

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

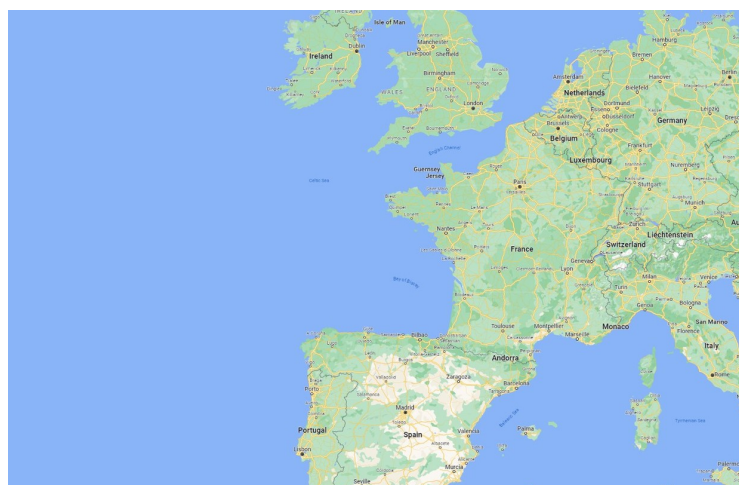
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ALONG THE CAMINO - 8 DAY CRUISE FROM PORTSMOUTH TO VIGO

Here is a unique opportunity to combine a leisurely passage from the UK to Spain aboard the all-suite MS Island Sky with time spent walking along various sections of the Camino de Santiago, the renowned pilgrimage route and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Follow in the footsteps of seafaring pilgrims from centuries past who would sail from the UK to Galicia to begin their pilgrimage to the tomb of St James. Our journey promises to be an enriching experience accompanied by fellow like-minded travellers and our Guest Speaker, the Right Reverend Tim Stevens who will provide a series of fascinating talks. After four nights on board the MS Island Sky sailing from Portsmouth to Vigo by way of La Coruna, we will disembark for a three night stay in the beautiful Galician city of Santiago de Compostela. Established after the discovery of the relics of St James, the Camino de Santiago or the 'Way of James' is an extensive network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and culminating at the magnificent cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. We have designed our itinerary to allow for the opportunity to walk along three sections of the Way of St James; the English Way, the French Way and the Portuguese Way and the walks will be planned so that participants can walk as much or little as they choose of the three sections each of the days and, for those electing not to partake in the walks, there will be the option to instead join a guided excursion to the region's picturesque towns.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Portsmouth, England.

Embark the MS Island Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Portsmouth Harbour Railway Station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner as we sail this evening.

Days 2 & 3 At Sea.

Spend the next two days at sea sailing to the northern coast of Spain following in the footsteps of centuries of seafaring pilgrims from Britain and Northern Europe. During your time on board relax and perhaps take in a lecture or two by our speaker the Right Reverend Tim Stevens.

Day 4 La Coruna & the English Way, Spain.

This morning we arrive into La Coruna. From here we will walk part of the English Way which has two starting points, La Coruna and Ferrol, La Coruna being the preferred route for British

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Pilgrims. Pilgrims started walking the English Way or the 'Seafaring Way' in the 12th century and it was popular with Medieval pilgrims from Scandinavia, Flanders, England, Scotland and Wales. It played host to Crusaders on their way to the Holy Land, Icelandic monks, and during the Hundred Years War pilgrims from Britain sailed as we did to the coast rather than passing through France. Vessels chartered for the purpose of pilgrimage had to receive permission from the Crown before they could set sail. The pilgrimages are well documented by ceramic pieces and coins found during excavations of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral. The walking today will be split into sections so that you can choose to walk as much or as little as you wish. Lunch will be at a local restaurant. For those who prefer a more leisurely day there will be a morning tour of La Coruna followed by an afternoon at leisure.

Day 5 Vigo, the French Way & Santiago de Compostela.

