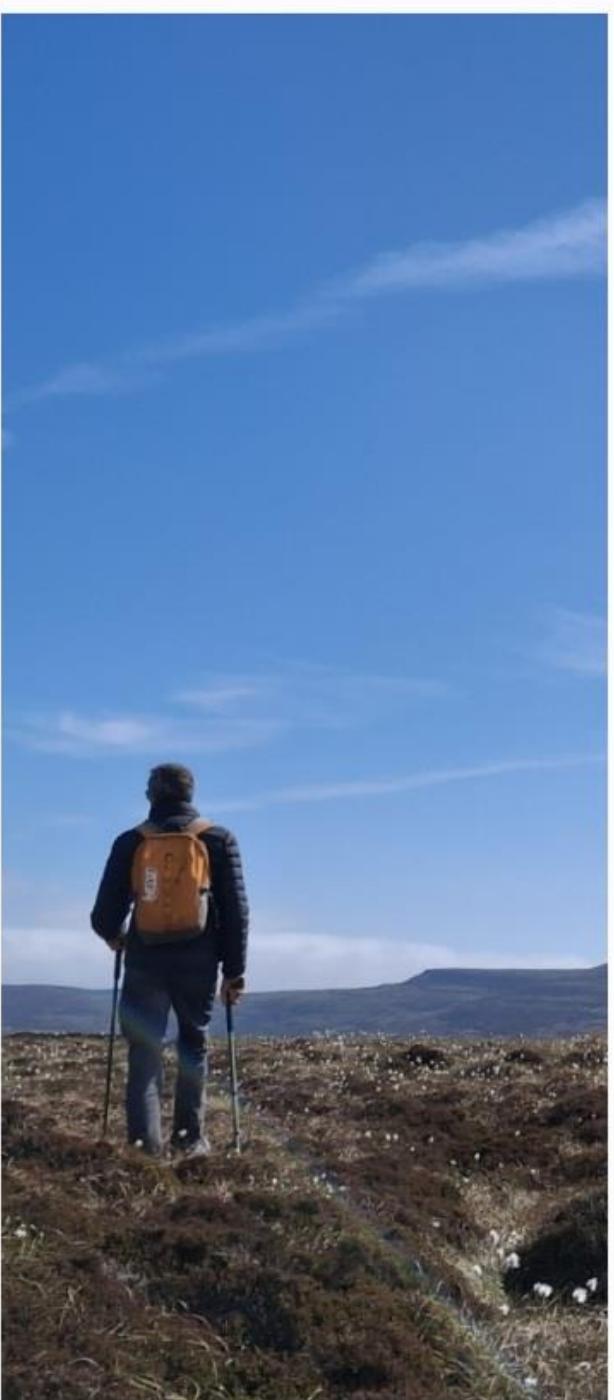




# SCOTLAND photologue

of sailing ship L'Envol

A photograph of two birds, possibly gulls, flying in a clear, pale blue sky. The birds are small and dark, silhouetted against the light sky.



Where  
to go..)



## The plan

100 nautical miles on  
fjords and sounds

+

50 nautical miles on the  
Caledonian Canal

=

the shortest way to the  
North Sea



## Departure

We leave Ireland at 4:40 AM to cross the North Channel. Tidal currents run strong all along Scotland's coasts and will from now on be dictating when we can sail or stop



## First time ashore

The tide changes before we reach our destination. We grab the first anchorage out there and, with 6 hours to kill, discover Bay of Carsaig and the Taynish Nature Reserve



## Free ride

The boat speed of 5 knots is doubled when we sail over the glassy surface of the Luing Sound



# Antifouling between tides

Spring tide with 4 metre  
tidal range

+

Hard flat ground for the  
boat to stand on

+

A very unusual weather  
for Scotland: 17-20  
degrees with sunshine  
and breeze

+

2 litres of paint for 1 coat  
of antifouling

=

The planets have aligned!



Puilladobhrain



## Scottish Highlands

Unlike at sea, sailing through Scotland's fjords L'Envol has no waves to worry about.

We day-hop from one anchorage to another to our hiking base camp in Bishops Bay



Bishops Bay



## Ben Nevis

The highest summit of Scotland, Ben Nevis (1344m), is bathed in sunlight the day we go up, though timing our hike on the Labour Day is probably not the best idea – it's like Piccadilly Circus



Coming down the  
gruelling North Face Trail  
we have more space on  
the path and can even  
take a photo with no-one  
else in it



