



2021 HOLIDAY GUIDE

HUSKYAN CHARTERS & COVID-19

We are looking forward to a busy 2021 season and are making all the usual off-season preparations to be ready to welcome you all aboard. We very much hope we will be able to operate as normal but rest assured if Covid-19 restrictions affect your charter we will do everything in our power to find the best solution.

Huskyan Charters will continue to follow all best practice advice and government guidelines regarding Covid-19. Our *Covid-19 Operating Procedures* will be in place for the entire of the 2021 season. We have been working hard to minimise the risk to customers, crew and cleaning staff while maintaining the Huskyan Scapa Flow experience. We have added to our already meticulous cleaning regimes and will follow all physical distancing advise. We are fortunate to operate a large, modern, and open plan vessel which lends itself to the enhanced cleaning protocols and additional physical distancing required to combat Covid-19. Underwater is probably the best place we could be, so we look forward to welcoming you aboard. Please refer to our *Huskyan Charters & Number 15 Covid-19 Operating Guidance* Document for more information.

YOUR CHARTER

Before Arrival

Each guest must complete an online Passenger Information Form. The link to the form will be supplied a little closer to the time. Your group organiser will also complete a Final Arrangements Form so that we can set the boat and accommodation up to meet your specific requirements.

Arrival day is Sunday unless otherwise agreed.

We can accommodate one whole group arrival time in Stromness to load equipment and are happy to meet a morning, afternoon, or evening ferry.

Equipment will be loaded in stages to support physical distancing. Please refer to our *Huskyan Charters Covid-19 Operating Guidance* Document.

Entrance to the accommodation may be delayed to late afternoon to enable time for Covid-19 compliant deep cleaning and check in will now follow a contact free policy.

Huskyan will be berthed in Stromness – we will confirm her exact location in the harbour before your arrival on Saturday but if, upon arrival, you can't find us just call Emily 07974178612. **Dive trolleys can be easily wheeled round to the boat.**

Parking in Stromness – Stromness is a very small town with a narrow winding main street. Parking is limited for all of us. You can bring your cars onto the pier to unload but not to park. There is also no parking at Divers Lodge. **There is a free long stay car park just a couple of minutes' walk away.**

At the end of your charter week...

Dive gear is unloaded from the boat on the Friday afternoon straight into your vehicles or the Northlink dive trolleys. There is a hose on the pier if you want to wash you kit. Dive gear cannot be left aboard on Friday night and wet dive gear is not permitted in Divers Lodge.

You need to vacate Divers Lodge by 9.00am on the Saturday morning. If you are leaving Orkney later than this there are coffee shops in Stromness to relax in while you wait.

GETTING TO ORKNEY

You can get to Orkney by ferry or plane.

BY FERRY:

Northlink operates the ferry from Scrabster to Stromness (1.5 hours). Scrabster is the port with Thurso the main town just a mile away. Many divers like to bring their cars over with them so they can sight see. If you would rather save the car fare you can pre-book free dive trolleys with the ferry company to drive your bags on and off the ferry for you. You can then come as a foot passenger. Everything in Stromness is walking distance. There is a long stay car park in Scrabster - just down the road opposite the Ferry Inn – approx. £25 per vehicle per week. When you arrive in Stromness you will need to collect your trolley from the ferry terminal and wheel it round to the boat (approx. 100 metres). They also operate a run from Aberdeen to Kirkwall (25-minute drive to Stromness)

For information about transporting cylinders on the ferries please see our separate information sheet.

Web. www.northlinkferries.co.uk

Tel. +44 (0) 1856 885500

Pentland Ferries operate from Gill's Bay to St Margaret's Hope. The ferry crossing is just 1 hour and often cheaper but it is a 45-minute drive to Stromness so you will need to bring your cars.

Web. www.pentlandferries.co.uk

Tel. +44 (0) 800 688 8998

BY PLANE:

The airport in Orkney is Kirkwall Airport. Taxis cost approximately £40 to Stromness. We can book these for you if needed. Please be aware that **delayed dive gear is unfortunately common**. We suspect due to the small planes and heavy bags – they can often be a day or two behind you! If most of your group wish to fly then a nominated driver with a van is often a good idea to ensure your gear arrives.

MV HUSKYAN

MV Huskyan is a purpose-built dive boat – designed with your comfort in mind.

Your dive gear stays aboard the boat for the whole week and not in the accommodation.

You will get your own bench space for the week with room for gear gulper sized boxes or dive bags underneath.

Please feel free to bring your own boxes.

What is included free of charge:

- The use of a single 12l or 15l cylinder if required and subject to availability
- The use of lead weights – we have block lead weights in 3kg, 2kg and 1kg sizes. **You must bring your own belts.**
- Air fills
- Tea, coffee, hot chocolate, a selection of fruit and herbal teas, fruit squash & biscuits served in our very own pint mugs.

