

BRITISH ISLES

LEGENDARY HISTORY & WILD NATURE



From historical monuments to colorful puffins, dramatic landscapes of sweeping moorland and rugged coastlines, on this voyage you will discover seldom visited areas, largely inaccessible except by ship. Start in historic Portsmouth, and end in majestic Edinburgh.



DATE: May 08-20, 2024

DURATION: 13 DAYS

EMBARKATION: Portsmouth, England

DISSEMBARKATION: Edinburgh, Scotland

SHIP: M/V Sea Spirit

FROM: \$7,466* (Double)

**After Early Booking Savings*

Book by Oct 31, 2023

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Heathrow - Overnight

Welcome to England and the start of your British Isles cruise! Our included pre-cruise hotel night at the Hilton Garden Inn, near Terminal 2, is designed to allow for a relaxing motorcoach transfer to Portsmouth the next morning. You'll receive information about the time and place to meet the motorcoach at the hotel.

NOTE: We recommend arriving at least one day prior in order to avoid complications associated with flight delays. We have Pre- and Post-cruise programs designed to complement the cruise.

Day 2: Embarkation in Portsmouth, England

Look for the Poseidon representative in the hotel's lobby, who will direct you to our chartered motorcoach that will take us to Portsmouth. Considered the home of the Royal Navy, its rich maritime heritage sets the mood for the beginning of our exciting voyage. In the afternoon we welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition ship *Sea Spirit*.

Day 3: Treeco, Scilly Isles, England

The *Isles of Scilly* is a group of small islands off the coast of Cornwall boasting mild weather, secluded beaches, enchanting wildlife and a relaxed lifestyle. On the lovely, sand-fringed island of *Treeco*, Bronze Age burial sites and romantic 17th-century castle ruins reveal a long and dramatic history. On the hallowed grounds of a Benedictine abbey we discover the exquisite Treeco Abbey Garden with its spectacular collection of more than 20,000 exotic plants from all corners of the world.

Day 4: Dunmore East, Ireland

Dunmore East is a popular tourist and fishing village in County Waterford on Ireland's southeastern coast, and home to the House of Waterford Crystal. Here you can take a guided tour of the factory to see the master craftsmen at work as well as the world's largest collection of their wares. Also nearby is Mount Congreve, a magnificent 18th-century Georgian estate and botanical gardens containing thousands of plant species on 70 acres of intensively planted woodland and a four-acre walled garden.

Day 5: Saltee Islands, Ireland

Our plan is to visit the the Saltee Islands. The larger island, Great Saltee, is the most famous bird sanctuary in Ireland. These Islands are privately owned and are one of the world's major bird sanctuaries. The Saltees

are a haven for sea birds, nurturing an impressive array of Gannets and Gulls to Puffins and Manx Shearwaters.

Day 6: Llandudlo, Wales

Our port for today is the vibrant seaside town of *Llandudno* in the north of Wales. From here we embark on a scenic overland tour of *Snowdonia National Park*. We enjoy a delightful stop at the charming and distinctively Welsh town of Betws-y-Coed in the Gwydyr Forest. Conwy Castle is considered to be one of "the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe", and it is classed as a World Heritage site. Divided into an Inner and an Outer Ward, it is defended by eight large towers and two barbicans, with a postern gate leading down to the river, allowing the castle to be resupplied from the sea.

Day 7: Portrush, Northern Ireland

This morning, we disembark at the small seaside resort town of Portrush and travel overland to the world-famous Giant's Causeway. Here we discover a geological masterpiece—40,000 closely packed hexagonal basalt columns of varying heights descending like a staircase into the sea. In this area we are also able to spot various seabirds such as fulmar, petrel, cormorant, shag, redshank, guillemot and razorbill.



Day 8: Inner Hebrides, Scotland

We explore beautiful and serene Iona, a small island in the Inner Hebrides just off the Isle of Mull in western Scotland. At the gorgeous Iona Abbey, founded in 563 AD, we are spellbound by one of Scotland's most historic and sacred sites and indeed one of the oldest Christian religious centers in Western Europe.



