

# Shore Excursions



British Isles Discovery

Astor - A618



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# DUBLIN, Republic of Ireland





## Dublin Highlights

Approx. 4 hours – Code 103001

Dublin is the capital of the Irish Republic and Ireland's principal port. Dublin Bay, with its great sweep of coast from the rocky brow of Howth in the north to the headland of Dalkey in the south, is a fitting introduction to one of Europe's finest capitals. In addition to its splendid public buildings, Dublin is particularly rich in domestic architecture of the 18th century. Fine Georgian mansions, many of them with historical associations, lend sober beauty to the city's wide streets and spacious squares.

This tour will offer you an opportunity to experience Dublin's unforgettable character and undeniable charm. Departing from the quayside, you will soon pass the majestic Customs House, located on the north bank of the River Liffey. It was designed by the 18th century English-born architect James Gandon. Crossing the river to Dublin's south side, you will view The Old Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland, and the world-renowned Trinity College. Founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I, it is Ireland's oldest College. Weather permitting, you will stroll through the grounds of this magnificent College.

Your tour of the city will continue passing the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings

and St. Stephen's Green. You will pass Dublin Castle, City Hall and Christchurch Cathedral en route to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Founded in 1190, St. Patrick's is perhaps best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, who was Dean here from 1713 to 1745. The pulpit from which he preached is still to be seen.

On the north side of Dublin's River Liffey you will pass the Four Courts, Ireland's courts of justice. The north side boasts the wide boulevard of O'Connell Street and here you will pass the General Post Office, scene of the 1916 rising and birthplace of the Irish nation. Enjoy some free time in Dublin city before returning to your coach for the return journey to the port and your awaiting ship.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35.**

**Please note: The visit to the Cathedral includes up to 45-minutes of walking/standing and there are steps to enter the Cathedral. There is an additional 15-minute walk through the grounds of Trinity College over cobblestones. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The order of the itinerary may be adjusted depending on traffic conditions on the day. If time permits, guests may choose to remain in the city at the end of the tour and make their own way back to the ship if they wish.**



## River Cruise & City Drive

Approx. 4 hours – Code 103002

Dublin is one of Europe's liveliest cities, where medieval and 17th century buildings stand comfortably amid all the trappings of a 21st century city. Your voyage of discovery begins with a transfer by coach alongside the River Liffey to board the 'Liffey Voyager' for a relaxing 45-minute cruise along the River. Your guide will tell you something of the history of Dublin from the first arrival of the Vikings over 1,000 years ago, to the rapid development of the city during the 18th and 19th centuries. It subsequently declined during the 20th century, and today the huge redevelopment of Dublin's Docklands will astound you.

You will be told the story behind the iconic Ha'penny Bridge as well as Gandon's masterpiece, the majestic Custom House, and about the background behind Dublin's Royal and Grand Canals, and see where Oliver Cromwell landed in 1649. It may surprise you to learn how much of present-day Dublin now sits on reclaimed land, including Trinity College and the Spire in O'Connell Street, before you return safely to the quay where your coach is waiting.

Your panoramic tour of the city will take you to the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, where you will have time to take a photo of the

famous 'Doorways of Dublin'. After passing the National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen's Green, you continue past St. Patrick's Cathedral. You will pass by the renowned Guinness Brewery, home of the famous 'Black Stuff' for which Dublin is famous, before travelling to Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed public park. Here you will see the residences of Ireland's President and the American Ambassador. On the north side of Dublin's River Liffey, you will view the domed home of the Four Courts, Ireland's courts of justice, and your return to the ship is via the International Financial Services Centre.

**By coach/river cruise boat/on foot. Min 35/Max varies. Please note: There is very little walking on this tour apart from a few steps to embark and disembark the river boat from a floating pontoon. This tour sometimes operates in reverse order to avoid congestion. Toilet facilities on this tour are limited-they are available at the visitor centre in Phoenix Park but not on the boat. The river boat cruise is approximately 40-45 minutes.**

Dublin is the capital of the Irish Republic and Ireland's principal port. Dublin Bay, with its great sweep of coast from the rocky brow of Howth in the north to the headland of Dalkey in the south, is a fitting introduction to one of Europe's finest capitals. In addition to its splendid public buildings, Dublin is particularly rich in domestic architecture of the 18th Century. Fine Georgian mansions, many of them with historical associations, lend sober beauty to the city's wide streets and spacious squares.

Departing from the pier, you will soon pass The Customs House, located on the north bank of the River Liffey. It was designed by James Gandon and completed in 1791. Crossing the River Liffey to Dublin's south side, you will view The Old Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland and Trinity College. Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I, it is Ireland's oldest college. Your tour of the city will continue passing the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, the National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen's Green.

The panoramic tour passes Dublin Castle, City Hall, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Founded in 1190, St. Patrick's is perhaps best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, who was Dean here from 1713 to 1745. See the renowned Guinness Brewery, home of the famous Black Stuff for which Dublin is famous. Continue to Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed public park where the homes of Ireland's President and American Ambassador are located.

On the north side of Dublin's River Liffey, you will pass the Four Courts, Ireland's courts of justice. The north side boasts the wide boulevard of O'Connell Street and here you can view the General Post Office, scene of the 1916 rising and birthplace of the Irish nation. Return to Dublin Port via the International Financial Services Centre.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 240.**

**Please note: This is a panoramic tour only with no entrances included. Photo stops will be made, traffic permitting. This tour involves very little walking, all of which is at guests' discretion at the designated photo stops.**

Enjoy panoramic views of Dublin Bay as you journey between the coastal towns of North County Dublin. Travel via Fairview and the northern suburb of Coolock before arriving at the beautiful seaside village of Malahide, a noted yachting centre. Since the 19th century, the population has exploded but Malahide Village has managed to retain an old-world elegance. A stop will be made to photograph Malahide Castle from the grounds. Set on 250 acres of parkland this was both a fortress and a private home for nearly 800 years.

Continue your coastal drive through the village of Portmarnock where the world famous Portmarnock Golf Club is located. This Club was, for many years, home of the Irish Open Championship.

Soon you will arrive in the quaint fishing port of Howth. Nestling against the ancient ruins of Howth Abbey, with the lovely fishing harbour and marina below, is the 11th century Abbey Tavern, a perfect spot to enjoy an included Irish coffee (or soft drink alternative) and savour the genuine atmosphere of old Ireland. Enjoy a little free time to wander through the marina with its extensive variety of private boats and fishing vessels.

Departing from Howth, drive over the summit, where you will enjoy wonderful views of Dublin Bay and the Dublin Mountains beyond. You will return to the port via Dollymount and Clontarf.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 120.**

**Please note: This excursion involves very little walking. All walking in Howth is optional. Alcoholic beverages will only be served to persons aged 18 years and over and proof of age may be requested.**

# HONFLEUR, France





## Monet's House & Gardens

Approx. 6 hours - Code 406001

From the port of Honfleur, travel along the motorway through the attractive Normandy countryside to Giverny, a pretty village situated on the banks of the River Seine and best known as the home of Claude Monet. The world-famous Impressionist painter lived in this house from 1883 until his death in 1926. At the beginning of May 1883, Monet and his large family rented a house and land from a local landowner. The House was situated near the main road between the towns of Vernon and Gasny at Giverny. There was a barn that doubled as a painting studio, orchards and a small garden. The house was close enough to the local schools for the children to attend and the surrounding landscape offered an endless array of suitable motifs for Monet's work. By November 1890 Monet was prosperous enough to buy the House, the surrounding buildings and the land for his gardens. During the 1890's Monet built a greenhouse and a second studio, a spacious building well lit with skylights.

