

15 DAYS LUXURY BRITISH ISLES CRUISE - PORTSMOUTH TO EDINBURGH

The British Isles have many stories to tell. These rolling green lands are built on a depth of history, mystique and rural beauty like nowhere else. Bookended by cosmopolitan capitals, we'll weave north through diverse countries and an array of islands dotted with quaint lighthouses, ancient monasteries, and Atlantic puffin colonies. Our journey encompasses geological wonders, stark highlands, and the proud castles of yesteryear along the way.



ITINERARY

Days 0 - 1 - Pre Cruise & Portsmouth

Pre Cruise Benefits_

- _ **Private Executive Transfers**_
- **International flights Economy class**_
- **or Business Class upgrade**_

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Airport transfers_

Portsmouth also known as Pompey, is home to three hugely important historic ships, HMS Victory, Nelson's famous flagship at the battle of Trafalgar, HMS Warrior the first ironclad warship and the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's warship that sank in the Solent just off of Southsea Castle. These are all housed at the Historic Dockyard, home of the Royal Navy and also home to the world's first dry dock. The Historic Dockyard is one of the top ten visitor attractions in the UK. But Portsmouth is not just about history, the city is a cosmopolitan University city, with much to offer visitors and residents alike. Portsmouth has a Premier league football team, a superb seafront area, excellent shopping and a wide range of restaurants, pubs and bars. Portsmouth UK is home to the tallest publicly accessible structure in the UK, the Spinnaker Tower built right on the edge of Portsmouth Harbour at Gunwharf Quays. Portsmouth Harbour has been used in a number of films and television programmes such as Tomorrow Never Dies (James Bond), Oscar and Lucinda, Making Waves, Silent Witness, Mr Bean and Eastenders. The local area was used extensively in the filming of Tommy, The Who's rock opera.

Day 2 - Tresco, Isles of Scilly

For many visitors Tresco is the most attractive of the Isles of Scilly. This is especially due to its Abbey Garden, which is home to thousands of exotic plant species from around 80 different countries. Plant collector Augustus Smith began the gardens in the 1830s on the site of an old Benedictine Abbey by channelling the weather up and over a network of walled enclosures built around the Priory ruins. He had three terraces carved from the rocky south slope and maximised Tresco's mild Gulf Stream climate. Even in mid-winter there still are hundreds of plants flowering here. Another surprising attraction at the Abbey Garden is the collection of figureheads from ships that wrecked among the Isles of Scilly.

Day 3 - Bantry

Located on the Wild Atlantic Way, one of the longest defined costal routes in the world, Bantry is a beautiful, busy market town and fishing port. Nestling amongst the drumlins at the head of Bantry Bay, it's a splendour of mountain scenery, hilly pastures, streams, lakes and woods. The landscape changes with the moods of the sky.

The town has a long history, numerous megalithic monuments bear witness to the fact that Bantry has been inhabited since the early centuries. Explore more of Bantry's past with a visit to Carriganass Castle and the ancient stone circle at Kealkill.

Bantry House commands the finest views of Bantry Bay and is one of Irelands most attractive, great houses, continually lived in and managed by the White family since 1739. Full of treasures collected on the travels of generations of Earls of Bantry, gorgeous restored formal gardens and excellent tearooms, it's an unmissable treat. A climb of "one hundred steps" at the back of Bantry House gives an awesome view right across the bay.

Walk off the tea and cakes whilst exploring the Sheep's Head peninsula and its lovely lighthouse which has stunning

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panoramic views across the bay. A walker's paradise, taking you to the very edge of Europe, through a variety of unspolit natural landscapes. There are also plenty of short, looped walks and a costal route for cyclists too.

With a strong and established food scene based on delicious, fresh local products especially seafood, prepare yourself for a famous Irish welcome.