Day 9: Outer Hebrides, Scotland

The Outer Hebrides are a chain of dramatically rugged islands off the west coast of mainland Scotland. The most isolated of these is St Kilda. This remote and storm-ravaged island was continuously inhabited for at least two millennia by peoples of extraordinary hardiness. But as the modern world closed in after World War I, the remaining inhabitants chose to evacuate. Now we find only their rough stone buildings and distinctive storehouses called cleitean, all set amidst some of the most dramatic island scenery in the British Isles. Nature-lovers will be delighted, as the island is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, two early types of sheep, and over 130 species of flowering plants.

Day 10: Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Upon arrival at the historic port of Kirkwall we embark on an overland tour of Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands off the northeastern coast of Scotland. Attractions such as the well-preserved 5000-year-old village site at Skara Brae and the ancient Ring of Brodgar within the UNESCO World Heritage Site “Heart of Neolithic Orkney” showcase the world-class cultural heritage of the island. Back in the charming village of Kirkwall we also find the impressive Saint Magnus Cathedral, built in the Romanesque style by Vikings in the 12th century.



Day 11: Faire Isle

On Fair Isle—an isolated island of rolling moorlands and rugged coastlines—one is easily enchanted by historic crofts, picturesque lighthouses, and friendly locals. The island is famous among birders for its abundance of British birds and for its numerous records of eastern rarities and migrants. Fair Isle is also one of Europe’s best places to watch seabirds, especially puffins, at close range. Additionally, the island is notable for the abundance and diversity of its wildflowers. Seals are also commonly seen in its bays. Finally, during our visit it will be possible to see and purchase articles hand-knitted in the intricate and distinctive style for which Fair Isle has been celebrated for hundreds of years.

Day 12: Isle of May, Bass Rock, Scotland

These uninhabited islands are in the outer part of the Firth of Forth in the east of Scotland. The Isle of May is a national nature reserve and includes significant colonies of puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags, cormorants and terns. Harbor seals and grey seals can be spotted along the shores. There are also some historic architectural sites, including St. Ardin’s Chapel, the lighthouse and the Low and Light Cottages. The island known as “the Bass” plays host to over 150,000 northern gannets in the breeding season, making it the world’s largest colony of these magnificent birds. The island’s steep walls are white with guano and the sky all around is darkened by the vast multitude of seabirds in flight. Our voyage is perfectly timed to coincide with this amazing spectacle—truly one of the wildlife wonders of the world.

Day 13: Disembarkation in Leith (Edinburgh), Scotland

After breakfast we say farewell in Leith, Edinburgh’s vibrant port district. We provide transfers to the airport or to Edinburgh city center if you wish to spend more time in the wonderful capital of Scotland. Pre- and Post-cruise programs are available.





RATES - 2024	TRIPLE CLASSIC	MAIN DECK	CLASSIC	SUPERIOR	DELUXE BALCONY	PREMIUM BALCONY	OWNER SUITE
Per Person	\$5,995	\$8,295	\$8,795	\$8,995	\$10,095	\$11,095	\$14,195
BOOK BY OCT. 31, 2023	\$5,396	\$7,466	\$7,916	\$7,646	\$8,581	\$9,431	\$12,066

RATES INCLUDE:

Overnight hotel at Heathrow; Group transfer to the ship on day of embarkation; Shipboard accommodation; All meals on board throughout the voyage; Tea and coffee station 24 hours daily; All scheduled landings/excursions (subject to weather conditions); Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader & Expedition Team; Rubber boots for shore landings for the time of the cruise; Welcome and Farewell cocktails; All port fees; Group transfer to airport or central location upon disembarkation; Pre-departure materials; Digital Voyage Log, WIFI.

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

Airfare; Visa and passport fees (if applicable); Luggage and trip cancellation insurance; Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages other than those for special events and celebrations; Personal expenses such as laundry and onboard communication (telephone calls, faxes); Fuel surcharge may be applied for all bookings; Staff gratuities; Pre- or post-cruise travel expenses.

NOTE: Special Pre- and Post-Tours are available to complement this itinerary.



Reservations & Information
1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)
 Email - info@explorcruises.com

www.explorcruises.com

