

# Celtic Voyage: The Hebrides and the Irish Sea – with Smithsonian Journeys

From **05/05/2023**  
to **13/05/2023**

Ship: **LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE**

From **London**  
to **Glasgow, Scotland**



Shore excursion in each port of call + transfers included

## In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

*This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially tailored for English-speaking travellers who want to engage with the world. In addition to the usual elements of the PONANT experience, the listed price for these voyages includes transfers to and from the ship, talks and discussions aboard ship by world class experts, and a shore excursion or activity in each port of call that encourages guests to embrace the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of the local environment and culture.*

Join us for this 9-day cruise aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville* exploring the rich history and culture that thrives on either side of the Irish Sea.

Begin with a night aboard ship docked near **London Bridge**, then set sail in the early morning down the Thames to discover historic **Dover Castle**, perched high on the emblematic **White Cliffs**, and perhaps visit the nearby UNESCO Heritage site of **Canterbury Cathedral**.

Enjoy a morning on the **Isle of Wight** visiting **Osborne House**, Queen Victoria's favourite residence, before a relaxing afternoon cruising along the shores of the **English Channel**. Arrive the following day some 30 miles off the southwest coast of Cornwall in the **Isles of Scilly**, where you visit the world-famous **Tresco Gardens**.

Crossing the Irish Sea, you call in **Kinsale**, Ireland, your gateway to proudly Irish **Cork** and its iconic **Jameson Distillery**. **Holyhead**, Wales, on the Isle of Anglesey, is where you may visit medieval **Caernarfon Castle**, built in the late 13th century by Edward I as the architectural capstone to the English conquest of Wales, or you may choose to explore the **National Trust's Bodnant Garden**.

**Belfast**, Northern Ireland's dynamic capital, is home to **Titanic Belfast**, a state-of-the-art museum on the site of the yard where the ill-fated ship was built. It is also your opportunity to experience the spectacular unspoiled scenery of the **Antrim Coast** and the famed **Giant's Causeway** of over 40,000 interlocking, hexagonal columns, formed by the cooling of molten lava some six million years ago.

Your final full day is spent exploring the fabled **Hebrides**, beginning with the mystical **abbey** of the **Isle of Iona**, home to the first Christian settlement in Scotland. Next, you will proceed to **Duart Castle**, ancestral home of Clan Maclean on the **Isle of Mull**, and ending in the charming fishing port of **Tobermory**, whose distillery produces a renowned single malt scotch whisky.

Your voyage comes to an end in **Glasgow**, Scotland's modern cultural capital.



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## YOUR STOPOVERS :

### LONDON

Embarkation 05/05/2023 from 16:00 to 17:00

Departure 05/05/2023 at 23:59

The main residence of the British monarch, financial hub and seat of British government, **London** is the economic and cultural heart of the country. A city of contrasts, attached to its traditions while buzzing with modernity, the capital of the United Kingdom has countless historic districts and notable sites to explore. From Hyde Park to the City through Westminster and Trafalgar Square, get ready to take on London's frenetic tempo. In between a visit to the **National Gallery**, a stroll through **Covent Garden** and a trip to **Tower Bridge**, you can take a quiet breather in one of London's many beautiful parks and gardens.

### DOVER

Arrival 06/05/2023 midday

Departure 06/05/2023 early evening

Located in **Kent County** on the edge of the English Channel, 35 km away from the French coast and Cap Gris-Nez, **Dover** is the United Kingdom town nearest to France. As the main transit port between the two sides of the English Channel, it is the "**Gateway to England**". Dover is famous for its impressive white cliffs, which have inspired many a poet and playwright. Majestically facing mainland Europe, they offer the possibility of a spectacular clifftop walk. Impregnable and perched on a hill overlooking the Channel in the city's north-east, **Dover Castle** dominates the city. You will find its network of underground tunnels very interesting.