In the Gardens, visit the 'clos normand': the arches of flowers surrounded by amazing flower beds which provide from spring to autumn the palette of varying colours this painter and gardener used for his art. Monet wrote daily instructions to his gardening staff, precise designs and layouts for plantings. The House, which is now a museum, was first opened to the public in 1981. It has been lovingly restored in green and pink and you will see the blue salon, the bedroom with the bed and roll-top desk, the old studio, the yellow dining room with its delightful painted wooden furniture and the tiled kitchen.

Reproductions of Monet's works and his collection of 18th and 19th century Japanese prints can be seen in the different rooms.

The adjacent flower gardens have been replanted to Monet's own designs and offer a spectacular array of colours. The famous Japanese water garden has a lily pond with gracefully arched bridges bordered by bamboo, azaleas, rhododendrons and a majestic weeping willow which contributed to Monet's inspiration in his work. Prior to leaving Monet's House, there will be some free time to browse in the gift shop which offers numerous reproductions of the painter's work, souvenirs, postcards, posters, books and videos.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 180.**

**Please note:** The drive to/from Giverny is approximately 1¼ hours each way. This tour involves a long walk to/from the coach park to the entrance of Monet's House. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended as this tour involves considerable walking. It is not permitted for guides to give a commentary inside Monet's House and photography and video cameras are not permitted inside. It is also not possible for guides to give a guided walk in the Garden's due to the high number of visitors. Guides will however, explain the layout and the facilities, leaving participants to wander at leisure in the Gardens. We recommend you take water or a drink with you as refreshment facilities are limited inside the grounds. Please be aware that if you leave the grounds re-entry is not permitted. This is a popular attraction and crowds can be expected. The Japanese Garden & Bridge is situated on the other side of the road accessible by a subway with 20 steps.





## Deauville & Honfleur

Approx. 4 hours - Code 406002

You drive through Honfleur and follow the coast road along the 'Côte Fleurie' to reach Deauville, a fashionable resort of wide, tree-lined avenues and chic restaurants and boutiques. On arrival at the parking area you will embark on a 30-minute walk with your guide to one of the characteristic features of this delightful seaside town - 'les planches', the boardwalk created in 1923 along the sea front which allowed the ladies to enjoy the beach without dirtying their dresses. Lined by elegant buildings, it runs the length of the beach and is now an area where celebrities like to meet and enjoy being seen. There will be approximately 30-minutes free time for you to explore Deauville independently. Between the famous casino and 'les planches', you will see the Centre International de Deauville, a remarkable ensemble of suspended gardens, fountains and transparent façades. Deauville is sometimes known as the 'lady of the French coast', and it was a very stylish lady, Coco Chanel, who both launched her own career and helped give Deauville status as an upmarket seaside town when she opened a boutique selling her distinctive hats to the ladies of Edwardian society. It is also considered the birthplace of the Impressionist and Romantic art movements. With its lavish yachting marina, horse racing, thriving nightlife and casino an inspiration for Ian Fleming's 'Casino Royale', Deauville maintains its reputation as a playground of the European élite, a status it has enjoyed since Napoleon III's half-brother came here in the mid-19th century.

You then transfer to Honfleur where the best way to explore is on foot during a guided walk. You will see the Governor's House, 'La Lieutenance', the ancient gateway to the town, as well as the 17th century Old Dock and nearby a remarkable monument to this fishing town's seafaring traditions - the wooden St. Catherine's Church (Église Sainte-Catherine) built by naval craftsmen and whose vaulted roof resembles a ship's upturned hull. There will be some free time to discover craft and souvenir shops and local artists' galleries. At the end of the tour you may either return to the ship by coach or, if you prefer, stay in town and make your own way back to the port.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35.**

**Please note: This tour involves approximately 2½ hours of walking, some over cobble-stoned streets in Honfleur. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Shopping is limited in Deauville on Sundays.**



## Spirit of Normandy

Approx. 4 hours – Code 406004

Normandy is the land of picturesque half-timbered houses, lush green pastures and apple orchards, a land of rich culinary tradition based on its fine local products: butter, cream, world-famous cheeses and of course apples from which are made the brandy 'Calvados', the apéritif 'Pommeau' and delicious cider.

You leave Honfleur and drive along the Côte Fleurie to Deauville where there will be free time to explore this fashionable resort of wide, tree-lined avenues and chic restaurants and boutiques. One of the characteristic features of this delightful seaside town is 'les planches', the boardwalk lined by elegant buildings which runs the length of the beach. Between the famous casino and les planches, you will see the Centre International de Deauville, a remarkable ensemble of suspended gardens, fountains and transparent façades. This area is a popular rendezvous for celebrities who like to meet and enjoy being seen in trendy venues such as the Bar du Soleil.

Leaving Deauville you drive through the Normandy countryside Busnel and Anée Distillery, located in the village of Cormeilles. Enjoy a guided walking

tour of the site, starting with the Museum where you will discover the whole process before a short film is shown retracing the fascinating Busnel Calvados history. Your guide will then take you through the yard of the Distillery surrounded by one century old traditional half-timbered cellars and you will view the Charante-still, which is still used today for the yearly Calvados production. See the bottling room and the aging cellars and learn the difference between the characteristics of the two famous Calvados brands and the secrets of the Cellar Master. At the end of your visit you will enjoy a special tasting of the renowned distillery products including Calvados, Pommeau and Cider served together with delicious Normandy cheeses; Camembert; Pont Leveque; and Livarot and classic French bread and butter.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: The drive to Deauville will take approximately 45-minutes. The return journey will take approximately 30-minutes. This tour involves 2 hours of walking and flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Alcohol will not be served to guests under the age of 18. Proof of age may be required. Shopping in Deauville is limited on Sundays.**

General Dwight D. Eisenhower said on historic D-Day's eve: "Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force: You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you". The beaches of Normandy and the events of June 6th, 1944, will never be forgotten. Join this full day trip to the Normandy landing beaches for a look into the past. Remember the heroism of the allied forces as you visit the sites of the historic D-Day.

Located near the historic Pegasus Bridge site, the British Cemetery at Ranville has 2,564 graves, including those of 2,154 British soldiers. The village of Ranville was captured on the morning of D-Day. The churchyard was used for immediate burials and some soldiers were laid to rest at this location as the fighting for the eastern flank continued. After World War II, the site was chosen to regroup burials from this part of the battlefield, and graves were brought in from a number of areas.

You will have the opportunity to see the famous Pegasus Bridge at Benouville. The original Pegasus Bridge, built in 1933 was removed from the canal in 1993. The historical Bridge, the first to be liberated in continental France, was stored on waste ground for six years.

In Arromanches, an area selected as one of the sites for a Mulberry Artificial Harbour to be built, your guide will take you to the Museum of the Landing Day. An initiative of Raymond Triboulet, the permanent exhibition on the Normandy Landings was officially opened June 5th 1954 by René Coty then President of the French Republic. It was the first museum to be built in commemoration of June 6th 1944 and the Normandy Campaign. The Museum overlooks the very spot where the Mulberry Harbour was constructed. Models, dioramas and films depict the monumental exploits and sacrifices of the allied forces during the Mulberry and Overlord operations. You will have a chance to photograph remains of the floating harbour, where thousands of allied soldiers came ashore, still visible on this historical beach.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: Lunch is not included in this tour, however a snack box from the ship will be provided. It is not permitted for these to be consumed on board the coaches. There will be free time between the various sites visited. This is a long day with coach driving, several stops and approximately 2 hours of total walking, much of which is at guests' discretion at the various sites visited. Flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The Pegasus Bridge will be viewed from a distance only. This tour does not include entrance into the Pegasus Bridge Museum.**

## **Rouen Transfer**

**Approx. 5½ hours – Code 406007**

This is an un-guided transfer to/from Rouen for those guests who wish to explore independently this picturesque city. Your coach will take you via the motorway directly to the city centre, a journey of approximately 90-minutes. The historic centre offers a wide variety of famous sites and shops to explore. Take advantage of your free time in Rouen to seek out the specialties of Normandy, including the famous Rouen ceramics, in the attractive shops around the city or relax awhile in a typical French sidewalk café.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35.**

**Please note: This is not a tour, but a return coach transfer for those guests who are interested in visiting Rouen independently. Maps of Rouen will be supplied to assist guests find their way around. This transfer is unguided both ways. All walking is at guest's own discretion. Please take note of, and adhere to, the time and meeting place of your return transfer. This cost of this transfer is exclusive of any refreshments or entrances. Please remember to bring local currency with you. Shopping is limited on Sundays. Notre Dame may be difficult to visit on Sunday Mornings due to Mass taking place. The Cathedral is closed to the public on Monday mornings.**

# INVERGORDON, Scotland





## Dunrobin Castle

Approx. 4½ hours - Code 112001

This tour takes you to visit the largest house in the Highlands, Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Duke of Sutherland, who was once the largest landowner in Scotland. From Invergordon you travel in a northerly direction passing the pretty, historic town of Tain, before crossing the Dornoch Firth to Dunrobin Castle, situated on the eastern seaboard of the County of Sutherland, near the fishing village of Golspie.

