

AMSTERDAM TO LISBON CRUISE: COASTING THE ATLANTIC

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' Coasting the Atlantic From the sultry canals of Amsterdam to the sunlit streets of Lisbon, this voyage follows a coastline that for centuries has farewelled emigrants, explorers, and pilgrims on journeys of ambition, faith, and exchange. Sailing in their wake, we'll visit a world that once launched ships from 'the edge of the known world' to the ends of the earth, welcomed travellers in search of meaning, and traded everything from spices to silk to secrets. Along the way, you'll wander medieval lanes, climb the steps of religious icons, taste the legacy of centuries-old commerce, and feel the powerful draw of the sea as you sail Europe's most storied shoreline on your own Atlantic Journey.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Welcome to Amsterdam. On arrival at Schiphol airport make your way to the Arrivals Hall to meet our representative, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby to meet our team, who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and your time in Amsterdam. You will also receive cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship. This evening offers time to relax in preparation for our day exploring tomorrow.

Accommodation: Amsterdam Hotel (or similar)

Day 2 Amsterdam

Tolerant. Intelligent. Inclusive. There are many terms to describe Amsterdam, the city built around canals that began as a humble trading centre and grew into a global powerhouse. Founded in



the late 12th century, Amsterdam quickly established itself as a pivotal hub for commerce, sending explorers and traders to the far corners of the New World. This spirit of adventure and openness to different cultures has shaped the city's character, making it a melting pot of diversity and innovation. Today, Amsterdam offers travellers a unique mix of picturesque canals, world-class museums, and a progressive, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are strolling through its historical neighbourhoods, exploring its world-class art scene, or simply enjoying a Heineken by a canal, Amsterdam promises to put a smile on your face.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences today, offer a chance to view the many faces of Amsterdam and its rural surrounds, with time this afternoon to explore the city at your own pace. Perhaps visit one of Amsterdam's renowned galleries such as the Rijk's Museum or van Gogh Museum, learn more about the city's favourite son at Rembrandt's house or uncover the poignant history of Amsterdam during World War II through the diaries of Anne Frank at the Anne Frank House. This evening, we gather to celebrate our journey ahead at a Welcome Reception.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: The Canals of Amsterdam

Join a canal cruise in Amsterdam and dive into the heart of this captivating city. The canals, laid out in the 17th century during the Dutch Golden Age, are more than just scenic waterways, they are a living historical map.

Lined with former merchant houses, each building reveals a chapter of Amsterdam's past, showcasing the wealth and grandeur of its trading history. The city's canals come alive with vibrant colour as many bridges are adorned with flowers and residents place flower boxes on their homes, adding a touch of seasonal charm. The canals are impeccably clean, reflecting the city's dedication to preserving their beauty and liveability. As you glide along, you'll experience how these historical waterways continue to shape Amsterdam's vibrant daily life, from houseboats and floating cafes to the occasional swimmer.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Hollands best brew

The Heineken Experience, set in Heineken's oldest brewery in central Amsterdam, offers an insight into one of the world's most iconic beer brands. Founded in 1864 by Gerard Adriaan Heineken, the company grew from a local brewery into a global phenomenon, now selling over 35 million hectolitres of Heineken beer annually across 190 countries. This self-guided experience, explored in the brands original brewery, showcases Heineken's remarkable journey; from its pioneering brewing techniques and the invention of Heineken's signature A-Yeast and its bold marketing and sponsorships. Visitors explore the brewing process, learn how the brand became the first European beer imported to the U.S. after Prohibition, and discover why Heineken remains a symbol of Dutch pride. It's not just a museum, it's a celebration of innovation, heritage, and global reach, something the Dutch are all too good at.

Option 3 - Morning experience: A slice of rural life - Dutch style



This morning offers a glimpse into the traditional trades of the Netherlands, beginning with a visit to a local farm for a demonstration of Dutch cheese-making and clog craftsmanship. Wooden clogs, once worn to keep feet dry during frequent flooding of Dutch farmland by the North Sea, are still made here using time-honoured techniques. You'll see how these iconic shoes are shaped by hand, alongside a cheese-making demonstration, which reveals the secrets behind the Netherlands' world-famous dairy products.

A few miles further we see the land collide with the ominous North Sea at the lively fishing village of Volendam, known for its colourful houses, traditional costumes, and seafood snacks. Stroll the waterfront, browse local shops, or simply enjoy the relaxed pace of village life. Volendam is a great place to sample local flavours: try freshly fried kibbeling or pickled herring from seafood stalls, and don't miss the tiny Dutch pancakes, served hot and sweet from cheerful street vendors. This excursion ties together the story of Dutch resilience and tradition, offering a rich and flavourful experience of life along the North Sea.

Accommodation: Amsterdam Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast, Welcome social (includes drinks and snacks)

Day 3 Embark Amsterdam (Port: IJmuiden)

Enjoy time this morning to sleep in, do some last-minute shopping, or stroll the canals at your own pace, before meeting your guide for a real Dutch treat.