The north face of Ben Nevis



## Caledonian Canal

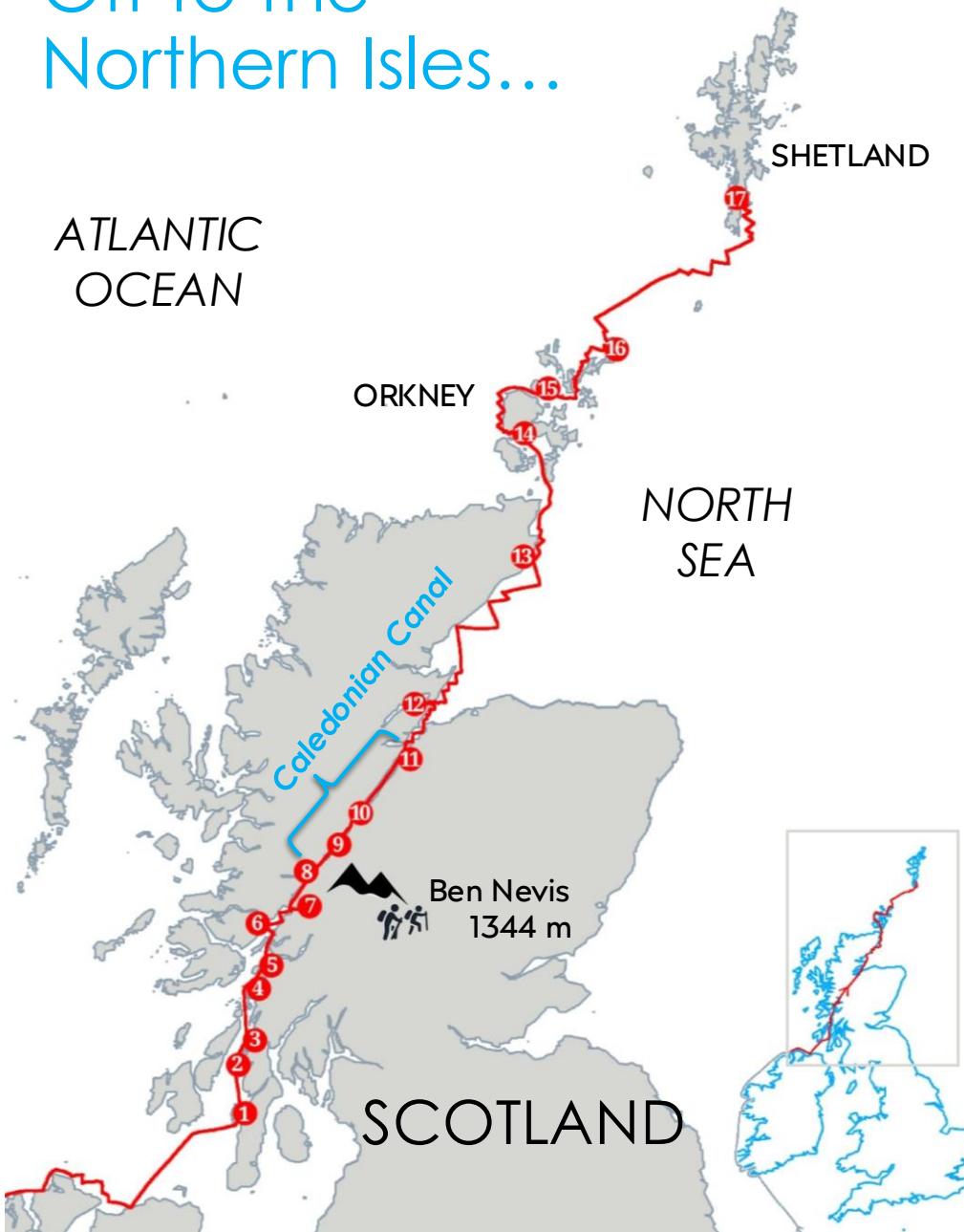
The Canal runs 100 kilometres but only one third of it is man-made, the rest being formed by four lakes, including Loch Ness. There are 29 locks, four aqueducts and ten bridges in the course of the canal. The lock-stairways allow L'Envol to climb 32 metres above sea level



## Sailing the forest

The south wind helps us sail most of the overall distance of the Canal, we only motor for 5 nautical miles, basically in and out of the lock gates and through the swing bridges

# Off to the Northern Isles...



- 1- Gigha Island
- 2- Eilean Mor
- 3- Carsaig Bay
- 4- Puilladobhrain
- 5- Oban
- 6- Loch A' Choire
- 7- Bishops Bay
- 8- Corpach Basin
- 9- Laggan
- 10- Fort Augustus
- 11- Inverness
- 12- Cromarty
- 13- Wick Harbour
- 14- Bay of Houton
- 15- Rousay Pier
- 16- South Bay
- 17- Channerwick



# Highlights from the Northern Isles

Trumland Nature Reserve -  
one of few places where  
the sheep cannot go

Rousay Island, Orkney  
Archipelago



Midhowe Monuments Trail,  
including this Iron Age  
broch from between 200  
BC and 100 AD

Rousay Island, Orkney  
Archipelago

Iain Williamson and Ewen Thomson, student and master violin maker, offer the kindest welcome (including a live fiddle performance!) to two sailors looking for drinking water

Channerwick, Shetland  
Archipelago



# Farewell Scotland

and your midnight sunsets at latitude 60° North

Photos: Carina Juhhova and Christophe Mora. 2025