Dunrobin Castle is the most northerly of Scotland's great houses; the largest and one of the oldest continuously inhabited. Standing amidst lush, formal gardens that overlook the sea, this white stone chateau contrasts sharply with the usual dark stone Scottish castles. Like most ancient Scottish castles, Dunrobin started out as a Keep, or tower and is named after its originator, Earl Robin. Although the oldest part of the Castle dates from the early 1300's, subsequent enlargements in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries created the splendid, gleaming, turreted Castle that you visit today. Dunrobin Castle Gardens are equally as grand as the Castle. The magnificent formal 19th century Gardens were modelled on those at Versailles. These Victorian formal Gardens were designed in the grand French style to also echo the architecture of Dunrobin Castle, which rises high above them and looks out over the Moray Firth.

After viewing the Castle's main rooms you may wish to make your way to the lawn area below to watch a birds of prey flying demonstration. The Castle's professional resident Falconer demonstrates and explains the different hunting methods used by owls, hawks and falcons in a series of fascinating aerobatic displays. Falconry was originally developed as a means of hunting fast or difficult prey as food for the table, and Dunrobin Castle is proud to be able to showcase this ancient art.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 135.**

**Please note: This tour involves approximately 300-400m (1,300ft) of walking over some gravel paths and a number of steps at the Castle. All walking in the Castle Gardens is at guests' discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The Falconry display takes place daily Monday to Saturday at Dunrobin Castle at 11.30am and 2.00pm – it is not always possible to schedule the tour to coincide with these times. The Falconry display will not be conducted on Sundays or for visits in March.**

From Inverness you head to Dornoch, surrounded by sand dunes and a very popular but select resort with grand Edwardian hotels and a championship golf course. The town's oldest buildings are all clustered around its spacious and beautiful square and there will be a stop here to admire the impressive medieval Cathedral of Dornoch (exterior view) and explore independently.

To connoisseurs of the 'water of life', no visit to the beautiful Scottish Highlands would be complete without a visit to the distillery that produces Glenmorangie, Scotland's favourite malt whisky. Situated in the far north of Scotland, overlooking the shores of the Dornoch Firth, the name Glenmorangie comes from the Gaelic language and means 'Glen of Tranquility', a particularly appropriate description for the distillery's calm and scenic location. Glenmorangie has been producing a fine range of malt whiskies for over 150 years. The methods by which the range is made today remain as unchanged as the surrounding landscape. The pure, mineral-rich water, so essential to Glenmorangie still comes from their own springs and the best malted barley is brought in from the surroundings areas. One of Glenmorangie's most valued resources are

the dedicated craftsmen who have, despite two world wars, fire, drought and other adversities, faithfully passed on their traditional skills from old hands to new.

A guided tour will introduce you to the natural elements and the time-honoured traditional skills which make Glenmorangie so special. You will see the gleaming swan-neck copper stills – the tallest in the Highlands, casks of American oak, operating equipment and methods used in the various stages of the processing of malt whisky. Following the approximate 45-minute tour of the distillery, enjoy a taste of Glenmorangie with a sampling of a 'wee dram'.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: This tour involves approximately 1½ hours of walking/standing at the Distillery with a number of steps to climb, some of which are rather steep and narrow. Walking during free time is at guests' discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. This tour may operate in reverse to that described. Independent free time in Dornoch is approximately 1 hour. Toilet facilities are available in Dornoch during free time, but they may require coinage. Alcohol will only be served to those aged 18 and over and proof of age may be required.**

## Loch Ness Monster Trail

Approx. 4 hours - Code 112004

Starting out from Invergordon, you drive alongside the banks of the Cromarty Firth and stop for photos at Beauly on your way to Drumnadrochit, where from a height affording lovely views you approach an area of water known the world over, Loch Ness, the deepest freshwater loch in the country. Loch Ness is world famous, thanks to 'Nessie', although the possible existence of the monster is still a matter of considerable speculation. However, setting aside whisky-induced hallucinations, and wishful-thinking sightings, many eye witness accounts of Nessie come from people whose honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. No matter how logical one is, it is impossible to drive alongside Loch Ness without hopefully scouring the dark waters.

After travelling through Drumnadrochit you arrive at the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Experience to discover an insight into the Loch's wider significance.

Using a mix of lasers, digital projection and special effects, the exhibition charts the history of the monster by exploring Scotland's geological past, its folklore and the various research projects carried out on the Loch. It also reveals the discoveries of some of that research including the environmental fingerprints left in the Loch's layers by both nature and mankind.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 135.**

**Please note: There is approximately 200-300m (650-984ft) of mandatory walking involved on this tour. Time spent in the Loch Ness Centre and Exhibition Experience is approximately 1½ hours. Please be aware that the Centre is very dark and loud and is possibly not suitable for those who do not like dark spaces. Guests may bypass this section of the tour if necessary, but no part refund will be given. Flat, comfortable shoes are recommended.**

As a truly authentic representation of the beauty of the Scottish highlands, the Rogie Falls walk is bound to delight nature lovers. Set near to the village of Contin, Rogie Falls are a number of waterfalls that form part of the Black Water. The stunning Scottish scenery will provide the most magnificent photo opportunities and the informative guide will be on hand to explain more about the huge variety of wildlife and woodland that surrounds you. A 50-minute coach transfer will take you to the starting point for your walk to Rogie Falls. At the beginning the pathway is surrounded by pine and silver birch. Silver birches are often used in Scotland as timber for houses, furniture, gates and fences, but these particular trees stand tall and strong, protected by the forest's conservation status. Follow the walk through the pine and silver birch area and amble past boulders and moss to reach the riverbank. Here, you will have the opportunity to see the magnificent Rogie Falls from Silverbridge suspension bridge. Providing the best views of the

Falls, the Bridge has recently been rebuilt by the Highland Council to remain in keeping with the character of this beautiful area. Look out for the man-made fish ladder which was built to help the salmon reach the top of the Falls when the water level is particularly low. At certain times of the year you will be able to see the salmon leaping up the Falls in order to spawn in the upper parts of the River. Look out for the magnificent array of birdlife that frequent the River, alongside the occasional pine marten, red squirrel and wildcat. Having seen the River and Falls at its most beautiful angle, the scenic walk back to the coach will commence, with more views of the bubbling water and splendid woodlands.

**By coach /on foot. Min 20/Max 40.**

**Please note: This is a walking tour and involves approximately 1 mile (1.5km) of walking over uneven terrain. Suitable walking shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather are essential. We do not consider this excursion to be suitable for guests with walking difficulties or wheelchairs. Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed.**

## **Strathspey Railway**

**Approx. 4½ hours – Code 112009**

Enjoy a trip on board Scotland's premier heritage railway, exploring the stunning Scottish Highlands from the luxury of your vintage rail carriage. Departing Invergordon by coach, an approximate 75-minute drive takes you south towards Inverness then on to Aviemore, situated in the very heart of the Monadhliath and Cairngorm Mountains.