As you approach Zaanse Schans, it's hard to believe you are still in 21st-century Amsterdam. The iconic windmills, their sails turning slowly, provide a historical backdrop against lush meadows. Inside, the creak of wood and the whir of machinery reveal the mills' vital role in Dutch industrial innovation. Dating back to the 17th century, these mills were essential for sawing wood and grinding oil, flour, spices and pigments. Today, you can still enter a mill and learn from a host how these age-old processes worked. Strolling through Zaanse Schans, you will hear the distinctive clatter of wooden clogs on cobblestones and witness the craftsmanship behind Dutch cheeses and Delft Blue pottery. Artisans at the Weavers' House and Tiemstra's Coopery continue these traditional crafts. Each building and craft evoke nostalgia, connecting you to centuries of history. Though it is a living community, visiting Zaanse Schans feels like stepping into a bygone era. An introductory tour will showcase Zaanse Schans famous windmills before time to explore this unique site independently.

We drive to the coast and the port of IJmuiden, to board the Douglas Mawson. This evening, we enjoy a 'Welcome aboard' dinner, where we meet our Aurora Expeditions team and crew.

Day 4 Oostende, Belgium (Port: Oostende)

This morning, we arrive in the Belgian seaside city of Oostende for an insight into one of northern Europe's kingdoms. A land of two peoples, Belgium is famous for its Flemish flair and Walloon warmth. Cyclists glide through cobbled towns like local royalty, and yes, pigeon racing is a national obsession, with prized birds fetching prices that rival sports cars. From medieval cities to chocolate shops, Belgium balances tradition with eccentricity. It's small in size but big on character, where waffles are serious business and the weather is anyone's guess. Its compact size

affords us an afternoon to choose between two contrasting experiences or simply soak up some seaside atmosphere in Oostende itself, before we sail mid-evening to the Netherlands.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Beautiful Bruges

Since their creation, the purpose-built canals of Bruges have connected the city centre to the sea, bringing wealth and prosperity. International merchants transformed Bruges into one of the largest Hanseatic cities. By the 15th century, the city flourished, with much of its medieval heritage remaining intact to this day. Walking its streets, it's no surprise that UNESCO designated the entire city centre a World Heritage Site. Join a locally guided introductory walking tour to immerse yourself in Bruges' Golden Century, exploring its medieval market square and surrounds. With time to wander, choose to indulge in some of Bruges' famous Belgian chocolates, enjoy a cone of freshly fried fries with mayonnaise, or sip a handcrafted beer from one of the city's bierkellers. This tour offers a light-hearted introduction to this historic market town, revealing the delights that make it one of Belgium's most popular destinations.

Option 2 - Morning experience: The Atlantic Wall - a World War II story

Located near Ostend on Belgium's coast, the Atlantikwall Raversyde is an open-air museum preserving remnants of Nazi Germany's vast coastal defence system built during World War II. The Atlantic Wall stretched over 2,700 kilometres (1,677 miles) from Norway to the French Spanish border and included thousands of bunkers, gun emplacements, and fortifications.

This massive project required around 15 million cubic meters of concrete and over half a million troops and labourers to construct. Many of these labourers were forcibly brought from occupied countries, including prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates, who worked under brutal conditions. At Raversyde, we explore well-preserved bunkers and trenches, gaining a vivid understanding of the harsh conditions soldiers faced. The site stands as a powerful reminder of the immense scale of the conflict, the human cost behind the defences, and Germany's desperate efforts to control Western Europe's coastline.

Day 5 Honfleur, France (Port: Honfleur)

We arrive at the mouth of the River Seine with tidal restrictions permitting us access to the picturesque town of Honfleur. Originally a bustling trading port Honfleur boasts charming streets and an iconic harbour. During the Hundred Years' War, it briefly fell under English occupation and thrived as a crucial trade hub, particularly with North America and later French Canada, when local explorer Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec. Honfleur's ship owners amassed fortunes, which remain evident today in the multi-storeyed terraced homes tightly packed around the harbour, as symbols of status and wealth.

In the 19th century, Honfleur's appeal transcended commerce, when artist Claude Monet followed his mentor, Eugene Boudin, to his hometown. He and his fellow Impressionists were captivated by the town's ethereal light immortalising it on



canvas. Today, the Vieux Bassin hosts yachts against a backdrop of centuries-old buildings, where quaint shops, vibrant galleries, and seafood restaurants beckon visitors to savour regional flavours in this picturesque coastal setting.

Choose to explore Honfleur's picturesque streets, discover the story of World War II's Battle for Normandy, or explore the historic city of Rouen, before we sail the English Channel to the British enclave of Guernsey, late afternoon.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Strolling Honfleur

Honfleur is a perfect town to explore on foot with our local guide. Fitting for a town whose name includes fleur, the French word for flower. Flower boxes brighten the streets, and the soft light that once inspired artists like Monet and Boudin still draws painters today, while our visit on a Saturday, affords us time to browse the weekly market at Place Sainte Catherine, with local cheeses, bread, flowers, and produce all on view, a classic French experience.

