoy a classic fish soup for lunch. The highlight of our visit is the 2-hour boat trip to the bird cliffs and grottoes. The cliffs, which rise spectacularly hundreds of metres straight from the sea, provide nesting places for many birds including guillemots and razorbills. Afterwards, we transfer to the capital Torshavn, where we stay for 2 nights in a central 4-star family-run hotel with an excellent restaurant.

DAY 7

B, L, D included

We drive to Kirkjubor, the country's most important historic site, centred on the unfinished 13th century Magnus Cathedral. Our 2.5 hr walk takes us (250 m) over a ridge back to Torshavn where we have a café lunch in the lively harbour. We spend much of the afternoon in the Historical Museum with a wide-ranging collection. Our farewell dinner is representative of the New Nordic Cuisine, perhaps Braised Faroese Lamb followed by stewed rhubarb pudding with whipped cream.

DAY 8

B included

Our journey concludes with a short transfer to the airport.

Activity Level

Moderately Demanding

7 walking days, 2 – 6 hrs daily. Full waterproof gear is essential. Paths are mostly not clearly defined and often wet and muddy.

Please note that with 2 Kudu tour leaders, we offer a daily choice of walks: longer walks (times as specified) for those keen to cover ground and appreciate the scenery, and shorter walks, at a slower pace, for those choosing to focus on wildflowers and birdwatching.

The above itinerary may be adapted according to group fitness and local weather conditions: the final choice of walks, based on group comfort and security, rests with the tour leader.

Temperatures

August temperatures on the Faroe Islands range between 9°C and 14°C, though the direct sun can feel warmer.

Accommodation

- 2 nights on Vagar, in a comfortable modern hotel
- 2 nights in Gjogv, in a welcoming guesthouse built in traditional Faroese style
- 1 night in Klaksvik, in a comfortable hotel overlooking the harbour
- 2 nights in Torshavn, in a central 4-star family-run hotel with an excellent restaurant

Trip Price, per person sharing:

£3,043.25 until 23rd November 2019

£3,125.50 until 23rd February 2020

£3,207.75 until 23rd May 2020

£3,290 after 23rd May 2020

<https://www.kudutravel.com/faq#discounts>

£480 single supplement

£500 deposit per person

Please note that the single room supplement is imposed by the hotel and not by Kudu Travel. If you are willing to share but no other suitable guest books on the trip, we regret that the supplement will be payable. We shall endeavour to obtain double rooms for single occupancy whenever possible.

Price Includes

- accommodation for Days 1 through 8, on a twin shared basis
- meals (with beer/soft drinks at lunches and wine at dinners) as listed in the daily notation
- land transportation in a private vehicle as described except during free periods
- tickets for 2 boat trips as described
- entrance, sightseeing and guiding fees except during free periods
- gratuities for hotel and restaurant staff (appreciation for tour guides is entirely at your discretion)

Price does not Include

- flights to and from Vagar

- trip cancellation, medical or other insurance
- immunisations, prescriptions or other medical requirements
- passport, visa and health documentation
- personal expenses (laundry, alcohol besides beer with group lunches and wine with dinners, free time activities, etc.)
- transport and transfer of excess baggage

VALUE FOR MONEY - SO MUCH IS INCLUDED

On Kudu trips, you will only need money for postcards, presents to take home, the odd G & T or an irresistible ice cream. Festival and opera tickets, museum and gallery entrances, National Park fees, all meals (with a very few exceptions specified in individual itineraries), wine with lunch and dinner, access to specialist books carried by the guides, gratuities for porters and hotel and restaurant staff, boat rides, train trips, internal flights, wine tastings, 4WDs with drivers, the services of skilled local guides and trackers etc. are ALL INCLUDED in the cost of your holiday.

We are confident that, like previous very satisfied guests, you will discover that our tours give you excellent value for money.

Visa and Health Requirements

Visitors from the EU, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand currently require a valid passport, but not a visa, for entry to the Faroe Islands. If you are a national of any other country, please check visa regulations with your nearest Embassy of Denmark, specifying that you are enquiring about entry to the Faroe Islands.

At present, there are no specific and compulsory health requirements for entry to the Faroe Islands. You may also wish to check the advice given to travellers by the Department of Health (<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/healthcare-when-travelling-abroad/>) and the FCO (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>).

Insurance

It is essential, and a condition of booking, that you protect yourself with a suitable travel insurance policy as soon as you book a trip. We can arrange comprehensive cover for UK residents. For further details, please see the website, or ask our office.

Size of Party

This trip will run with a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 14 guests.