

Overseas Adventure Travel[®]

THE LEADER IN PERSONALIZED SMALL GROUP ADVENTURES SINCE 1978

Your O.A.T. Adventure Travel Planning Guide[®]



New! Maritime Jewels of the British Isles: England,
Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland

2025

Overseas Adventure Travel®

347 Congress Street, Boston, MA 02210

Dear Traveler,

I am thrilled that you are considering exploring the world with O.A.T. There are so many wonderful destinations to discover, and the itinerary described inside is a perfect way to fulfill a travel dream.

When you join us, you will enjoy the thrill of off-the-beaten-path discovery coupled with the convenience of unpacking just once. Aboard our privately owned small ship, you will visit lesser-known ports that larger vessels cannot access—and enjoy intimate interactions with local people in your small group of no more than 25 travelers. You will get to know community leaders and try your hand at local trades during your *A Day in the Life* experience, share traditional fare and lively conversation during a Home-Hosted Visit, discuss the Controversial Topics impacting everyday life, and visit sites supported by Grand Circle Foundation.

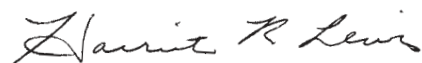
But your personal connections are not limited to your time on land—while onboard, you will enjoy the warm hospitality provided by our friendly, English-speaking crew, as well as the camaraderie of your fellow American travelers. Whether you travel with a partner, sister, friend, or independently, you will feel welcomed and included throughout your journey. And if you do choose to travel solo, you will enjoy an unmatched value, with our FREE or low-cost Single Supplements—just one of the reasons we continue to be the leader in solo travel.

To ensure you experience the true culture and feel supported every step of the way, we provide the services of a local Trip Experience Leader from the beginning of your adventure to the end. Along with introducing you to the history and culture of their homeland, these friendly experts will gladly help you out with any special requests to make your trip even more special. You can also rely on the seasoned team at our regional office, who are ready to help 24/7 in case any unexpected circumstances arise.

Plus, you can put your own personal stamp on your trip, like the, like the **87% of our travelers who personalize their experience**. Perhaps you will choose to see more of your destination by adding an optional trip extension to your itinerary. You can also arrive a few days early to explore independently and get acclimated, customize your air itinerary, and more.

I hope you find this Travel Planning Guide helpful. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to contact one of our Travel Counselors at **1-800-955-1925**.

Warm regards,



Harriet R. Lewis
Chair
Overseas Adventure Travel

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London, England

Maritime Jewels of the British Isles: England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland Small Ship Adventure

England: Oxford, Bristol, Lake District | **Wales:** Fishguard, Holyhead | **Isle of Man** | **Northern Ireland:** Belfast | **Scotland:** Isle of Mull, Isle of Lewis, Orkney Isles, Aberdeen

Small groups of no more than 25 travelers, guaranteed

15 days starting from \$9,295

including international airfare

Single Supplement: **\$1,495**

For departure dates & prices, visit www.oattravel.com/cre2025pricing

Explore Great Britain's distinct cultures, colorful histories, and natural splendors with 10 nights aboard the privately owned **98-passenger M/V *Corinthian*** small ship. Cruise to the remote ports that larger ships can't reach, and discover the Isle of Man, Welsh villages, mighty castles, and storied Belfast. In Scotland, sail from the Hebrides to the far-flung Orkney archipelago where you'll meet a local family, then onward to Aberdeen.

IT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights accommodation, including 10 nights aboard our privately owned 98-passenger M/V *Corinthian*
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges, unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- 35 meals: 13 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 12 dinners—including 1 Home-Hosted Lunch—plus all onboard house beer, wine, and soft drinks
- 20 guided tours and cultural experiences
- Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- All port charges
- Baggage handling for 1 piece of luggage per person, including tips
- 5% Frequent Traveler Credit toward your next trip

Prices are accurate as of the date of this publishing and are subject to change.

Maritime Jewels of the British Isles: England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland



ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAYS	DESTINATION
1	Depart U.S.
2-3	Oxford, England
4	Bristol • Embark ship
5	Wales
6	Isle of Man
7	Lake District
8-9	Northern Ireland
10-13	Coastal Scotland
14	Aberdeen • Disembark ship
15	Return to U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ Moderately Easy

Pacing: 14 days, with 10 nights aboard the M/V *Corinthian*, one two-night hotel stay in Oxford, and one overnight hotel stay in Aberdeen

Physical Requirements: Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 2 hours of physical activities each day, including the boarding of Zodiacs or tenders and possible rough seas

Flight time: Travel time will be 6-18 hours and most likely won't have connections

View all physical requirements at www.oattravel.com/cre

THE BRITISH ISLES & IRELAND: THE O.A.T. DIFFERENCE

Unbeatable Value: Travel at the lowest price and per diems in the industry.

People-to-People Experiences: Meet a local family in the Orkney Islands, for a personal introduction to daily life in this tightly knit, remote island community. Plus, meet with a relative of a prisoner of war (POW) at the islands' World War II Italian Chapel to hear their story.

O.A.T. Exclusives: Join conversations about **Controversial Topics** and confront uncomfortable truths facing the region: Explore Belfast via taxi, driven by locals who lived through The Troubles; then meet an ex-British soldier and ex-political prisoners who fought on opposite sides of the fighting to learn about the dark shadow cast by this conflict, and their shared hopes for the future.

PERSONALIZE YOUR ADVENTURE

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Ireland's Celtic Coast: Dublin, Wexford & Cork

PRE-TRIP: 7 nights from **\$2,295**

Scotland & England: St. Andrews, Edinburgh & York

POST-TRIP: 7 nights from **\$2,195**

ARRIVE EARLY

We recommend that you relax after a long flight or explore more in depth before your trip. Prices shown include accommodations and private airport transfer.

- Arrive early in **Dublin** before your Celtic Coast pre-trip extension from **\$410** per room, per night
- Arrive early in **Oxford** before your main adventure from **\$350** per room, per night

Maritime Jewels of the British Isles: England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland

YOUR DETAILED ITINERARY

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

7 nights in *Ireland's Celtic Coast: Dublin, Wexford & Cork*

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Day 2 Arrive Dublin, Ireland

Day 3 Explore Dublin

Day 4 Dublin • Visit Glendalough • Avoca Handweavers • Wexford

Day 5 Explore Kilkenny

Day 6 Wexford • Visit Waterford Crystal factory • Cork

Day 7 Cork • Visit Blarney Castle • **Home-Hosted Lunch**

Day 8 Cork • Fly to London • Oxford

Day 9 Oxford • Join main trip

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Evening: Depart today on your overnight flight from the U.S. to London, England.

Day 2 London, England • Overland to Oxford

- Destination: Oxford
- Accommodations: Hotel in Oxford

Morning: You'll arrive in London, where an O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to your hotel in Oxford.

At our hotel, we'll meet our Trip Experience Leader, as well as travelers who choose to begin their adventure early in Oxford, and those who took our optional *Ireland's Celtic Coast: Dublin, Wexford & Cork* pre-trip extension, then receive our room assignments and settle

in. Throughout the day, our Trip Experience Leader will lead travelers on orientation walks of the neighborhood surrounding our hotel as they arrive.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with recommendations.

Afternoon: The remainder of the day is free to make your own discoveries. Perhaps you'll stroll the cobbled streets of this historic city or rub elbows with some of its residents at a local pub.

Dinner: On your own—perhaps you'll try one of Britain's signature savory pies, such as a classic shepherd's pie or a hearty venison and wild mushroom pie.

Evening: You're free to relax at the hotel after your flight or explore the area we're staying in.

Day 3 Explore Oxford

- Destination: Oxford
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Oxford

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll join a local guide for a walking tour of Oxford, the famous university town dominated by its eponymous University, whose more than 38 colleges and buildings spread throughout the city. The legendary colleges have been seats of learning for a long line of notable figures, including Oscar Wilde and Jonathan Swift. And more recently, several buildings served as settings for the *Harry Potter* films and the *Inspector Morse* television series.

Alongside your Trip Experience Leader, we'll transport ourselves into the medieval splendor of Oxford, strolling its cobbled streets and marveling at the golden-hued ensemble of colleges and Gothic chapels.

Lunch: On your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for suggestions. Perhaps you'll get cozy in an old pub where you may strike up a conversation with local university students or professors.

Afternoon: Free for your own discoveries—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations. Perhaps you'll stroll along the river, or explore more architectural wonders, such as the domed Radcliffe Camera.

Our small group will reconvene with our Trip Experience Leader before dinner for a short Welcome Briefing.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You'll have the remainder of the evening to continue making independent discoveries. Perhaps you'll retire to your room or grab a drink at a local pub.

Day 4 Overland to Bristol • Cotswold village • Embark ship

- Destination: Bristol
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Check out of your hotel and begin driving to Bristol, where our ship will be waiting. Along the way, we'll stop to visit a picturesque Cotswold village and wander independently. As you stroll through the village, you may feel like you've stepped into a storybook fairytale. Many of these villages have quaint, honey-colored cottages lining their narrow lanes and verdant rolling hills that breathe charm and beauty into these remote destinations.

Then, we continue to Bristol, where we'll embark the 98-passenger M/V *Corinthian*, our privately-owned small ship which will be your home for the duration of your British Isles cruise. The *Corinthian* is staffed by a friendly, English-speaking crew who will welcome you aboard and show you to your room.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: After lunch, you'll have a few hours to settle in, unpack, and acquaint yourself with the ship's amenities, or you may head out to see the sights of Bristol.

Just before dinner, the ship sets sail for Fishguard, Wales. As you sail, join your fellow travelers, captain, and crew for a ship safety briefing, then get to know your new shipmates a little better over a short Captain's Welcome Party. Then, join your small group in the lounge for the first in a series of nightly Port Talks. These informative conversations, led by your Trip Experience Leader, will give you an overview of the following day's itinerary and

prepare you for the destination ahead. Tonight, you'll learn about Fishguard, where you'll dock tomorrow.

Dinner: Enjoy a Captain's Welcome Dinner onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 5 Explore Fishguard, Wales • Home-Hosted Lunch • St. Davids

- Destination: Fishguard
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: *M/V Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We'll drive to Fishguard and meet our local guide, where our included discoveries begin with a visit to the Town Hall where you'll view a 100-foot tapestry that depicts an incursion in 1797 that lasted only two days. The tale of the short-lived occupation is told on the tapestry that was created for the 200th anniversary by a team of 77 local women, who used 97 colors and sewed for two years to create the piece.

After our tour, you'll have a little time to explore the town on your own—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations. Then, we'll break into even smaller groups and drive to the homes of a local families for lunch.

Lunch: Join a local family in their home for a **Home-Hosted Lunch**. Savor a traditional meal and discuss daily life in Fishguard with your hosts.

Afternoon: We'll say goodbye to our gracious hosts and return to our ship. Later, we'll drive to Wales's ecclesiastical capital, St. Davids. Here, you'll visit the medieval cathedral named

after the country's patron saint with a local guide before making your own independent discoveries. Saint David, a Welsh bishop, established a monastery in the sixth century on the site of today's cathedral. Churches at the time were one of the wealthier institutions in the British Isles, making them more susceptible to attacks. As Viking invaders flooded the region, the cathedral fell prey to attacks from the seventh century until the eleventh century. It wasn't until 1181 when construction of the current cathedral began. We'll drive back to the ship after our tour.

Before dinner, our small group will enjoy a Port Talk led by your Trip Experience Leader about tomorrow's destination, Holyhead.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: We set sail for Holyhead this evening, and you have the freedom to spend the rest of your night as you wish.

Day 6 Holyhead • Explore Caernarfon Castle • Visit Welsh sheep farm

- Destination: Holyhead
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: *M/V Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We arrive at Holy Island and dock in Holyhead, a seaport that has linked Wales and Ireland for 4,000 years.

We'll travel overland to Caernarfon Castle, which sits on the strait that divides the mainland of Wales from the island of Anglesey. King Edward I built Caernarfon here to control coastal supply routes to the coast, as well as access to the agriculturally rich Anglesey. As we explore the castle on a guided tour, marvel at its massive construction and imposing polygonal towers, of which 17th-century travel writer John Taylor wrote, "if [the castle] be

well manned, victualled, and ammunitioned, it is invincible.” This impressive setting is where His Royal Highness Prince Charles was invested in 1969.

After exploring the castle, we’ll have some free time in town before lunch.

Lunch: Included at a local pub, for a taste of traditional Welsh fare.

Afternoon: Learn about an aspect of modern Welsh life this afternoon during an included visit to a local sheep farm. We’ll learn about the role that sheep herding still plays in local rural life, and see a few members of the farmer’s flock before returning to the ship later this afternoon. Meet your Trip Experience Leader for a Port Talk about the Isle of Man, tomorrow’s destination, before dinner.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: The night is yours to spend as you please as we make our way toward the Isle of Man.

