

Robb Report

UNITED KINGDOM

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JULY / AUGUST 2026

ADVENTURE RETREAT

ELEVEN EXPERIENCE

To heli-ski Iceland is to experience the sport at its most elemental. On the Troll Peninsula, volcanic ridges fall towards fjords, the snow line seems to meet the sea, and the scale of the landscape makes even the Alps feel familiar by comparison. Eleven Experience places guests at the centre of the drama from Deplar Farm, its 13-room lodge set within a converted sheep farm in the north of the country.

The skiing is what makes the journey extraordinary. From on-property helipads, guests fly into remote terrain, with wide-open lines, long daylight hours and descents that can run from summit to sea. It is a kind of freedom rarely found in more conventional ski destinations.

Yet Eleven's strength lies in the way it surrounds that adventure with serious comfort. After a day above the Arctic Ocean, guests return to chef-led dining, spa facilities, geothermal bathing and the level of service expected from one of the world's leading adventure-travel specialists. The result is a retreat that feels both wild and deeply polished—an Icelandic ski experience that could not exist anywhere else. **Prices for the 2027 season start from around £6,200 (single-occupancy room); private buyouts start from around £88,500 (12 guests, three-night minimum)**



SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION COMPANY

AQUA EXPEDITIONS

For more than two decades, Aqua Expeditions has carved out a distinctive niche in luxury travel, proving that expedition cruising need not come at the expense of comfort. From boutique river vessels exploring the Peruvian Amazon and Mekong River to ocean-going yachts navigating Indonesia, the Galápagos and East Africa, the company has built its reputation on combining immersive exploration with the standards of service and design more commonly associated with a luxury hotel.

This year marks a new chapter with the arrival of *Aqua Lares*, the newest, and arguably most luxurious, addition to the fleet. The 15-cabin expedition yacht—also available for private charter—takes guests to some of East Africa's most remote destinations, including the Seychelles, Aldabra Atoll and Zanzibar, before heading north for Arctic expeditions in Svalbard. With just 30 guests and a one-to-one crew-to-guest ratio, *Aqua Lares* embodies the company's philosophy of intimate, experience-led exploration.

What continues to set Aqua Expeditions apart is its ability to balance adventure with refinement. But *Aqua Lares* also reflects a broader shift in luxury travel. The company is helping pioneer what it describes as “semi-private yachting”, allowing guests to experience the intimacy of a yacht charter without the need to hire an entire vessel. The idea represents a modern evolution of the luxury cruise model, one that blurs the line between expedition cruising and private yachting.

At a time when travellers are seeking more meaningful ways to explore the world, Aqua Expeditions continues to set the benchmark for small-ship adventures with a distinctly luxury perspective. **Cruises on *Aqua Lares* in East Africa and the Norwegian Arctic start from around £6,800 for a five-night, double-occupancy voyage; private charter rates from around £291,000 for the full vessel for five nights**

