



## A Unique Leadership Journey

Dear CEO,

Taking distance from your agenda, your organization, and your familiar ways of thinking. Not to escape, but to see more clearly.

In August, *The Leaders Ship* invites a small group of senior business leaders on an intense journey in the Faroe Islands. A raw, remote archipelago where nature, wind, weather, and sea filter out the distracting noise.



On board, we create time and space for questions that receive too little attention in daily pressure: What does this phase of my company and my life really ask of me? Which patterns no longer work? And what kind of leadership is needed today in an increasingly complex and unpredictable context?

Sailing and life on board are a step outside the comfort zone, but they are not the goal in themselves. They form **the context in which sharpness and insight emerge**.

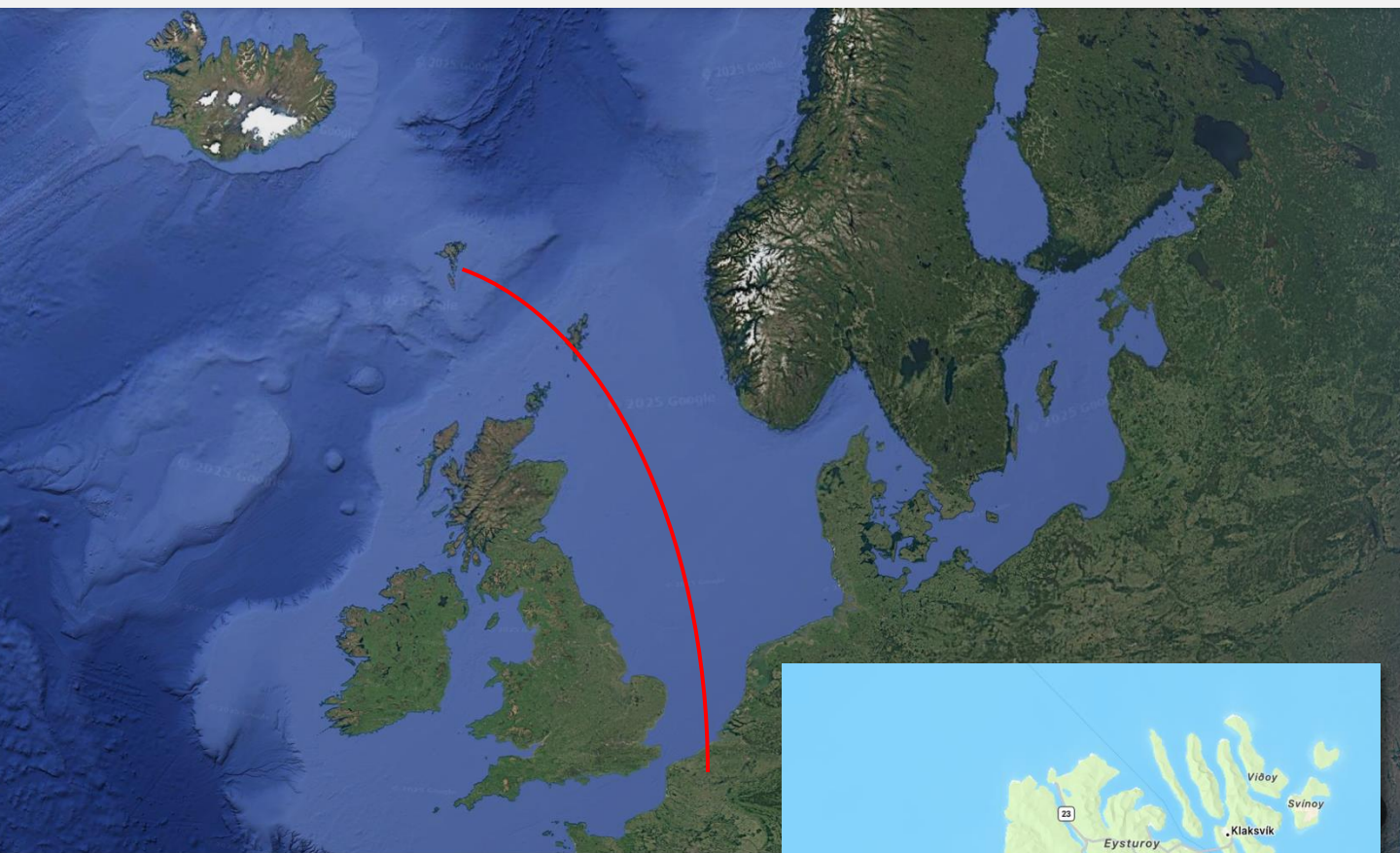
The Faroe Islands are an incredible backdrop and a catalyst. Far away from the obvious, in constant movement, clarity arises through shared experiences, reflections, and exchange.