Day 7 Explore the Isle of Man

- Destination: Isle of Man
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Depart on a tour of the Isle of Man. While officially a British protectorate, this tiny island between Ireland and England is not legally part of the United Kingdom. In fact, the island’s independent parliamentary government has been operating uninterrupted since AD 979, making it the oldest continuously governing body in the world.

Primeval politics aren’t the only holdover from the island’s past: Evidence of the Isle of Man’s earliest inhabitants is peppered throughout. We’ll learn more about the island’s history

on our guided tour, which includes a visit to the Leece Museum in the town of Peel, whose exhibits tell the story of the region, from its early days as a 19th century ship-building center, to its role in the World Wars.

We’ll learn more about the latter subject in depth when we visit Knockaloe, a World War I prison camp which housed around 23,000 prisoners and 3,000 guards between 1914 and 1919. The camp was designed to confine both enemy prisoners of war as well as “enemy aliens” — Britons determined by the crown to be a threat to national security who needed to be set aside for the duration of the war. Today, the camp functions as a museum, dedicated to telling the stories of those who spent their lives here during those chaotic years.

Afterwards, we’ll board a steam train bound for Douglas, the capital of the Isle of Man.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: We’ll meet our ship in Douglas in the mid-afternoon, and you can enjoy free time to make your own discoveries—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations. Perhaps you’ll soak up the sights and sounds of Douglas at Marine Drive where you may spot seals lounging on the rocks and dolphins swimming in the water. Or you may discover the Tower of Refuge, a stone structure evocative of a castle from the Middle Ages. Located on a submerged reef, this site was erected in the early 19th century and was used by sailors whose ships had been damaged or sunk.

Then, your Trip Experience Leader will lead a Port Talk about Belfast.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you’ll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 8 Explore Belfast, Northern Ireland

• Taxi tour with local Belfast drivers •

Controversial Topic: The violence of The Troubles with locals who fought on opposite sides

- Destination: Belfast
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: *M/V Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We'll dock this morning in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. Belfast was an infamous center of conflict during The Troubles, and has a long history and lasting legacies that predate these turbulent times. The countryside surrounding the city inspired stories like the Chronicles of Narnia and Gulliver's Travels. The city itself, as an industrial center in the 19th century, was a hub of Ireland's booming linen industry and is the birthplace of the Titanic—which was designed, built, and launched in Belfast.

Today, we'll get to explore the city like a local: in Belfast's famous taxis. During the height of The Troubles in the 1970s, public buses stopped serving West Belfast's Catholic neighborhoods, and these iconic taxis stepped up to offer their services.

Today's taxis are driven by Catholics and Protestants alike, and in smaller groups, we'll get a very personal view of the city through our drivers' eyes. They'll share their perspectives on the city's historic political turmoil and religious divides, as well as their views on how old controversies cast a shadow over Belfast today. As long-term residents of the neighborhoods you'll be exploring, your driver will be able to offer a personal perspective of this dangerous period of Belfast's history, when a wrong turn might have taken you across the dividing line between the Catholic and

Protestant section of the city, putting drivers and passengers at risk of physical abuse or even death.

Our taxi drivers will take us by the boundary between West Belfast's Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods, where murals on each side depict contrasting sentiments about the deep-rooted conflict. We'll stop to see famous murals—such as the Irish Language Mural, the Tribute to Frederick Douglass, and the Nelson Mandela Mural—and our driver will help to explain each one's significance. You'll also have the opportunity to make your mark on a peace wall—one of the still-standing barricades that physically separates the city, now adorned with messages of hope and peace from locals and visitors alike.

Because your driver grew up in Belfast, they will be able to offer a deeply personal perspective on the murals you will see—depending on whether they are Catholic or Protestant, they will have their own recollection of Belfast's history, so be sure to ask questions, and to compare your experience with your fellow travelers once you have a chance to rejoin your group.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: Following lunch onboard, you have the remainder of the afternoon to explore Belfast on your own. You may choose to visit Titanic Belfast, a memorial to the famed ship and museum chronicling Belfast's maritime heritage, or pay a visit to the Crumlin Road Jail. Maybe you'll stroll through the regal campus at Queen's University. Or, you could always choose to enjoy a pint of the famous Guinness in one of the city's pubs, mingling with locals and listening to traditional music.

Later, we will have a chance to hear about a Controversial Topic during a conversation onboard with three individuals who fought in The Troubles—on opposing sides. We'll meet

two ex-political prisoners—a Republican who fought for Irish independence, and a loyalist who fought with the UVF—as well as an ex-British army serviceman. During the violence of The Troubles it would have been inconceivable to gather men such as these in the same room; today, they have put aside their differences and will share their stories about the dark deeds they took part in during the fighting; their experiences while incarcerated; and their shared hopes for a better future.

While the violence may be over, modern Belfast is still a divided city, and the road to harmony is a long one. Belfast's religious population is roughly equally split, with 48% hailing from a Protestant background, and 45% raised Catholic. To this day, the two factions live in entirely segregated neighborhoods, divided physically by “peace lines”—walled barriers that separate the two sections of the city which are sealed off by locked gates each night. While the brightly colored murals along the walls illustrate the city's hope for peace and reconciliation, the fact that the walls still stand demonstrate the progress that still needs to be made.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: Enjoy some local entertainment this evening as a team of Irish folk singers comes aboard to treat us to a few tunes.

Day 9 Drive along the Antrim Coast • Visit Bushmills Distillery • Explore the Giant's Causeway

- Destination: Belfast
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We'll enjoy a scenic drive through the glens of the Antrim Coast with a local guide, taking in the diverse landscapes that include

glacial valleys, grassy cliffs, dense woods, and quaint villages. Along the way, we'll stop in the village of Carnlough to stretch our legs before continuing our drive.

Next, we'll make another stop at the nearby Old Bushmills Distillery. Granted permission to make spirits in 1608, this is the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world. Here, we'll have the opportunity to taste a few varieties and see how the art of making Irish whiskey has evolved over the past 400 years.

Lunch: We'll stop at a local restaurant for an included lunch as we resume our journey to the Giant's Causeway.

Afternoon: Arrive at the Giant's Causeway early in the afternoon and begin exploring this natural wonder with a local guide. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, the Giant's Causeway is an unforgettable landscape formed by volcanic eruptions dating back millions of years. Here, hexagonal basalt columns line the coast, forming natural stairs leading from igneous rock cliffs into the sea.

After discovering the Causeway, we'll return to our ship in Belfast. If you'd like to continue exploring Belfast independently, your Trip Experience Leader can help arrange for you to be dropped off in the city.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. We'll sail toward the Isle of Mull overnight.

Day 10 Isle of Mull, Scotland • Creamery visit • Explore Tobermory • Gaelic choir performance

- Destination: Isle of Mull
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Today we'll discover Tobermory, the capital of the Isle of Mull in the Scottish Inner Hebrides. This picturesque fishing port features brightly painted houses surrounding its quiet harbor.

First, we'll get a taste of island life when we visit a local family-owned creamery for a look at how cheese and other dairy products are made. We'll talk to the family owners to learn about the diverse range of products they offer, and hear about how they've transitioned their business to be almost entirely self-sufficient—even basic utilities like heat and electricity are provided on-site by self-made means.

We'll then take a short drive back to Tobermory, where we'll have time to explore independently before lunch.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: This afternoon, we'll discover Tobermory itself on a short walking tour with a local guide. We'll learn about the town's history, which reportedly involves a dramatic incident in which a treasure-laden Spanish Galleon exploded in the town's harbor in 1588, scattering its gold into the deep below—very little of which has been found today. As you explore the town, you may also want to keep your eyes to the sky—the region is home to the rare golden and white-tailed eagles—elusive sights for any bird watcher.

Then, you're free to discover more of Tobermory on your own. You may want to explore the Mull Museum, which documents many parts of the island's life and its history. Or, you can mingle with some of the locals as you enjoy a pint at one of the traditional pubs that line the main street.

We'll then enjoy our evening Port Talk about the Isle of Lewis before dinner.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: After dinner onboard, a Gaelic choir will join us on the ship to perform some traditional Gaelic songs.

Day 11 Explore the Isle of Lewis

- Destination: Isle of Lewis
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: We'll arrive in Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis, first settled by the Vikings as a sea trade port. With its lighthouse and fishing harbor, Stornoway has kept its maritime character ever since. Here, we'll discover the island's rich past with a visit to the 5,000 year-old Callanish Stones, an ancient standing stone circle roughly shaped like a Celtic Cross.

Our discoveries continue in Gaerannan Blackhouse Village, which showcases the traditional thatched houses found on the Isle of Lewis. Originally built in 1880, these houses have since been refurbished to preserve the island's heritage and way of life for its residents. During our visit, we'll also be treated to a performance of the melodeon, an accordion-style instrument used by the locals to play traditional music.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: You'll have some time for independent exploration this afternoon, or perhaps you'll choose to join your Trip Experience Leader for an elective discovery walk of Stornoway.

Late this afternoon, we'll be treated to a performance onboard by a group of Highland Scottish Dancers, who will be joined by their families. Once the performance has ended, we will have a chance to interact with the dancers and their families and ask any questions we may have.

We'll then enjoy our evening Port Talk on the Orkney Isles before dinner.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish as we set off for the Orkney Isles.

Day 12 Explore the Orkney Isles • Visit Skara Brae, West Mainland Orkney

- Destination: Orkney Isles
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: Arrive in the Orkneys, an archipelago in northern Scotland, and go ashore for an included tour. We'll begin the day's discoveries at the World War II Italian Chapel, where we'll learn about the humbling story of how the structure came to be. Here, enjoy a special opportunity to speak with the relative of a POW to hear their story.

We'll then drive across the Churchill Barriers, manmade causeways created during World War II to protect the British Navy's fleet at Scapa Flow. As we cross them, we'll learn more about their history and construction.

We'll continue our explorations in the town of Kirkwall. The capital of Orkney, this ancient city dates back to the eleventh century when the Norse first christened it Kirkjuvagr, meaning "The Church of the Bay." Today, it's a vibrant port with the charm of a small town and the abundant shopping and restaurant options of a city. During our tour, we'll visit St Magnus Cathedral, which began construction in 1137, and was added to over the next 300 years.

Lunch: Onboard the ship.

Afternoon: We'll drive to West Mainland Orkney, for a look at the many Neolithic sites for which the area is famous. Orkney's west mainland is home to a large collection of archaeological areas of interest, including the standing stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar. We'll discover both of these UNESCO World Heritage Sites before driving to Skara Brae. The most well-preserved Neolithic village in northern Europe, Skara Brae was established around 3000 BC—but then was literally lost to the sands of time. Uncovered in 1850 when a historic storm scoured away the sand, Skara Brae was revealed, and this UNESCO World Heritage Site today provides glimpses of the stone beds and seats that were part of life 5,000 years ago.

Dinner: Onboard the ship.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. Perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge.

Day 13 Orkney Isles • Visit local family

- Destination: Orkney Isles
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Accommodations: M/V *Corinthian*

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: This morning, we will get an intimate glimpse of everyday life in the remote Orkney Islands during a visit to a local family. We'll learn about the unique social structure of this tight-knit island group—the nearest settlement, Stromness, has a population of around only 2,000 people, so there are very few strangers in the community. We'll also tour our host family's home, and join them for some hands-on daily tasks to experience for ourselves what day to day life is like in this remote region.

Lunch: Enjoy an included lunch with our host family. We'll have the opportunity to get to know our gracious hosts more intimately and enjoy unfiltered people-to-people interactions.

Afternoon: After lunch, we'll drive back to our ship, and you'll have the remainder of the afternoon free for your own discoveries—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Our small group will reconvene in the ship's lounge before dinner for a Port Talk on Aberdeen.

Dinner: Enjoy a Farewell Dinner onboard in the ship's dining room.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish.

Day 14 Disembark ship • Explore Aberdeen

- Destination: Aberdeen
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Aberdeen

Breakfast: Onboard the ship.

Morning: This morning, we'll bid farewell to the *M/V Corinthian* and set off for a guided tour of Aberdeen, Scotland's "Silver City," so named for the local granite used in many of its

19th-century buildings. The stone comes from the nearby Rubislaw Quarry, once Europe's largest granite quarry, abandoned in the 1970s.

Lunch: On your own in Aberdeen—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Afternoon: After lunch, enjoy some time on your own to explore Aberdeen. Perhaps you'll choose to join your Trip Experience Leader for an elective discovery walk around this seaside city.

Dinner: We'll gather for a Farewell Dinner at the hotel this evening.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 15 Aberdeen • Return to the U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Transfer to the airport for your flight home. Or begin your post-trip extension to *Scotland & England: St. Andrews, Edinburgh & York*.

END YOUR ADVENTURE WITH AN OPTIONAL POST-TRIP EXTENSION

7 nights in *Scotland & England: St. Andrews, Edinburgh & York*

Day 1 Visit St. Andrews • Edinburgh

Day 2 Explore Edinburgh •
Edinburgh Castle

Day 3 Edinburgh • Hike to Arthur's Seat

Day 4 Edinburgh • Overland to
York, England

Day 5 Explore York • Visit York Minster

Day 6 Excursion to Whitby • Visit Castle
Howard and gardens

Day 7 Yorkshire Sculpture Park • Overland
to Manchester

Day 8 Return to the U.S.