Day 4 - Skellig Islands

If you think that the Skellig Islands look familiar, that's because they are. The Skelling Michal towers set the scene in episodes seven and eight of the Stars Wars franchise, and local tourism has been feeling the force ever since. Aside from being in a galaxy far, far, away, the magnificent the Skellig Michael towers have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1996. The two Islands were (Great Skellig and Little Skellig) were part of a Gaelic Christian Monastic settlement from the 6th to the 12th century and the towers on Skellig Michael (Great Skellig) are a "unique example of an early religious settlement" (as well as being a final resting place for Jedis). The towers are surely the main attraction of the area and are simply fascinating. Built in a beehive shape to protect against the harsh elements, they use local stone and no mortar. Today, some 1,400 years later, they are still practically intact. There is also a graveyard on the island with 618 steps winding up to the stone summit, rewarding you once you reach the top. The breathtaking views and photo opportunities are well worth it! Little Skelling is equally as important for birders too; the island is home to almost 30,000 pairs of gannets, the second largest colony of seabirds in the world. Guillemots, Puffins, Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels also nest on the island, making up the "Skellig Big Five".

Day 4 - Dingle

A hearty welcome, a bright and bold harbour, and the promise of windswept walks amid Ireland's emerald scenery await in beautiful Dingle. Sheltered within Dingle Bay, this cheerful town's buildings are splashed with colourful hues. Walk streets dotted with inviting pubs and eateries, from which fulsome laughter, Gaelic vowels, and clapping singalongs sound. No visit is complete without calling at the South Pole Inn. Legendary explorer, Tom Crean - a daring hero of Shackleton's Endeavour shipwreck - ran the pub in his later years. It's a million miles from the pack ice and uncharted seas he explored, but the Dingle Peninsula is no less beautiful. Sandy beaches unfurl, and the ravishing Slea Head Drive offers an exceptional winding tour. Undulating trails take you on breathtaking hikes through wild emerald landscapes - expect precipitous cliffs, peaceful shores, and verdant mountains. Leaving Dingle harbour, the uninhabited Blasket Islands are within reach at this western extremity of the European continent. The islands are a refuge for Irish red deer and bright-billed puffins, while basking sharks, minke whales and seals swim the waters. The wildlife doesn't get friendlier than Dingle's most famous resident - Fungie the bottlenose dolphin. Fungie greets boats with a playful leap and has become a local celebrity for welcoming ships back home. A statue now honours this most devoted dolphin of Dingle.

Day 5 - Inisheer, Aran Islands

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The smallest of the Aran Islands, Inisheer, is a quaint and idyllic low-lying island steeped in rich Irish culture. It's a gorgeous place of rustic stone walls, green fields stretching out beneath racing skies, and expansive Atlantic views. The authentic Aran Island way of life is well preserved here, and you can eavesdrop on cheerful conversations in the Gaelic language, admire local weaving, or tap your foot to lively music performances in local drinking holes while sharing a friendly pint of the black stuff. Hike or cycle through this preserved vision of old, sepia-toned Ireland. There are plenty of stories and tall tales to discover scour the small island for its black and white lighthouse, Bronze Age history, crumbling castle ruins, and buried churches. Or simply soak in the peace and tranquillity during quiet island rambles. You're sure to come across the rusty red hull of the Plassey ship. Over six decades have now passed since the ill-fated cargo vessel ran aground here. Fortunately, thanks to the bravery of the locals, all sailors were saved. The aged shipwreck now lies dramatically perched ashore above the waters.