For senior leaders who know that direction, courage, balance, and sharpness do not arise in meeting rooms, but in situations that truly matter.

I hope to welcome you on board.

Warm regards,  
Benoit

## The Faroe Islands

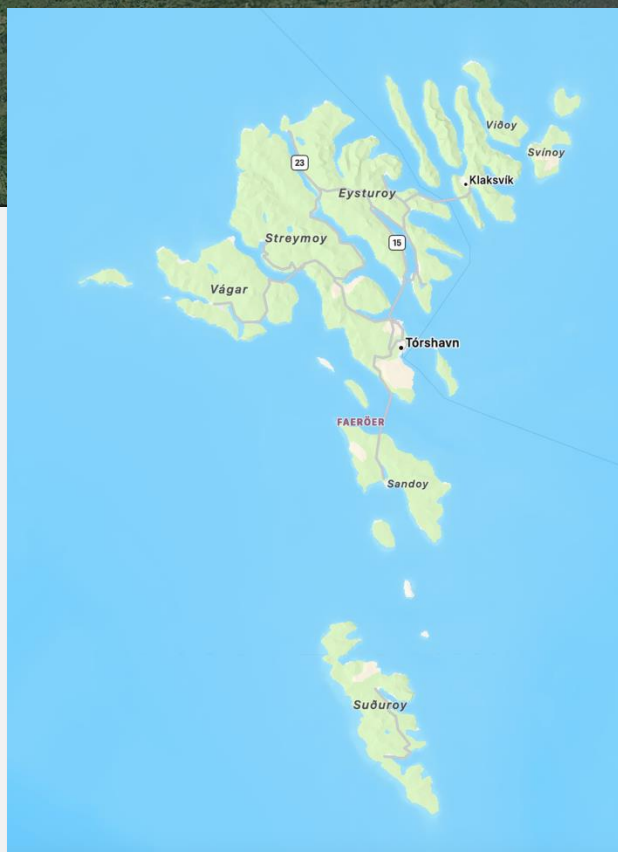


The Faroe Islands (55,000 inhabitants) are located in the North Atlantic Ocean:

320 km north of Scotland  
450 km southeast of Iceland  
650 km west of Norway

Settled since the 9th century by Norwegian Viking colonists, they are today an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark.

They are known for their large population of around 70,000 sheep. "Føroyar" literally means "sheep islands."



## The Faroe Islands



## Weather and Sailing Conditions

Early August is the absolute best time of year to sail in and around the Faroe Islands.

It is full summer, with long days, relatively stable conditions, and no autumn weather systems.

Nature is at its greenest, the days are long, and the area is lively but not crowded.

### Weather

- Daytime average: 10–14°C, with peaks up to 16°C on sunny days
- Nighttime average: 7–10°C, though it may feel cooler
- Short showers are possible, as well as fully dry, blue-sky days
- Expect a mix of sun, clouds, and passing showers
- Due to the northern latitude (62° N, only 5° below the Arctic Circle), there are 17 hours of daylight, with long twilight

### Wind

- Strongly influenced by Atlantic west or northwest airflows
- Typically 10–20 knots (3 to 5 Beaufort), sometimes more with passing systems
- Wind can increase or decrease quickly; we adapt flexibly
- Often good sailing weather; very calm conditions are rare

### Sea conditions

- Atlantic swell may be present, especially along west and north coasts
- Between the islands, shelter provides calmer water
- Harbors and fjords offer excellent protection
- Currents and tides require attention but are manageable

### What This Means for Sailing

- Conditions that require sharpness, cooperation, and decisiveness
- Long sailing days with ample daylight and safety margins
- Ideal for those who want to experience real sailing in a dynamic environment

## Beneteau Oceanis 43

We sail with Optimus, a solid 43-foot yacht under Belgian flag, certified according to all applicable standards for commercial voyages.



## Beneteau Oceanis 43



3 spacious cabins  
1 cabin with bunk beds

Possibility to sleep  
in the central saloon



## Life on board



Enjoying the silence, the rolling outlines of the islands, sunsets and sunrises, the magic of night sailing, the movement, and the constantly changing interplay of landscape, light and darkness, water and wind.

To fully reinforce the experience, we go completely offline. Laptops stay at home, and smartphones are handed in at the start of the trip.