PRE-TRIP

Ireland's Celtic Coast: Dublin, Wexford & Cork

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Air transportation from Cork to London
 - » Accommodations for 2 nights in Dublin, 2 nights in Wexford, 2 nights in Cork at the Clayton Hotel, and 1 night in Oxford
 - » 11 meals: 7 breakfasts, 2 lunches, and 3 dinners
 - » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
 - » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
 - » All transfers
- Please note:** Travelers purchasing their own international flights will be responsible for additional internal flight costs.

PRE-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Journey deep into Ireland's ancient past beginning in Dublin, the cozy capital of the Emerald Isle whose cobblestone streets are awash with the legends of Irish literature. You'll stroll through elegant Georgian garden squares and rub elbows with the locals in Dublin's oldest working-class neighborhood before heading to seaside Wexford. Wander the winding medieval streets of this charming seaside town that was home to Ireland's earliest settlers. Then, explore medieval Kilkenny Castle and Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, en route to colorful Cork, a bustling port city along Ireland's southeastern coast. You'll have a chance to kiss the Blarney Stone before a flight to London and a visit to Windsor castle along the way to Oxford, where you'll enjoy a final night before your main adventure.

Day 1 Depart U.S.

Afternoon/Evening: Depart the U.S. today on your flight to Dublin.

Day 2 Arrive Dublin, Ireland

- Destination: Dublin
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Hilton Garden Inn Dublin City Centre

Morning: Arrive in Dublin, Ireland where a representative will meet you at the airport and assist with your transfer to your hotel.

At our hotel, we'll meet our Trip Experience Leader, then receive our room assignments and settle in.

Lunch: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with recommendations.

Afternoon: Throughout the day, our Trip Experience Leader will lead travelers on orientation walks of the neighborhood surrounding our hotel as they arrive.

Dinner: At a local restaurant, where a Welcome Dinner is included.

Evening: The remainder of your evening is free. You may like to take a nighttime stroll, or retire early to your room.

Day 3 Explore Dublin

- Destination: Dublin
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hilton Garden Inn Dublin City Centre

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Discover Ireland's capital on a panoramic bus tour this morning for a sweeping view of the historic city and its many landmarks. Witness Saint Patrick's Cathedral, a 13th-century place of worship built in honor of Ireland's patron saint, then discover more medieval history as we drive by a portion of Dublin's old city walls as we make our way west to Phoenix Park, a sprawling green space on the edge of the city.

Originally established as King Charles II's royal hunting grounds by the Duke of Ormond, Phoenix Park is enclosed with a stone wall which was originally built to keep pheasants and deer in. Still one of the largest parks in all of Europe, today it is home to wild fallow deer, hundreds of plant species, a diverse array of wildlife habitats, and plenty of historic monuments. We'll enjoy a short walk through the park with our Trip Experience Leader.

We'll then drive back into the city, tracing a route along the River Liffey which bisects Dublin, admiring stately Georgian architecture with brightly-painted doors (legend has it that each door was painted a different color so that overly-inebriated husbands could find their way home after a night on the town), and driving past iconic Trinity College on our way to the city's museum quarter, where we'll end our tour with a visit to EPIC, the Irish Immigration Museum. Set in Dublin's docklands, this was

the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants. Here, you'll be able to discover the stories of Irish emigrations around the world to modern day.

Lunch: On your own in Dublin. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend a restaurant or café.

Afternoon: The remainder of the day is yours to explore the city on your own. Perhaps you'll visit the Dublin Writer's Museum, where you'll discover the work of masters from Swift to Beckett, including not only their books and plays but personal notes and journals. Or stroll the cobbled streets of Temple Bar, a cultural hub for the city, where buzzing pubs and nightclubs, as well as museums, theaters, and restaurants outline passageways in use since medieval times.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can recommend their favorite local restaurant. Explore Dublin's thriving culinary scene and try a hearty, traditional meal at a local restaurant, such as Irish shepherd's pie.

Evening: Free to do as you wish. You may choose to stroll through Dublin to see the city lit up at night, and mingle with the outgoing locals.

Day 4 Dublin • Visit Glendalough • Avoca Handweavers • Wexford

- Destination: Wexford
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Wexford or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Drive to Glendalough for a guided tour of this scenic locale with our Trip Experience Leader. Here in a tranquil valley

of the Wicklow mountains rests an ancient Christian monastery, founded in the sixth century by St. Kevin.

Among the monks' great achievements was manuscript writing and copying, including the creation of the spectacular Book of Kells around 1131. Now at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, the book—containing historical chronicles, genealogies, and religious poems—is one of the most important and beautiful Irish manuscripts from the pre-Norman period.

After our tour, we'll drive down the road to the river town of Avoca, made famous by the Avoca Handweavers. This clothing manufacturer is Ireland's oldest line of business, active since the early 1700s. Here, we'll meet with some of the handweavers at Avoca's mill, which happens to be the oldest of its class in all of Ireland.

Lunch: On your own in Avoca—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: We'll continue our journey to Wexford, arriving in the mid-afternoon to check in to our hotel. After some time to settle in, we'll join an orientation walk around through the town of Wexford led by our Trip Experience Leader.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You are free to explore more of this energetic city, return to your room to rest before your explorations tomorrow, or join fellow travelers in the main hotel area for a nightcap to discuss the day's activities.

Day 5 Explore Kilkenny

- Destination: Wexford
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel in Wexford or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we'll drive to Kilkenny, a medieval city straddling the banks of the River Nore. Here, we'll discover the sprawling gardens of Kilkenny Castle, an 800-year-old stronghold that lords over the city center. Though originally designed to defend a crossing over the River Nore, the castle's grounds today provide a peaceful place for locals and visitors alike to stroll about and admire the impressive artisanal floristry on display.

Then, our Trip Experience Leader will lead us on a walking tour of the city, guiding us through medieval lanes and "slips" (narrow connecting roads), and pointing out the city's highlights, including bustling pubs filled with the sounds of traditional Irish music, and the Smithwicks brewery, the internationally-known beer brand that has its headquarters here.

Lunch: Included at a restaurant in the Kilkenny Design Center, a complex that also hosts a number of shops selling handmade Irish gifts and goods.

Afternoon: Enjoy some time after lunch to explore Kilkenny independently before driving back to Wexford in the mid-afternoon, followed by free time upon arrival back at the hotel.

Dinner: On your own. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations near the hotel.

Evening: The rest of your evening yours to do as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 6 Wexford • Visit Waterford Crystal factory • Cork

- Destination: Cork
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel Metropole Cork or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Today, we'll travel from Wexford to Cork with stops for discovery along the way. First, we'll visit the Waterford Crystal factory, prized around the world as the standard for the highest quality lead-cut crystal. Founded in 1783 by George and William Penrose, the Waterford branch of the company is now part of a worldwide operation that includes such notable brands as Wedgwood and Royal Doulton. Here, we'll learn about the organization's history, and witness a glassblowing demonstration before free time to explore further or shop their fine products.

Then, discover more of what Ireland's oldest city has to offer during a walking tour of Waterford with our Trip Experience Leader. During our tour, we'll witness highlights such as the Waterford Museum of Treasures and Reginald's Tower, an ancient tower that has been in continuous use for over 800 years.

After our tour, you'll have free time to explore and get lunch on your own in Waterford.

Lunch: On your own in Waterford—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Afternoon: Our journey continues as we drive to Middleton where we'll witness the Kindred Spirits monument, a tribute to the Choctaw Nation for their generosity towards the Irish people during the Great Famine.

We'll hit the road again after visiting the monument, arriving in Cork late this afternoon and checking in to our hotel.

After a short orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader, the rest of the afternoon is free for independent exploration. As Ireland's second-largest city, Cork has a lot to boast, from live music sessions echoing from traditional pubs to a lively, liberal cosmopolitan scene. Colorful pubs, shops, and cafés are stacked along narrow lanes, while grand Georgian architecture outlines the city center's main sprawling avenue. You can walk along the River Lee, slip into a pub for a pint of Murphy's Irish Stout—brewed locally in Cork—or visit the many shops and restaurants lining Oliver Plunkett Street.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You have the freedom to explore on your own this evening. Perhaps you'll stroll past the town's shops or take advantage of the hotel's amenities.

Day 7 Cork • Visit Blarney Castle • Home-Hosted Lunch

- Destination: Cork
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel Metropole Cork or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning, we'll drive to Blarney Castle for a guided tour, followed by free time to explore the gardens. Built in the tenth century by the first Cormac MacCarthy, one of the mightiest of Ireland's chieftains, it was a mere hunting lodge that was then expanded into a full stone castle two hundred years later. Further fortifications ended in the 15th century, and the structure that greeted Oliver Cromwell is the one you'll see today.

Ready yourself for a climb up the spiral stone staircase for not only the best vantage point for miles but for a chance to lean backward (not quite upside down!) to “kiss” the so-called

Blarney Stone, which is said to make you eloquent, if not especially trustworthy. The castle's grounds also include caves, dungeons, and a rock garden of ancient trees and weathered stones.

After our tour, we'll drive to Cobh, where we'll travel to the homes of local families for a shared meal.

Lunch: Enjoy a **Home-Hosted Lunch** with local families in Cobh. Share a home-cooked meal around the dining room table and enjoy a memorable afternoon of friendly conversation and cultural exchange about everyday life in the Emerald Isle.

Afternoon: After we bid our hosts farewell, we'll have about two hours free to explore Cobh on our own before returning to our hotel in Cork.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader can offer recommendations.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish. You may choose to join your fellow travelers for a drink and reminisce about your discoveries thus far. Or, you may retire to your room to get some sleep.

Day 8 Cork • Fly to London • Oxford

- Destination: Oxford
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel in Oxford or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning, we'll bid farewell to Ireland and begin making our way to Oxford, England. We'll begin by driving to Cork Airport, then we'll fly to London, and drive to Windsor.

Lunch: On your own in Windsor.

Afternoon: We'll reconvene as a group for a tour of Windsor Castle, home to such famous monarchs as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. We'll witness some of the castle's most impressive features, including ornate state apartments, St. George's Chapel, and the iconic Round Tower.

After touring the castle, we'll drive to Oxford, whose historic university has educated some of the world's most prominent scholars and statesmen. Upon arrival, we'll check in to our hotel. You'll have free time for the remainder of the afternoon to explore on your own and discover why Oxford was aptly named the "City of Dreaming Spires" by the English poet, Matthew Arnold.

Later this afternoon, join an orientation walk with our Trip Experience Leader around the area surrounding the hotel.

Dinner: On your own this evening. Ask your Trip Experience Leader for their suggestions.

Evening: You can get some sleep back at the hotel before our explorations tomorrow, or perhaps you'll enjoy an evening stroll around the city.

Day 9 Oxford • Join main trip

- Destination: Oxford
- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Enjoy a day at leisure in Oxford before joining your fellow travelers arriving for your *Maritime Jewels of the British Isles: England, Wales, Northern Ireland & Scotland Small Ship Adventure*. Perhaps you'll join your Trip Experience Leader for a discovery walk through the local gardens.

POST-TRIP

Scotland & England: St. Andrews, Edinburgh & York

INCLUDED IN YOUR PRICE

- » Accommodations for 3 nights in Edinburgh, 3 nights in York, and 1 night in Manchester
- » 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 4 dinners
- » Guided tours with personal headsets: Edinburgh Castle • St. Andrews
- » Services of our local Trip Experience Leader
- » Gratuities for local guides and motorcoach drivers
- » All transfers

POST-TRIP EXTENSION ITINERARY

Delve into Scotland's rich history in St. Andrews, the ecclesiastical capital where the Protestant Reformation changed the religious landscape of the country and the beloved sport of golf originated, en route to Scotland's capital city. Like Rome, Edinburgh sits on seven hills and has been called the "Athens of the North" for its architectural gems and scholarly traditions—but it is a city with a spirit all its own. Explore the city that has been home to such luminaries as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Robert Louis Stevenson, and discover its cobbled streets, world-famous museums, and, of course, iconic Edinburgh Castle. Then, journey south to York to discover the best-preserved medieval town center in England and witness the largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps, the city's famous York Minster.

Day 1 Visit St. Andrews • Edinburgh

- Destination: Edinburgh
- Included Meals: Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Edinburgh or similar

Activity Note: Today will include a long motorcoach drive to Edinburgh, which will take about 8 hours, including stops along the way.

Morning: This morning, we'll begin our long drive to Edinburgh. We'll make our first stop in coastal St. Andrews where we'll enjoy a coffee, followed by a guided walking tour.