Day 5 - Kilronan, Aaran Islands

If you have ever wanted to imbibe in the Celtic legends of your past, then Kilronan is the answer to your prayers. Situated on the isle of Inishmore in the Aran Islands in County Galway, Cill Ronain - the official Gaelic spelling - is all about history, spirituality and the kind of rejuvenation that can only be found on Irish soil. The first thing you should know about the Aran Isles is that they are exceptionally beautiful. National Geographic called them "one of the world's top island destinations" and

they are universally recognised as being the "islands of saints and scholars". Windswept moors and craggy cliffs akin to a Victorian novel flank rolling seas that are Dantesque in their raw power. This is where nature comes home to roost (not to mention the 60,000 seabirds that call the islands their home). Inishmore (Inis Mor) is the biggest island of the archipelago, and as such has the most interesting Celtic history. Over 50 Celtic, Christian and pre-Christian sites are on Inishmore alone (with others on the other two islands that make up the rest of the archipelago). The most important of these site is perhaps the prehistoric fort of Dun Aonghasa, "the most magnificent barbaric monument extant in Europe". Perched precariously on a 100-metre-high cliff, the fort dates back 3,000 years and is one of Ireland's most ancient and sacred sites. Little is known of the history of Dun Aonghasa, not who Dun Aonghasa may have been, but a placing so close to the sea edge suggests ritualistic significance.

Day 6 - Killybegs

An all-encompassing, all-Irish, genuine warm welcome awaits those who visit Killybegs. Set in the Republic of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, Killibegs is a hidden gem of a town that is often overshadowed by Dublin and Galway. But, as the privileged position on the north west coast proves, Killibegs is worth discovering. Be prepared to be overwhelmed by the beauty of the area. The spectacular Slieve League Cliffs, around 45-minutes through the rolling Donegal countryside, are said to be much more dramatic than the Cliffs of Mohr, so those who want to see some of Mother Nature's finest work will want to head straight for here. At a height of approximately 1,968 feet

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(about 600 metres) above sea level, the Cliffs are believed to be Europe's highest sea cliffs, and boast an unspoilt natural landscape. Admire the views from either above, looking down on the rolling waters beyond, or from below, gazing up at the folding cliffs towering before you. Don't forget your camera! A stroll through Killybegs is rewarding in a tranquil way. The quiet fishing village is lulled by the salty sea breeze and the streets are pretty in a way that only authentic fishing villages can be. The image of soft light bouncing off the harbour walls, reflecting on the waters is something that is truly lovely and will not be forgotten in a hurry. The little town centre is well worth a visit, and can take all day if you get chatting to a local. Cosy little pubs, white sandy beaches and a rich, local history bring up the rear.

Day 7 - Londonderry, N. Ireland

Nestled behind lofty city walls, Londonderry is a fascinating destination, boasting an increasingly envied reputation as a cultural and artistic heavyweight. The UK's City of Culture in 2013, its preserved city walls encircle a tapestry of history, while a sparkly new waterfront has kept Northern Ireland's second city feeling fresh and vibrant. These 400-year-old walls were besieged during 1688's Siege of Derry - when King James's forces attacked, causing mass starvation and suffering over 105 days of stalemate. Still standing tall, you can walk their circumference in roughly one hour, ticking off each of the seven gates as you do so. You'll wander beside the mighty cannons that boomed during the siege - including the famous Roaring Meg. St. Columb's Cathedral dates back to 1633, and is one of Londonderry's most significant historic sites, towering over the

city. The dreamy spire contains Ireland's oldest set of bells which can be heard peeling out melodies every hour. The Tower Museum is a five-floored space and a walk back through Londonderry's layered past. Divisions have run deep here over the years, and the Troubles began in Derry, when the city was scarred by battles and Bloody Sunday during the period of unrest. The Peace Bridge now stands as an inspiring symbol of hope and reconciliation, sweeping across the River Foyle's waters to poignantly unite the two sides. At night it glows beautifully below the stars.