At Aviemore station, take your seat aboard the train for an approximate 50-minute ride to Broomhill. Described as 'very beautiful' by Queen Victoria in 1860, the history of this train journey can be mapped via a historical pamphlet that will be given to you to review during your trip. Your pamphlet will outline the history of the areas you travel through, as well as giving you an indication of where you might be fortunate enough to see some of the exciting wildlife that this area of Scotland has to offer. As your train travels through the Scottish moors and woodlands, relax and enjoy some traditional Scottish shortbread along with a tea or coffee refreshment from the comfort of your seat. Highlights of your journey will include the Cairngorms, which can be seen as your train pulls out of Aviemore Station, and Spey River, Scotland's fastest flowing river.

At Broomhill, you will disembark from the train to re-board your coach. Broomhill was once a key destination for Scottish industries, handling much of the timber from the surrounding forests and ultimately substituting the earlier process of floating the logs down the Spey River. From Broomhill, enjoy a scenic drive through Scottish moorland before returning back to the ship in Invergordon.

**By coach/train/on foot. Min 35/Max dependent on call date.**

**Please note: This tour involves minimal walking but guests must be able to negotiate the steps on and off the coach and train. The vintage carriages, having been built in the mid-1900's, are regrettably not accessible for wheelchair users. Wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. Steam engines are scheduled to be used with the exception of Fridays and Sundays when Diesel engines are scheduled to be used, however this can change at the discretion of the Railway and they reserve the right to change the engine used at short notice. The tour may operate in reverse. There are limited toilet facilities at the stations and queues may be expected.**

Loch Ness is world famous, thanks to 'Nessie', although the possible existence of the monster is still a matter of considerable speculation. However, setting aside whisky-induced hallucinations, and wishful-thinking sightings, many eye witness accounts of Nessie come from people whose honesty and integrity are beyond doubt. No matter how logical one is, it is impossible to drive alongside Loch Ness without hopefully scouring the dark waters. You will travel through the village of Drumnadrochit and on to Urquhart Castle for a visit. Urquhart Castle was built both as a fortress and as a residence. In war-time its strategic military position provided the lord and those under his protection with as secure a defence as it was possible to achieve. Urquhart Castle figured prominently in the Scots' struggle for independence from England in the 14th century; in the 15th and 16th centuries the Castle and glen were frequently raided and plundered, chiefly by the Macdonald Lords of the Isles; and the place was last inhabited by government troops during the Jacobite troubles in the 1690's.

Romantics say that 'Nessie' lives in a subterranean cave below the Castle. The pathway from the bus park down to the lower level of the Castle is fairly steep in part, but you can remain on the upper level and obtain fine panoramic views and photo opportunities from the Visitor's Centre, where you can also view an informative film about the history of the Castle from the 6th to the 17th century.

Rejoining your coach, discover Inverness, the capital of the Highlands, nestled in a ring of mountains round the mouth of the fast-flowing River Ness as it flows into the Inverness Firth. Enjoy a panoramic drive of this highland town before returning back to the ship.

**By coach /on foot. Min 35/Max 180.**

**Please note: There is approximately 1½ hours of walking over uneven ground with steep gradients around the ruins at Urquhart Castle. We do not consider this tour to be suitable for guests with wheelchairs. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The Visitor's Centre at Urquhart Castle has a cafeteria, souvenir shop and restroom facilities.**

**Culloden Moor, Beaulieu & Loch Ness Scenic Drive****Approx. 8 hours - Code 112011**

Enjoy a scenic ride through the heather-covered hills of the lush Scottish Highlands on your way to Culloden Moor. Pass by Beaulieu and stop for some free time in Drumnadrochit on your way to Inverness, 'Capital of the Highlands', sitting astride the tranquil River Ness and where the waters of Beaulieu Firth and Inverness Firth unite. All Highland roads meet at Inverness, a renowned centre of touring. Enjoy some free time here for lunch at your own expense.

The tour continues towards Culloden Battlefield; no place-name in British history stirred the emotions more than Culloden. The Battle, on 16 April 1746 was the last full-scale battle to take place on British soil and ended the House of Stuart's hopes of regaining the throne. The Highland army of Bonnie Prince Charlie fought against the Royal Troops of George II. Five thousand exhausted, starving and ill-equipped

Highlanders were defeated. In the battlefield, wooden plaques tell which clan fought where and how the Battle progressed. There are clan graves; communal burial sites with headstones bearing clan names. On the edge of the bleak battle site is the Well of the Dead, where wounded Highlanders were slain as they drank water to revive themselves.

After your visit to the Visitor Centre, you will return directly to Invergordon.

**By coach /on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: Lunch has not been included in the tour to allow maximum flexibility during free time in Inverness. There is approximately 1½ hours of walking/standing at Culloden with uneven ground and steps. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Toilet facilities are available in Inverness during free time, but they may require coinage.**





## Inverness Transfer

Approx. 7 hours - Code 112012

Inverness, the Highland capital, is an approximate 45-minute drive from the port of Invergordon. On arrival, you will be dropped at a central location and have approximately five hours free time for shopping and exploring. The River Ness runs through the heart of the town offering picturesque riverside walks and is crossed at several points by foot, road and rail bridges. The town offers an excellent choice of shopping with many shops specialising in woollens, tartans, tweeds and a range of hand-crafted items from around the Highlands and Islands.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 450.**

**Please note:** This is not a tour, but a return coach transfer for those guests who are interested in visiting Inverness independently. Maps of Inverness will be supplied. This transfer is unguided. All walking is at guests' own discretion. Please take note of, and adhere to, the time and meeting place of your return transfer. Toilet facilities are available in Inverness, but they may require coinage. There is a 10-minute walk from the coach park to reach the city centre.

# ST. MARY'S, Isles of Scilly





## Tresco Abbey Gardens

Approx. 2½ hours - Code 119002

The second largest of the Scilly Islands, Tresco is only two miles long, but has an amazing variety of scenery, and with its mild, frost-free climate, plants from all over the world thrive here. Cars are prohibited, and the tranquil way of life and old-fashioned courtesy enjoyed by both islanders and visitors alike has not changed for more than half a century.

The Abbey Gardens, which you will visit, flourish here, and there is nowhere else in the British Isles that has such an exciting and exotic collection of plants growing in the open. Apart from plants obtained from Kew Gardens, countless others from South Africa, Australia, the Mediterranean and Mexico, which are normally under glass, prosper within the secure embrace of massive holm oak hedges, which protect the Island from the fierce, salty gales. The Gardens also house the Valhalla Ship's Figurehead Collection with magnificent figureheads from old sailing ships, each with its own story to tell. Tresco has two freshwater pools, one being the Abbey Pool, which attracts birds including dunlins, plovers and ducks such as the mallard and teal. From its early days Tresco has welcomed visitors, and the effect

is so astonishing that even the non-gardener cannot fail to be impressed.

Experienced staff, whose extensive knowledge of the flora will enhance your visit, will give a short guided tour of the Gardens. Afterwards there will be free time to enjoy them at leisure. There is an excellent Visitor Centre, and souvenirs and refreshments can be purchased in the attractive gift shop and cafeteria. For those with walking difficulties, transport is available and will be provided by Tresco Abbey Gardens to/from the Gardens.