St. Andrews is a small town, with fewer than 20,000 residents, and is home to St. Andrew's University, Scotland's first university and the

third oldest in the English-speaking world, dating to 1413. Its other claim to fame is less academic and more physical: St. Andrews has been nicknamed the "Home of Golf," as it is the site of seven golf courses, including several of the world's oldest clubs and Old Course, the most well-known golf club on Earth.

Lunch: On your own in St. Andrews—your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to make recommendations.

Afternoon: You'll have free time in St. Andrews to explore independently this afternoon before continuing our overland journey to Edinburgh.

We'll arrive in the Scottish capital and check in to our hotel late this afternoon. You'll have some time this afternoon to get settled in or

start exploring on your own before we meet our Trip Experience Leader for a vicinity walk around the area.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: On your own with the freedom to make your own discoveries, or you can retire to your room to get some sleep.

Day 2 Explore Edinburgh • Edinburgh Castle

- Destination: Edinburgh
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel in Edinburgh or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll kick off our discoveries in Scotland's capital when we set off on an included walking tour of Edinburgh's labyrinthine Old Town led by a local guide. We'll be transported back into Edinburgh's history as we stroll the winding cobbled streets and down the Royal Mile, a stretch of the city that extends from Holyrood Road to Edinburgh Castle—our next destination.

Our walk concludes at Edinburgh Castle, where we'll have a short break, followed by a guided tour. The castle, perched atop Castle Rock—an extinct volcano—is a mighty presence in the city. Once used as the royal residency for Scottish monarchs, a fortress for armies, and a prison for pirates and POWs, the castle now serves as one of Edinburgh's leading attractions.

Lunch: On your own in Edinburgh—ask your Trip Experience Leader for local restaurant recommendations.

Afternoon: The rest of the day is free for you to relax or explore more of the city on your own. You can visit Roslyn Chapel, a 15th-century

church known for its impressive stone carvings. Or, you may choose to visit Scottish Parliament where you can get a glimpse into the local body of government.

Dinner: On your own—perhaps you'll find a restaurant that serves traditional dishes like haggis with *neeps* and *tatties*, or turnips and potatoes.

Evening: You are free to spend the evening as you wish. You may join your fellow travelers for a nightcap at the hotel bar, or you can retire to your room to get some sleep.

Day 3 Edinburgh • Hike to Arthur's Seat

- Destination: Edinburgh
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in Edinburgh or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning, we'll set off with our Trip Experience Leader on a walk through Edinburgh's New Town, a district built between the 18th and 19th centuries. This central area of the capital is famous for its neo-Classical and Georgian architecture, and, together with the city's Old Town, is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Lunch: On your own. You may seek out a traditional restaurant that serves regional dishes like *hotch-potch*, a beef-stock soup made with a variety of diced vegetables.

Afternoon: You'll have a free afternoon to take in the sights of Edinburgh.

Dinner: At a local pub.

Evening: You are free to relax at the hotel and get some rest before our journey to York tomorrow, or you may head back out to find a pub where you can enjoy live music—perhaps

you'll raise your glasses and say *slàinte mhath*, pronounced "slange var," which is a traditional toast that translates to "good health."

Day 4 Edinburgh • Overland to York, England

- Destination: York
- Included Meals: Breakfast
- Accommodations: Hotel in York or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: We'll check out of our hotel and begin our motorcoach drive along the Northumberland Coast to York. Take in views of serene seascapes and witness fishing villages nestled along Britain's eastern coast.

Lunch: We'll stop for an opportunity to enjoy an independent lunch on the road to York.

Afternoon: Arrive in York and check in to your hotel. We'll meet our Trip Experience Leader for a short vicinity walk around the area, then we'll enjoy some free time this afternoon to get settled in or start exploring on your own.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with recommendations.

Evening: You can get some sleep back at the hotel before our explorations tomorrow, or perhaps you'll enjoy an evening stroll around the city.

Day 5 Explore York • Visit York Minster

- Destination: York
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Hotel in York or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Set off for guided walking tour of York with our Trip Experience Leader, where centuries-old city walls enclose the

best-preserved medieval town center in England. York's history stretches back into ancient Roman times, when it was called Eboracum and served as the military capital of northern Britannia. Traces of Roman garrisons built before the fifth century are sprinkled throughout the city.

By the ninth century, Vikings—from what is now Denmark—had succeeded the Romans, calling the town Jorvik and leaving one legacy we'll still see today: the suffix "-gate"—meaning "street" in the old Viking language—in many street names.

Our walking tour will conclude at York Minster where we'll enjoy a tour with a local guide, who will highlight the history of the cathedral, the largest Gothic cathedral north of the Alps. The stained glass here is magnificent. The cathedral's Great East Window—created by John Thornton of Coventry and completed in 1408—is the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world. It is 76 feet tall and comprises 1,680 square feet of glass.

Lunch: On your own—your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to make recommendations.

Afternoon: You'll have free time for the remainder of the afternoon. Perhaps you'll take in the Shambles—originally the meat-butcher area of York. The cramped, ancient street now houses a variety of shops, and in some areas it is possible for upstairs residents to stretch out and shake hands across the street.

Or pay a visit the National Railway Museum, one of the world's best museums devoted to the legacy of steam engines and railway memorabilia.

Dinner: We'll visit a historic pub in York for an included dinner.

Evening: After dinner, you'll have free time for the rest of the evening to make your own discoveries in York.

Day 6 Excursion to Whitby • Visit Castle Howard and gardens

- Destination: York
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
- Accommodations: Hotel in York or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: Cross the heather-clad North York Moors National Park as you drive to Whitby, a key setting for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Here, we'll embark on a walking tour and witness some of the town's highlights, such as Whitby Abbey, where, on a clear day, there are spectacular views over the city and the North Sea.

It was from this town that the explorer James Cook first set out to sea, and during the 19th century, Whitby was renowned for creating jet jewelry that was a favorite of Queen Victoria's after the death of Prince Albert.

Lunch: At a local restaurant.

Afternoon: Drive to Castle Howard, one of England's finest stately homes, still lived in by the Howard family and where much of the filming for *Brideshead Revisited* was done. We'll get a closer look as we explore the castle and its grounds.

Although construction on this Baroque masterpiece began in 1699, it took 100 years to complete. Admire its lavish, treasure-filled rooms—including paintings by Rubens and Gainsborough—and perhaps enjoy a stroll in its famed Rose Gardens.

We'll then drive back to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is free.

Dinner: On your own. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to suggest a restaurant featuring cuisine to suit your appetite.

Evening: You have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish—ask your Trip Experience Leader for recommendations.

Day 7 Yorkshire Sculpture Park • Overland to Manchester

- Destination: Manchester
- Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner
- Accommodations: Clayton Hotel Manchester or similar

Breakfast: At the hotel.

Morning: This morning, we'll check out of our hotel and drive to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Britain's first open-air museum founded in 1977 on the grounds of a 500-acre, 18th-century estate. The organization also offers a learning program which supports around 45,000 aspiring artists each year.

Upon arrival, we'll tour the current exhibitions, featuring a rotating display of approximately 80 sculptures and installations from local and international artists. The Yorkshire Sculpture Park is the largest of its kind in Europe, featuring works by internationally renowned British artists such as Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore, who was known for his work with bronze.

After our tour, we'll continue our journey towards Manchester and check into our hotel in the early afternoon. Our Trip Experience Leader will lead a short discovery walk as soon as we arrive.

Lunch: On your own in Manchester. Your Trip Experience Leader will be happy to provide you with recommendations.

Afternoon: The rest of your afternoon is free to make your own discoveries.

Dinner: At a local restaurant.

Evening: You're free to relax at the hotel or explore the area we're staying in.

Day 8 Return to the U.S.

- Included Meals: Breakfast

Breakfast: At a local restaurant.

Morning: Drive to the airport in Manchester for your flight home.

YOUR M/V CORINTHIAN SMALL SHIP

Explore aboard our privately owned, 98-passenger small ship

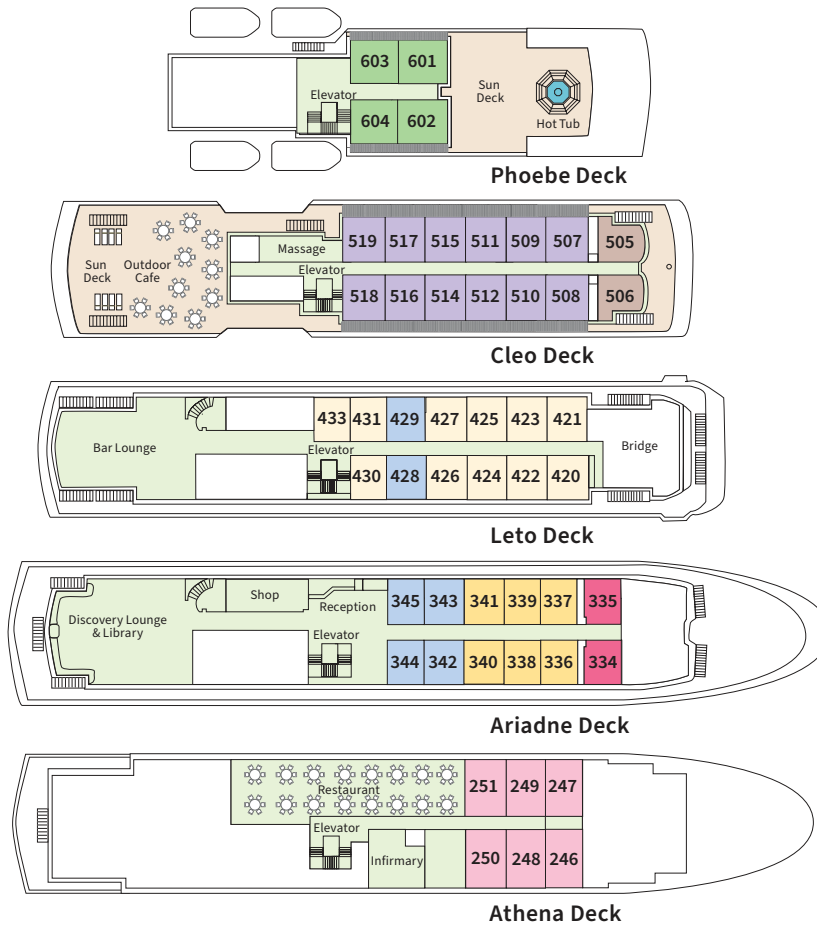
Discover the coastal wonders of the world aboard the M/V *Corinthian*. This ocean cruising vessel—which 95% of travelers rated excellent—was acquired in 2014 and refurbished in 2015 with your tastes in mind. The ship holds four groups of 20–25 travelers (with an average of 22), each with its own local Trip Experience Leader, and charts courses throughout Europe—including the British Isles, Spain, Portugal, and France—and Antarctica.



SHIPBOARD FEATURES

- **Restaurant with single, open seating:** Savor regionally inspired dishes or American favorites during all buffets and table-service meals.
- **Two lounges:** Relax with old friends and new, and participate in onboard discussions and lectures.
- **Complimentary beverages:** Enjoy house beer and house wine—as well as soft drinks—at any time of day while onboard.
- **Complimentary wireless Internet access:** Connect online in cabins and common areas. *Please note: Connectivity may be limited at certain points throughout your cruise.*
- **Outdoor common areas:** Relish coastal views from your seat in the outdoor café, Sun Deck, or hot tub.
- **English-speaking crew:** Enjoy dedicated attention from our international staff throughout your voyage. Plus, all shipboard announcements are made in English for your convenience.
- **Zodiac crafts:** These onboard crafts are available to take you to shore in the most remote ports.
- **Elevator service:** An elevator serves all five passenger decks.

M/V CORINTHIAN



CABIN CATEGORIES	
PHS	Penthouse cabin with private balcony – 305 sq. ft.
VS	Cabin with private balcony – 255-270 sq. ft.
AA	Cabin with forward windows – 250 sq. ft.
A	Cabin with window – 215-225 sq. ft.
B	Cabin with window – 215 sq. ft.
C	Cabin with window – 215-250 sq. ft.
D	Cabin with porthole – 250 sq. ft.
E	Cabin with window (partially obstructed) – 225 sq. ft.
F	Cabin with window (partially obstructed) – 215 sq. ft.
G	Cabin with porthole – 250 sq. ft.

Registry: Malta

Length: 290 ft.

Beam: 50 ft.

Draft: 12 ft.

Cabin Size: 215 sq ft. minimum

Number of Cabins: 50

Passenger Capacity: 98

Entered Service: 1990

Refurbished in: 2015

International crew: 55-65

Passenger Decks: 5

Group Size: 25 travelers, maximum, with 1 Trip Experience Leader

Elevator service to all passenger decks

This ship complies with the latest international and U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology. It has retractable fin stabilizers to help reduce discomfort during rough seas.

