

## **SPIRIT OF THE CELTS - BRITISH ISLES CRUISE**

Join us on a journey of discovery as we embark on a cultural exploration cruise through the heart of the British Isles. From Portsmouth's historic port to the Scottish Highlands' rugged beauty, we'll visit some of the most fascinating and enchanting destinations in the world. Along the way, we'll immerse ourselves in the local culture and explore this remarkable region's rich history and heritage.



DAY 1 PRE CRUISE

DAY 2 PORTSMOUTH, ENGLAND

Your Anglo-French cruise begins in the UK's only island city and the world's oldest dry dock. With easy access by rail and road from airports in London and Southampton, Portsmouth has a long and proud naval heritage. Boarding your boutique ship, you'll be following in the footsteps of the likes of Admiral Nelson and Henry VIII as you settle in for your voyage. If time permits, the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is definitely worth a visit. The attraction is home to a wonderful collection of famous historical

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ships including Lord Nelson's HMS Victory, Queen Victoria's HMS Warrior and the only surviving ship from the First World War's Gallipoli campaign, the HMS M.33. A very fitting way to begin your sea faring adventure.

### DAY 3 FOWEY, ENGLAND

Returning back across the channel, you'll arrive in the picturesque Cornish town of Fowey. With strong ties to its Celtic roots, this beautiful historical town has a wonderful selection of shops and eateries to explore. Nearby you'll find the world-famous Eden Project and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. The port here is deep but small, so with your boutique cruise ship as the star attraction, you can be guaranteed a warm, friendly Cornish welcome.

### DAY 4 TRESCO, ISLES OF SCILLY, ENGLAND

Reach one of Britain's most peaceful and beautiful places today. The Isles of Scilly are a low-lying archipelago that lies 45 kilometres off Cornwall. The Gulf Stream provides a mild climate in which flowers and other flora thrive and the Isles' white-sand beaches and lapping translucent green sea could easily be mistaken for the Caribbean. From the world-famous Tresco Abbey Garden with its 20,000 species from all over the globe and Elizabethan castles to fortresses to Bronze age sites and illuminating lighthouses, the Isles of Scilly boasts several outstanding attractions to be enjoyed.

DAY 5 BANTRY

The Small Cruise Ship Collection Amid the headlands and islands of Ireland's southwest, Bantry is a charming harbour town on Bantry Bay, The town is surrounded by ancient history. Kealkill megalithic stone circle and standing stones, 6th-century Kilnaruane Pillar Stone and 16th-century Carraiganass Castle, all in prime walking territory. More recent is grandiose early 18th-century Bantry House with its Italianate gardens pouring down to the water's edge. The bay's Garinish Island is a garden paradise while Seal Island is busy with the friendly mammals.

### DAY 6 DINGLE

One of Ireland's westernmost ports, on Dingle Peninsula, Dingle is a place of craggy cliffs, crashing waves and hidden beaches. The historic fishing village sits on a lake-like estuary, its narrow mouth guarded by its Victorian lighthouse, reachable by a 6 km return coastal walk rich in viewpoints. Other hikes take in everything from mountain ridges to deserted beaches. Plenty of historic sites: medieval Garfinny Bridge over the Garfinny river, 15th-century Gallarus Castle and Reask monastic site, parts dating back to the 6th century.

### DAY 7 GALWAY

A harbour city on Ireland's west coast, Galway has the air of Dublin, centred on 18th-century Eyre Square, with its elegant university and other stylish architecture, whether the playful design of the 1960s cathedral or widespread medieval creations. Head out for a world of walks, many exploring pristine



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stretches of coast. Galway Atlantaquaria, the National Aquarium of Ireland, sits on the waterfront and boasts more than 1,00 species from the Atlantic and its lakes and rivers.

### DAY 8 KILLYBEGS

Killybegs is a small town located in County Donegal, Ireland. It is known for its beautiful scenery and friendly locals. The city is situated on the coast and has a bustling fishing industry. Visitors can take a tour of the harbor and learn about the history of the town's fishing industry. The city is surrounded by stunning natural beauty, including mountains, forests, and beaches.