### COWES

Arrival 07/05/2023 early morning

Departure 07/05/2023 early afternoon

Located on the north coast of the Isle of Wight, across from the shores of the port cities of Portsmouth and Southampton, **Cowes** will win you over with its easy lifestyle, its heritage, verdant landscapes, craggy cliffs, and the crystal-clear waters of the Solent, the stretch of sea separating the island from mainland England. Many have succumbed to the charms of this pristine jewel. This includes **Queen Victoria**, who, captivated by this natural and authentic setting, had her summer residence built there in 1847: **Osborne House**, an architectural gem that is now one of the symbols of the town. A shipbuilding centre and the cradle of sailing, Cowes welcomes one of the largest regattas in the world every year during Cowes Week, an event gathering some 10,000 skippers and more than a thousand boats.

## ISLES OF SCILLY

Arrival 08/05/2023 midday

Departure 08/05/2023 late afternoon

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.

## KINSALE

Arrival 09/05/2023 early morning

Departure 09/05/2023 early afternoon

Considered Ireland's most beautiful village, **Kinsale** will captivate you with its sublime natural landscapes and rich cultural heritage. Located at the mouth of the Bandon River in County Cork, this charming little port is home to **picturesque streets lined with colourful houses, art galleries and theatres**, as well as to a 17th-century fort. Not far away, perched on a rocky promontory, stands the **Old Head of Kinsale Lighthouse**: still in operation today, it has magnificent views over the Atlantic Ocean.

## HOLYHEAD, WALES

Arrival 10/05/2023 early morning

Departure 10/05/2023 early evening

In the north of Wales and in the west of the captivating Isle of Anglesey, succumb to the charms of the enchanting small port town of Holyhead. Often called "the mother of Wales" due to its importance in history, Holyhead is a paradise for anyone with a passion for natural landscapes and heritage. They will love exploring the town's many historical landmarks, among other sites. Among these is Holyhead's 13th-century church, **St Cybi's Church**, nestling right in the middle of the Roman citadel. Finally, you will be able to admire one of the symbols of the town: South Stack Lighthouse, built in 1809. As you pass near the lighthouse, you might have the chance to marvel at numerous species of seabirds, including **guillemots** and **razorbills**.

## BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Arrival 11/05/2023 early morning

Departure 11/05/2023 early evening

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.

## IONA, HEBRIDES

Arrival 12/05/2023 early morning

Departure 12/05/2023 midday

Of all the islands in the **Inner Hebrides**, **Iona** is by far the most conducive to contemplation and meditation. And for good reason... it is here that St Columba landed from Ireland in 563 and undertook to establish Christianity in **Scotland**. Now an abbey, the island's true spiritual centre stands where the ancient monastery founded by the Irish missionary was built. Many kings of Scotland, including the legendary **Macbeth**, are buried in the nearby cemetery. In sunny weather, arriving on the Isle of Iona is a stunningly beautiful experience.

## TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL

Arrival 12/05/2023 mid afternoon

Departure 12/05/2023 late afternoon

Located at the northernmost tip of the lovely **Isle of Mull**, **Tobermory** has to be one of the most beautiful natural seaports on Scotland's West Coast. Founded in 1788, this ancient fishing village has been converted to a leisure port highly appreciated today for its surroundings and the quiet charm it exudes. You will definitely be won over by the row of many-storied houses on the hillside, illuminating the harbour with their vibrant colours. Although the real spectacle is outdoors, no less interesting are the Mull Museum dedicated to the local history and the exhibitions at the An Tobar art gallery.

## GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Arrival 13/05/2023 early morning

Disembarkation 13/05/2023 at 08:00

In the heart of the **Clyde Valley**, the bustling city of **Glasgow** contrasts starkly with the wild beauty of the surrounding countryside. Scotland's biggest city overflows with landmarks from its extensive artistic heritage and outstanding architectural tradition. The city's chequerboard layout makes walking through the major pedestrian thoroughfares easy: go with the flow and let the lively street atmosphere take you past the many Victorian monuments. Don't miss the collections on display in the numerous museums and art galleries. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding example.