A harbour town like no other in France, Honfleur is a picture-perfect piece of France. We join our local guide for a walk through the cobbled lanes and past timber-framed houses, where we'll see why Honfleur became a centre of Impressionism. We take the time to admire the play of the water mirror and the changing reflections of the lights of the Seine Estuary and Honfleur's picturesque Vieux Bassin as the impressionist artists did so many years ago.

Option 2 - Morning experience: The Battle for Normandy - a D-Day experience

A one-hour drive takes us to the Caen Memorial Museum. A critical site during the early weeks of the battle, this museum is considered one of the best D-Day museums in France. Offering an immersive exploration of the 6 June landings and their broader impact on the Battle of Normandy, the D-Day exhibit places this pivotal event within the context of the wider campaign, essential to the liberation of France and Europe. Through documents, artefacts, and personal accounts, visitors gain a comprehensive understanding of the invasion's significance.

The Battle of Caen, lasting from June to August 1944, became one of the most intense and prolonged engagements of the Normandy campaign. British and Canadian forces aimed to take the city swiftly, but strong German resistance led to weeks of fierce fighting. The city suffered heavy bombing and artillery strikes, resulting in widespread destruction and significant civilian casualties. Despite the challenges, Allied forces gradually encircled the city and overcame the German defences. The liberation of Caen on 20 July 1944 marked a major turning point, opening the way for the Allies to advance deeper into occupied France.

Option 3 - Half day experience: St Joan of Arc's Rouen

Join a locally guided tour to Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy. Renowned for its stunning medieval architecture, the



city's crown jewel is the Rouen Cathedral, an awe-inspiring Gothic masterpiece that inspired many of Claude Monet's paintings. As you wander through the charming old town, you will encounter half-timbered houses, cobblestone streets, and the impressive Gros-Horloge, an astronomical clock dating back to the 14th century, while a stroll along the River Seine reveals bustling markets and quaint cafes that offer a taste of local life.

The city is famously tied to Joan of Arc, the national heroine of France who led French troops to several important victories during the Hundred Years' War. Captured by the English, she was tried for heresy and burned at the stake in Rouen in 1431. Her legacy endures throughout the city. With its blend of historical significance and 21st-century culture, Rouen provides a fascinating glimpse into the past while remaining a lively, modern destination.

Day 6 Guernsey, United Kingdom (Port: St. Peters Port)

A mere 30 miles off the Normandy coast, the self-governing British Crown Dependency the Bailiwick of Guernsey, is one of the eight permanently inhabited strongholds of the Channel Islands. Despite being closer to France, Guernsey holds to its distinctive British character. When William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, became King of England in 1066, the Channel Islands, including Guernsey, became possessions of the English Crown. They have remained British Crown Dependencies ever since.

Arriving at midday, our afternoon 'Your Choice' experiences offer an opportunity to see more of scenic Guernsey or learn its World War II story. Alternatively, why not wander the streets of St. Peters Port, with the ship berthed at the town's centrally located port. Perhaps, browse the shops, cake shops and quaint pubs, or tour Castle Cornet or visit Victor Hugo's 19th century home at your own pace before we sail early evening.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Afternoon experience: Scenic Guernsey and the sculptures of Sausmarez Manor

Guernsey's compact size makes it easy to take in many of its scenic highlights in one relaxed outing. Our afternoon involves a rich blend of history, charm, and natural beauty, with a scenic tour of the south of the island and a visit to Sausmarez Manor--a striking example of Colonial American architecture with roots in the 13th century. Our panoramic drive reveals Guernsey's diverse landscapes--from timeless villages to dramatic coastal scenery. You'll take in views of rocky shorelines, the crescent bays, and the "cup and saucer" Fort Grey, with a stop at Pleinmont Point offering vistas across to the French coast. You'll also have time to explore the home the Seigneurs de Sausmarez; Sausmarez, Manor. The family's dynasty included privateers, colonial governors, explorers, and artists, all of whom have left their mark on the house and its remarkable contents. The surrounding sculpture gardens feature over 150 contemporary works displayed along winding woodland paths making this visit a gardener's delight.

Option 2 - Afternoon experience: Guernsey at War

Guernsey and the other Channel Islands were the only British territories occupied by Axis forces during World War II. The

occupation began on 30 June 1940 and lasted until 9 May 1945. The Germans transformed Guernsey into a heavily fortified stronghold with bunkers, gun emplacements, and tunnels. Life under Nazi rule was harsh. Rations were limited, and by late 1944, food, fuel, and medical supplies were critically low. Communication with the outside world was nearly impossible. Over 1,000 of the 24,000 islanders who remained were deported to German prisons and labour camps; only about 700 survived to return home.