CABIN FEATURES

- Each of the ship's 49 cabins is at least 215 sq. ft.
- All outside-facing with portholes, a window (some with partially obstructed views), or a balcony
- Queen-size bed (convertible to two twins)
- Complimentary wireless Internet access, sitting area, closet, flat-screen TV, DVD/CD player, telephone, mini-refrigerator, safe
- Private bath with shower, hair dryer, and toiletries



Cabin on the Ariadne deck

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Your Passport

- Must be in good condition
- Must be valid for at least 6 months after your scheduled return to the U.S.
- Must have the required number of blank pages (details below)
- The blank pages must be labeled “Visas” at the top. Pages labeled “Amendments and Endorsements” are not acceptable

Need to Renew Your Passport?

Contact the National Passport Information Center (NPIC) at **1-877-487-2778**, or visit the U.S. Department of State’s official website at **www.travel.state.gov** for information on obtaining a new passport or renewing your existing passport. The U.S. Department of State allows for passport renewal by mail or, for applicable citizens, renewal online. We advise you review the process and requirements for online passport renewal on the official website.

You may also contact our recommended visa service company, PVS International, at **1-800-556-9990** for help with your passport.

Recommended Blank Pages

Please confirm that your passport has enough blank pages for this adventure.

- **Main trip only:** You will need 2 blank passport pages.
- **Optional Ireland extension:** You will need an additional page, for a total of 3.
- **Optional Scotland & England extension:** You will not need any additional passport pages.

Visas Required

We’ll be sending you information with detailed instructions, application forms, and fees about 100 days prior to your departure. In the meantime, we’re providing the information below as a guideline on what to expect. This info is for U.S. citizens only. All visas and fees are subject to change.

- **United Kingdom:** The United Kingdom requires an Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) for entry. This includes entry to England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. You will need an ETA if the UK is your final destination or if you are transiting through a UK airport. The ETA will be valid for 2 years.
- **Ireland:** No visa required.

Traveling Without a U.S. Passport?

If you are not a U.S. citizen, or if your passport is from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to check with your local consulate, embassy, or a visa services company about visa requirements. We recommend the services of PVS International, a national visa service located in Washington D.C.; they can be reached at **1-800-556-9990** or **www.pvsinternational.org**.

Traveling With a Minor?

Some governments may require certain documentation for minors to enter and depart the country or to obtain a visa (if applicable). For further detail on the required documentation, please contact your local embassy or consulate.

Emergency Photocopies of Key Documents

We recommend you carry color photocopies of key documents including the photo page of your passport plus any applicable visas, air itinerary, credit cards (front and back), and an alternative form of ID. Add emergency phone numbers like your credit card company and the number for your travel protection plan. Store copies separate from the originals.

If you plan to email this information to yourself, please keep in mind that email is not always secure; consider using password protection or encryption. Also email is not always available worldwide. As an alternative, you could load these documents onto a flash drive instead, which can do double-duty as a place to backup photos during your trip.

Overseas Taxes & Fees

This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.

RIGORS, VACCINES & GENERAL HEALTH

Is This Adventure Right for You?

Please review the information below prior to departing on this adventure. We reserve the right for our Trip Experience Leaders to modify participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their condition would adversely affect the health, safety, or enjoyment of themselves or of other travelers.

GROUP SIZE

- This adventure has a maximum group size of 25 travelers with a local Trip Experience Leader exclusive to O.A.T.

PACING

- 14 days, with 10 nights aboard the *M/V Corinthian*, one two-night hotel stay in Oxford, and one overnight hotel stay in Aberdeen

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Walk 3 miles unassisted and participate in 2 hours of physical activities each day
- Good agility, balance, and strength are required for boarding Zodiacs or tenders and possible rough seas
- Travelers using mobility aids or with medical conditions that might require immediate attention will not be able to board the *Corinthian*
- We reserve the right for Trip Experience Leaders to restrict participation, or in some circumstances send travelers home, if their limitations impact the group's experience
- You may encounter animals on this trip. We make every effort to keep these encounters safe, however animals may behave unpredictably or dangerously at times. Please use caution when interacting with animals on this trip: Keep a safe distance, stay alert, and respect the animals

TERRAIN & TRANSPORTATION

- Uneven surfaces, including unpaved paths, steep hills, stairs, and cobblestones
- Gangway incline can be steep when docked at a pier
- Travel by 98-passenger small ship, 33- to 45-seat coach, Zodiac, and local tenders
- In several ports along the Scottish Islands, it will be necessary to use local tenders or Zodiacs
- You must be cleared by a country's local port authorities before disembarking
- Weather conditions and tides may require adjustments to your itinerary

CLIMATE

- Daytime temperatures range from 60-74°F during cruising season

Ocean Cruise vs. River Cruise

Your experiences on our ocean cruise ship may differ from any past river cruises. In order to set the right expectations, we'd like to take a moment to compare the two:

- The pace is faster on ocean cruises than on a river cruise, with more emphasis on the ports of call and less on scenic cruising.
- Compared to a river cruise, the motion of the ship is more noticeable and can be significant. Rough seas are a possibility at any time of year, and some travelers may feel queasy or experience passing seasickness. Our experienced travelers recommend that travelers who are prone to motion sickness should bring medication, because of the possibility of high waves.
- Based on weather and sea conditions, we may need to revise the itinerary, which could include changing ports of call.
- Getting ashore from an ocean ship requires balance and agility, and possibly the use of a small shuttle boat. Also, there may be formalities in port before you can leave the ship.
- The groups are smaller than most river cruises (25 travelers maximum) so any "stragglers" will have a bigger impact on the group.

Steps to Take Before Your Trip

Before you leave on this adventure, we recommend the following:

- Check with the CDC for their recommendations for the countries you'll be visiting. You can contact them online at www.cdc.gov/travel or by phone at **1-800-232-4636**.
- Have a medical checkup with your doctor at least 6 weeks before your trip.
- Pick up any necessary medications, both prescription and over-the-counter.
- Have a dental and/or eye checkup. (Recommended, but less urgent)

No Vaccines Required

Recommended Vaccines

At the time of writing there were no required vaccines for this trip. The CDC recommends that all travelers be up to date on their routine vaccinations and on basic travel vaccines like Hepatitis A and Typhoid, but these are suggestions only. However, this could change in future so we encourage you to check with the CDC yourself before meeting with your doctor.

Medicine Recommendation

We recommend if you are susceptible to motion sickness, you bring motion sickness medication for this trip.

Traveling with Medications

- **Pack medications in your carry-on bag** to avoid loss and to have them handy.
- **Keep medicines in their original, labeled containers** for a quicker security screen at the airport and a better experience if you get stopped by customs while overseas.
- **Bring copies of your prescriptions**, written using the generic drug name rather than a brand name to be prepared for any unforeseen loss of your medications.

We recommend checking with the State Department for medication restrictions by country: **travel.state.gov** (Go to “Find International Travel Information”, select “Country Information”, then enter the country into the search bar; if you don’t see any medications specifically mentioned under the “Health” section, then you can presume major U.S. brands should be OK).

Staying Healthy on Your Trip

Jet Lag Tips

- Start your trip well-rested.
- Begin a gradual transition to your new time zone before you leave or switch to your destination time zone when you get on the plane.
- Attempt to sleep and eat according to the new schedule.
- Avoid heavy eating and drinking caffeine or alcoholic beverages right before—and during—your flight.
- Drink plenty of water and/or fruit juice while flying
- Stretch your legs, neck, and back periodically while seated on the plane.
- After arrival, avoid the temptation to nap.
- Don’t push yourself to see a lot on your first day.
- Try to stay awake your first day until after dinner.

Allergies

If you have any serious allergies or dietary restrictions, we advise you to notify us at least 30 days prior to your departure. Please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**, and we will communicate them to our regional office. Every effort will be made to accommodate you.

Water

- Tap water is safe to drink on this trip; however, it may be processed differently than your tap water at home, so you might not like the taste or it may feel “heavy” in your stomach.
- Bottled water is widely available for sale. Another option is for you to bring a reusable water bottle and fill up on board the ship.

MONEY MATTERS: LOCAL CURRENCY & TIPPING GUIDELINES

Top Three Tips

- **Carry a mix of different types of payments**, such as local currency, an ATM card, and a credit card.
- **Traveler's checks are not recommended.** They can be difficult to exchange and the commission fee for cashing them is quite high. It's more practical to view them as a last resort in the event of a special situation.
- **It may be helpful to get some British pounds before your trip, especially if you are arriving during the weekend or on a bank holiday.** However, you may want to avoid bringing 50 pound notes as these are not always accepted at smaller restaurants, cafes or shops.

Local Currency

For current exchange rates, please refer to an online converter tool like www.xe.com/currencyconverter, your bank, or the financial section of your newspaper.

United Kingdom: Pound Sterling (GBP)

Northern Ireland: Pound Sterling (GBP)

Scotland: Pound Sterling (GBP)

Isle of Man: Isle of Man Pound (IMP)

How to Exchange Money

If you want to exchange money before your trip, you can usually do so through your bank or at an exchange office. Your departure airport in the U.S., a travel agent, or an AAA office are also possible outlets. Or you can wait and change money on the trip instead—but it might be helpful to arrive with some local currency in case you run into a bank holiday or an “out of order” ATM.

On your trip, the easiest way is to withdraw funds from a local ATM. The ATM will give you local money and your bank at home will convert that into U.S. dollars.

You can also exchange cash at some hotels, large post offices, and money exchange offices. To exchange cash, you'll usually need your passport and bills in good condition (not worn, torn, or dirty). New bills (post 2004) are best.

Please note that many banks in Europe will only exchange money for their own customers. Never exchange money on the street. All exchange methods involve fees, which may be built into the conversion rate; ask beforehand.

ATMs

When using the ATM, keep in mind that it may only accept cards from local banks, and may not allow cash advances on credit cards; you might need to try more than one ATM or more than one card.

Many banks charge a fee of \$1–\$10 each time you use a foreign ATM. Others may charge you a percentage of the amount you withdraw. We recommend that you check with your bank before you depart.

Lastly, don't forget to memorize the actual digits of your card's PIN number (many keypads at foreign ATMs do not include letters on their keys—they only display numbers.)

In most countries, ATMs are widely available in major cities. If you are in a rural location, it will likely be harder to find an ATM.

Northern Ireland: ATMs are common throughout Northern Ireland so ATM cards will give you a reliable payment method and ready access to local currency.

Isle of Man: ATMs are common on the Isle of Man. It is important to note that most ATMs will dispense the Manx Pound, which are not accepted outside of the Isle of Man. ATMs at the Sea Terminal and the airport will dispense British Pounds.

Credit & Debit Cards

While traveling, most countries and major cities will accept credit cards. Even if you don't plan on using a credit card during your trip, we still suggest that you bring one or two as a backup, especially if you are planning a large purchase (artwork, jewelry). We also suggest that you bring more than one brand of card (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, American Express) if possible, because not every shop will take every card. For example, although Discover and American Express cards are accepted in some countries outside the U.S., they are not widely adopted, so other brands will work at a much larger range of stores, restaurants, etc.

If you are visiting a country that does not commonly accept credit cards, they will be listed below.

Northern Ireland: Credit cards are readily accepted in most hotels and restaurants, but you should always inquire if your type of credit card is accepted before deciding on your purchase.

Isle of Man: Major credit cards (such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express) are widely accepted on the Isle of Man.

Chip Cards

Many countries have adopted credit cards that have an embedded computer chip. These cards are inserted into the reader instead of swiped. The card owner then authorizes the purchase using a PIN instead of signing.

Though this technology is common in the U.S., occasionally there are machines in other countries that can't read U.S. cards or the machine can read the card, but asks for a PIN. This doesn't happen often, and is nothing to worry about. You can usually resolve the situation by asking the

cashier to let you sign. (If you don't speak the language, just mime signing on your hand.) If you are not able to sign for a purchase, such as at an automated ticket booth, you can use another form of payment, such as a debit card that has a PIN.

Notify Card Providers of Upcoming Travel

Many credit card companies and banks have fraud alert departments that will freeze your card if they see suspicious charges—such as charges or withdrawals from another country. To avoid an accidental security block, it is a good idea to notify your credit card company and/or bank you will be using your cards abroad. You can do this by calling their customer service number a week or two before your departure. Some banks or credit card companies will also let you do this online.

You should also double-check what phone number you could call if you have a problem with a card while you are abroad. Don't assume you can use the 1-800 number printed on the back of your card—most 1 800 numbers don't work outside of the U.S.!

On Board Ship: Two Separate Bills Will be Issued

- **Shipboard account:** This bill is for any on board purchases (drinks, souvenirs, etc.). You can pay this bill by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept U.S. dollars or Euros (on itineraries in Europe). For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, or American Express are not accepted.
- **Optional tour account:** This bill is for any optional tours taken during the trip and is calculated in U.S. dollars. You can pay for this bill by credit/debit card only; other forms of payments such as cash and checks are not accepted. For more information on optional tours—including which cards we accept for payment—see the “Preparing for Your Trip” chapter.