The skipper remains reachable for people back home, if necessary



We live and work together on the boat for several days and share responsibility for one another.

We cook, do the dishes, and clean when needed

We enjoy healthy food, and don't drink alcohol while sailing.

Everyone brings their own sleeping bag and hiking shoes.

A 'back to basics' experience to fully recharge.



No sailing experience is required.

It will be a unique opportunity to get acquainted with offshore sailing and navigation. Also for experienced sailors, it will be enriching.

Sailing also serves as inspiration for leadership reflection. Everyone participates, shares tasks, and experiences the beauty and power of the interaction between boat, water, wind, and crew.

## A Structured Leadership Journey



We are not “just” going sailing.

A voyage with *The Leaders Ship* is an investment in personal and professional growth.

We combine structured and informal moments to learn from one another, reflect, and translate insights into concrete next steps.

We draw on each participant's experience and Benoit's broad background as a professional executive coach.



## A structured leadership journey

### Preparation

#### 1:1 Intakes (virtual)

- Two individual conversations (45–60 min) with Benoit to understand each participant's context and challenges

#### Group introduction (virtual)

- Personal and professional introductions
- Discussion of ground rules (e.g. NDA) and practical matters

#### Program design (by Benoit)

- Development of optimal program based on intake insights
- Selection of coaching methods and sequence

### On board

Facilitated and enriched with leadership material by Benoit

#### Facilitation & coaching

- Guaranteed 1.5–2 hours per participant for sharing and peer learning

#### Individual & collective work

- Moments of reflection
- Structured exchanges in pairs

#### Conversations and exchange

- Informal conversations; insights can be shared with the group if desired

### Embedding

#### 1:1 Follow-up

- Virtual call (or in-person in East or West Flanders)
- 6–8 weeks after the trip
- Review of impact
- Follow-up on insights, commitments, and decisions
- Evaluation of the experience
- Concluding personal advice from Benoit
- Option for additional support afterward

## What to expect





## Based on a variety of scientifically grounded principles

### Why sailing ?

#### Experiential Learning - David Kolb

People learn most through a cycle of concrete experience, reflection, insight, and experimentation. Learning is not the transfer of knowledge, but the processing of experience.

Real learning impact emerges when leaders act in realistic situations and deliberately reflect on them.

*Kolb, D. A. - Experience as the Source of Learning and Development*

#### Reflective Practice - Donald Schön

Professionals develop through reflection during action (reflection-in-action) and after action (reflection-on-action), especially in complex and uncertain situations.

This works best in a climate where people feel safe to ask questions and show uncertainty, without fear of negative consequences.

*Schön, D. A. - The Reflective Practitioner: How Professionals Think in Action.*

### Why with other leaders ?

#### Double-Loop Learning - Chris Argyris

True learning occurs when people not only adjust their behavior, but also question the underlying assumptions, mental models, and beliefs.

Senior leadership requires the courage to rethink what is taken for granted, not merely to optimize existing actions.

*Argyris, C., & Schön, D. - Organizational Learning: A Theory of Action Perspective*

#### Social Learning - Albert Bandura

People learn by observing and listening to others, through recognition, and by seeing alternative ways of thinking and acting.

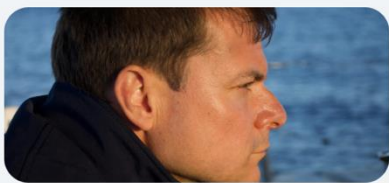
Leaders learn more rapidly when they experience how peers deal with similar challenges.

*Bandura, A. - Social Learning Theory.*

**Leadership learning is most effective where real experience, reflection, peer dialogue, and psychological safety come together.**

## Practical Information

Dates	31 July - 08 August 2026
Location	Between and around the 18 Faroe Islands 2-hour time difference with Belgium
Boat	Optimus – Beneteau Oceanis 43 Commercially certified, Belgian flag
Cost	5.900 € pp (4 participants) 50% on booking - 50% 1 month before departure Invoicing via travel agency (Travel Lounge)
Included	Flights and airport transfers Local groceries for food & drinks on board Two restaurant visits All boat-related costs (charter, insurance, fuel, mooring fees, deposit, gas, diesel) All local taxes Professional skipper and skipper insurance Goodie bag The complete leadership program
Travel	Friday 31/07 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Train or taxi to CDG</li><li>• Direct flight with Atlantic Airways to Vágur</li><li>• Arrival around 18:40</li><li>• Overnight in hotel or B&amp;B (TBC)</li></ul> Saturday 01/08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taxi to the boat in Tórshavn or Sandavágur (TBC)</li></ul> Saturday 08/08 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Airport transfer</li><li>• Return flight with Atlantic Airways &amp; SAS</li><li>• Vágur (14:30) → Copenhagen → Brussels (19:50)</li></ul>
Not included	Food and drinks during travel (CDG, etc.) Additional sailing clothing (to be discussed if needed) Extras beyond budget on site (bars, entertainment, etc.)