Our guided tour of Guernsey's World War II sites offers a poignant insight into the island's wartime experience, when we visit the La Valette Underground Military Museum, housed in original wartime tunnels built with forced labour. Intended as a U-Boat fuel store, they reveal both the scale of Nazi fortifications, and the suffering endured.

Day 7 Saint-Malo (Port: Saint-Malo)

This morning, we arrive in one of France's most distinctive regions; Brittany. Its residents often consider themselves Bretons first and French second, a reflection of the region's deep Celtic roots. That heritage is still visible today, from the language and traditions to the music and cuisine.

Douglas Mawson's boutique size allows us to dock at the charming city of Saint-Malo. Saint-Malo offers a range of captivating experiences for us to enjoy. This walled city, with its medieval architecture, cobblestoned streets, and shops stacked with delicious Breton treats, is a true 'pirate town'. This era of privateering earned Saint-Malo the nickname 'City of Corsairs' and contributed significantly to its prosperity and dubious reputation. Today, Saint-Malo celebrates this heritage through its museums, festivals, and preserved historic sites, offering visitors a glimpse into its adventurous past as a renowned 'pirate city'.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: The Pirate Town of Saint-Malo

The captivating story of Saint-Malo unfolds this morning as our local guide leads an introductory walking tour through its historic walled centre, before offering us free time to explore Saint-Malo independently. Once a pirate stronghold and later the last town standing in World War II, Saint-Malo stands proudly behind its stone ramparts, steeped in rich maritime history. From the 16th to 19th centuries, it was renowned not for piracy, but for privateering. The town served as a base for corsairs, state-sanctioned privateers authorised by the French crown to capture enemy ships during wartime. Unlike pirates, corsairs operated under official letters of marque and shared their plunder with the French monarchy. These daring seafarers brought wealth and prestige to Saint-Malo, shaping its identity and legacy. Their exploits, especially against English ships, were central to French naval success. As we stroll the narrow streets, our guide recounts tales of legendary figures like Jacques Cartier, Duguay-Trouin, Surcouf, and even the romantic writer Chateaubriand. Their stories, filled with bravery, intrigue, and ambition, breathe life into the storied past of this eclectic coastal town.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Discovering Dinan: Riverside Calm or Medieval Charm



A 30- minute drive finds us at Dinan with the choice between two equally enchanting experiences, each steeped in history and atmosphere.

Linger riverside, where life moves at a gentle pace. The River Rance flows quietly past stone quays and moored boats, with cafes and restaurants offering perfect spots to sit and watch the water traffic drift by. It's an ideal place to unwind, take in the scenery, and enjoy a slower rhythm of Breton life.

Alternatively, choose to join your local guide and head up into the heart of Dinan, where steep cobbled streets lead to a town rich in medieval character. Half-timbered houses lean into narrow lanes, and artisan shops and craft studios invite you to browse everything from handmade pottery to local textiles. The town's ramparts and towers offer panoramic views, while its lively squares and historic buildings tell stories of centuries past.

Whether you choose the peaceful riverside or the bustling medieval centre, Dinan promises a memorable encounter with Brittany's heritage and charm.

Option 3 - Half-day experience: Mont Saint-Michel

Normandy's most recognisable silhouette, UNESCO World Heritage-listed Le Mont Saint-Michel has captured the imaginations of pilgrims, artists and travellers for centuries. Founded as a monastery in the 8th century, Le Mont-Saint-Michel became a significant pilgrimage destination during the Middle Ages. Its abbey, perched atop the island's rocky peak, is a masterpiece of medieval architecture, blending Romanesque and Gothic styles. The narrow, winding streets of the village below the abbey are lined with shops, restaurants, and houses dating back centuries.

Visitors can explore the abbey's intricate chapels, cloisters and panoramic viewpoints, which offer sweeping vistas of the bay. According to Christian tradition, Saint Michael is known for his role in the final judgment, where he is often portrayed as weighing souls and leading the righteous to heaven, while casting out evil. Statues of Saint Michael are often placed in elevated positions, such as atop spires or high points in churches and cathedrals, symbolising his role as a heavenly figure overseeing and protecting the faithful below. Le Mont-Saint-Michel itself embodies this symbolism, rising dramatically from the flats as a single standout site. Its unique blend of natural beauty and architectural marvels continues to captivate travellers, making it one of France's most iconic and enthralling destinations. Join your local guide for an introduction to the Mont Saint-Michel village, with the option to challenge yourself by exploring its more demanding sections at your discretion or simply enjoying the site at your own pace.

Day 8 At Sea

Sailing the Atlantic coast, our host brings the journey to life with engaging presentations on the remarkable characters who once navigated these waters. You're invited to delve deeper in the onboard library, unwind and take in the ever-changing seascape, or walk the waves in the gym. As we head south toward Lorient, the choice is yours--study, relax, or move with the rhythm of the ocean.

