

Abercrombie & Kent



## SPIRIT OF SCOTLAND RIVER CRUISE

A memorable voyage of discovery through the  
best of Scotland

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European Canal Barge Cruises, Cruises



Europe, Scotland



7 days from AU\$9,136 pp



Private

## Journey Overview

Your voyage aboard Spirit of Scotland will be an unforgettable experience, giving you the opportunity to appreciate the very best this dramatic region of Scotland has to offer from a unique perspective.

All this, together with the traditional Scottish cuisine, fine wines and wide range of whiskies served on board by an attentive crew of 6, combine to ensure a truly memorable cruising experience.

### Cruise Highlights

- Tour of the Glen Ord whisky distillery with a private tasting
- Visit to Culloden Moor, scene of the last battle on British soil in 1746
- Falconry and birds of prey demonstration on the banks of Loch Ness
- Visit The Prestigious and Private Highland Club
- Tour of Cawdor Castle and gardens, home of Shakespeare's Scottish Play
- Visit to Clava Cairns, a prehistoric burial site
- Cruise Lochs Lochy, Oich, Ness and Dochfour
- Wonderful river, canal and loch cruising
- Excellent opportunities for walking



## Itinerary

### Day 1: Banavie

Guests are met at the Glenmoriston Townhouse Hotel in Inverness and transferred by private chauffeured minibus to Spirit of Scotland. A champagne welcome by the Captain and crew and perhaps an early evening stroll before our first dinner on board.

***Spirit of Scotland / Meals: D***

### Day 2: Banavie to Laggan

Our excursion today will take us to the mystical area of Glencoe, renowned for its geographical beauty and famed for one of the darkest days in Scottish history. Alternatively, we can enjoy some breath-taking panoramic views on a cable car ride to the summit of Aonach Mor mountain. If time permits we can visit the ruins of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, Old Inverlochy Castle, before embarking on our first cruise, through Moy Bridge, the last hand-operated bridge of its type on the Caledonian Canal. En route, we may visit the Clan Cameron Museum, before crossing Loch Lochy. As we approach our mooring at Laggan, a Highland Piper may be there to greet us with a stirring rendition of traditional Scottish music.

***Spirit of Scotland / Meals: BLD***

### Day 3: Laggan to Kytra

This morning, we take in some of the finest scenery Scotland has to offer as we drive to one of its best known and most photographed castles, Eilean Donan, which has featured in movies such as “Highlander” and James Bond’s “The World Is Not Enough” and overlooks three sea lochs.

Our afternoon cruise today takes us across the very scenic Loch Oich, perhaps stopping en route for a spot of fishing and enjoying a walk, then onto our pretty mooring at Kytra.

***Spirit of Scotland / Meals: BLD***

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### **Day 4: Kytra to Fort Augustus**

This morning we cruise to Fort Augustus and down the “flight” as the locals call it, to moor opposite the Benedictine Abbey at the entrance to Loch Ness. There is time to explore this pretty village, then after lunch on board, we visit the private, Highland Club; a spectacular exclusive set of residences and a former 19th century Benedictine Monastery with a fascinating history. It is here we are treated to a falconry and birds of prey demonstration\*\*\* on the banks of Loch Ness, the majesty of the swooping birds against the backdrop of the sweeping Scottish Highlands is not easily forgotten. This evening we have dinner ashore at a local restaurant.

***Spirit of Scotland | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 5: Fort Augustus to Dochgarroch**

This morning we enjoy a picturesque cruise across world-famous Loch Ness, with perhaps a chance of spotting “Nessie”, where en route we pass Urquhart Castle, navigating closely beneath its spectacular 13<sup>th</sup> century ruins, before continuing our cruise to moor at the hamlet of Dochgarroch. After lunch we visit Cawdor Castle\*, forever immortalised in Shakespeare’s “Scottish Play”, Macbeth. The picturesque gardens have been listed as being amongst the top 100 in the UK. The castle contains a superb collection of tapestries, pictures and furnishings and is still in use as a home for the Dowager Countess of Cawdor who resides there for several months of the year. Then we end our tour at the Clava Cairns, a pre-historic clan chieftain burial site dating back to 2,000 B.C.

***Spirit of Scotland | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 6: Dochgarroch to Muirtown**

This morning, our final cruise will take us through Tomnahurich swing bridge and through the locks to Muirtown, where there will be the opportunity to take a bicycle ride or walk to the sea lock with wonderful views over the Moray and Beauly Firths. After lunch we visit Culloden Moor, scene of the last major battle on British soil in 1746, next it’s on to the Muir of Ord distillery, founded in 1838 by licence holders Robert Johnstone and Donald MacLennan. We are given a fascinating description of the maturing and ageing process of their whiskies, each with its distinctive characteristics, followed by our special tasting of several single malts. Captain’s Farewell Dinner on board.

***Spirit of Scotland | Meals: BLD***

### **Day 7: Muirtown**

After breakfast, guests are transferred by private chauffeured minibus to their choice of location in Inverness.