Please note: Payments made by credit card may take up to three months to process. We ask that you use a credit card that will not expire until three months after your trip ends. Because our headquarters are in Boston, the charges may appear to be from Boston or might be labeled as “OPT Boston” (depending on your credit card company).

Exchange Services

Due to international banking laws, we are not able to exchange money onboard the ship. If you need to obtain local currency, please see the “How to Exchange Money” section for helpful tips and information.

Tipping Guidelines

Of course, whether you tip, and how much, is always at your own discretion. But for those of you who have asked for tipping suggestions, we offer these guidelines:

- **O.A.T. Trip Experience Leader:** It is customary to express a personal “thank you” to your Trip Experience Leader at the end of your trip. As a guideline, many travelers give \$10–\$14 USD (or equivalent in local currency) per person for each day their Trip Experience Leader

is with them. *Please note that these tips can only be in cash. If you are taking any of the optional extensions, your Trip Experience Leader during the extension(s) may not be the same as the one on your main trip.*

- **Shipboard:** We recommend a flat tip of \$16–\$18 per traveler, per day. You’ll give this tip once—at the end of your cruise—and it will be pooled among the entire crew. Crew tips can only be in the form of cash
- **Housekeeping Staff at Hotels:** We recommend \$1 per traveler, per day. (This is for hotels only; on the ship Housekeeping are part of crew, so you don’t need to tip them separately.)
- **Included in Your Trip Price:** Gratuities are included for local guides and motorcoach drivers on your main trip, extensions, and all optional tours.

AIR, OPTIONAL TOURS & STAYING IN TOUCH

Land Only Travelers & Personalized Air

Quick Definitions

- **Land Only:** You will be booking your own international flights. Airport transfers are not included.
- **Air-Inclusive:** You booked international air with us. Airport transfers are included as long as you didn't customize your trip's dates (see next bullet).
- **Arrive Early or Stopover (select adventures only):** If you chose one of these Personalization options and purchased air through O.A.T, accommodations and airport transfers are included. However, if you chose one of our Personalization options, but did not purchase air through O.A.T., accommodations are included, but airport transfers are not. If you chose one of our Personalization options, and purchase air through O.A.T. but not the accommodations, the airport transfers are not included. We have included transfer options below.
- **Personalization on Your Own:** If you have not purchased air through O.A.T. and decided to arrive early, stay longer, or stop in a connecting city on your own, you are responsible for airport transfers and accommodations. For your convenience, a preliminary list of your included hotels is available on your My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner under "My Reservations" to help you with selecting a hotel for your additional time.

Air Inclusive Travelers

If you have purchased international air with us, there are some points that may be helpful for you to know.

- **U.S. Departure:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who depart the U.S. from your international gateway city, it is our goal to have an O.A.T. Representative assist you at the U.S. airport with the check-in of your flight. Unless there are extenuating circumstances beyond our control, the Representative will be at the check-in counter three hours before your departure time. If you are flying domestically before your international flight, the representative will be stationed at the check-in counter for your departing international flight, not at the domestic arrival gate.
- **U.S. Return:** If you are among a group of ten or more travelers who return to the same U.S. gateway city, an O.A.T. Representative will meet you as you exit Customs and help you find taxis, buses, hotel accommodations, or connecting flights. Again, it is our goal to have our Representative waiting to assist your group. In rare instances, unforeseen circumstances may prevent this service.

- **Flying with a Travel Companion:** If you're traveling with a companion from a different household, and both of you are beginning and ending your trip at the same airport on the same dates, let us know you'd like to travel together and we'll make every effort to arrange this (please note, however, that this is not always possible). If you request any changes to your flights, please be sure that both you and your companion tell us that you still want to fly together.
- **Selecting Your Seats:** If your airline allows pre-assigned seats, you will be able to select and view them directly from the airline's website after booking. Some airlines will not allow seat confirmation until your reservation is ticketed 45-30 days prior to departure, and/or they may charge a nominal fee. You may locate your itinerary on an airline's website utilizing the Record Locator Number found on the Air Itinerary in your My Planner.

Airport Transfers Can Be Purchased

For eligible flights, airport transfers may be purchased separately as an optional add-on, subject to availability. To be eligible, your flight(s) must meet the following requirements:

- You must fly into or fly home from the same airport as O.A.T. travelers who purchased included airfare.
- Your flight(s) must arrive/depart on the same day that the group arrives or departs.
- If you are arriving early, you must have arranged the hotels through our Arrive Early personalization option

Airport transfers can be purchased up to 45 days prior to your departure; they are not available for purchase onsite. To learn more, or purchase airport transfers, please call our Travel Counselors at **1-800-221-0814**.

If you don't meet the requirements above, you'll need to make your own transfer arrangements. We suggest the Rome to Rio website as a handy resource: www.rome2rio.com

Optional Tours

Optional tours are additional add-on tours that allow you to personalize your adventure by tailoring it to your tastes and needs. And if you decide not to join an optional tour? Then you'll have free time to relax or explore on your own—it's about options, not obligations.

What You Need to Know

- All optional tours are subject to change and availability.
- Optional tours that are reserved with your Trip Experience Leader can be paid for using credit/debit cards only. We accept MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards; we can also take MasterCard or Visa debit cards as long as the card allows you to sign for purchases. (You won't be able to enter a PIN.)

- To ensure that you are charged in U.S. dollars, your payment will be processed by our U.S. headquarters in Boston. This process can take up to three months, so we ask that you only use a card that will still be valid three months after your trip is over. The charge may appear on your credit card statement as being from Boston, MA or may be labeled as “OPT Boston”.
- Your Trip Experience Leader will give you details on the optional tours while you’re on the trip. But if you’d like to look over descriptions of them earlier, you can do so at any time by referring to your Day-to-Day Itinerary (available online by signing into My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner).

Communicating with Home from Abroad

Cell Phones

If you want to use your cell phone on the trip, check with your phone provider to see if your phone and service will work outside of the U.S. It may turn out to be cheaper to rent an international phone or buy a SIM card onsite. If you want to use a local SIM, just make certain your phone is “unlocked”, meaning it can accept a local SIM card. If your cell is “unlocked” then you will be able to purchase a local SIM for it and then buy minutes with “Pay as You Go” cards, so that you have a local contact number for your friends and family.

Calling Apps

Another option is to use a smartphone app like Skype or FaceTime. These services are usually less expensive than making a traditional call, but you’ll need a Wi-Fi connection and the calls may count towards your phone plan’s data allowance. Many smartphones—and some tablets or laptops—come with one of these apps pre-installed or you can download them for free from the appropriate apps store.

Calling Cards & 1-800 Numbers

When calling the U.S. from a foreign country, a prepaid calling card can be useful because it circumvents unexpected charges from the hotel. Calling cards purchased locally are typically the best (less expensive, more likely to work with the local phones, etc.). One reminder: Do not call U.S. 1-800 numbers outside the continental United States. This can result in costly long distance fees, since 1-800 numbers do not work outside the country.

Internet Access

Wifi is as readily available in the UK as is in the United States.

How to Call Overseas

When calling overseas from the U.S., dial 011 for international exchange, then the country code (indicated by a plus sign: +), and then the number. Note that foreign phone numbers may not have the same number of digits as U.S. numbers; even within a country the number of digits can vary depending on the city and if the phone is a land line or cell phone.

United Kingdom: +44

Scotland: +44

Northern Ireland: +44

Isle of Man: +44

PACKING: WHAT TO BRING & LUGGAGE LIMITS

Luggage Limits

MAIN TRIP LIMITS	
Pieces per person	One checked bag and one carry-on bag per person.
Weight restrictions	Varies by airline. The current standard is 50lbs for checked bags and 15 lbs for carry-on bags.
Size Restrictions	Varies by airline. Measured in linear inches (length+width+depth). Generally, 62 linear inches is the checked bag limit; carry-on limit is 45 linear inches.
Luggage Type	A sturdy, fabric-sided suitcase with built-in wheels and lockable zippers is recommended.

TRIP EXTENSION(S) LIMITS
Same as the main trip.

REMARKS/SUGGESTIONS
<p>One suitcase and one carry-on bag per person: Due to the space limitations on bus transfers, you'll be restricted to one suitcase and one carry-on bag per person. This is to ensure that we have room for everyone's luggage. We ask that you abide by this limit to avoid inconveniencing your fellow travelers and prevent additional airlines luggage fees (which are your responsibility). Most airlines now charge to check more than one suitcase per person.</p> <p>Luggage rules: Luggage rules and limits are set by governmental and airline policy. Enforcement of the rules may include spot checks or may be inconsistent. However one thing is the same across the board: If you are found to have oversized or overweight luggage, you will be subject to additional fees, to be assessed by—and paid to—the airline in question.</p>

Don't Forget:

- **These luggage limits may change.** If the airline(s) notify us of any changes, we will include an update in your Final Documents booklet.

- It's a good idea to reconfirm baggage restrictions and fees directly with the airline a week or so prior to departure. For your convenience, we maintain a list of the toll-free numbers for the most common airlines on our website in the FAQ section.
- **Baggage fees are not included in your trip price;** they are payable directly to the airlines.

Your Luggage

- **Checked Luggage:** Consider a duffel bag or soft-sided suitcase. Look for one with heavy nylon fabric, wrap-around handles, built-in wheels, and a heavy duty lockable zipper. Due to space limitations on our motorcoaches, you are allowed one piece of checked luggage per person. Porterage at airports and hotels is provided for **one** bag per person. All bags should have luggage tags.
- **Carry-on Bag:** You are allowed one carry-on bag per person. We suggest a tote or small backpack that can be used as both a carry-on bag for your flight and to carry your daily necessities—water bottle, camera, etc—during your daily activities.
- **Locks:** For flights that originate in the U.S., you can either use a TSA-approved lock or leave your luggage unlocked. Outside of the U.S. we strongly recommend locking your luggage as a theft-prevention measure.

Clothing Suggestions: Functional Tips

- **Travel light:** A good rule of thumb is to gather together everything you want to bring; then take half of that. Eliminate all but the essentials and start packing a few days before you leave. That way, you'll have time to think—not fret—about what you might be forgetting. We recommend you pick pack color-coordinated separates that can be mixed to create different outfits.
- **Pack casual clothes:** Comfortable, informal apparel is perfectly acceptable at each of your destinations. Men do not need jackets or ties and women do not need fancy dresses. You may want one or two “smart casual” outfits for the Welcome Reception or Farewell Dinner, but it's completely up to you. You would only need nicer dress if you plan to dine at a deluxe city restaurant on your own.
- **Warm clothes are needed year-round:** Regardless of your travel season, bring a warm layer of clothing, such as a heavy sweatshirt, fleece top, or light sweater. During fall and spring, a jacket is recommended for the colder night temperatures. If you're traveling in the summer, be prepared for warm temperatures, though cool days are still possible. Bring a sweater (or a fleece top), as well as some summery attire and a windbreaker for “in-between” days.
- **Good walking shoes are essential:** For your comfort, you'll need supportive walking shoes that offer good traction. Water-resistant shoes can be handy in case of a heavy downpour.
- **Rain gear:** Regardless of your month of travel, rainfall is certainly a possibility. We suggest you bring a folding umbrella and waterproof shell—preferably one that is knee length.

Suggested Packing Lists

We have included suggestions from Trip Experience Leaders and former travelers to help you pack. These packing lists are only jumping-off points—they offer recommendations based on experience, but not requirements. We recommend using www.weather.com and consulting the “Climate” chapter of this handbook.

And don’t forget a reusable water bottle—you’ll need it to take advantage of any refills we offer as we are working to eliminate single-use plastic bottles on all of our trips.

Recommended Clothing

- Shirts: A mixture of short and long-sleeved shirts to layer
- Trousers, jeans, or skirts
- Comfortable walking shoes and/or water resistant shoes
- Light rain jacket/windbreaker with hood
- Sleepwear
- Socks and undergarments
- A jacket or sweater, depending on the time of year

Essential Items

- Daily essentials: toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, hairbrush or comb, shaving items, deodorant, sunscreen, etc.
- Spare eyeglasses/contact lenses and your prescription
- Sunglasses with a neck strap
- Travel money bag or money belt
- Swimsuit if your hotel has a pool
- Compact umbrella
- Wide-brim sun hat (seasonal, June–August)
- Pocket-size tissues
- Moist towelettes and/or anti-bacterial “waterless” hand cleanser
- Photocopies of passport, air ticket, credit cards (and originals!)

- Written prescriptions for your medicines
- Washcloth (not a standard amenity in English hotels)
- Camera, spare batteries, and memory cards
- Electrical transformer & plug adapters— see “Regional Electricity” for details

Medicines

- Your own prescription medicines
- Vitamins
- Cold remedies: Sudafed/ Dristan
- Pain relief: Ibuprofen/naproxen/aspirin
- Laxatives: Senokot/Ex-Lax
- Stomach upset: Pepto-Bismol/Mylanta
- Anti-diarrheal: Imodium
- Band-Aids
- Moleskin foot pads
- Antibiotics: Neosporin/Bacitracin
- Motion sickness medicine, such as Dramamine

Home-Hosted Visits

It is customary, though not necessary, to return your hosts’ generosity with a small gift. If you do bring a gift, we recommend that you bring something the whole family can enjoy, or something that represents your region, state, or hometown. Get creative and keep it small—peach jelly from Georgia, maple sugar candy from New England, orange blossom soap from California; something that can be used or used up is best. When choosing a gift, be certain to consider the local culture as well. For example, we do not recommend alcohol in Muslim countries because it is forbidden in Islam, and your hosts may be religious. Not all of our adventures include a home-hosted visit; please check your final itinerary before you depart.