Day 9 Lorient (Port: Lorient)



Lorient is a modern port city with a rich maritime history and a lively cultural scene. Founded in the 17th century as the base of the French East India Company, Lorient quickly became a global trading hub, dealing in textiles, porcelain, and exotic spices. Its strategic location later made it a key naval base, though it was heavily damaged during World War II. Today, Lorient has reinvented itself as a centre for sailing, festivals, and Breton pride, with much of the city having been rebuilt with a modern vibe.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Gaugin's Pont-Aven

A 30-minute drive takes us to the flower-filled village of Pont-Aven. This quaint town, with a rich artistic legacy, is inseparable from the name Paul Gauguin. Gauguin, along with his followers, established an art school here in the late 19th century. As you stroll through the village, you will recognise scenes immortalised in their paintings, giving you a tangible connection to their artistic vision. But Pont-Aven isn't just about art; it is also renowned for its traditional delicacies, the famed Galettes de Pont-Aven. These buttery biscuits, crafted since the 17th century, have become a staple of France's culinary heritage, which makes it only right that you savour a galette or two. When in France...

Option 2 - Morning experience: King Louis 14th - the money behind the man

Step inside the stone walls of Port Louis's 17th-century citadel and you're not just entering a museum; you're stepping into the story of France's maritime past. At its core lies the legacy of the French East India Company, once headquartered in the fort. You'll hear stories of spices from India, silk from China, and porcelain from Southeast Asia, and how they helped enrich France's coffers.

Louis XIV, a major investor in the company, used the profits to fund his ambitious vision for France, financing military campaigns, expanding colonial holdings, and building architectural masterpieces like Versailles. The citadel's Marine Museum brings this era to life with shipwreck treasures and gripping tales of sailors, merchants, and pirates. From deep-sea diving suits to cannons recovered from sunken frigates, every artifact whispers of a time when Port Louis was France's gateway to the East.

Day 10 La Rochelle (Port: La Rochelle)

La Rochelle may be small compared to its neighbours, but it's big on charm. This Atlantic gem has been a seafarer's stronghold, a Huguenot haven, and a pirate's playground. Its iconic medieval towers still guard the old port, where salty breezes mingle with the scent of fresh oysters and pine from nearby Île de Re. Wander through arcaded streets once trodden by merchants and rebels alike or just sit back with a glass of chilled white wine and watch the boats bob in the marina. With its blend of maritime grit and French elegance, La Rochelle offers a range of morning 'Your Choice' experiences to enjoy before we sail mid-afternoon to Spain.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.



Option 1 - Morning experience: La Rochelle

Discover the charming town of La Rochelle on this guided tour, where medieval fortifications and Renaissance heritage come to life. Begin with a scenic drive along the waterfront, taking in Le Mail Gardens and the Old Port's historic towers, built in the 14th century to protect the harbour by night. Stroll through the Old Quarter to see the Great Clock Tower and cobbled streets lined with medieval arcades that tell tales of 16th-century artisans. Admire Renaissance half-timbered houses, while enjoying free time to wander the narrow streets.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Cognac and Chocolate

Experience the 'Accord Gourmand' tour at a local winery, where the iconic brandy - cognac - and chocolate come together in a truly unique pairing. This exclusive experience delves into the history of cognac, a spirit that began its production in the 17th century in the region surrounding Cognac, France. The area's ideal climate and soil conditions made it perfect for growing the grapes needed for cognac, and over time, its unique craftsmanship and quality transformed it into a globally renowned spirit.

During your visit, you'll explore the traditional methods of cognac production, from distillation to ageing, and then enjoy a curated tasting session where each cognac is paired with a carefully selected organic chocolate. This combination enhances the rich flavours of both the cognac and the chocolate, offering an experience that celebrates the region's favourite spirit.

Day 11 San Sebastián (Port: Pasajes)

Few cultures are more fascinating than that of the Basque people, whose identity flows from the rugged heights of the western Pyrenees to the sparkling coast at San Sebastian, where we spend our day. With their own language, Euskara, distinct traditions, flavoursome foods and a strong focus on family and community, the Basques have long nurtured a sense of independence. Today, we explore what fuels their desire to go it alone, and how their unique heritage continues to shape daily life.

San Sebastian, blends Belle Époque elegance with Basque pride today on our 'Your Choice' experiences, with a shuttle from our berth at the port of Pasajes, 10 miles from town to the centre of San Sebastian available this afternoon.

Option 1 - Morning experience: San Sebastian - a glimpse of the Basque country

Discover San Sebastian on a panoramic tour, beginning with a scenic drive along La Concha Bay, passing elegant Belle Époque mansions that reflect the city's glamorous past. Head up to Monte Igueldo for sweeping views of the coastline, then spend time in the Old Town for a visit to the San Telmo Museum, housed in a 16th-century Dominican convent. Inside, we explore exhibits on Basque history, art, and traditions, including ancient artifacts, traditional costumes, and works by renowned Basque artists like Oteiza and Chillida. The museum's blend of historic architecture and modern design offers a compelling look at Basque identity and society which is one of the most unique in Europe. Choose to return to the ship for lunch or linger longer in San Sebastian and catch our shuttle back to the ship.