What is not included:

- Nitrox/O2/He
- Extra equipment hire
- Weight belts



GAS FILLING

- We fill to 232 bar.
- We carry Oxygen but Helium must be pre-booked.
- We carry sof nolime aboard.
- Bottles are filled where you sit – no need to lug your equipment around.
- We have 2 booster pumps for high pressure O2 fills.
- We do not sell “top up” fills. We charge for a full fill each time.
- We can fill cylinders with DIN 232 bar, DIN 300 bar, INT/A clamp and M26 valves.
- **We do not fill cylinders on Friday afternoons.**

CYLINDER TESTING & O2 CLEANING

Please refer to our separate 2020 Cylinder filling guide to ensure we can fill your cylinders.

2021 GAS PRICE GUIDE

Prices are reviewed every three months.
or when our suppliers make changes.

- Minimum charge £9.00
- Up to 32%

Single cylinder:	£9.00
Manifolded twinset:	£14.50
- Up to 36%

Single cylinder:	£13.00
Manifolded twinset:	£19.00
- 37% and above
O2 priced at 2ppl.
- Manifolded twin 7's charged as a single cylinder
- Un-manifolded twin sets charged as 2 x single cylinders

He/Trimix 2021

HELIUM MUST BE PRE-BOOKED - please contact us to discuss your requirements.

- He priced at 7ppl.

Dependant on supply and availability – PRICES MAY VARY HUGELY

Please let us know if you would like to use our cylinders. All our cylinders have nets and boots to protect them. Due to the harsh environment they live in, these are non-removable. Our cylinders will be full of air for the first dive unless nitrox is pre-booked. Our cylinders have single outlet valves only. All the cylinders available in Orkney have 232 bar DIN valves. We can provide adaptors for INT/A clamp regulators. We do not have M26 regulator adaptors.

ONBOARD CATERING & COVID-19

Complimentary refreshments will be available on board. We regret that we will be unable to offer onboard catering at this time. Access to cooking facilities will also be prohibited but please do bring packed lunches aboard.

PAYMENT FOR EXTRAS

We accept cash, cheque, or cards aboard (unless the internet signal drops out!)

DIVING ITINERARY

We will normally leave the pier between 8am and 9am and return around 4pm. It takes about an hour to reach most of the dive sites. We will tailor the week to suit you whether that is diving as many of the sites as possible or focussing on just one battleship. Let Emily know what you like and don't like, and she will do her best to help.

We offer multi-media wreck orientation and history talks aboard. These really are the best in Scapa – with over 40 years combined experience diving the fleet we can help you get to know the wrecks in detail or perhaps direct you to something a little different. These do not, however, constitute any part of any diving project plan. Huskyan Ltd and her crew are not responsible for your diving plan or your action underwater and no part of any wreck information provided by the crew can be taken as such.

We do not require you to dive in buddy pairs – this is up to you to arrange.

We do not set maximum dive times unless external circumstances such as tide dictate a need. Most of the dive sites in Scapa, however, are non-tidal.

Generally, you can be as long as you like but we will ask when to expect you back on the surface for safety reasons.

You should be confident in the use of SMB's.

A note on shot line etiquette.... The shot line is the only way to the wreck. If you choose to use the shot line to ascend please be aware that you may get a “bunch of Muppets” land on you on their way to the wreck. The skippers here are very good at letting their divers know there are people on the line, but we can't account for their ability to descend without barging through the middle of you! You have the choice of using an SMB.

It is illegal to remove anything from the German Fleet. The ships are protected under the historic monuments act. We also adopt a no take policy for all sites in Scapa except Gutter Sound. You will not be able to enter the water with tools or lift bags.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES & MEDICAL CARE

We work very hard to be prepared for any emergency or first aid requirement. We carry all necessary emergency equipment for both the vessel and for diving and Emily is trained in both Firefighting and Medical First Aid. There are several diving doctors in Stromness along with a hyperbaric chamber. Scapa Flow is covered by 2 lifeboats, our nearest rescue helicopter is stationed in Shetland.

DIVING RELATED EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Please make us aware of any specific emergency procedures and signals – do not assume they are the same everywhere.



NUMBER 15 (DIVERS LODGE)

Number 15 is only 60 metres from the boat but a world away from living aboard even the best UK dive boat!

