

# TREASURES OF THE CELTIC SEA



Set off to discover the treasures of the Celtic Sea. This 8-day cruise will take you into the heart of landscapes of wild and melancholic beauty: between lush green prairies, sheer cliffs, colourful little villages, moss and heaths, fall under the spell of these lands infused with mystery.



**DATE:** April 26, 2020

**DURATION:** 8-DAYS/7-NIGHTS

**EMBARK:** HONFLEUR, FRANCE

**DISEMBARK:** DUBLIN, IRELAND

**SHIP:** L'AUSTRAL

**FROM:** \$3,830

**First Time Ponant Cruisers receive \$300  
Plus \$300 Shipboard Credit –  
Book by Dec 31, 2019**

## HIGHLIGHTS

Set off to discover the treasures of the Celtic Sea. This 8-day cruise will take you into the heart of landscapes of wild and melancholic beauty: between lush green prairies, sheer cliffs, colourful little villages, moss and heaths, fall under the spell of these lands infused with mystery.

After a port of call in Dartmouth, a very elegant small English town situated on the banks of the estuary of the River Dart, your ship will head for the Scilly Isles. On this strange little archipelago long sandy beaches stand alongside green fields, while ruins of old castles stand proud on hilltops.

Step ashore at Cobh, a maritime port in County Cork in south west Ireland, and take a trip to discover the picturesque village of Blarney - a village famous for its castle – and Kinsale - a charming little port sheltered within the Bandon Estuary.

*L'Austral* will take you to Liverpool then to the Isle of Man, located between the United Kingdom and Ireland. You will discover the capital Douglas, a postcard from United Kingdom of yesteryear with a Victorian atmosphere.

During your stopover in Belfast, you can visit the Giant's Causeway. This massive geological formation is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and features over 40,000 basalt columns.

You will disembark at Dublin, end of this beautiful cruise.

- Between Honfleur and Dublin, sail into the heart of Celtic shores, lands of magic and legends.
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites: from Belfast, the mysterious Giant's Causeway site, the old port of Liverpool, Dublin, city of literature (disembarkation port).
- From Cork, there will be the possibility to visit Blarney Castle, an imposing fortress with numerous hidden treasures, including the famous "Blarney Stone".
- After your cruise, discover Dublin, the Irish capital brimming with convivial atmosphere and authentic charm.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 — HONFLEUR

NOTE: We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here! It is always advisable to arrive at least one day early, two or more is preferable.

A treasure of the Côte Fleurie, Honfleur is located on the edge of la Crique de Rouen in Normandy. You will no doubt admire the historical ships moored in its old port. With its tall, slate-covered houses, the quays provide a great setting for a very nice walk. In the streets behind the harbour, you will see many timber houses. These picturesque places were the cradle of several pre-impressionist painters. You can see their works in the Eugène Boudin museum. Exhibited works represent scenes of medieval streets and the coastline as it used to be, as illustrated by the Butin beach and its lush green hillsides.

### DAY 2 – DARTMOUTH

Visit this a very elegant small English town situated on the banks of the estuary of the River Dart.



### DAY 3 – ISLES OF SCILLY

Nestling in the clear waters of the Atlantic Ocean, at the south west tip of Cornwall, the Isles of Scilly form a small British island chain whose climate, landscapes and lifestyle are unlike any other and seem to have come straight from an Enid Blyton story. Here, everything resembles a tropical paradise. The long sandy beaches run alongside lush green meadows teeming with semi-exotic flowers, whilst the ruins of ancient castles loom from the tops of the hills. Veritable havens of peace that inspired the legendary Avalon of King Arthur, they are today listed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the rugged coastline plays host to wildlife that is as varied as it is exceptional, including the very rare Atlantic grey seal.

### DAY 4 – CORK

This charming stopover on the southern coast of Ireland will certainly win you over with its pastel-shaded



houses layered up the hillside. A little train avoids you from having to climb the steep streets of the historic centre. Once you're there, you come to Saint Colman cathedral overlooking the coastline. The extensive panorama provides views of the little islands in Cork Harbour. Down below, the pubs complete with their floral window displays are enough to catch your eye. The pubs are famous for their traditional dishes like "colcannon" - a steaming hot soup made with cabbage served in a bowl, or a plate of boxties - crispy potato cakes with horse radish.



#### **DAY 5 – LIVERPOOL**

The fast-moving and appealing city of Liverpool sprawls along the banks of the River Mersey. This former bastion of industry in England's north-west has found its second wind, thanks especially to the highly successful redevelopment of its docks, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2004. The city, the Beatles' birthplace, has lots to offer to its visitors. While a walk down the Waterfront from Pier Head to Albert Dock is a major highlight you'll also love the quality of museums such as the Walker Art Gallery and the wealth of architecture in the city. But what will really impress you is the playful and open-minded spirit of its inhabitants, which John Lennon referred to as "positive energy".