Option 2 - Half Day experience: San Sebastian - Tapas time

Welcome to the vibrant city of San Sebastian, renowned for its delectable treats. Enjoy a brief introduction from your guide, before exploring the city at your own pace, and meeting your guide for a unique lunch. That's right - it's tapas time!

Tapas, or pintxos as they are known in San Sebastian, offer more than just a meal; they provide a culinary journey that captures the essence of Basque culture. The secret to eating pintxos like a local is to master the txikiteo, a Basque-style food crawl. We split into groups and join a local guide to embark on a txikiteo adventure through the city's colonnaded plaza and streets, where each bar offers its own specialties. Pair these with a glass of local txakoli wine or a refreshing cider to enhance the experience. Enjoy every bite and make the most of this delightful lunch stop in one of Spain's most gastronomically celebrated cities.

Day 12 At Sea

Enjoy a leisurely day at sea, when you can do as much or as little as you, please. Perhaps enjoy a relaxing sauna or relax on the Sun Deck. Otherwise, find a cosy spot in one of the ship's observation lounges to enjoy a book or catch up on editing your photos.

Day 13 A Coruña (Port: A Coruña)

Spain's 'secret garden' is the verdant region of Galicia. This less-visited section of the country is a true gem, beloved by Spanish travellers. Locals still speak Galician, and the blonde, blue-eyed inhabitants proudly hold on to their Celtic heritage. Bring your umbrella, as it may rain, but it's well worth it. This region is a lush, green enclave amid Spain's typical dry and arid landscape.

The coastal city of A Coruña is steeped in maritime heritage, celebrated through its iconic Tower of Hercules, the only working Roman lighthouse and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As one of Spain's major port cities, A Coruña has been a hub of maritime trade and exploration since ancient times, with various naval battles played out off its shores. Its strategic location on the Atlantic coast has made it a pivotal point for voyages across the seas, including journeys to the Americas during the Age of Exploration, when A Coruña served as a departure point for explorers such as Pedro Menendez de Aviles, who founded St Augustine, thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited European-established settlement in the continental United States.

Today, A Coruña seamlessly blends its rich maritime heritage with its role as a dynamic modern city. The picturesque waterfront beckons both locals and visitors to stroll its streets, savour local wines at welcoming bars, indulge in fresh Atlantic seafood, and immerse themselves in the many cultural festivals on its annual calendar.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: A panoramic tour of A Coruña

Our visit to A Coruña begins with a panoramic tour showcasing the city's striking blend of maritime heritage and elegant

architecture. As we drive along the scenic coastline, you'll see the iconic Tower of Hercules, the oldest functioning Roman lighthouse in the world, and enjoy views of sweeping bays, beaches, and bustling port areas.

We continue past grand 19th-century buildings, leafy plazas, and the city's famous glass-fronted balconies, known as galerias, which reflect its connection to the sea.

Following the panoramic tour, we stop in the historic old town where you'll have free time to explore at your leisure. Browse local boutiques, pick up traditional Galician crafts, or simply relax at a cafe and soak in the lively atmosphere of this charming area.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Medieval Betanzos

Join us for a scenic drive of Peninsula das Marinas to Betanzos, a town steeped in medieval heritage and known locally as the City of Knights. Our local guide will lead you through narrow streets lined with cruceiros, noble palaces, and historic churches. Among them is the Church of San Francisco, founded in the 14th century by Fernan Perez de Andrade, a powerful Galician knight and patron of the town. Known as o Boo ("the Good"), Andrade was a fierce warrior and loyal supporter of Henry II of Castile. His Gothic-style sarcophagus, supported by a sculpted boar, remains one of Galicia's most striking funerary monuments. You'll have time to stroll the charming streets at your leisure and soak in the atmosphere of this historic town, before returning to the ship for lunch.

Option 3 - Midday experience: A Coruña - Tapas time

Discover the vibrant world of Galician tapas like a local on a locally guided walking tour through A Coruña. Tapas, Spain's beloved small plates, are more than just a meal; they're a way of life, bringing people together over shared flavours and conversation. As you stroll from the pier toward the Atlantic beachfront, you'll pass elegant buildings with the city's signature glass-enclosed balconies before diving into a tasting of savoury regional specialties, along with the irresistible tequeño, a La Coruñan favourite filled with melted cheese, and a glass of Albariño or Ribeiro, crisp white wines that reflect Galicia's rich culinary heritage. This experience offers a delicious window into the social and cultural heart of A Coruña, where every dish tells a story.

