



## The Small Cruise Ship Collection

[www.small-cruise-ships.com](http://www.small-cruise-ships.com)

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## HIDDEN IRELAND: RARELY VISITED

Circumnavigate The Emerald Isle in this comprehensive yet delightfully unexpected voyage along the Irish coast. Hike and Zodiac the Great Saltee Island and the spectacular Skellig Isles for incredible encounters with wildlife and amazing views of the Atlantic; discover an abandoned Celtic Christian village in Inishmurray and explore the rugged cliffs of Slieve League; visit Glenveagh National Park with a naturalist; kayak on Lough Swilly and around Rathlin Island; investigate the gorgeous and fabled geological formation of Giants Causeway; delight in the charms of Dingle where you'll visit a local whiskey distillery; and enjoy a guided tour of the Dun Aenghus Fortress and a goat cheese farm among many other attractions.



### ITINERARY

DAY 1: Dublin, Ireland/Embark

Embark the National Geographic Orion and begin to settle in to life on board. We depart at sunset, bound for Great Saltee Island. (L,D)



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### DAY 2: Great Saltee Island

This morning begin your exploration of Ireland at Great Saltee Island, known for its seabird colonies. Spend the morning on a hike with a naturalist, or take a more leisurely stroll of the archaeological sites throughout the island. Weather permitting, explore the islands perimeter by Zodiac for a close up look at the seabird colonies and sea life on the island. Return to the ship in the early afternoon for lunch as we continue toward the Skellig Isles. (B,L,D)

### DAY 3: Skellig Isles/Dingle

This morning explore one of the most dramatic scenes that Ireland has to offer the Skellig Isles. Hike to the top of Skellig Michael for an incredible view of the Atlantic and mainland Ireland, or weather permitting, get an eye-level view from the sea aboard Zodiacs. After lunch, disembark in Dingle, Irelands westernmost town. Flanked by its fishing port, Dingle remains one of the most charming and authentic Gaeltacht seaside towns in Ireland. This afternoon, join a walking tour of downtown Dingle, and a visit to a local distillery to learn about the whiskey making process. Spend the rest of the afternoon and early evening exploring the town at your leisure. This evening, join us for an authentic dinner experience ashore. Later, take some time to explore the local pubs before returning to the ship for the night. (B,L,D)

### DAY 4: Inishmore, Aran Islands/Ciffs of Moher

This morning explore Inishmore, the largest Aran Island and home to one of Irelands most spectacular archaeological sites, the Dun Aenghus Fortress. Enjoy a guided visit to the fortress, followed by a visit to a local goat cheese farm where you will learn the cheese-making process. On your return route to the ship, stop to view the islands seal colony. In the afternoon, see

the Cliffs of Moher, one of the most impressive natural rock formations in Europe. Weather permitting, board a Zodiac to explore the cliffs from a spectacular viewing perspective. (B,L,D)

### DAY 5: Inishmurray/Killybegs

Spend the morning exploring Inishmurray and its abandoned Celtic Christian village. Alternatively, if weather permits, explore the area by Zodiac. This afternoon, visit the rugged and spectacular Slieve League cliffs the highest in Europe, for incredible views and photography opportunities. Alternatively, you may choose to visit the local town of Donegal for some independent exploration. (B,L,D)

### DAY 6: Rathmullan

This morning you will have the opportunity to visit Glenveagh National Park one of six national parks in Ireland. With 16,000 acres of land, Glenveagh National Park is home to thousands of interesting species of plants and animals. Spend the morning exploring the park with a naturalist, and return to the ship for lunch. Later, kayak on Lough Swilly or explore a nearby town where you can stroll and shop. (B,L,D)

### DAY 7: Rathlin, Northern Ireland

Begin the day with an exploration of Giants Causeway. Sandwiched between the North Atlantic Ocean and the dramatic coastal cliffs, Giants Causeway has been the focus of scientific debates, and the subject of legends for many years. Visit the fabled geological formation with a guide and continue along the rugged coastline. This afternoon, choose between kayaking around Rathlin O'Birne Island, or a self-guided visit to the Rathlin O'Birne Lighthouse and the Kebble Nature Reserve. (B,L,D)





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DAY 8: Dublin, Ireland/Disembark

Arrive in Dublin, disembark the National Geographic Orion after breakfast.



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### YOUR SHIP: NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ORION

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>National Geographic Orion</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury Expedition</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>103 metres</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>102 (in 53 cabins)</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2003 / Refurbished 2014</b>

Engineered for maximum comfort and safety, \_Orion\_ is equipped with the latest technology including large retractable stabilizers, sonar, radar, and an ice-strengthened hull. A shallow draft plus bow and stern thrusters provide the convenience of being able to maneuver close to shore. 14 Zodiacs ensure quick disembarkation and offer the ideal transport for up-close exploration. \_National Geographic Orion\_ meets strict specifications for environmental protection and the on board waste management systems meet the stringent Antarctic operational standards enabling us to travel to the most pristine environments. A host of advanced design features and technology ensures sustainable marine environmental practices. \_National Geographic Orion\_ accommodates 102 guests in 53 cabins, including several with balconies. She is spacious and modern, with a variety of public rooms that offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. Friendly and informal, \_Orion\_ fosters a welcoming atmosphere where like-minded guests share in exceptional experiences and enrichment. Her public rooms include a dramatic window-lined main lounge, as well as an observation lounge and library perched at the very top of the ship, with plentiful observation decks. The spacious lounge is

the heart of our expedition community, and is suited for spirited cocktail hours, informative presentations and our nightly tradition of Recap. In addition, a dedicated theater provides a unique setting for specialist presentations or films and slideshows. Both the main dining room and outside buffet easily accommodate all guests at once for open seating dining. On selected nights, weather permitting, our dining room menu is also available on the outside deck. While \_Orion\_ interiors are elegant, life aboard is always casual, with no need for formal clothing. And you'll find shipboard services like laundry, in-room cabled internet, and public-area wifi make packing and traveling more



convenient.



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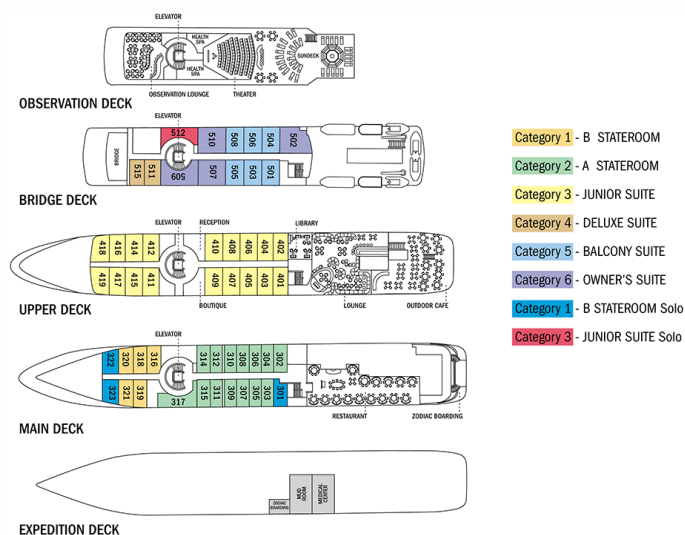
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## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



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## PRICING

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