Electricity Abroad

When traveling overseas, the voltage is usually different and the plugs might not be the same shape.

Voltage

Electricity in the United Kingdom and Ireland is 220–240 volts. In the U.S. it is 110 volts. Most of the things a traveler will want to plug in—battery chargers, smartphones, tablets or computers—can run off both 110 and 220–240. But you should check the item or the owner’s guide first to confirm this before you plug it in. If you have something that needs 110 volts—like a shaver or a hairdryer—you can bring a transformer to change the current. (But transformers tend to burn out, so it might be better to leave whatever it is at home.)

Aboard the ship, cabins are equipped with 110-volt outlets. In your bathroom you will find a dual 110/220-volt outlet; this outlet is only for low-voltage appliances, like electric shavers. (Your bathroom also comes equipped with a hair dryer).

Plugs

Aboard ship, the plugs are standard American plugs.

In hotels, the shape of plugs will vary from country to country, and sometimes even within a country depending on when that building was built. To plug something from the U.S. into a local socket you’ll need an adapter that fits between the plug and the socket. Even though you’ll only need one adapter on this trip, it may be easier to purchase an all-in-one, universal adapter/converter combo. Versatile and lightweight, these can usually be found at your local electronics goods or hardware stores. Sometimes you can buy them at large retailers too, like Target or Walmart. If you forget to bring an adapter, you might also find them for sale at the airport when you arrive at your destination.

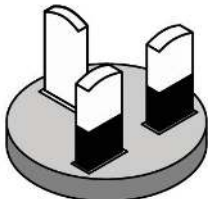
Different plug shapes are named by letters of the alphabet. Standard U.S. plugs are Type A and Type B. Here is the list of plugs for the countries on this trip:

United Kingdom: G

Northern Ireland: G

Scotland: G

Type G



CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

England: The weather across England can be unreliable and unpredictable, with lovely sun-drenched mornings regularly turning into damp, overcast afternoons—and vice versa. Still, legends about incessant rain in England are exaggerated. Oxford has weather similar in nature of that of London, with an inch or two of rain spread out over multiple days each month. A city with a maritime temperate climate, Oxford summers tend to be moderately warm, with few days having temperatures above 75° F; winters as well tend to be moderately cold, with few days dropping below 30° F. Spring and autumn are generally comfortable, with little more than a sweater or light overcoat required.

Isle of Man: The island's position—which is roughly halfway between the UK and Ireland—results in a climate that is very similar to Wales. On average, temperatures stay in the range of 40–60 degrees F, and rainfall is common, especially in the fall and winter.

Northern Ireland: With the Atlantic front sweeping over Northern Ireland, weather in the region tends to be unstable, with frequent winds and near constant clouds. A completely clear sky is a rarity, a grey sky a more common sight. Winters are cold and rainy, with an average of mid 40s during the day and a chance of a wind storm. Snow is rare. Summers are cool and rainy, with an average of mid 60s during the season. The mild weather and frequent rain has led to Northern Ireland's picturesque green scenery.

Stromness, Scotland (Orkney Islands): The Orkneys have a temperate and wet climate that is heavily influenced by the Gulf Stream. This warm ocean current from the Gulf of Mexico brings humid air that takes the edge off what would normally be a much colder climate. However, with the humidity comes fog and damp—both of which can happen at any time of year, although fog is more common in the summer and damp is more common in the winter. The other aspect of the Orkney climate that everyone comments on is the wind. **It is very windy here**, especially in the fall and winter, when sudden gusts can become gale-force winds. We strongly recommend bringing a jacket, fleece, windbreaker, or similar all year.

Ireland: Irish weather is traditionally fickle, even in summer—when temperatures usually range from the low 50s to the upper 60s, though over the last decade, the spring and summer seasons were often glorious with many sunny days in the 70s. Nonetheless, chilly east winds may blow through, so come prepared for anything. Except for a strip along the east coast, the country receives some rain at least 200 days a year. This wet climate is responsible for Ireland's verdant beauty.

Climate Averages & Online Forecast

The following charts reflect the **average** climate as opposed to exact weather conditions. This means they serve only as general indicators of what can reasonably be expected. An extreme heat wave or cold snap could fall outside these ranges. As your departure approaches, we encourage you to use **www.weather.com** for a more accurate forecast of the locations you visit.

Average Daily High/Low Temperatures (°F), Humidity & Monthly Rainfall

MONTH	OXFORD, ENGLAND			ISLE OF MAN		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # Days of Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # Days with Rainfall
JAN	46 to 35	89	12	47 to 39	83 to 80	26
FEB	47 to 34	83	9	46 to 38	84 to 78	23
MAR	52 to 36	82	10	49 to 40	85 to 76	26
APR	56 to 39	82	9	52 to 42	86 to 72	21
MAY	62 to 44	76	10	57 to 46	86 to 71	21
JUN	68 to 49	83	8	61 to 50	86 to 72	20
JUL	72 to 53	80	8	65 to 54	88 to 74	22
AUG	71 to 53	78	8	65 to 54	90 to 76	22
SEP	66 to 48	78	9	61 to 52	88 to 76	24
OCT	59 to 44	80	11	57 to 48	85 to 77	26
NOV	51 to 38	81	11	52 to 43	83 to 78	26
DEC	46 to 35	89	11	48 to 40	83 to 81	26

MONTH	BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND			STROMNESS, SCOTLAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (avg)	Avg. # of Day with Rain
JAN	46 to 36	84	14.7	46 to 38	76	29
FEB	47 to 36	81	11.4	44 to 36	76	28
MAR	50 to 38	78	13.8	46 to 30	82	30
APR	54 to 41	75	11.4	47 to 42	80	17
MAY	60 to 44	73	11.8	49 to 43	75	25
JUN	64 to 50	74	11.2	52 to 46	87	25
JUL	68 to 53	76	12.1	55 to 49	90	25
AUG	67 to 53	77	13.4	57 to 49	86	26
SEP	63 to 49	79	12.3	53 to 47	83	26
OCT	57 to 45	82	14.4	51 to 44	77	28
NOV	51 to 40	84	14.5	46 to 40	80	28
DEC	47 to 36	86	14.4	47 to 39	78	30

MONTH	ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND			EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # Days of Rainfall	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Average # of Days with Rainfall
JAN	42 to 32	85 to 81	22	44 to 34	86 to 80	14
FEB	43 to 33	86 to 77	20	45 to 34	86 to 75	10
MAR	46 to 35	86 to 72	23	48 to 37	86 to 68	12
APR	50 to 37	87 to 70	25	53 to 39	87 to 65	10
MAY	55 to 42	88 to 71	19	58 to 44	87 to 65	11
JUN	60 to 47	87 to 72	23	63 to 48	86 to 64	10
JUL	64 to 51	88 to 72	24	67 to 52	88 to 66	10
AUG	64 to 50	90 to 72	22	66 to 51	90 to 66	11
SEP	59 to 46	88 to 73	23	62 to 49	89 to 69	10
OCT	53 to 42	88 to 78	24	55 to 43	88 to 74	13
NOV	47 to 37	86 to 80	24	49 to 39	87 to 79	13
DEC	44 to 35	85 to 82	26	44 to 34	87 to 82	13

MONTH	DUBLIN, IRELAND		
	Temp. High-Low	% Relative Humidity (am-pm)	Monthly Rainfall (inches)
JAN	47 to 36	87 to 81	2.5
FEB	47 to 36	87 to 76	1.9
MAR	50 to 38	84 to 71	2.1
APR	54 to 40	80 to 68	2.1
MAY	59 to 44	77 to 68	2.3
JUN	64 to 49	77 to 68	2.6
JUL	67 to 53	79 to 69	2.2
AUG	67 to 53	81 to 69	2.9
SEP	63 to 50	83 to 72	2.3
OCT	57 to 45	86 to 75	3.1
NOV	51 to 40	89 to 80	2.9
DEC	47 to 37	88 to 83	2.9

ABOARD YOUR SHIP: CABIN FEATURES, DINING & SERVICES ON BOARD

M/V Corinthian & M/V Clio

Cabin Amenities

Your cabin amenities include a private bathroom with shower, hairdryer, TV, in room heating, internal telephones and a mini-refrigerator. Each cabin is appointed with a sitting area, plus the decks and dining rooms are spacious and attractively decorated, providing welcoming locations for relaxing with your traveling companions.

Cabin Assignments

You will receive confirmation of your deck and/or cabin category upfront in writing; it will be on your invoice and online in My Planner at www.oattravel.com/myplanner. However, your cabin number may not be assigned until you arrive onboard the ship. (This is normal procedure for many small ships.) If there's no cabin number on your invoice or online, you can presume it will be assigned later and communicated to you when you board.

Dining

All meals are taken in the onboard restaurant, which acts as the ship's dining room. Meals will be a mix of regional specialties and familiar American standards, and will feature a variety of entrée options including vegetarian. Complimentary beer, wine and soft drinks are served with lunch and dinner. A selection of fine wines is also available for purchase, starting at approximately \$20-30 per bottle (prices vary according to vintage). Travelers may also bring a bottle of their own favorite wine to dinner to enjoy at their table. Should you care to avail yourself of this service, there will be a corkage fee of approximately \$10 per bottle, charged to your cabin account.

If you require a special diet, please request this in advance, you may do so by contacting one of our Travel Counselors. Dining times will vary according to the scheduled daily activities. In keeping with regional custom, dinner may be served at a later hour (around 7:00 pm) than Americans may be accustomed to.

Electricity

Cabins are equipped with 110-volt outlets that are designed to fit American plugs. In your bathroom you will find a dual 110/220-volt outlet, for use with electric shavers. While your bathroom does come equipped with a hairdryer, please do not use any other appliances that heat up, such as hair irons or curlers—they tend to short out.

Getting Ashore

Getting from ship to shore during an ocean-going voyage is not the same experience as on a river cruise—it requires more balance and agility, plus there are more formalities.

- **Balance and agility are needed:** You'll either walk down a gangway—which can be steep, wet, and slippery—or be shuttled to land in a small boat (a process known as “tendering”). We'll use the gangway most of the time, but tenders will be used when the ship cannot dock closely enough for the gangway to reach the shore. Tenders can differ in size, and some of them maybe open with no covering. From time to time we will use the ship's own fleet of Zodiacs—which are small but sturdy open-air boats holding 8-10 people each—as tenders. To get into one of the Zodiacs, you'll need to go down a steep staircase, and then crew members will assist you as you step from the *M/V Corinthian* or *M/V Clio* into the Zodiac.
- **Clothing note:** Since tenders in general (and the Zodiacs in particular) are small open-air boats, they are more susceptible to being splashed by water. You might want to bring a rain jacket or waterproof cover (like a poncho) to protect your clothing while transferring from ship to shore.
- **Expect formalities on arrival in port:** When the *M/V Corinthian* or *M/V Clio* arrives in a new port, she'll need to be cleared by the local port authorities before you can leave the ship. In some cases, the wait will be as short as 30 minutes, but other times it may take up to 2 hours. Your crew will do all they can to make the wait as short as possible and to minimize the inconvenience to you. (For example, you will be asked to leave your passport with the front desk when you first embark on the ship. That way, it is on hand if the port authorities ask to see it.) However, the procedure can be complex and may take a while to complete. Typically the authorities work directly with the crew, but they do retain the right to speak with you as well.

Headsets

On European cruises, complimentary headsets (often called “whisper receivers”) will be provided on most included and optional tours, so that you can hear better over ambient noise. If you use a hearing aid or have a strong preference for a particular type of headphones, we highly encourage you to bring your own headphones/ear buds with you. The plug size is usually the same as that used by smartphones, computer jacks, etc. Headsets will also be available during the pre- and post-trip extensions in Europe, but not on the transfer day to/from the main trip. On cruises to the Middle East, South America, or Antarctica whispers may not be available or may only be available in certain locations—your Trip Experience Leader will let you know onsite.

Internet Access and Email

Limited wireless Internet service (WiFi) is available for free onboard. If you want to use it, you'll need to bring your own device—a laptop, tablet, smartphone, etc.—because the ship does not rent or loan these devices. Instructions on how to connect will be available at Reception. Please keep in mind that our WiFi access onboard is subject to the challenges of travel: ship location, signal availability, and usage volume onboard will affect connectivity and speed. You should expect that there will be times when the Internet is either slow or not available, and that these disruptions can be brief or longer lasting.