- 6 bedrooms
- Fully equipped kitchen diner for 12 with 2 electric ovens and large gas hob, dishwasher, microwave, 2 x fridges and freezer. We include cleaning products, kitchen roll and tea towels
- Large living room, leather sofas, 42" Smart TV
- Washing machine & tumble dryer – we provide washing powder
- Unlimited wireless internet access – please bring your own laptops/devices
- Designated charging station – all diving accommodation needs one!
- Bed linen and towels – 2 x large bath towels per person plus head towels on request
- Toilet rolls

Number 15 is a shoes-off house. Please bring slippers if you get cold feet.

Room allocation will be arranged in advance either by your group organiser or directly with us for small groups and individuals. Arrival information will be sent out during the week before your arrival.



ROOM LAYOUT

MIDDLE FLOOR

Entrance Hall

Bedroom 1: triple or super-king double ensuite

Bedroom 2: triple or super-king double ensuite

Bathroom

TOP FLOOR

Bedroom 3: triple with sink or 1 x super-king double

Bedroom 4: twin or super-king double (small room)

Bedroom 5: twin or super-king double ensuite

All bedrooms will be set up with single beds unless double beds are pre-booked.

GROUND FLOOR

Open Plan Living Room/Kitchen Diner

Bathroom

Snorer's room: 4' extra-large single bed



STROMNESS

All within walking distance

- Scapa Scuba – well stocked local dive shop and chandlery – genuine overnight repairs.
- Free long stay car parking
- 3 pubs serving pub grub & the Hamnavoe restaurant
- Chinese Takeaway
- Hyperbaric chamber
- Doctors surgery
- Chemist
- Supermarket – open till 10pm every day
- Bakers
- Butchers
- Pier Arts Centre – very good small gallery
- Stromness Museum – Victorian style museum with a good German Fleet display
- Local gift and craft shops
- Petrol station

For other tourist attractions please see the Orkney.com website: www.orkney.com

EATING OUT IN STROMNESS

There are 4 places to get evening meals subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

The Ferry Inn | The Stromness Hotel | The Royal Hotel | The Hamnavoe Restaurant

Most serve until 9pm and we recommend you book for larger tables

There are far more options for eating out in **Kirkwall** including The Foveran & The Lynnfield restaurants – some of the best food Orkney has to offer.

DIVE SCAPA CLOTHING & PINT MUGS

We stock a range of ethical garments both male and female fit. These are available to our customers at a discounted rate aboard Huskylan.

Our famous pint mugs are also available in 4 different designs for 2021.



SCAPA SCUBA

Overnight drysuit and equipment repairs

Well-stocked dive shop & chandlery

Everyone needs a Ben!

Ben is part owner of Huskylan but also owns Scapa Suits & Servicing at Scapa Scuba.

For those on a week's dive charter in Scapa Flow he offers an overnight repair service. Ben will ensure that your suit is fixed and dry for the next day's diving. So, anyone with a ripped cuff or neck seal, leaky boots or a zip that lets them down need not worry! The suits are then returned to the boat for you by the morning.

He also repairs other equipment such as regulators.

The Red Shed Shop is well stocked and housed in the old lifeboat station.



2021 Cylinder Filling Requirements

PLEASE READ TO MAKE SURE WE WILL FILL YOUR CYLINDERS

DO NOT IGNORE

CYLINDER TESTING

In 2018 the testing standards EN1802 (aluminium cylinders) and EN1968 (steel cylinders) were replaced by BS EN ISO 18119:2018. In the new standards testing requirements for steel and aluminium cylinders are amalgamated. The hydrostatic test period remains at 5 years while the visual inspection period is now yearly.

If you test your cylinders to these standards there is no requirement for your cylinders to be stamped for visual inspections.

However, in the UK it has been agreed to apply an industry risk assessment to visual inspections allowing the visual inspection period to revert to the previous standards of 30 months/2.5 years.

The new standards will run alongside the old standards until 2022

To safeguard our crew and customers Huskyn Ltd will require the following in order to fill your cylinders:

- 1 A stamp on each cylinder within the last 2.5 years & a sticker on each cylinder indicating the next test date.

or

- 2 A stamp on each cylinder within 5 years indicating a hydrostatic test and a sticker on each cylinder indicating a visual inspection within 2.5 years.

If your stickers are damaged or unreadable, we will not fill your cylinders unless you provide test certificates.

O2 CLEANING

If you want to use Nitrox, O2 or Trimix your cylinders must also be O2 clean.

- O2 cleaning in the UK is to industry standards and must be within 15 months.
- Each cylinder should be marked with a sticker from the facility with the O2 cleaning information.
- If your stickers are damaged or unreadable, please bring proof of O2 cleaning from your test centre.
- For non-UK cylinders – please bring proof of O2 cleaning from your test centre within 15 months.

IF IN DOUBT PLEASE BRING YOUR TEST CERTIFICATES

Lack of organisation on your part will not constitute an emergency on ours