DAY 9 PORTRUSH. NORTHERN IRELAND & RATHLIN ISLAND. NORTHERN IRELAND

Disembark in the small Northern Ireland town of Portrush (Port Rois), which is located in County Antrim. It's one of the island of Ireland's most popular staycation destinations - indeed, generations have happy memories of visiting this peninsula, with its family-friendly amusements, attractions and beaches. It is also the gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast. Flanked by the Atlantic and towering cliffs, the Giant's Causeway is Northern Ireland's number-one attraction. Visit and decide for yourself if the basalt formations are the handiwork of prehistoric volcanic activity - or two legendary Celtic giants. This mountainous, sparsely populated isle off the northern coast of Ireland is filled with interest. Attractions include the little harbour with its fishing boats, the lighthouse, a cave where Robert the Bruce hid after fleeing Scotland following his defeat by the English, a neolithic settlement site and a puffin-packed RSPB seabird centre.

DAY 10 CRAIGNURE, SCOTLAND & CRUISING SOUND OF MULL

Gateway to Scotland's Isle of Mull, a wild, wonderful place that has the fairytale feel of a desert island, ringed by beaches, from little white-sand Calgary to the wide-open swathe of Laggan Sands. Tiny Tobermory with its brightly painted houses is the island's picture book capital, lovely to wander in. There are six castles in splendid spots, two brochs (drystone Iron Age shelters) and Lochbuie, a Bronze Age standing stone circle and magnificent walks taking in mountains, cliffs and shoreline. One of Britain's most beautiful stretches of water, between Mull and the Scottish mainland, cruising here is a dream with beaches, cliffs and ancient fortifications always on view. The waterway takes in distant peaks often wreathed in mist. Three lighthouses stand guard and a number of wrecks sit on the seabed.

### DAY 11 STORNOWAY, SCOTLAND & LOCH EWE, SCOTLAND

Sail to Stornoway, the capital of the most populous island in the Outer Hebrides. Lewis is a windswept, rugged place that's famed for its weavers, who make world-famous Harris Tweed. Named after the neighbouring island - despite the majority of registered weavers living and working on Lewis - Harris Tweed is the only fabric guarded and protected by an Act of Parliament. Discover the spellbinding Callanish Stones (or Calanais Stones) on the island's west coast, a collection of standing stones in a cruciform pattern with a central stone circle. Erected in 3,000 BCE, this ritualistic site is thought to have been built some 500 years before Stonehenge making this circle and the one on

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# Orkney, the UK's oldest. No one knows the purpose of these circles, but there's new evidence that a massive lightning strike may have inspired the ancient island dwellers to build the stone circles. A sheltered deep water loch, Loch Ewe in the Scottish Highlands has a big Naval history. During World War II the Home Fleet stayed here, it was a base for Arctic convoys - and a post-war depot for captured German U-boats. NATO still has a base here for submarine servicing. The loch, with low-lying Ewe Island in the middle, is a beauty spot with Inverewe, a Victorian garden rich in exotic plants, sitting on the banks.

space that houses 200,000 of Trinity's oldest books and manuscripts. Elsewhere the new Museum of Literature Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland, Christ Church and St Patrick's Cathedrals, the Guinness Storehouse, Kilmainham Gaol, Glasnevin Cemetery entice visitors - just be sure to stop into a snug somewhere for a pint.

### Please Note:

#### DAY 12 OBAN, SCOTLAND

Oban is a beautiful seaside town located on the west coast of Scotland. It is known for its stunning natural beauty and rich history. The city is surrounded by miles of dramatic shores and beautiful countryside. Oban, also known as the Seafood Capital of Scotland, is home to the Oban Distillery, which produces some of Scotland's finest whisky.

