



# The Faroe Islands

Unspoiled. Unexplored. Unimaginable.

June 23 – 30, 2025



## Wild and Woolly Wanderings through the “Sheep Islands”

Combine with Iceland for the Ultimate North Atlantic Island Adventure!  
June 15 – 23, 2025

As the old saying goes,  
"Necessity is the mother of invention."  
Or, as the Faroese say,  
"Necessity teaches the naked woman to spin and weave."



Uncommon Textile Journeys that Change Lives

# the Faroe Islands...



Discover the Best Kept Secret in Europe



The Faroe Islands are one of the most unknown places on earth, wild and untouched due to the vast oceans separating them from neighboring countries. The name of the mountainous islands, Føroyar, means "Sheep Islands" in Faroese. There are twice as many sheep as people. Shaped from volcanic activity, this green archipelago of 18 islands is located in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean marooned halfway between Scotland and Iceland and equidistant from Norway. The islands rise steeply from a salty sea and are filled with rugged landscapes, high mountains and prolific bird and wildlife.

The Faroe Islands have a rich history stretching back more than a thousand years. Archeology has shown that the first settlers were Irish



Monks in the 7<sup>th</sup> century who described them as "Islands of the sheep and Paradise of Birds upon arriving on the shores." Later in 795, Vikings colonized the islands sailing from Denmark and Norway after which the islands changed hands many times, becoming constituents of various kingdoms, including the Kingdom of Norway, the Kalmar Union, and the Kingdom of Denmark.



## It's Surprisingly Easy to get to the Faroe Islands

While the Faroe Islands are isolated pearls in the North Atlantic, they are surprisingly easy to reach by air. Iceland is only a little more than an hour's flight. There are also one hour and fifteen-minute flights from Edinburgh, Scotland while one can fly from mainland Europe in two hours.





## Monday, June 23 Arrive Tórshavn

Today you arrive at one of the most amazing places on earth – the Faroe Islands. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the Hotel Føroyar just outside of Tórshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands. You can get settled in, rest or explore on your own for the afternoon. Our accommodation for the next five nights is special indeed. Hotel Føroyar offers us the chance to experience the true essence of the Faroe Islands. Located only a 15-minute walk down a secret path to the city, it feels like a world apart. Considered one of the finest hotels in the islands, it is tucked into a beautiful valley, overlooking the city with panoramic views. It offers us the chance to bask in natural beauty with all our senses as the building itself was designed to be part of the surrounding nature as if it were carved in the rocks “Hobbit-style.”

Founded in the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Tórshavn is nestled on Streymoy Island and is one of the oldest capitals in Northern Europe. Locally referred to as simply “Havn,” Tórshavn means “Thor’s Harbour,” named after the Norse god of thunder and lightning. Surrounded by Húsareyn Mountain to the north and Kirkjubøreyn to the southwest, the city has quite a rich Viking history and has managed to retain a charm and character not found in any other capital in the world. Tórshavn provides us the ideal hub from which to wander further afield and explore the untouched nature of the islands.

This evening, we will gather for a welcome orientation followed by a delicious dinner. Overnight at Hotel Føroyar. (D)



## Tuesday, June 24 “Ull er Føroya Gull” (“Wool is Faroese Gold”) Mýrifípan Weaving and a Knitting Workshop with Katrina í Geil



After breakfast at the hotel, we head to Tórshavn to visit the weaving workshop of Mýrifípan which was founded in the middle of the last century. Here we find One of which weaving machines dates from around 1893 and was purchased and imported to the Faroe Islands in 1970. It is of an older style with rollers to control the shafts and with large, heavy shuttles. The other is a Dornier, which was bought used from Denmark in 1997. It is more modern with punch cards to control the shafts and colors, using hooks instead of shuttles (rapier loom). In addition, there are winding machines for winding regular bobbins, as well as making bobbins for the shuttles.