We will disembark this morning after breakfast and head to Melide to walk a section of the French Way, perhaps the most famous of the nine major Camino routes. Its 800 kilometres of trails have inspired many artists, writers and filmmakers. Melide is the only town where two Camino routes meet, the French Way and the Camino Primitivo (Original Way). From the 10th century, Melide grew in popularity and as the number of pilgrims passing through increased so did the traders and innkeepers allowing the town to grow in prosperity. The town has a number of impressive chapels and beautiful Medieval architecture. The route today will take us through forests and over streams passing quaint villages and farms. At the end of the walk we transfer to our hotel in Santiago de Compostela for a three night stay. For those not wishing to walk today, there will be the option of a tour to the elegant and historic town of Pontevedra

where we will see the Peregrina Chapel, the city's most emblematic building. This Baroque church has an unusual, rounded facade and was built in the late 18th century in honour of the Virgin guiding pilgrims on their way to Santiago de Compostela. There will also be a visit to Pazo de Rubianes, an elegant country estate dating back to the late 17th century and surrounded by extensive vineyards en route to Santiago de Compostela. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Day 6 The Portuguese Way & Santiago de Compostela.

This morning set out to walk some of the Portuguese Way. The Camino Portuguese which starts in Lisbon has been in use since the 10th century, but it was in the 12th century after the independence of Portugal that it became more prominent. The pilgrimage of Queen Isabel of Portugal in the 14th century solidified the routes for pilgrims. Our walk today will be part of the last section of the Portuguese Way passing through charming villages and farms. We will stop for lunch at Pazo de Faramello and meet up with fellow passengers who may have chosen to not walk this morning. The Pazo de Faramello is an early 18th century building with strong Italian influences that convey the Genoese origin of its founder, the Marquis of Piombino. This pazo was the location of the first paper factory in Galicia and the old mills and corresponding tools can still be seen. Admire the perfectly kept French 19th century gardens spread across more than two hectares leaning out in terraces over a tiny canyon whilst we enjoy lunch. Afterwards there will be the opportunity to walk into Santiago de Compostela on the Finisterre Way. This is a unique route as it takes pilgrims from Santiago de Compostela to Cape Fisterra, once believed to be the 'Edge of the World'. The Camino Finisterre predates



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Christianity, as pagans would head to the mythical Cape as they believed this was where the sun died. Walk the last section of the Way into the city of Santiago de Compostela finishing at the beautiful cathedral. For those not walking you will return to Santiago de Compostela after lunch with the afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

[Day 7 Santiago de Compostela.](#)

After breakfast today enjoy a guided tour of the city of Santiago de Compostela including a visit inside its rather impressive cathedral. Visit the Conventual de San Francisco, the Faculty of Medicine and the world-famous Plaza del Obradoiro. Inside the cathedral, we will visit the Romanic crypt and see the facade of Platerias, the Quintana Plaza, House of Parra, the facade of Azabacheria and the facade of San Martin Pinario. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore further before our farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

[Day 8 Santiago de Compostela to London.](#)

This morning we will visit the Pazo de Oca, usually referred to as 'Galician Versailles', it is the final milestone of St James Way. Originally a fortress dating from the 12th century, it was during the 18th century when Fernando Gayoso, Marquis of Camarasa, transformed it into its current appearance of golden granite stone wall that evokes a forgotten paradise full of romanticism. Above all, the gardens at Oca are what astonish the most. Recently restored to its 18th century glory, the beauty here is the fusion of a formal garden with a working farm. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for the scheduled flight back to London. (B, L)

Please Note:

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking along sections of the Camino de Santiago. We will endeavour to accommodate varying levels of fitness by separating the group into different abilities and excursions will include walking for between two to six hours a day at a steady pace. Walking will be over a mix of terrain and gradients so walking boots or shoes will be required. The walking routes and order are subject to weather and conditions. For those not wishing to walk, or those simply wishing to opt for a more leisurely day, alternative excursions are included exploring the culture and history of the area.