Day 8 - Iona

If tiny islands that resonate with peace and tranquillity are your idea of travel heaven, then welcome to Iona. Almost 200 miles east of Edinburgh, set in Scotland's Inner Hebrides, this magical island has a spiritual reputation that precedes it. And luckily, more than lives up to. The island is miniscule. Just three miles long and only one and a half miles wide, this is not a place that hums with urban attractions. 120 people call lona home (this number rises significantly if the gull, tern and Kittiwake population is added), although residential numbers do go up (to a whopping 175) in summer. The beautiful coastline is lapped by the gulf stream and gives the island a warm climate with sandy beaches that look more Mediterranean than Scottish! Add to that a green field landscape that is just beautiful, and you'll find that lona is a place that stays with you long after you leave. Iona's main attraction is of course its abbey. Built in 563 by Saint Columbia and his monks, the abbey is the reason why lona is called the cradle of Christianity. Not only is the abbey (today an ecumenical church) one of the best - if not the best -

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example of ecclesiastical architecture dating from the Middle Ages, but it also serves as an important site of spiritual pilgrimage. St. Martin's Cross, a 9th century Celtic cross that stands outside the abbey, is considered as the finest example of Celtic crosses in the British Isles. Reilig Odhrain, or the cemetery, allegedly contains the remains of many Scottish kings.

Day 8 - Lunga

The stunning Isle of Lunga is the largest island in the Treshnish archipelago. With volcanic origin the isle was populated until the 19th Century, and remains of black houses can be seen around this magnificent coastal jewel. Abundant plant life and exotic birdlife are now the main inhabitants of the area. Fortunate visitors view the magnificent array of birds, especially the great puffins that breed on the islands plateau. One can sit within just a few feet away without disturbing the avian ambassador's peace. The 81 hectare island is home to many rare and endangered plants such as, primroses and orchids. Views over the landscape and across the ocean can be seen from the 300 foot high cliffs.

Day 9 - Inverie, Scotland

On the northern shore of Loch Nevis, you'll find a charming highland village of widescreen views, beautiful scenery, and a curious claim to fame. The undulating backdrop of the Scottish Highlands sweeps you up, and a sense of remote wonder looms large here in Inverie. Isolated from the rest of the country, little Inverie's tiny road network - which serves its approximately 100 local residents - peters out beyond the outskirts of the community-led village, so almost all visitors arrive by boat or by foot. Inverie is the largest village not connected to the main road network, and the faraway setting means it's fair to say that nobody reaches these shores by accident. Indeed, as the only village on the beautiful Knoydart peninsula, visitors literally hike for miles to reward themselves with a prized pint at Inverie's star attraction. The village revolves around its pub, the UK mainland's most remote and a World Record holder. Inverie may be distant, but that only strengthens the sense of community spirit that permeates everything here. The pub binds the tightly-knit locals together with a steady stream of overflowing glasses and free-flowing stories. Enjoy a drink and a bite to eat outdoors on one of the grassy shore's picnic benches. Here, you can toast the tranquil beauty of Inverie's sweeping sea loch and earthy highland colours while plotting your return to this far-flung haven.

Day 10 - St. Kilda

Gloriously remote, St. Kilda is an archipelago 50 miles off the Isle of Harris. Although the four islands are uninhabited by humans, thousands of seas birds call these craggy cliffs home, clinging to the sheer faces as if by magic. Not only is St. Kilda home to the UK's largest colony of Atlantic Puffin (almost 1 million), but also the world largest colony Gannets nests on Boreray island and its sea stacks. The islands also home decedents of the world's original Soay sheep as well as having a breed of eponymously named mice. The extremely rare St. Kilda wren unsurprisingly hails from St. Kilda, so birders should visit with notebook, binoculars and camera to hand. While endemic

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animal species is rife on the island, St. Kilda has not been peopled since 1930 after the last inhabitants voted that human life was unsustainable. However, permanent habitation had been possible in the Medieval Ages, and a vast National Trust for Scotland project to restore the dwellings is currently being undertaken. The islands even enjoyed a status as being an ideal holiday destination in the 19th century. Today, the only humans living on the islands are passionate history, science and conservation scholars. One of the caretakers even acts as shopkeeper and postmaster for any visitors who might like to send a postcard home from St. Kilda. It should be noted that St. Kilda is the UKs only (and just one of 39 in the world) dual World Heritage status from UNESCO in recognition of its Natural Heritage and cultural significance.