**On foot, with approx. 20 persons per group max 240. Please note: You will be taken ashore by tender to Carn Near (tide permitting) which is a walk of approximately 10-minutes each way to reach the Gardens. In the event of high tide, the alternative landing point will be New Grimsby, which is an approximate 40-minute walk to the Gardens. For those with walking difficulties, limited transport is available and will be provided by Tresco Abbey Gardens. Some queuing for the transport is to be expected. This tour involves walking including some steps at the Gardens. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. .**



## Island Sea Safari

Approx. 1 hour - Code 119003

This memorable excursion takes you on a marine safari boat trip to see wildlife and spectacular scenery. Board the RIB (rigid inflatable boat) and cruise around the Islands of Scilly in search of grey Atlantic seals and seabird colonies. You may also see puffins, guillemots, razor bills and fulmars depending on the time of year, as well as some of the Island's shipwreck sites. On this trip there are plenty of photo opportunities with full, friendly and informative commentary by Scillonian skipper Mark and his wife Susie. This trip will give you a fascinating insight into the natural history of these unique Islands.

**By rigid inflatable boat. Min 8/Max 10.**

**Please note:** Before you book this excursion, you must refer to the General Shore Excursion Information & Conditions, in particular the paragraph 'Activity & Water Based Excursions'. You must ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover this specified activity. It is your responsibility to obtain adequate insurance. Participants must be in good physical condition, not suffer from any back problems or conditions affected by cold water, and

must be competent swimmers. This tour is not suitable for guests prone to seasickness, with limited mobility or pregnant women. Flat shoes with rubber soles should be worn. Minimum age to participate is 12 years and each child must be accompanied by an adult. There is no shelter on board the RIB and you can expect to get wet. Comfortable layered clothing, weather proof gear, and non-slip shoes are essential. The vessel used is a rigid inflatable boat (RIB) and to ensure guest safety, everyone is supplied with a lifejacket which must be worn at all times. The ride can be bumpy and fast and participants must pay attention to, and follow, the RIB guide's instructions. Operation of this tour is subject to favourable weather conditions and wildlife sightings cannot be guaranteed. There are no restroom facilities on the RIB and we recommend that cameras are carried in a waterproof bag. Participants are required to embark the RIB with minimal help.



## A Walk Back in Time

Approx. 2 hours - Code 119004

The Isles of Scilly have a military heritage unmatched anywhere else in Britain, with layers of surviving defences from sod batteries built in the reign of Edward IV, to World War Pill Boxes and gun emplacements.

The most important of these is Star Castle, built in 1592/3 on top of a hill to protect St. Mary's Roads, an important ship anchorage which historically has seen as many as a thousand sailing vessels moored here at any one time. Queen Elizabeth I allocated £450 to build the granite castle following the Spanish Armada threat, which eventually cost £958 11 shillings and 2 pence – inflation being nothing new!

Originally named 'Stella Marie', or 'Star-of-the-Sea', due to its eight-pointed construction, this Elizabethan Castle and moat which is remarkably intact, well preserved and little changed over 420 years, once housed the senior officers of the Garrison. For some 60 years it was also an offshore 'Alcatraz' type prison, during which the English Civil Wars took place, even accommodating the Prince of Wales, the future King Charles II for seven weeks in 1646. It later became the headquarters of the Duchy of Cornwall's Land Steward for the Islands, and from 1932 to present day it has been a hotel.

This walking tour takes you from the quayside to part of the defensive wall and gate where you have a panoramic view of St. Mary's capital, Hugh Town. From here you progress to the 1640

Gunpowder Magazine where a splendid model of the entire fortified Garrison complex allows your guide to explain its history. A tour of the Castle battlements follows, with tales of prisoners and the resident 'Lady in Blue' ghost.

From the Castle you have magnificent, almost aerial views of the harbour, St. Mary's Roads and usually, your cruise ship at anchor. A 15-minute walk follows taking you to a vantage point overlooking the defensive wall, gun emplacements and Island of St. Agnes on the western side, with finally a panoramic coastal stroll down a cliff path to King Charles Battery with its various cannons. The tour ends where it began, at the Garrison Gate.

Guide details: Richard Larn OBE, who has lived on the islands for 17 years, is author of some 54 non-fiction books, a Cornish Bard, served in the Merchant Navy followed by 22 years in the Royal Navy, is President of IMASS (International Maritime Archaeological & Shipwreck Society) and a Trustee of St. Mary's Museum. When tour numbers exceed 20, Richard's wife Bridget, an experienced researcher and co-author of many of her husband's books accompanies the tour as 2nd guide.

**On foot. Min 10/Max 30.**

**Please note: This is a walking tour and flat, comfortable walking shoes are essential. Please ensure that you dress according to the weather on the day.**

# STORNOWAY, Outer Hebrides, Scotland





## Hebridean Highlights

Approx. 4 hours - Code 120001

This tour takes you around the stunningly beautiful Isle of Lewis, largest of the Hebridean Islands, made famous by Mendelssohn in his moving and melodious masterpiece, 'Hebridean Overture'. It is a wild, windy and totally unspoilt part of Scotland, where landscapes range from brilliant, golden sands to heather-backed mountains. The Island is the heartland of Gaelic culture with long-standing traditions and relics, where people's lives are still dominated by traditional pursuits like crofting, fishing and weaving. Visit some of the most important pre-historic sites in Scotland, as well as legacies of the earlier crofters.

After leaving Stornoway, you cross the typical peat moors of central Lewis with their boulders and hillocks to Arnol for a visit to the Black House Museum, housed in a cottage typical of the Islands. A peat fire burns in the centre of the floor, and there is no chimney (Please be aware that it will be smokey inside). These structures were warm, dry and quiet when the wind outside howled. The Museum gives a splendid example of how crofting families lived, with exhibits of implements and simple furnishings, until as recently as the Second World War.

Along the rugged coastline on Loch Carloway stands the exceptionally well preserved Carloway Broch, a 2,000 year old circular, dry-stone built, fortified tower. Visit the Broch which stands on a hillside overlooking the sea. Collapsing stonework has exposed the interior galleries and stairs which are clearly visible.

Continuing your circular itinerary along the west coast you arrive at the Callanish Standing Stones, rated as the most important in Britain after Stonehenge. These Stones dating from 1500 B.C., are laid out in the form of a cross with a circle in the centre, and were aligned with the sun and the stars to provide the seasonal cycle on which the early Neolithic farmers were so dependent. There are 47 stones remaining, the tallest of which is over 15ft (4.6m) high. It was not until 1857, when five feet of peat was dug away, that the original height and extent of the Stones was seen. During your visit here, you can walk around the field-like terrain for close up views of the Stones and great photo opportunities.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max varies.**

**Please note: To fully enjoy this tour, there is a total of approximately 2 hours of walking involved, however, this is at guests' discretion. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and the Standing Stones but it is on a steep uphill gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. At Carloway Broch there is also grassy and muddy terrain with slopes and stone paths with low arches to enter the Broch, although the visitor's centre, close to the coach park, is housed in a re-constructed Broch. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.**



## South Lewis & Harris

Approx. 5 hours - Code 12002

This tour takes you to picturesque South Lewis and over to Harris - a gentle landscape known around the world for its Harris Tweed, a hand-woven cloth made from pure new Scottish wool and dyed using natural colours from indigenous plants.

Leaving Stornoway, the capital of the Outer Hebrides, you travel southward skirting the fjord-like sea lochs of Loch Erisort and Loch Seaforth. The road then climbs steadily past the towns of Bowglass and Ardvourlie before navigating through a mountain pass which offers up excellent views of the rugged countryside. The views include the peak of Clisham, which at over 2,600ft (790m), is the highest mountain in the Outer Isles. Native wildlife may be spotted, including red deer, otters and golden eagles. There are also rocks here which have been discovered to be the oldest in the world. Powerful forces of ice and sea in the distant past have carved and polished a dramatic landscape of stark sea-cliffs, sweeping beaches and rugged heather uplands.

One of the most desirable wool textiles in the world, Harris Tweed, is produced in the Outer Hebrides and you will have the opportunity of visiting one of the small shops and adjacent tweed storehouse in the town of Tarbert. See how the product is woven and you will have the chance to purchase some lengths of tweed or small souvenir products. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in Tarbert, which overlooks Loch Tarbert and is the largest village on the Island.