Day 14 Santiago de Compostela (Port: Vigo)

This morning, we arrive at Portugal's 'second city'; Porto. This fascinating city entices visitors with its storied past, vibrant culture, and architectural splendour. It was in Porto that the Portuguese 'Age of Discovery' began when the indomitable Prince Henry the Navigator set sail to the western coast of Africa in the early 15th century. Porto has never looked back. The city lends its name to the fortified wine produced in nearby valleys, framing the Douro River with its picturesque streets, iconic iron bridges, and renowned wine cellars.

We enjoy a panoramic tour of Porto's most emblematic landmarks before visiting one of the city's iconic port caves for a tour, and of course, a tasting. From here, enjoy some free time to explore the historic district of Ribeira. It is here, where Porto's historical Rabelo boats, once vital for transporting port wine



barrels, still grace the riverbanks, adding to the city's authentic charm. Perhaps enjoy some traditional Portuguese fare, try some retail therapy, or sip a glass of Portuguese wine while soaking up the waterfront district's vibrant atmosphere.

This afternoon we drive south to the nation's capital city, with a night to prepare ourselves for a day's sightseeing tomorrow.

Accommodation: Lisbon Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast onboard

Day 15 Disembark Porto (Port: Leixões)

This morning, we arrive at Portugal's 'second city'; Porto. This fascinating city entices visitors with its storied past, vibrant culture, and architectural splendour. It was in Porto that the Portuguese 'Age of Discovery' began when the indomitable Prince Henry the Navigator set sail to the western coast of Africa in the early 15th century. Porto has never looked back. The city lends its name to the fortified wine produced in nearby valleys, framing the Douro River with its picturesque streets, iconic iron bridges, and renowned wine cellars.

We enjoy a panoramic tour of Porto's most emblematic landmarks before visiting one of the city's iconic port caves for a tour, and of course, a tasting. From here, enjoy some free time to explore the historic district of Ribeira. It is here, where Porto's historical Rabelo boats, once vital for transporting port wine barrels, still grace the riverbanks, adding to the city's authentic charm. Perhaps enjoy some traditional Portuguese fare, try some retail therapy, or sip a glass of Portuguese wine while soaking up the waterfront district's vibrant atmosphere.

This afternoon we drive south to the nation's capital city, with a night to prepare ourselves for a day's sightseeing tomorrow.

Accommodation: Lisbon Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast onboard

Day 16 Lisbon

Lisbon sits on the river Tagus, gifting it access to the coast that made Portugal one of world's most successful trading nations. Explorers including Vasco da Gama, Magellan and Bartholomeu Dias sailed on behalf of their monarch, discovering new lands and establishing new trade routes. The city prospered, with much of the proceeds from their colonies spent on opulent architecture. On the morning of All Saints Day 1755, Lisbon's faithful were huddled in church when a 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck, followed by a series of tsunamis that devastated the city. Candles lit for the religious ceremonies began a firestorm. By the end of the day, more than 75 per cent of the population had perished. Current day Lisbon reflects this tragedy, with few buildings pre-dating the 18th century, but money spent to rebuild the city was spent doggedly, creating a city of wide boulevards, sensible facades and parklands, all backed by opulent baroque interiors and paved by unique black and white-tiled pavements. With a relatively small population, Lisbon is an easy city to navigate. Its hillside suburbs are accessed by trams and funiculars while its waterfront remains a busy harbour, ready to continue the trading prowess that made the city famous.



Join one of our 'Your Choice' morning excursions, with your afternoon is free to explore the city further at your own pace, and an early evening Farewell Reception planned to celebrate our journey.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Introducing Lisbon

Join our local guide for an introductory tour of Lisbon. The city's story unfolds as we visit the suburb of Belem, with its Monastery of Jeronimos to hear more of Vasco de Gamas' adventures; the waterfront memorial of Monumento das descobertas, honouring Prince Henri the Navigator and his fellow explorers; and the Torre de Belem - the 16th century fortification which acted as the gateway to Lisbon for all seafarers. This insightful tour tells tales of exploration, colonisation and devastation wrapped together by the history of a city whose influence has shaped much of our modern-day world.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Mercado da Ribeira

Near the famed Cais do Sodre train station, the beautiful building of the Mercado da Ribeira sits topped with a Moorish-style dome. Lisbon's populace has shopped for fresh fruit, vegetables, fish and meat here since 1882, with the market's latest offerings including 30 'pop-ups' offering petiscos (Portuguese tapas) and traditional products such as cheeses, cured hams, smoked sausages, fish conserves, wines and more. Our local guide introduces us to a variety of Portuguese specialties, while we will have the opportunity to taste the famous Pasteis de Nata - the Portuguese custard tart with a rich egg custard nestled in shatteringly crisp pastry that is a national specialty. We may also taste local cheeses, sausages and, of course, try some of Portugal's internationally renowned wine.