### DAY 13 DUBLIN

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Your cruise comes to an end today in Dublin, the Republic of Ireland's capital. It's at times gritty and in places, gorgeous -Georgian squares, hidden parks and tree-lined canals. It's lively, complex, cosmopolitan and eminently walkable. So bid farewell to Vega and start exploring, if time allows before your flight home. Come full circle and visit The Long Room in the Old Library in stately Trinity College to inspect the Book of Kells, which was produced on Iona. The Long Room itself is much lauded for its beauty - it's a stunning, two-storey, barrel-vaulted Itinerary changes and surprising experiences are part of expedition cruise life. The world has a habit of amazing us with incredible things when we yield to the unexpected. Join us with an open mind and a sense of adventure and you'll find that this can pay off in the most rewarding ways.



## YOUR SHIP: DIANA

YOUR SHIP: VESSEL TYPE: LENGTH: PASSENGER CAPACITY: BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Launched in 2023, SH Diana provides elegant and spacious 5-star accommodation for 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and suites, the vast majority with large balconies. Operated by an onboard team of 140 she provides a high level of personal service, exploring the Mediterranean and its famous sites of antiquity. Now sit back, relax and take a moment to get to know this amazing new ship, purpose-designed for our unique cultural expedition cruises. Named after the Ancient Roman goddess of light, the moon, hunting and the wilderness, SH Diana been specially designed for worldwide cruising to explore the most inspiring and inaccessible places on earth. Building on the outstanding amenities of her sister ships, she adds a dedicated Multifunctional Room next to the Observation Lounge, a Private Dining Room for special occasions, and two tenders which bring guests a comfortable alternative to Zodiacs for expedition landings. A Polar Class 6 ice-strengthened hull combines with extra-large stabilisers to make your journey as comfortable as possible. SH Diana has been designed for immersive experiences, with extensive outside deck areas, multiple observation points and bright, open and relaxing public spaces with unobstructed views. The pleasure and safety of our

Diana

guests is paramount at all times, cared for by our attentive crew and seasoned expedition leaders. Cutting edge hygiene technology protects the health of all on board to the highest standards and includes air conditioning with UV sanitisation systems. SH Diana's 96 staterooms, including 11 suites, are each a superbly comfortable home from home and all feature panoramic sea views, a flame-effect fireplace, original works of art, plush couches, premium pocket sprung mattresses, en-suite bathrooms with glass-enclosed rain showers, and Egyptian cotton towels, bathrobes and sheets. A pillow menu offers customised head and neck comfort during rest, while a large flat screen TV, espresso machine with Illy premium coffee, tea making facilities with the finest Kusmi teas, and a minibar with refreshments enhance relaxation at any time. In-room dining is of course available at all hours. Wheelchair access Guests who use wheelchairs must bring their own, as we have only a small number of wheelchairs stored onboard for emergencies. To ensure ease of movement on the ship, wheelchairs and mobility aids must be no wider than 65cm. All mobility or medical equipment brought on board must be capable of being carried safely and must be declared before sailing. To ensure that all guests can safely evacuate during an emergency, guests requiring a wheelchair can only be accommodated in our ADA-accessible cabins. We offer an Oceanview and a Balcony stateroom on Diana. These staterooms are specifically designed to be completely ADA compliant and have a fully operable wheelchair-access wet unit. Diana has two lifts, serving every passenger deck apart from the Stargazing top deck, which is, therefore, more difficult to access, as are the Aft Marina and

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Swan's Nest forward observation platform. Also, we don't have special equipment to access the swimming pool, jacuzzi, or sauna. Otherwise, the ship is entirely at your disposal. Many of the expeditions ashore in remote places are by Zodiac. Boarding these boats and returning aboard can present challenges for wheelchair users, as can navigating uneven terrain. These challenges are by no means always insurmountable, though, and our highly experienced crew is trained to provide reliable advice and assistance. They will make every effort to ensure wheelchair-using guests enjoy a memorable experience at each destination. Our general guidance, however, is to recommend wheelchair users travel with a companion for their ease and enjoyment. If you prefer to remain aboard, our panoramic interiors and ample open decks ensure an immersive, intimate experience of your inspiring



surroundings.

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# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**



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# PRICING

The Small Cruise Ship Collection