Leaving Tarbert you pass through a dramatic lunar landscape of rocks dotted with tiny lochans as you descend towards the vast expanse of Luskentyre Bay. From here you head for Horgabost Beach where you will have some additional free time to enjoy the bleached white sand. This lovely setting which is framed by the turquoise sea, backed by steep dunes and set against the backdrop of the mountains to the north, is a wonderful place to relax and take some memorable photos. From this location, you can also view the beautiful, uninhabited island of Taransay, the setting for a hugely popular television programme, 'Castaway'. Following your stop at Horgabost Beach, you return to Stornoway.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max varies.**

**Please note: Most of the walking involved on this tour is at guests' own discretion during free time and at the various stops. The Harris Tweed shop is approximately 500m (1,600ft) from the coach. There are some inclines and steps to negotiate and sand at Horgabost Beach. As the weather can change throughout the day, it is recommended that guests dress in layers and wear flat, comfortable walking shoes. At the weaving demonstration in Tarbert, guests must be aware that the factory is not large in scale, and so space can be very restricted. There are public bathroom facilities in Tarbert, but coinage may be needed to use them. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.**





## Wonders of the Western Isles

Approx. 3¼ hours - Code 12003

The Isle of Lewis is shaped by the sea and harsh climate. Steeped in history, the Island has been inhabited for over 6,000 years with nothing but the sea between it and North America. On the exposed Atlantic coast of the Isle of Lewis the black house village of Gearranan lies steeped in history and sited in an environment of outstanding physical beauty. Since 1989 a local community trust has been painstakingly restoring the once derelict properties and croft land to recreate an authentic settlement. Traditional methods have been used to recreate the dry-stone masonry and thatched roofs of the original croft houses. A typical 'black-house' was a long rectangular building 40-50ft (14m) in length, with an interior width of 10-12ft (3.4m). All the corners in the outside walls were rounded, and great care was taken to ensure that the outer walls, which were of undressed stone, had a slight slant to allow the rain to drip off and not seep into the interior. The thatched roof was a fundamental characteristic of the black-house.

Your tour of the coastal crofting village gives you the opportunity to experience traditional rural activities and to learn about the rich history of the area. You will see how generations lived together, all entirely Gaelic speaking.

Beyond, is Loch Roag, an inlet of the Atlantic, and slightly to the north are the Standing Stones at Callanish. They form the most remarkable antiquity in the Western Isles, being exceeded in importance only by Stonehenge. It is a dramatic place, set in moor-land overlooking the loch and surrounded by hills. There is a well-marked megalithic avenue comprising 19 monoliths, ending in a circle of 13 stones, with rows of other stones fanning out, and forming probably remains of additional circles. During your visit here, you can walk around the field-like terrain for close up views of the Stones and there are also great photo opportunities. From here the tour turns inland again and crosses fairly desolate open moorland before reaching Stornoway.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: This tour involves approximately 1½ hours of total walking/standing over some rough and uneven terrain. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and Standing Stones but it is on a steep uphill gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. There are a few steps and uneven ground at the Museum. This itinerary may be reversed to avoid congestion at points of interest.**



## Great Bernera Trail

Approx. 4½ hours - Code 120004

Great Bernera, once a large Norse settlement, is an island lying on the north-west coast of Lewis. With less than 300 people living here, Great Bernera is a stunning, undisturbed area of natural beauty. The Island's serene landscape provides a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an extensive walk of the area. A one hour transfer by bus will take you to the Bernera Community Centre and Museum in Breacleit where you will begin your walk. Man-made structures stand side by side with the Islands natural environment, with footbridges in place allowing you to cross the beautiful loch Tob Bhalasaigh. The route takes you past an array of derelict houses and along the western coastline, with spectacular views of the ocean lapping against the shoreline. Great Bernera is famed for its lobster and as you continue your walk, you will pass an unassuming stone enclosure of water which is actually a lobster pool. Having followed the trail further, you will find some truly breath-taking views of the hills of Uig, a range of imposing inland mounds.

The walk will then take you over more difficult terrain, with boggy patches and steeper inclines. However, the hard work put into this part will pay off as a stretch of beautiful white sandy beach unfolds in front of you at the foot of the glen.

Here, you shall find a reconstruction of an Iron Age house. This house is based on real constructions that lie beneath the sand, re-covered for their own protection.

Notice the Time and Tide Bell, resting out at sea, which rings at high tides as part of an art project that is implemented across the whole of Britain. It is here that you will join your return path. Look out for the roadside memorial that commemorated the 1874 Bernera riots, before arriving back at the starting point where your mini-bus will be waiting to transfer you on an hour long journey to Stornoway.

**By mini-bus/on foot. Min 15/Max 15.**

**Please note: This is a strenuous walking tour involving approximately 2½ hours of walking over uneven ground. The pace is set by the Guide, but moderated according to the slowest walkers and so the distance covered may vary. With this in mind, not all highlights mentioned may be covered. The terrain is difficult in areas, with boggy patches and steep inclines around the beach. Sturdy, waterproof walking boots are essential. We recommend bringing a bottle of water with you and dress according to the weather. This tour will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. Wind and rain are not considered extreme.**



## Lews Castle Segway

Approx. 1½ hours - Code 120005

A relatively new mode of transport, Segway's provide a fun, easy and innovative way of exploring Lews Castle in all its glory. After a short transfer by car you will have a safety briefing, and collect your helmets, before you step aboard your Segway. This two-wheeled, self-balancing, battery-powered electric vehicle, controlled by shifting your weight forward and backward on the platform is definitely fun to try.

Enjoy the fresh air whilst controlling your own individual vehicle, designed to operate in a responsible, environmentally conscious way. Using your Segway you will be able to 'glide' around the historical grounds of Lews Castle, enjoying a variety of different paths and terrains. Once owned by Sir James Matheson, a Chinese opium trader, used as accommodation for air crew in World War II and also a place to house the students of Lews Castle College, this beautiful Victorian Castle has a fascinating history. Today, the Castle is owned by the Stornoway Trust who have restored this historical building to its former glory and created some wonderful trails around the grounds which ensure that all the best sights are seen.

By car/Segway. Min 4/Max 5.

Please note: This tour involves very little walking as it is conducted on Segways, but guests will be required to stand up for the duration of the tour. The Segway tour lasts approximately 1 hour. Helmets provided must be worn throughout the tour. Some areas of the trail are quite exposed so appropriate clothing for the weather conditions on the day is recommended. The minimum age to participate is 12, and any under 14's must be accompanied by an adult. Guests must be able to step onto and off the machine unaided and must be comfortable standing for a full hour. Weight limits are 7 stone (45kg) lower limit and 19st (117kg) upper limit. Before you book this excursion, you must refer to the General Shore Excursion Information & Conditions, in particular the paragraph 'Activity & Water Based Excursions'. You must also ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover this specified activity. On this excursion all participants are required to sign an additional waiver provided by the operator for the activity they are participating in.



## Seatrek RIB Adventure

Approx. 4 hours - Code 120006

Depart the pier for a scenic one hour drive across the Island to Miavaig Harbour. Upon arrival, after a safety briefing you will embark a Rigid Inflatable Boat for a fun-filled exploration of the stunning Uig coastline. Head out along the rocky shoreline and past the sweeping, one-mile-long (1.6-kilometre-long) Riof Beach en route to the Islands of Siaram and Pabbay Mor. The RIB will slow to explore the interior of some sea-caves before heading north to the natural arch at Geodha na Sgarbh. Finally, you enter Pabbay Lagoon, whose pristine beaches and aquamarine waters are reminiscent of the Caribbean. Be sure to keep an eye out for seals, basking sharks and possibly dolphins, as well as many seabirds including gannets, guillemots and razorbills.