#### **DAY 6 – DOUGLAS**

Douglas is the capital of the Isle of Man, a self-governing island in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. The Isle of Man is best-known for its gruelling annual TT motorbike race but Douglas itself is a charming traditional seaside resort. Take a stroll or horse tram along the busy promenade and visit the Manx Museum, which retraces the island's fascinating Celtic and Viking heritage. You can take a

steam train into the mountainous interior, where you'll see medieval castles and pretty villages and farms.

#### **DAY 7 – BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND**

The capital city of Northern Ireland is located on the very tip of Belfast Lough, in the north-east of the Emerald Isle. Along the waterfront, the building shaped like a fragmented liner is non other than the Titanic Belfast, a homage to the famous transatlantic liner, with full-scale reconstructions making for an insightful experience of the Belle Epoque. In the historical centre, you'll also travel back in time when you see the majestic Edwardian columns of the City Hall, and the imposing neo-gothic towers of Queen's University for example. The carved wooden façades of the Victorian pubs will certainly entice you in for a pint of beer or chilled cider.



#### **DAY 8 – DUBLIN**

The Irish capital stretches along the banks of the Liffey to Dublin bay, on the East coast of Ireland. Discover Ireland's warm conviviality in the pedestrian district of Temple Bar. Its cobbled streets are brimming with fabulous shops, pubs and arts centres. Next to Trinity College, famous for its 18th century library, you can stroll along Grafton Street: in one of its famous tea shops, try a delicious scone and clotted cream served hot and melt-in-the-mouth with jam. Not far from here, the majestic O'Connell bridge leads you to the avenue with the same name, on which Spire, a luminous contemporary sculpture presides.

**We can arrange pre- and post-cruise tour programs for you – see more while you are here!**



**ALL SUITES HAVE PRIVATE BALCONIES**

(Except Deck 3 Superior)

Rates are per person, Double Occupancy

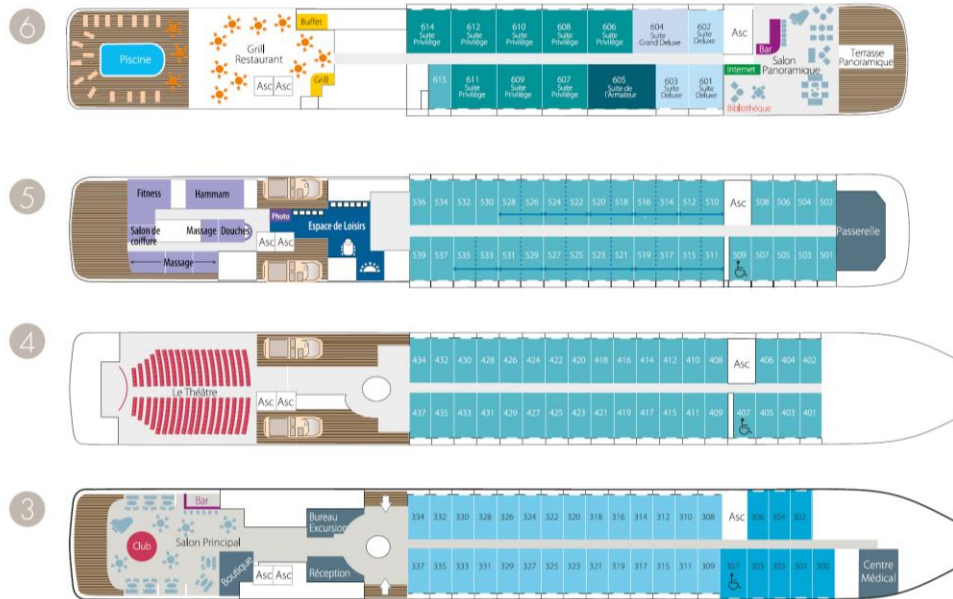
**Pre- and Post-Cruise tours are available to suit your interests.**

**Included features:**

- All accommodations, meals, and excursion described above
- Gratuities to crew guides and drivers on included excursions
- Comprehensive 7-night cruise aboard the deluxe L'Austral, with all the amenities for which Ponant ships are famous.
- WI-FI

**Not included:**

- Meals and beverages other than those specified above
- Optional excursions
- Personal expenses (such as laundry, telephone, etc.)



**\*First Time Ponant Cruisers receive \$300 off these fares - Book and deposit by Dec 31, 2019 and receive \$300 Ship board credit.**



**Reservations & Information**  
**1-855-EXPLOR1 (397-5671)**  
 Email - [info@explorcruises.com](mailto:info@explorcruises.com)  
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Prestige – Deck 4	\$3,830
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