Day 10 - Boreray Island cruising

Erupting out of the Atlantic waters like a mythical beast, Boreray Island captivates all those who lay eyes upon it. As we approach, listen out for sharp intakes of breath - the abrasive and immense form of this staggering island never fails to astound. Few locations command such awe as uninhabited Boreray, left to the seabirds since the last residents of the St Kilda Islands departed in 1930. Watch as vast numbers of Northern Gannets glide overhead before attempting skilful landings at tucked-away nest sites or plunge into the sea, seeking food for their new chicks. Northern Fulmars also make their homes on the volcanic cliffs, while Atlantic Puffins dart in and out of burrows on the slopes. The rugged, rocky island is also well known for the hardy sheep who cling to its shores. You might be able to pick out the rare Boreray Sheep, unique to the island, grazing on the hilly slopes as we cruise alongside the island and the attendant rock stacks that stand tall against the Atlantic onslaught. Boreray forms a part of the dramatic St Kilda World Heritage Site and is a rare example of a site recognised for both its outstanding natural and cultural values.

Day 11 - Shiant Islands, Scotland

Cliffs of tall hexagonal columns create a sensational landscape at the Shiant Islands, especially when viewed from the sea. The cliffs of six-sided rock columns look like the cross-section of an enormous honeycomb. The rock formations were formed when molten volcanic magma cooled very slowly underground. Millions of years of erosion has exposed the six-sided columns to the sea, and to us. The tallest of these formations is 120 metres (390 feet) high. During spring and summer, flights of seabirds near the Shiant Islands catch the eye. Many long-winged seabirds wheel and soar gracefully. Others are more shaped for underwater swimming and fly in direct lines, beating stubby wings to resemble flying potatoes. Some birds nest in burrows while others, like Black-legged Kittiwakes, nest on cliffs. Rather than build nests, guillemots lay eggs on bare rock ledges. The pointed shape of the eggs ensures they roll in a tight circle, not off the ledge to the sea below. The Shiant Islands are part of the Outer Hebrides and located between the Isles of Lewis and Skye. Historically, they have supported families of sheep grazers who could tolerate a lonely island outpost. The Shiants were known as the last place in Britain where the Black Rat occurred in substantial numbers. Originally introduced to Britain from Asia in Roman times these rodents caused problems, eating eggs and chicks of seabirds. A



successful eradication program eliminated the rats in 2016, giving the seabird colonies well-earned peace.

Day 12 - Isle of May

The Isle of May in Scotland is owned and managed by Scottish Natural Heritage as a National Nature Reserve and is an important breeding ground for approximately one-quarter of a million seabirds. In fact, over 40,000 puffin burrows have been counted as occupied. Not only kittiwakes, shags, eiders, and guillemots but also Razorbills, Arctic Terns, Sandwich Terns and Common Terns, Lesser Gulls, Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls nest here. The island is located roughly four nautical miles off the coast of mainland Scotland and is used by biologists for surveying migrating passerines and for ringing breeding seabirds to better study their movements and breeding success. While hosting an impressive array and quantity of seabirds, the island itself is small at only 1.8 kilometers (1.1 miles) long, and less than half a kilometer (one-third of a mile) wide.

Day 13 - Edinburgh (Leith)

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Edinburgh is to London as poetry is to prose, as Charlotte Bronte once wrote. One of the world's stateliest cities and proudest capitals, it's built--like Rome--on seven hills, making it a striking backdrop for the ancient pageant of history. In a skyline of sheer drama, Edinburgh Castle watches over the capital city, frowning down on Princes Street's glamour and glitz. But despite its rich past, the city's famous festivals, excellent museums and galleries, as well as the modern Scottish Parliament, are