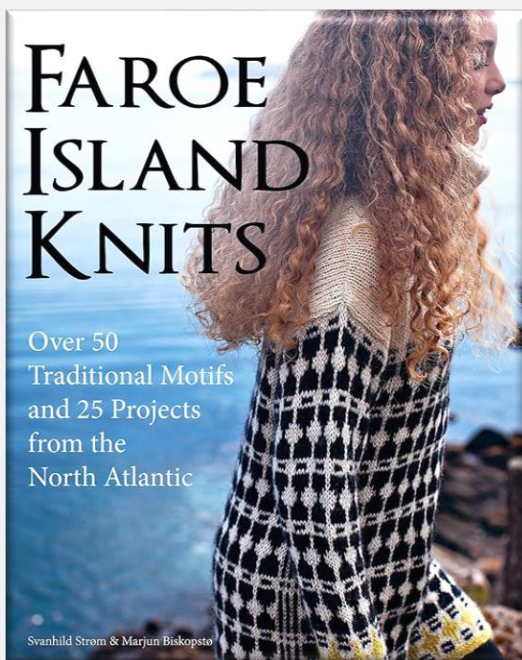
Mýrifípan weaves skirt fabric and woolen coat fabric, draw vest patterns, sew caps, and more for the Faroese national dress. The workshop also houses nine sock machines which were imported from Norway, Sweden and Kaldbak and are of the Bentley Komet type. Six of the machines knit woolen socks,



one knits terry and two are used for knitting finer socks. Here they make and sell many different socks and stockings suited to the Faroese climate.

During our special visit, Tóra Egilsdóttir will guide us through a fascinating session, showcasing the work of a 130-year-old weaver and a 70-year-old weaver.

In the afternoon, we will have a knitting workshop with Katrina í Geil who is a knitting designer with an international reputation for her work and her workshops. Her amazing designs tend to reinvent and reinterpret traditional Faroese traditions and patterns using local inspiration.



### Knitting in the Faroe Islands

Knitting has always been an important part of the Faroese way of life and the craft and patterns are passed down from generation to generation. It is said that women can identify their husbands from a distance from the design of the man's sweater. Historically, wool and woolen clothing were not only the main Faroese exports but also was the only currency for many locals for centuries. Knitted garments were often traded for sugar, coffee, salt and other necessities. It appears from the earliest written record of Faroese knitwear exports that it dates back at least 1567 and has been a popular tradition ever since. The fleece from the islands' 80,000 sheep provides the wool used in Faroese knitting. These hardy sheep survive for months on the rain-soaked mountains. Faroese wool contains more lanolin than lamb's wool, which makes it waterproof and helps keep the wearer warm. Today there is a resurgence of the art of knitting on the islands and we will explore this fully on our trip. In the evening, we will return to our hotel. Overnight at Hotel Føroyar. (B)

## Wednesday, June 25

### Nólsoy Island Adventure and Weaving Workshop



In the morning, we board the ferry at Tórshavn harbour sailing 20 minutes to the picturesque island of Nólsoy, a long slender island that protects the capital from large ocean waves.

Our first stop is Vevstovan í Nólsoy (the Weaving Mill) located in the south end of Nólsoy Island, which is where the old lighthouse keeper used to live. Here in the village of Borðan we learn more about the unique Faroese wool from the sheep dwelling in the south end of the island. Our workshop will include the chance to spin your own thread on a little spinning wheel. We will also learn about and work with our special Faroese wool learning about tradition weaving techniques for much of the morning.



For lunch, we'll enjoy a unique home dining experience with Maud, sampling local Faroese cuisine. In the afternoon, we'll explore the island. The village on Nólsoy is located on Eiðinum which is an area that is so narrow that when the storm rages the waves crash all the way across. The western side of the island is mainly covered by grass that leads all the way down to the ocean. The eastern side is steep and filled with rich bird wildlife in the cliffs and the deep caverns. On the east side of the island there is a giant colony of European storm petrels thought to be the largest colony in the world.