“  
A surreal experience - a week at sea with 7 leaders, close to nature and each other. Intense, pure, and unforgettable.”

★★★★★

**Tijl Charle**

CEO at CGK



“  
What an experience. Thank you Benoit for this unforgettable and unique week on the water. Life changing. 🙏”

★★★★★

**Bert Vandebuerie**

Founder at Foundershub



“  
Perfect trip with the perfect captain/host! Thanks for the amazing time, Benoit! Far beyond expectations.”

★★★★★

**Davy Derammelaere**

Founder at Tecjobz



“  
Unforgettable experience, with a skipper who truly embodies leadership! Personal impact beyond expectation.”

★★★★★

**Ahmed Göcen**

CEO at GKW



“  
Unique experience, exceptional setting, truly inspiring and engaging insights, both personally and professionally.”

★★★★★

**Nathalie Christiaens**

Co-CEO at vind!



“  
This trip challenged and inspired me. A must for any leader seeking fresh energy, clarity and perspective.”

★★★★★

**Stephanie De Walsche**

Director at Welda



“  
Amazing sailing AND true personal impact. Thanks Benoit for creating a profound learning process.”

★★★★★

**Simon Spiller**

Social Care CEO and Campaigner



“  
100% disconnection in a fantastic and challenging setting. Sparring sessions with like-minded people; I recommend!”

★★★★★

**Wolf Vandekerckhove**

CEO at Nemegeher



“  
Awesome experience. Great people, flawless organization, powerful insights. Sign me up for the next trip.”

★★★★★

**Emiel De Bleecker**

Serial Entrepreneur





“ Highly recommended. The experience is intense, insightful, and inspiring. I will come back for more. ”

★★★★★

**Jeroen De Wit**

CEO and founder at Teamleader



“ This trip blended leadership, deep conversations, and personal growth in a way that few experiences do. ”

★★★★★

**Dirk Philips**

Investor & Transformation Manager



“ A rare opportunity to step back, reset, and reflect, surrounded by brilliant minds in a truly unique environment. ”

★★★★★

**Mark Töpfer**

CEO and founder at Natuvalis GmbH



“ Learning from fellow CEOs is invaluable. Benoit provided structured facilitation and leadership skills to maximize value. ”

★★★★★

**Francis De Clercq**

CEO at Axon Group



“ This isn't just a trip—it's a powerful leadership lab at sea. Thought-provoking, re-energizing, and genuinely inspiring. ”

★★★★★

**Philippe Harinck**

VP Europe at Hansgrohe



“ Exceptional facilitation, excellent company, and the right balance between structure and freedom. ”

★★★★★

**John Siemerink**

CEO and owner at De Zuidschor



“ The trip strengthened my focus on personal growth and inspired me to invest more in meaningful experiences. ”

★★★★★

**Klaas Claeysens**

CEO and owner at CC Experts



“ Insightful conversations, great camaraderie, and moments of stillness that brought surprising clarity. ”

★★★★★

**Dimitri Lokhonia**

CEO and owner at Bloomex



“ A space where high-performing leaders can pause, share openly, and grow. Should have done this before. ”

★★★★★

**Steven Kielemoes**

Founder at Nomatron

## Skipper & Facilitator: Benoit Strauven Founder of The Leaders Ship

### Professional & competitive sailor

- Master Commercial Yachting 200GT
- RYA Yachtmaster Offshore (with commercial endorsement)
- Sailing experience in the North Sea, Mediterranean, Southern Ocean, USA, etc.
- 3 Youth World Championships (Cadet class)
- Watch leader in the Clipper Round the World Race

### Business Leader

- 15 years as CEO of multiple family-owned SMEs (turnover > €110 million)
- Leadership experience across Europe, USA, Asia, India, and Africa
- Board member and chair since 2005
- Keynote speaker

### Senior executive coach and leadership facilitator

- Coaching training in Belgium, the Netherlands, UK, and Italy
- Founded a leadership development practice in 2020
- Clients include strategy consultancies, private equity funds, listed companies, and a wide range of SMEs

