

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

From **17/6/2022**
to **23/6/2022**

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

From **Glasgow, Scotland**
to **Fairlie (Glasgow), Scotland**



In alliance with Smithsonian Journeys.

This cruise is part of a collection of PONANT voyages that are specially-tailored for English-speaking travelers 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 PONANT aboard *Le Dumont-d'Urville* for a **7-day cruise** on an exceptional itinerary to discover the rich cultural history and stunning landscapes of the **Celtic lands**.

Begin your voyage in **Glasgow**, Scotland's warm cultural capital with a rich artistic and architectural heritage.

Your ship will sail first to **Kyle of Lochalsh**, gateway to the Isle of Skye. Not to be missed is **Eilean Donan**, one of the most recognizable castles in the world and an iconic symbol of Scotland. You may recognize the castle as the Scottish headquarters of MI6 in the James Bond film, *The World is Not Enough*.

Continue along the Hebrides archipelago and call at **Tobermory**, a charming fishing port on the Isle of Mull with multi-coloured houses and whose distillery produces a renowned single malt scotch whiskey. Lose yourself in the local lore of **Duart Castle** before proceeding to a mystical **abbey** on the Isle of **Iona**, home to the first Christian settlement in Scotland.

Le Dumont-d'Urville then sails for **Belfast**, Northern Ireland's dynamic capital and gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage listed **Giant's Causeway**, whose 40,000 iconic basalt columns resulted from a volcanic eruption some six million years ago.

Your ship sails next towards **Dublin**, the vibrant capital of Ireland and a UNESCO City of Literature, where Trinity College holds the legendary and

important **Book of Kells**. Dublin is also home to **Guinness**, whose brewery has been pouring the world-famous stout for over 250 years.

End your voyage in the quaint seaport of **Holyhead**, Wales. From here, a drive across the Isle of Anglesey brings you to the mainland and to the medieval **Caernarfon Castle**, which together with three other northern Welsh castles built by King Edward I are recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Your cruise comes full circle as you disembark in **Fairlie**, a quaint village outside Glasgow.



The information in this document is valid as of 7/7/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Embarkation 17/6/2022 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Departure 17/6/2022 at 5:30 pm

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.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH, SCOTLAND

Arrival 18/6/2022 early afternoon

Departure 18/6/2022 late evening

Kyle of Lochalsh ("Straits of the Alsh Inlet") is a small port town at the foot of the bridge connecting the mainland to the **Isle of Skye**. It is set amidst extraordinary natural beauty and serves as a gateway to the Scottish Highlands and to several castles that preserve the history and traditions of the clans who once ruled here. **Eilean Donan Castle**, on a tiny island overlooking the confluence of three lochs, is one of the most picturesque and most-filmed castles in Scotland . **Armadale Castle and Gardens**, historic residence of Clan Donald, is also within easy reach of the town.

TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL

Arrival 19/6/2022 early morning

Departure 19/6/2022 late morning

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 the local history and the exhibitions at the An Tobar art gallery.

IONA, HEBRIDES

Arrival 19/6/2022 early afternoon

Departure 19/6/2022 early evening

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.

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Arrival 20/6/2022 early morning

Departure 20/6/2022 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 none 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.

DUBLIN

Arrival 21/6/2022 early morning

Departure 21/6/2022 late evening

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.

HOLYHEAD, WALES

Arrival 22/6/2022 early morning

Departure 22/6/2022 midday

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**.

FAIRLIE (GLASGOW), SCOTLAND

Arrival 23/6/2022 early morning

Disembarkation 23/6/2022 at 7:00 am

The village of **Fairlie** can be found less than an hour away from lively **Glasgow**. In the north of **Ayrshire county**, on the western Scottish coast, this charming little town faces the **Isle of Arran**. The originality of **Kelburn Castle**, built in the 12th century, stems from its façade covered in graffiti by four famous Brazilian graffiti artists. This artistic statement as well as the castle's estate and gardens, which can be discovered during a pleasant walk, are well worth a visit.