We'll take the ferry back to Tórshavn returning to Hotel Føroyar in the evening. Overnight at Hotel Føroyar. (B,L)

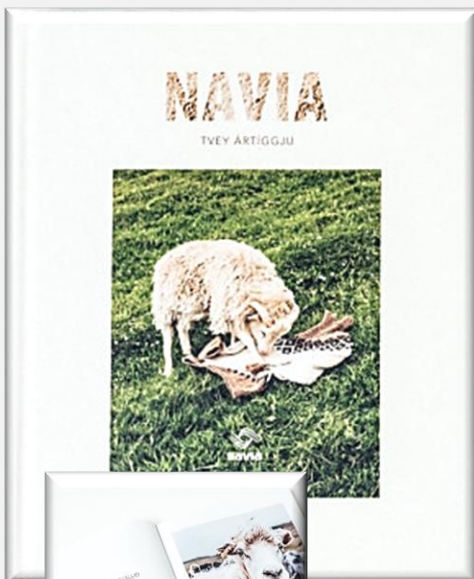


Thursday, June 26

## Toftir, Sheep and Strendur Experience



Today, we travel to the village of Toftir on the island of Eysturoy. It is part of a chain of villages that stretch over 10 km on Skálafjørður (fjord). The settlement of Toftir dates to the *landnám* (land taking) period dating back to the second half of the 9<sup>th</sup> century and continuing into the early 10<sup>th</sup> century. There is a local legend that the Plague left the village in ruins and only one woman survived. Thus, the village was named Toftir, meaning "ruins".



It is here in this village we find Navia, one of the leading yarn and wool manufacturers of traditional **Faroese** design, sweaters and knitting patterns. Their sweaters are inspired by the traditional Faroese knitting culture with a trend for modern style. Our time includes a visit to their sheep farm, followed by a delightful lunch and a visit to their shop, where you'll find an array of high-quality wool products.

In the afternoon, we make our way to Strendur, perhaps the prettiest village on Eysturoy. Here we visit Snældan where we can feel the history as it is the only spinning and knitting mill on the Faroe Islands and still maintains the old-fashioned methods. Snældan was founded in 1949 by Carl Olsen and it has passed through three generations. Snældan embraces traditional Faroese patterns. Snældan started out with a couple of spinning machines to process wool into yarn for customers was the main function of the mills. Soon after, Snældan expanded into producing hand-knitted garments before purchasing its first knitting machines in the mid-sixties. We'll learn about their wool processing techniques. Afterward, we'll return to Hotel Føroyar for a relaxed evening. Overnight at Hotel Føroyar. (B)