Accommodation: Lisbon Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Reception (drinks and canapes)

Day 17 Depart Lisbon

After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

YOUR SHIP: **Douglas Mawson**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Douglas Mawson was launched in 2025. Named after the legendary Australian geologist and explorer, this new small ship embodies Mawson's pioneering spirit and is designed for global discovery. Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® and purpose-built with enhanced sustainability features, it takes a maximum 154 adventurers to the world's wildest places in smooth, quiet comfort. It boasts our most extensive range of cabins yet, including a range of single cabins. The Douglas Mawson features a host of amenities to help you connect with like-minded travellers and elevate your time onboard this floating base camp for adventure. After a long day of exploring, head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor swimming pool, find a sun bed to read on, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis. Work up a sweat in the gym before unwinding in the sauna, resolve to learn something new in the Citizen Science Centre, then enjoy a delicious meal with new and old friends in one of two restaurants. Or, with multiple observation areas throughout the ship, simply relax in comfort while you keep watch for wildlife or incredible landscapes unfold before you. While enjoying the luxurious amenities onboard, you can rest assured that the aim is to get you off the ship to explore the natural environment as much as possible to enjoy some unique activities remains unchanged. Newest Ulstein X-BOW ® The Douglas Mawson features the newest streamlined Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for global discovery. The revolutionary design cuts through the swell, offering unrivalled stability on ocean crossings and helping to reduce fuel consumption. It's just one of the many sustainability features that helps make travel more responsible. Heated Pool, Jacuzzis & Sauna In between landings, enjoy access to the onboard gym or unwind in the sauna. Or head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor pool, enjoy a drink at the pool bar, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis, watching the world go by. Leading Technology The Douglas Mawson is at the cutting edge of nautical technology, fitted with industry-leading technology including world-class return-to-port equipment. The ship also features a medical clinic designed for use in remote areas. Built for Adventure The Douglas Mawson features Zodiac access points and an activities platform, making boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. In our mudroom you will have access to lockers to store gear & boots and rapid drying areas for clothing. More Cabin Choices The Douglas Mawson features 11 different types of cabins, including a range of spacious single berth cabins - all adorned with elegant Nordic interior design features. Multiple Observation Areas As you explore the ship you will find indoor lounge areas with floor-to ceiling windows, and multiple open decks with expansive 270-360 degree views. The Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow is a fantastic place to sit and watch for wildlife - with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of



spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside! Lecture Theatre On all expeditions you will meet naturalists and local specialists, who offer presentations on their area of expertise to enhance your appreciation of the destination you are exploring. Join the team in the lecture theatre for presentations covering a broad range of topics to suit every interest, from history and culture to biology and climate change. Regardless of the topic, they all have one thing in common: they all aim to engage, educate, entertain and turn you into an ambassador for the planet. Citizen Science Center & Lounge Learn more about the world and the unique destinations Aurora visits by visiting the onboard naturalist and Expedition Team in the world-class Citizen Science Center. You will be rewarded for your thirst for knowledge with one of the best views on the ship. Library With floor-to-ceiling windows, the library is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations, use a public laptop to organise your photos or play board games with newfound friends. Choose from our range of informative non-fiction titles, wildlife guidebooks, travel journals, novels and a selection of children's books and board games. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. Mudroom No need to take your wet expedition gear back to your cabin to dry. Keep your cabin warm and cosy by leaving your outer jackets and pants in the mudroom. The mudroom is your launchpad for all shore excursions and activities. Here, you will have access to a locker when you can hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. Swimming Pool & Jacuzzis There are two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck which offer amazing views of the world outside, a heated outdoor pool surrounded by sun beds you can relax on after a long day of exploring, and a pool bar. Gym & Sauna During your voyage, enjoy complimentary access to the gym or visit our sauna, which we highly recommend after the Polar Plunge! Restaurants One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. Bars & Lounges Communal meeting areas have always played a major role in fostering the warm camaraderie on board our ships. They are the heart of the expedition, where people meet to share tales from the day, swap photos, keep an eye out for wildlife and watch the sun go down. The bars and lounges on board are refined yet inviting places to gather, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views, and of course friendly bartenders to shoot the





breeze with.

The Small Cruise Ship Collection
www.small-cruise-ships.com

01432 507 280 (within UK)

info@small-cruise-ships.com | **small-cruise-ships.com**



INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Aurora Stateroom Single



Aurora Stateroom Superior



Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Aurora Stateroom Triple



Aurora Stateroom Twin



Balcony Stateroom Category A



Balcony Stateroom Category B



Balcony Stateroom Category C



Balcony Stateroom Superior



Captain's Suite



Junior Suite





PRICING

21-Sep-2027 to 07-Oct-2027

Balcony Stateroom Superior	£18935 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Triple	£13749 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	£14125 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	£16155 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	£16529 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category A	£17355 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	£14955 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£22539 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	£18109 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	£15325 GBP pp
Captain's Suite	£25775 GBP pp