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: ISLAND SKY

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VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

With a maximum passenger capacity of only 116, a vessel of her size is capable of carrying many more but instead the MS Island Sky has the benefit of unusually large suites, luxuriously appointed public areas and spacious outside decks. There is a high ratio of crew to passengers- the friendly crew of 75 crew and Scandinavian captains are experienced mariners, having been in service aboard large 2000 plus passenger vessels and who now prefer a less frantic life aboard a small ship. If, like them and us, you prefer a more peaceful life at sea, you will find the MS Island Sky the perfect ship. When choosing the vessel for your next voyage of discovery, you can select a ship with endless entertainment and impersonal service or come with us where peace, high quality service and attention to detail are the order of the day. We promise there will be no organised entertainment, fancy dress, deck games or any of the usual big ship experiences. The atmosphere on board is more akin to a private yacht or country hotel. A little music in the lounge or bar after dinner, guest speakers, informative port briefings from our cruise director and of course good food which may be enjoyed leisurely in the attractive dining room. After a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a well run and exceedingly

comfortable ship. Your Suite Onboard there are 57 exceptionally spacious and well designed suites. All feature a sitting room area and some have private balconies. The feeling of luxury is enhanced by the wood panelling and brass, which predominates throughout the vessel conveying the atmosphere of a private yacht. The passenger accommodation is arranged over five decks and all suites have outside views. Each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom featuring marble-topped vanity unit with sink and walk-in shower, large wardrobes, dressing table with large mirror and stool and excellent storage. There is a mini-fridge, flat screen television with inbuilt DVD player which can also play CDs and a telephone in each suite. Bottled water, towelling dressing gowns and slippers are also provided for your comfort. Other facilities include a programmable electronic safe, hairdryer, assorted toiletries and individually controlled air-conditioning and heating. The suites on each deck have their own colour theme. Soft hues and blended tones enhance the traditional maritime style making the passenger accommodation an inviting and relaxing place to be. Your Space The spacious and finely decorated public rooms include a large lounge where daily briefings and talks will be provided throughout the voyage and an elegant bar where a pianist plays periodically throughout the day. The bar also features a 24-hour tea and coffee station. The onboard library is the perfect place to relax with a book and is stocked with reference books pertaining to the places the vessel is visiting along with a selection of games and two computers with internet access. Daily newspapers and magazines are also placed in the library depending on local availability. There is

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also WI-FI access throughout the vessel. Outside there is a rear sun deck where meals are served in warm weather under shade, a bar and comfortable deck furniture for sun bathing or relaxing with a book. On the top deck there is a Jacuzzi and further observation and sun deck. There is also a small hairdressers on board with appointments made on request. Your Dining Another benefit of a small ship is the quality of the cuisine. With only one sitting and a maximum of just over 100 passengers, the galley is able to provide delicious meals. Where possible and when it meets his high standards, the chef will obtain local produce in markets or buy the catch of the day from a passing fishing boat. Such purchases enhance the well stocked larders and bring a local touch to the



varied menus.

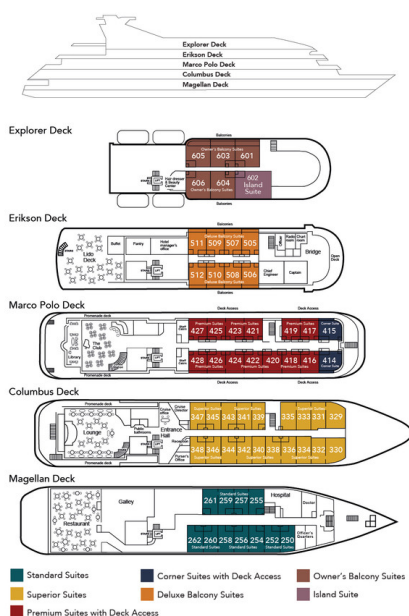
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PRICING



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