***Spirit of Scotland | Meals: B***

## **Inclusions**

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on-board chef, fine wines and an open bar
- Daily escorted excursions to places of interest and private wine tastings
- Local transfers, for example to and from Inverness
- Bicycles and on most hotel barges, an on-deck spa pool
- Attentive service from an experienced crew – Captain, chef, tour guide and hosts/hostesses

## Map



## Accommodation

### Spirit of Scotland



Spirit of Scotland is an elegant hotel barge with extensive public areas inside and out that are perfect from which to admire the spectacular Highlands scenery in comfort as she sedately cruises the Caledonian Canal and the lochs of the Great Glen. Although purpose-built in 2001, her style evokes that of the traditional steamers that plied the lochs of Scotland in times gone by. Having cruised a number of inland waterways in Europe in recent years, Spirit of Scotland will commence cruising in Scotland from June 2017.

Accommodating up to 12 passengers in comfort, her interior features a bright and spacious saloon and dining area with picture windows, a separate bar, and an integral forward wheelhouse giving views of the cruise route ahead. The 6 air-conditioned cabins offer a choice of twin or double beds and are complemented by well-designed en suite shower rooms.

Outside, there are separate areas where you can relax on a recliner or perhaps in the heated spa pool, as well as a covered dining terrace. And the large upper sun deck is the ideal place to admire the breath-taking backdrop and historic landmarks such as the loch-side Urquhart Castle.

All this, together with the traditional Scottish cuisine, fine wines and wide

range of whiskies served on board by an attentive crew of 6, combine to ensure a truly memorable cruising experience.

**Category:** Deluxe

**Cruise region:** Scotland

**Cruise Route:** Caledonian Canal & Lochs

**Pickup location:** Inverness

**Departures:** April - October

**Length of vessel:** 126 ft

**Crew:** 6

**Max Passenger Capacity:** 12

**Approx Cabin Size:** Staterooms 130 ft<sup>2</sup>

**Interior Decks:** 2

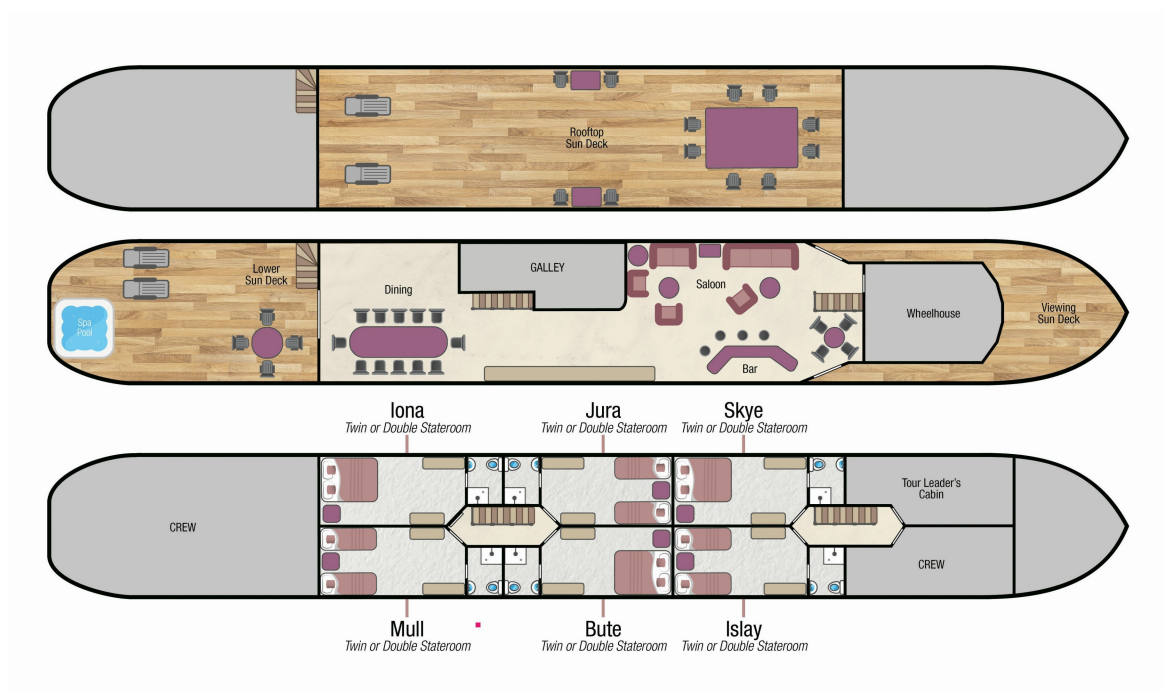
**TV/DVD Play in Cabin Saloon:** TV/DVD Player in Cabins

**Demo Gallery:** No

**Spa Pool:** Yes

**Air Conditioned & Centrally Heated:** Yes

**Themed Cruises:** Family, Golf, Whisky Trail



## Dates & Pricing

Spirit of Scotland is also available for whole barge charter for 8-12 passengers, from \$89,973.

Please call A&K on 1300 851 800, send us a **booking enquiry** to book this journey or contact your travel advisor.

# Abercrombie & Kent

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