Friday, June 27

## Exploring Klaksvík, More Wool & and a Cooking Class



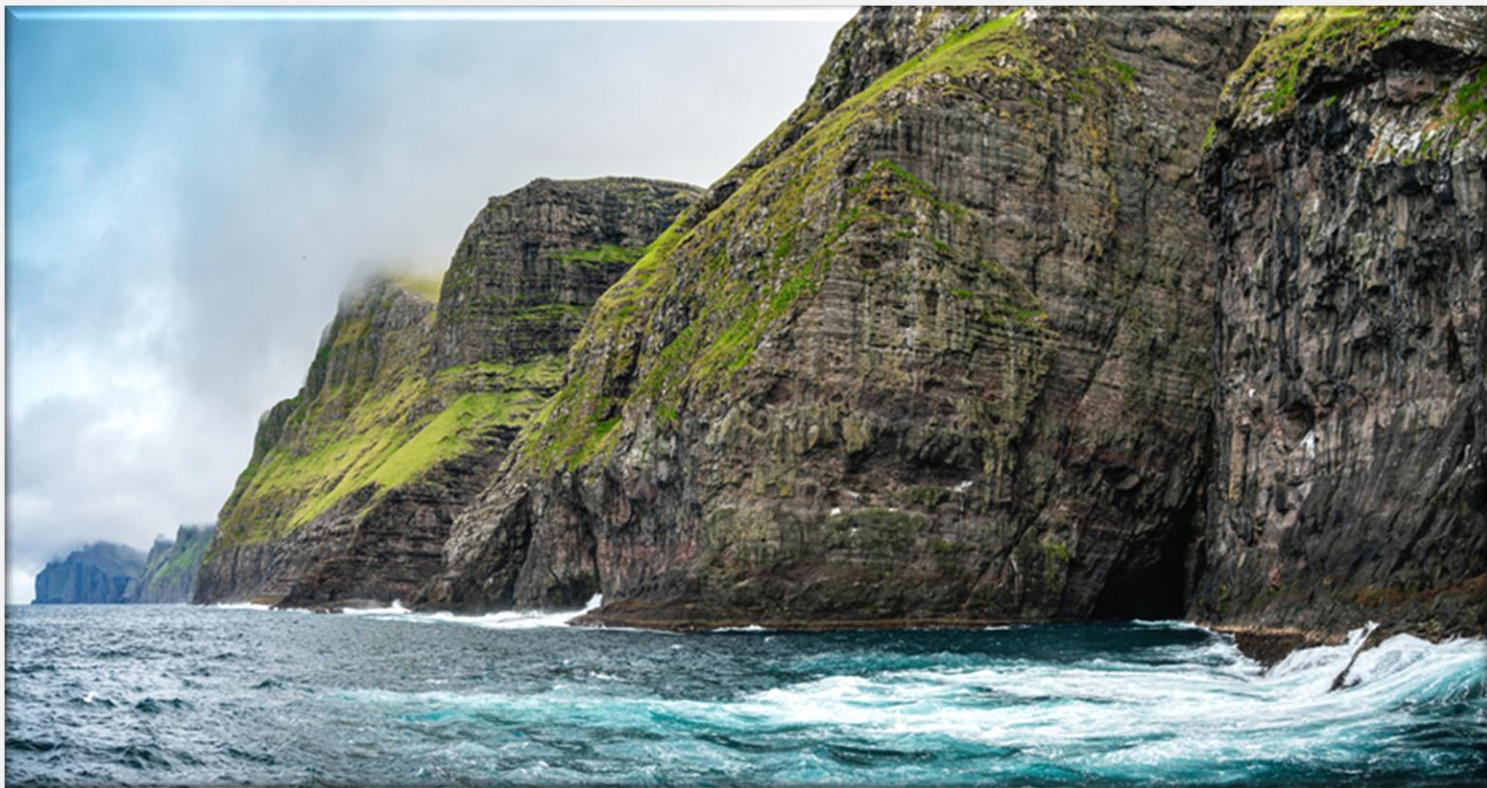
Our day begins with a visit to Klaksvík the second largest town in the Faroe Islands located on Borðoy Island, which is one of the northernmost islands (the Norðoyar). The Norðoyartunnilin sub-sea tunnel connects Borðoy Island to Eysturoy Island making it easy to reach this part of the archipelago. Nestled between two inlets lying back-to-back, its setting is spectacular. The first settlement of this town dates to Viking times and it is now an important harbor with a thriving fishing industry and a modern fishing fleet.

In this town we find Spinnaríið (The House of Faroese Wool). In contrast to yesterday's visit to Snældan, this is a modern mini mill displaying the history of Faroese wool spinning and the excellence of Faroese wool design. Here, we'll learn about their wool production and plans for acquiring a micro mill. In the afternoon, you'll have the opportunity to visit four various shops in Klaksvík that sell yarn, allowing you to explore and purchase unique Faroese fibers.

Later in the day, we'll embark on a 1-2 hour sail aboard a beautifully restored vintage wooden schooner, giving you a unique and breathtaking view of the islands from the sea. We'll enjoy the serenity of the open waters as we cast our lines and try our hand at traditional fishing.



The adventure continues as we dock and head to **Húsarhaldsskúlin** for an immersive cooking class. Here, you'll learn how to prepare authentic Faroese dishes, guided by local experts, using the day's fresh catch and traditional ingredients. It's a culinary experience that will give you a true taste of Faroese heritage. In the evening, we return to Hotel Føroyar. Overnight at Hotel Føroyar. (B)



## Saturday, June 28 Kvívík Knitt, Puffins & the Vestemanna Sea Cliffs

In the morning, we visit Kvívík, one of the oldest settlements in the Faroe Islands, which is nestled in a valley lying on both sides of a narrow bay on Streymoy island. Excavations here have revealed the remains of Viking houses. The oldest current house in Kvívík was built in the 18th century. It is also home to a lovely church that was built in 1837 and is one of the only 10 wooden churches in the Faroe Islands. We'll explore this charming town and visit Kvívík Knitt which offers hand-knitted goods and has a popular knitting club.



we will sail through narrow sounds and into deep grottoes, carved by the surf through the ages (weather permitting). We will learn about how the Faroese through generations have herded sheep on the steep mountain sides. Tonight, we are staying nearby at Hotel Vagar which enables us to experience the stunning natural beauty of Vagar Islands. The hotel is nestled in the charming village of Sørvágur on the beautiful island of Vagar. Overnight at Hotel Vagar. (B)