reminders that Edinburgh has its feet firmly in the 21st century.Nearly everywhere in Edinburgh (the burgh is always pronounced burra in Scotland) there are spectacular buildings, whose Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian pillars add touches of neoclassical grandeur to the largely Presbyterian backdrop. Large gardens are a strong feature of central Edinburgh, where the city council is one of the most stridently conservationist in Europe. Arthur's Seat, a mountain of bright green and yellow furze, rears up behind the spires of the Old Town. This child-size mountain jutting 822 feet above its surroundings has steep slopes and little crags, like a miniature Highlands set down in the middle of the busy city. Appropriately, these theatrical elements match Edinburgh's character--after all, the city has been a stage that has seen its fair share of romance, violence, tragedy, and triumph.Modern Edinburgh has become a cultural capital, staging the Edinburgh International Festival and the Fringe Festival in every possible venue each August. The stunning Museum of Scotland complements the city's wealth of galleries and artsy hangouts. Add Edinburgh's growing reputation for food and nightlife and you have one of the world's most beguiling cities. Today the city is the second most important financial center in the United Kingdom, and the fifth most important in Europe. The city regularly is ranked near the top in quality-of-life surveys. Accordingly, New Town apartments on fashionable streets sell for considerable sums. In some senses the city is showy and materialistic, but Edinburgh still supports learned societies, some of which have their roots in the Scottish Enlightenment. The Royal Society of Edinburgh, for example, established in 1783 "for the advancement of learning and useful knowledge," remains an important forum for interdisciplinary activities. Even as Edinburgh moves through the 21st century, its tall guardian castle remains the focal point of

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the city and its venerable history. Take time to explore the streets--peopled by the spirits of Mary, Queen of Scots; Sir Walter Scott; and Robert Louis Stevenson--and pay your respects to the world's best-loved terrier, Greyfriars Bobby. In the evenings you can enjoy candlelit restaurants or a folk ceilidh (pronounced kay-lee, a traditional Scottish dance with music), though you should remember that you haven't earned your porridge until you've climbed Arthur's Seat. Should you wander around a corner, say, on George Street, you might see not an endless cityscape, but blue sea and a patchwork of fields. This is the county of Fife, beyond the inlet of the North Sea called the Firth of Forth--a reminder, like the mountains to the northwest that can be glimpsed from Edinburgh's highest points, that the rest of Scotland lies within easy reach.

Day 14 - Post Cruise

- **Post Cruise Benefits**_
- _ * * Airport transfers * *_
- **International flights Economy class**_
- _ **or Business Class upgrade**_
- _ **Private Executive Transfers**_

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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excursions while onboard. This is where you'll attend your daily recap and briefing sessions or attend lectures. Connoisseur 's Corner The Connoisseur's Corner is an indulgent and sophisticated cigar lounge, where you can enjoy an after dinner drink in a cosy private club atmosphere. Otium Spa Otium is where you can relax and unwind, but also where you can enjoy world class treatments that make sure you look as good as you feel and that even Venus herself would envy. Observation Lounge The Observation Lounge offers one of our favourite vantage points of Silver Endeavour. Plus 270-degree surrounding glass windows make this immersive venue ideal whatever time of the day. Beauty Salon Our committed and competent team of beauty therapists is here to help keep your hair, nails, skin, and body healthy and happy. Fitness Centre Whether you are a serious keep fit fanatic or casual athlete, you'll find what you're looking for in Silver Endeavour's Fitness Centre. Expertly designed classes and personal training sessions make sure that you keep in shape. Boutique Located mid-ship on Deck 5, the Boutique aboard Silver Endeavour means luxury shopping experiences do not end just because you're at sea! Carefully selected partners offer a wide selection of the latest fashions. Pool Deck Surrounded by glazing extended all the way to the top of the venue, the Pool Deck gives you the feeling of always being connected to the sea. The glass-enclosed pool deck is the ideal place to enjoy breathtaking views. Library Whether you're an avid bibliophile or simply prefer a quiet place while at sea, it's hard not to fall in love with Silver Endeavour's onboard library, with its beautiful reference books, comfortable chairs and

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