Upon returning to Miavaig Harbour, relax with a dram of whiskey before re-boarding your coach for the return drive.

By coach/RIB/on foot. Min 10/Max 12.

Please note: This tour involves approximately 150 yards (137m) of walking, with a few steps to negotiate to get on/off the coach and a big step to embark and disembark the RIB. Lightweight, comfortable clothing, soft-soled or water shoes and sun protection are recommended. Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed. Operation of this tour is subject to weather conditions. Guests must be at least 21 years old to be served alcoholic beverages. Space on this tour is extremely limited. The RIB will travel at high speed during the tour which will mean bouncing on the water. Participants must be in good physical condition, not suffer from any back problems or conditions affected by cold water, and must be competent swimmers. This tour is not suitable for pregnant women, guests with limited mobility or those who utilise a wheelchair. There is no shelter on board the RIB and you can expect to get wet. All participants will be supplied with lifejackets. The RIB ride itself will last for approximately 1½ hours. Before you book this excursion, you must refer to the General Shore Excursion Information & Conditions, in particular the paragraph 'Activity & Water Based Excursions'. You must ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover this specified activity. It is your responsibility to obtain adequate insurance.

# TOBERMORY, Isle of Mull, Scotland



The West Coast of Scotland has some of the most beautiful and romantic island retreats in the world, and Mull is one of the best. Mountains rise from the sea to over 3,000ft (914m), there are deserted sandy beaches, old woodlands and fertile sheltered valleys where tender plants thrive and waterfalls tumble among mossy rocks. Enjoy a panoramic drive of Western Mull which encapsulates some of the finest scenery it has to offer.

Tobermory, the 'capital of Mull', was founded as a fishing village in 1789, on the site of an earlier Christian settlement and has one of the most sheltered harbours in Scotland, tucked behind a headland. The village clusters around a small bay, with terraced houses, colour-washed in reds, pinks, yellows and blues rising from the harbour up a steep wooded bank.

This panoramic tour starts by travelling west along a twisting single track road with hair-pin bends, towards Dervaig for a photo stop of this small picturesque village at the head of Loch

Chumhainn. You continue around the north west of Mull where there will be a photo stop at the very picturesque sandy beach of Calgary Bay, backed by low dunes and machair and thought by many to be the finest beach in Scotland. On a clear day you can enjoy views to the Islands of Tiree and Coll. From here your journey will continue through Acnagraig towards Aros Castle, a ruined 13th century Castle overlooking the Sound of Mull. Lying between the Isle of Mull and Scotland, the Sound forms part of the Atlantic Ocean. Your return to Tobermory will take you along the coastal route.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 60.**

**Please note: This is a panoramic coach tour with a few photo stops, traffic and time permitting. Owing to the limited transport capacity on the Island suitable to operate this excursion, early pre-registration is recommended. This tour involves very little walking, all of which is at guests' discretion at the photo stops. If a toilet stop at Calgary Bay is necessary, please be aware that the facilities here are very basic and are not attended to regularly.**

## **Tobermory Walk**

**Approx. 2½ hours - Code - 121003**

Tobermory was built as a fishing port in the late 18th century and is now the main village on Mull. It is a picture-postcard of a place with brightly painted buildings along the main street to the pier and the high woodland-fringed hills surrounding the bay. Tobermory was selected for the BBC's children's T.V. programme 'Balamory', because of its beautiful location, and its multi-coloured houses.

Your walk takes you through this picturesque village, passing Tobermory's first Power House and along Breadalbane Street - where many of the colourful houses featured in the programme are located. From there, you make your way to St. Mary's Well - an ancient holy well dedicated to the Virgin Mary from which the village name originates - Gaelic 'Tobar Mhoire' - meaning the well of Mary.

Continue along Argyll Terrace back towards the village. Along the way there will be the opportunity to stop and view many points of interest including the Parish Church and the granite obelisk war memorial, before heading towards the waterfront and along the picturesque promenade - past Tobermory's famous distillery - and back to the quayside.

**On foot. Min 15/Max 20.**

**Please note: This is a walking tour and it covers approximately 2½ miles (4km) with stops to admire views and points of interest. There is a steep gradient to climb out of the town at the start of the walk and there are several inclines, steps and cobblestones. The route taken may differ from that described. Part of the tour involves walking along roads with no footpaths. Walking shoes are essential and you should dress according to the weather. This tour will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions - wind and rain are not considered extreme. There are public restrooms in Tobermory if required.**



## Duart Castle

Approx. 3½ hours - Code 121005

Departing picturesque Tobermory, your journey heads southwards taking you virtually the entire length of the Island, providing fine views across the Sound of Mull to the Scottish mainland as your itinerary takes you along the narrow roads and through the mainly rural landscapes backed by ranges of hills and mountains. On a clear day, you may catch glimpses of the massive shape of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, as you look out across the east coast of Mull.

Passing through the small community of Craignure, an important ferry connecting point to the port of Oban on the mainland of Scotland's west coast, you will soon arrive at Duart Castle – a 13th century fortress and home of the 28th Chief of the Clan Maclean and his family. From the 13th to the 17th century, the Clan Maclean have lived at Duart Castle, controlling the sea lanes around Mull, in between fighting the MacDonalds and the Campbells as well as each other. The Castle was garrisoned by government forces following the Jacobite Rebellion of 1746, and razed to the ground when they left in 1756.

The Castle remained a ruin until 1911 when the 26th Chief of the Clan, Sir Fitzroy MacLean, commissioned architect John Burnett to restore the castle to its former glory.

You will have approximately 90-minutes to explore Duart, visiting the principal parts of the Castle including the state rooms and the dungeons in which prisoners from the Spanish Galleon Florencian, blown up in 1588, were incarcerated. For those prepared to climb the ancient worn steps, the turnpike stairs lead to the top of the 13th century keep, and a walkway around the battlements affords views as far as Ben Nevis to the north and the Isle of Jura to the south. After your visit you will return to the ship via the same coastal route.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 90.**

**Please note: The drive to Duart Castle is approximately 1 hour each way. Walking at the Castle is at guests' own discretion but is required for full enjoyment. There is uneven ground and several steps and staircases, some of which are spiral. The visit to the Castle is mainly unguided. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended**



## Leisurely Mull

Approx. 3½ hours – Code 121006

Your excursion will take you south from Tobermory along the coastal road which provides extensive views of the beautiful coastline and across the Sound of Mull to the mountains of Morvern. The road is narrow and on several stretches is single-track as it passes through agricultural areas with their small neat farms and grazing cattle. Through the small community of Craignure, an important ferry port connecting the Isle of Mull with Oban on Scotland's mainland, you arrive at Duart Castle for a photo stop. This 13th century fortress is home to the 28th Chief of the Clan Maclean's family and stands proudly on a cliff-top at the end of a peninsular guarding the Sound of Mull and boasting one of the most spectacular and unique positions on the west coast of Scotland.

Continue across the island towards the Kinloch crossroad through Glen More. The road becomes very narrow on the way to Salen. On a clear day, enjoy views overlooking Mull's neighbouring islands as you return to Tobermory.

**By coach/on foot. Min 35/Max 225.**

**Please note: Walking is at guests' discretion during the photo stops. The majority of time is spent on the coach. There are very few toilet stop opportunities during the tour.**





## GENERAL SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION & CONDITIONS

To enhance the enjoyment of your cruise, a programme of optional shore excursions have been designed to show you the highlights of each of the ports of call. The Shore Excursions team will be pleased to assist you with your choice of excursions to help make the most of your time ashore.

### Pre-Registration

You can pre-register your shore excursions online by going to;

[www.cruiseandmaritime.com/manage-my-cruise](http://www.cruiseandmaritime.com/manage-my-cruise).

It is strongly recommended that you use the pre- registration service as several of the excursions on offer may have limited capacity and all excursions are subject to availability. Please note Shore Excursions cannot be pre- registered over the telephone.