In the afternoon, we'll embark on a tour to the Vestmanna Sea Cliffs, one of Europe's most impressive bird cliffs. Here we can witness the stunning landscapes and birdlife, including puffins. The cliffs soar over 600 meters straight up in the air and make up 5 kms of the coastline on Streymoy island north of Vestmanna. Thousands of seabirds make their home here in the summer. On an approximately 90-minute boat tour,







## Sunday, June 29 Exploring the Spectacular Sights of Vagar Islands

We have saved some of the best scenery for last. Vágur is the third largest island in the Faroe Islands and is one of its most beloved. There is much to see on this island, and we will explore it today. We have the chance to see one of the most famous, if not **the** most famous, attractions in the Faroe Islands. The picture-perfect Múlafossur Waterfall is hidden far away from the crowds in the secluded village Gásadalur on Vagar island. The village sits high and with a sheer drop where the waterfall plunges into the ocean.



From the settlement Bøur, we can see both Mykines Island and the uninhabited islet Tindhólmur. Sheep roam freely on this spikey rock formation that is also home to a rich birdlife. We can also see the Drangarnir Sea Stacks from here.

Another sight we might see is Trøllkonufingur (Troll Woman's Finger), an interesting and unique rock formation that has a rich significance in local legend. This spikey monolith is said to be "the finger of a large witch who arrived on the Faroe Islands to attempt to throw them northwards to Iceland. The legend holds that she was unsuccessful in this mission, instead reaching the sea by Vágur and turning into stone from the power of the sun. Due to her sheer size, it is said

that she fell backwards into the ocean, with only her finger sticking out of the water. That pointed appendage became what is now known as the Trøllkonufingur." (Quoted from [www.atlasobscura.com/places/trollkonufingur](http://www.atlasobscura.com/places/trollkonufingur))

We return to Hotel Vagar for our final night in the islands. We can gather for a farewell dinner (not included) and relive the memories from our awe-inspiring week in the Faroe Islands. Overnight at Hotel Vagar. (B)

## Monday, June 30 - Departure

After breakfast, we check out of Hotel Vagar and transfer to the airport for our flights home. (B)

### Land Costs Include:

- 7 Night's accommodation based on double occupancy\*. Single accommodation available at additional cost.
- Private tours
- Various Workshops/Special Events
- Private van and local expert guide
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Private visits and demonstrations with talented knitters, weavers, spinners, jewelers and textile designers
- Entrance fees

### Land Costs Exclude:

- All air transportation
- Meals not designated on the itinerary
- Any item not specifically included in your program including all snacks, extra personal beverages & bottled water, alcoholic beverages, etc. other than during designated meals
- Tips for your guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service staff
- Additional insurance of any kind. We HIGHLY recommend purchasing trip protection insurance!

#### Loom Dancer Odysseys

does not believe in large group, bargain or "ordinary" tours. Instead, we strive to immerse the creative and adventurous traveler into the wondrous world of global fiber arts with quality cultural encounters. The group size for this trip is limited to 12 participants to allow for a more hands-on, intimate travel experience.

We invite you to join us.  
Be a creative traveler,  
not a tourist.

**Cost:** \$4,650 Per Person Based on Double Occupancy (based on 12 participants)

For those wishing single accommodations, there is a \$1,025 Single Supplement (limited rooms available)



**Save Your Spot!**

**Please call our office for details or questions!**

**800.369.3033 (US only) ~ 970.728.6743**

As with all true adventures, this itinerary is subject to change without notice based on a variety of factors. Although Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys will do our best to adhere to the scheduled itinerary, we are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions. This itinerary should be considered an approximation of activities only. The itinerary or accommodations may be changed subject to unexpected and worthwhile opportunities, weather, group desires, and circumstances beyond our control, etc. Loom Dancer Weaving Odysseys and its guides reserve the right to alter the itinerary without prior notice. Also please be aware that any voluntary changes on your part to your itinerary while in Iceland will be made at your own expense. There is no refund for any unused portion of the itinerary including hotels, activities, etc.