### How to book on board

Just complete and sign the booking form with your excursion selections and hand it in at the Shore Excursions Desk.

### Suite Benefits

Astor – Astor Suite

Astoria – De Luxe Balcony Suites & Owners Suite

Magellan – Royal Suite

Marco Polo – De Luxe Suite

Guests booked in the Suites named above are entitled to confirmed shore excursions pre-registrations for tours with a minimum of 40. However, pre-registration for excursions must be received 5 days prior to sailing to qualify for this benefit.

### Payment

Pre-registered excursions are automatically debited to your shipboard account. For any bookings made whilst on board, the Shore Excursions team will ask you to sign in agreement that the amount to be charged is correct and will then issue your tickets accordingly.

### Excursion Prices

The shore excursion prices include transport, guides, meals and entrance fees according to the published description. Child prices apply to children aged between 3 and 12 inclusively. Children aged 13 years and above will require adult tickets. Infants under the age of 3 can travel on the excursion free of charge, as long as they do not occupy a seat and it is not a flight or overnight excursion. Please note that all minors (under 18 years) must be accompanied by an adult on shore excursions.

### Cancellations

In the event of an excursion being cancelled, prior to operating, for reasons beyond our control, a full refund will be credited to your shipboard account.

**Pre-registered excursions** - Alterations to pre-registered excursions, including cancellation, can only be accepted up until close of business 5 days before sailing. After this all pre-registered excursions will be considered as confirmed as pre-registered figures are sent to the ship and agents before sailing.

**Confirmed bookings** - From sailing day, until bookings close, a cancellation fee of 20% will be charged on any confirmed excursion cancelled by guests for any reason other than certified medical conditions. After bookings have closed the cancellation fee is 100%, unless the cancellation is for medical reasons duly certified by the Ship's Doctor.

## Minimum requirements

All excursions are subject to a minimum number of guests participating. If this minimum is not achieved the Shore Excursion team will advise guests and a refund will be applied to your on board account.

## Excursion timings

Durations and departure times are approximate and the final excursion departure times will be confirmed on board. Following the ship's arrival in a port of call the relevant local authorities must complete various formalities in order to clear the vessel and give permission for guests to be allowed to disembark. The time this procedure can take varies from port to port and excursions may only commence once these clearance formalities have been completed. Please consult the daily programme which will advise you of the designated meeting time for the departure of the excursion. Members of staff will direct guests and request that you have the excursion ticket available to hand to the guide or driver as you board your coach. When choosing multiple shore excursions in a port, it is recommended that you leave at least one hour between an excursion returning and another departing.

## Choosing the right excursion

The organised excursions are designed to be a pleasurable experience and an enhancement of your cruise. Therefore it is recommended, before you book an excursion, that you consider the physical requirements of that particular excursion, such as the amount of walking involved, to ensure that it is right for you. Please be aware that some archaeological sites, palaces, temples, museums and old city quarters can sometimes only be reached by walking on uneven paths or lots of steps, which could prove to be very difficult for those with limited mobility. The Shore Excursions team will be pleased to assist you with any further information that you may require about individual excursions.

## Transport

Depending on the part of the world that you are visiting, the standard of transportation used for excursions may vary considerably. Please bear in mind that coaches may not be air-conditioned and accessibility may be challenging for some guests. In some ports, particularly in the more remote countries, local buses, taxis, minibuses, jeeps and even open trucks may be used where coach availability is limited or non-existent. The notes in the excursion description should indicate if this is known in advance, but the Shore Excursions team on board will be able to provide additional information.

## Whilst ashore

Shore Excursions will operate in all weathers unless the Shore Excursion Manager is advised by the local agent that it is inappropriate or unsafe to do so.

In general it is recommended that you wear appropriate clothing and, if necessary, weatherproof coats or jackets. Footwear should be sturdy, flat and comfortable as some walking will be necessary to gain full enjoyment from the excursion programme. When you visit churches and other religious sites, please bear in mind that conservative dress will be required.

Please always take your cruise card with you and it is also prudent to have a photocopy of your passport. Leave on board jewellery, valuables and other personal documents, and take only as much cash as you need for the excursion. You may find it beneficial on excursions to take with you a bottle of water, suntan lotion and insect repellent.

## Excursion descriptions

These are deemed to be correct at the time of printing but the planned content of excursions is subject to change. It should be noted that some of the listed attractions in an excursion may be viewed in a different order to avoid possible congestion. The term 'visit' in a description implies an inside visit to a building, monument or attraction, whereas when the term 'see' is used in a description, it indicates an external view only. If not mentioned specifically in the excursion description, there is no time reserved for shopping.

## Photography

Prior to taking any pictures in churches, museums or palaces etc. please check with the guide that there is no restriction on photography or video filming in that location. In some ports of call special camera and video permits may need to be purchased in advance but full information will be given on board during the relevant cruises.

## Activity & water based excursions

You and all those in your party should be aware that some of the excursions offered may involve some degree of physical exertion and/or activity such as hiking, snorkelling, snow-mobiling, swimming, kayaking etc. When booking this type of excursion you are confirming that you and all those in your party are in good physical condition and for example only, have no history of conditions such as seizures, heart conditions, respiratory problems, dizziness or fainting. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit and well enough to take part in the activities booked and you are reminded to take care for your safety at all times. There is a possibility you may be asked by the shore excursion provider to sign a document which may limit the excursion provider's liability. It is important that your holiday insurance covers you for the type of activity you are participating in.

For any excursion which involves water you are advised to exercise care. Alcohol and eating a full meal should be avoided before swimming. If buoyancy aids are provided, they must be worn. Please bear in mind that the sea and swells can be unpredictable and lifeguards are unlikely to be present at all beaches/venues visited. All activities on the beach and in the sea are undertaken at your own risk.

## Excursion escorts

In addition to a local guide, where possible a ship's escort will accompany each excursion but we are unable to guarantee that every coach or group will have its own escort from the ship. These staff members fulfil the excursion duties around their own work schedules and occasionally rehearsals or emergency drills being called may prevent participation at short notice.

## Smoking

For the comfort of all guests, smoking is not permitted aboard the excursion coaches/vessels.

## Important notes

For the safety and assurance of guests, all the excursions are operated under the management of responsible and experienced local ground handling agencies, which hold the appropriate insurance cover to offer such services. Only the authorised Shore Excursion team on board are permitted to arrange or accept payment for such excursions or act as Excursion Agents during the cruise. **It is essential that before booking any shore excursion, you ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover the specified activity you will be participating in. This may necessitate an extra premium.**

Your contract for shore excursions is separate and distinct from your contract for your cruise services, or your passenger ticket. Cruise and Maritime Voyages Ltd act as agents for Global Cruise Lines in the sale and provision of all shore excursions. For all shore excursion arrangements, your contract will be with Global Cruise Lines.

This information represents the shore excursion plans and intentions at the time of printing. Subsequent events may unfortunately result in an unavoidable change to plans, which could affect the published itineraries and/or fares. In the event of such changes or alterations, wherever possible you will be advised and thus all shore excursion information must be considered as subject to alteration.

## Independent shore leave

Once the vessel has been cleared, shore excursion participants on early departures will be called to disembark first and then you can go ashore on your own as well, as long as it is not forbidden due to visa requirements; or where the ship has only a very limited layover time in ports when a technical call is scheduled to disembark or embark shore excursion guests only. If you go ashore independently it is at your own risk.

It is not possible to guarantee that there will be an adequate amount of taxis available in each port of call. On some occasions, a chargeable transfer bus service from the port to the respective city centre may be organised and full information will be given on board in such instances.

Please note that you have to return on board 30 minutes prior to the planned departure of the vessel. The ship cannot wait for guests who go ashore independently and return late. Organised shore excursions offer the safest and best way to explore each city during each call.