Laundry Services

There is laundry service available on board, but no dry cleaning. Prices are per piece of clothing and will be provided to you on board.

Medical Services

There is always a doctor onboard, as well as all of the basic First Aid supplies. All physician's fees will be payable directly to the doctor. All specific medicines are the responsibility of each traveler.

Recreational Facilities

Our ship features a library, a lounge with a bar, a dining room, and a sun deck. The bar is open from approximately 11 am to 11 pm, and features both complimentary drinks (soft drinks, house beer, house wine, and non-alcoholic cocktails/beer) and drinks for purchase (spirits, alcoholic cocktails, bottled beers, and a selection of wines).

Bicycles

We're pleased to offer complimentary bicycle rentals onboard your ship for use during free time, including all of the necessary safety gear, such as a helmet, brightly-colored safety vest, and a lock. Because there is a limited supply of bicycles available, they will be offered on a first-come first-served basis. For more information or if you are interested in using one of the bicycles, please speak to the Front Desk staff or Hotel Manager onboard your ship.

Shipboard Payments

Payment for shipboard expenses can be made by cash or credit/debit card only. For cash, we accept U.S. dollars or Euros (on itineraries in Europe). For credit/debit cards, we accept MasterCard and Visa. Other forms of payment, such as checks, Discover, or American Express are not accepted.

Ship-to-Shore Communications

The ship has satellite telephone connections which allows you to call anywhere in accordance with the current local tariffs. You can purchase phone cards at the reception desk for \$10, which will give you 15-30 minutes' worth call time to the U.S. (depending on which state you are calling).

Smoking Policy

Smoking is prohibited on board, with the exception of a designated outdoor deck area reserved for smokers.

Wheelchairs

The ship is not built to accommodate wheelchairs.

Lost & Found

Any lost or forgotten items found on board the ship will be held for 90 days from disembarkation. After 90 days, all unclaimed items will be discarded or donated.

Ship Specifications

M/V Corinthian

- **History:** Built in 1990; purchased in 2014
- **Size:** 290x50 ft
- **Capacity:** 98 passengers, 56 crew members
- **Layout:** 49 cabins, 5 decks; Elevator-yes

M/V Clio

- **History:** Built in 1998; purchased in 2015
- **Size:** 328x46 ft
- **Capacity:** 89 passengers, 60 crew members
- **Layout:** 45 cabins, 5 decks; Elevator-yes

ABOUT YOUR DESTINATIONS: CULTURE, ETIQUETTE & MORE

O.A.T. Trip Experience Leaders: A World of Difference

During your adventure, you'll be accompanied by one of our local, Trip Experience Leaders. All are fluent in English and possess the skills, certification, and experience necessary to ensure an enriching adventure. As locals of the regions you'll explore with them, our Trip Experience Leaders provide the kind of firsthand knowledge and insight that make local history, culture, and wildlife come alive. Coupled with their unbridled enthusiasm, caring personalities, and ability to bring diverse groups of travelers together, our Trip Experience Leaders ensure that your experience with O.A.T. is one you'll remember for a lifetime.

Culture of the British Isles

England has been a very homogenous country, but as their empire expanded around the globe, they have experienced some social and cultural diversification from Afro-Caribbeans, Asians, Muslims, and other immigrant groups.

The British class system has historically been a powerful point of stratification in the social, economic and political spheres of life. Differentiations between the working class and middle class were once largely defined by one's occupation. Today, class differences have more to do with schooling, social orientations, and upbringing. Though British society has progressively become less class conscious, the class system remains integral and continues to shape the people's sense of belonging. Despite social stratifications, there is a strong egalitarian belief that everyone should have equal opportunity to better their circumstances regardless of their background.

From Geoffrey Chaucer and William Shakespeare to Lewis Carroll and J.K. Rowling, in its literature, England arguably has attained its most influential cultural expression. For more than a millennium, each stage in the development of the English language has produced masterworks.

Just like their neighbors to the north, the Welsh are fiercely proud of their rich and vibrant culture and heritage. In recent years, great efforts have been made to revive traditional customs, especially those relating to language, literature, and music. After centuries of dueling with the English, Wales now has its own National Assembly and is home to progressive, cosmopolitan hubs such as Cardiff, while also retaining its rich diversity. Spoken and written Welsh is again on the rise with around three-quarters of a million people speaking it today.

Beyond the mountain passes, river valleys, and the storied stones of castles at every turn, it's the interactions with Welsh people that will remain in your memory the longest. If you pass a Caernarfon café, you may hear locals chatter in the ancient British tongue, or if you sit down in the pub, you'll witness a red-shirted mob screaming along to the rugby game. In Wales, you'll regularly hear the word "hiraeth," referring to a sense of longing for the green, green grass of home. Even long after your visit, a feeling of hiraeth may well hit you.

While you may hear England refer to it as odd, the Isle of Man's (Ellan Vannin in the local lingo, Manx) reputation for oddity is entirely a result of the island's insistence to do its own thing. The island is a self-governing British crown dependency with the oldest, continuous parliament in the world, Tynwald—dating back over 1000 years. Although not widely spoken today, the island has its own language, Manx Gaelic, which contributes to the distinct speech patterns of the locals.

The island has historically been reliant on mining, fishing, farming and tourism, but in recent times the Isle of Man's independent status has allowed it to build a thriving offshore banking and financial sector. Another major success came after the movie industry started to use its beauty as a backdrop for film sets.

Despite the religious upheavals and charged politics, the people of Northern Ireland are warm and friendly. Their culture is intertwined with England, Scotland, and Ireland, yet the people of Northern Ireland, for the most part, do not consider themselves of these regions. With different cultural influences, there is a rich lineup of festivals throughout the year, including St. Patrick's Day—a fervent celebration passed on from the Republic of Ireland—and controversial celebrations like Orangefest—commemorating the victory of Protestant King William of Orange over Catholic King James II.

Comfortably residing beside Northern Ireland's natural beauty are remnants of the island's long history—haunting ruins left to crumble in the middle of a field or by the roadside. From tumbled-down stone structures left behind by the Vikings to traces of medieval culture found in countryside castles, Northern Ireland's history is always on display. Some of the country's more tragic history has also left its mark in the resilient character of its people, such as the Troubles of the 20th century—a period that rocked Northern Ireland for three decades, and when the dust settled, more than 3,500 people were killed, and more than 47,000 wounded.

As beautiful as Northern Ireland is to behold, it is its people that give the country its heart and soul. From cities to small towns, a strong sense of camaraderie connects every community. Yet, each community follows the contour of political and sectarian differences. There is a shared participation in global culture, such as Hollywood movies, football, and popular music; however, the nationalist and unionist communities maintain their own cultural practices. Irish music and dance as well as Gaelic football and hurling form a cultural focus in the nationalist communities, while unionist communities are heavily influenced by trends of the U.K. But, no matter the community, locals gather together at the pub to exchange stories, join in a song, or listen to music. And when you're in Northern Ireland, you will more likely than not find yourself warmly welcomed by the locals, but make sure you call them just that “locals.” Especially in the southern border towns, they do not consider themselves neither Irish nor British.

Scots are known to be outgoing, steadfast, practical, and full of humor. They are also fiercely proud of their culture—in part, perhaps, because it has taken a lot for them to retain it. Scotland has endured centuries of attempted repression by the English—not to mention other invaders like the Romans, Vikings, and Normans.

Scottish Gaelic is still an official language, and even though very few Scots speak it, many signs are translated into Gaelic and Gaelic words have infiltrated the larger culture. Many Scots identify with their ancient clans, and proudly wear their clan tartans for weddings, holidays and special occasions. Though these were originally part of Highland dress, they are now the national dress of the whole country.

Within Scotland, there is an imaginary line that runs roughly from Aberdeen to Glasgow that separates the Highlands in the north and west, from the Lowlands in the south and east. Generally speaking, Highland culture is more Gaelic and rural; whereas Lowland culture is more hybrid and urban. Scottish folklore is rich and widely loved. You'll hear tales of *kelpies* (shape-shifting water spirits), *wulvers* (werewolves, but kind ones), selkies (seals who can take human form), and all manner of mythical beasts—Nessie the Loch Ness monster being the most famous. Some of that folklore has inspired Scotland's rich literary tradition, which gave us greats like Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Walter Scott, Arthur Conan Doyle, J.M. Barrie, and the most revered Scottish poet of all, Robert Burns. Today, you can experience some of the most exciting contemporary art, music, theater and more at cultural festivals like the Edinburgh International, the Fringe, Up Helly Aa (Shetland fire festivals), Aye Write! (the Glasgow book fair), and more.

That's quite a lot to celebrate, and Scots love to do just that the local pub, another cultural icon. Wander in and share a beer or a whisky, and pretty soon you'll be having a *blether* (conversation) with your bar mate. Just don't call what you're drinking a Scotch (it's called whisky here), and don't call your new friend that, either. It's considered antiquated and offensive. They are Scots or Scottish—and fiercely proud of it.

Accommodations

In general the British climate does not necessitate air conditioning. As result, many hotels in Great Britain do not feature air conditioning.

Taking Photographs

The etiquette of photographing people in most countries is about the same as it would be on the streets of your hometown. You need permission to take a close-up, but not for a crowd scene. Be especially polite if you want to photograph children or older women. If you want to shoot a great portrait, show interest in your subject and try to have a bit of social interaction first. Then use sign language to inquire if a picture is OK.

Please do not take photographs of military personnel, military compounds, or other official institutions/personnel (such as police). This may result in the confiscation of your camera.

In museums or at archaeological sites, there may be restrictions on using your flash. Please obey any signs or directions by staff; the no-flash rule protects the fragile artifacts and artwork from damage by repeated exposure to light. Occasionally, there may also be a small fee levied by the museum or site for the privilege of taking photos.

Safety & Security

As you travel, exercise the same caution and awareness that you would in a large American city. Don't be overly nervous or suspicious, but keep your eyes open. If you are venturing out after dark, go with one or two other people.

Carry a one-day supply of cash, and your passport, in a travel pouch. Don't leave valuables unattended in your hotel room. Most hotels will offer use of a hotel safe at the front desk or an electronic in-room safe (for which you can set your own personal number). Please utilize this.

Pickpockets may create a sudden distraction. In any sort of puzzling street situation, try to keep one hand on your wallet or money belt. If an encounter with a local turns out to be long and complicated and involves money or your valuables, be very careful.

English Cuisine

The French used to have a joke about their English neighbors that went something like “other countries know how to cook while the English know how to boil”. Even the Brits themselves would joke about their standard “meat, potatoes, and two veg” meals. But starting in the 90s there was a revival of British classics using fresh ingredients, flavor-boosting “low and slow” cooking methods, and sometimes borrowing elements from other cuisines. As a result, modern British cooking now has many admirers (see the devoted fans of *Great British Bake Off* or the cookbooks of Jamie Oliver, Gordon Ramsay, and Nigella Lawson as proof). Add to this the fact that the UK has a diverse choice of restaurants—Indian, Thai, Italian, French, and Chinese to name a few—and we can say that the English eat very well. Popular dishes include:

- **Bangers and Mash:** Sausage and mashed potatoes.
- **Bubble and Squeak:** A potato and cabbage/brussel sprout dish.
- **Fish and chips:** A well-known meal and is usually bought from special shops (chippies) where the cooked food is wrapped and sprinkled with salt and vinegar.
- **Toad in the Hole:** Sausages served with **Yorkshire Pudding**, a baked pudding made from eggs, flour, and milk or water.
- **Cream Scones:** A baked good served with jam and clotted cream.

Welsh Cuisine

Just like their language and ancient customs, the people of Wales have proudly preserved their traditional cuisine—much of which was borne out of poverty. Traditional Welsh cooking is linked to the diets of fishermen, farmers, and men who worked in the mines. Lamb, beef, freshly caught fish, and vegetables from the garden figure prominently in Welsh cooking. Popular dishes include:

- **Cawl:** A classic dish of Welsh lamb with leeks and root vegetables
- **Glamorgan sausage:** A vegetarian sausage-shaped dish made with Caerphilly cheese, leeks, and breadcrumbs.

- **Bara Brith** (speckled bread): A Welsh national fruitcake that starts out by soaking dried fruit in strong black tea overnight.
- **Welsh Rarebit**: Melted cheese on toasted bread, originated in the 17th century as a way to accentuate the local wheat bread and savory cheddar or Caerphilly cheese made in Wales.

Passages from the 1939 novel *How Green Was My Valley* may provide you with a more accurate portrayal of Welsh cuisine: “When we sat down, with me in Mama’s lap, my father would ladle out of the cauldron thin leek soup with a big lump of ham in it ... There was everything in it that was good ... and the smell alone was enough to make you feel so warm and comfortable ...”

Scottish Cuisine

Scotland has some of the most creative chefs in the United Kingdom and considering the fantastic pantry they have to work with—with world-class seafood, game and produce—it’s no wonder that the country boasts eleven Michelin-starred restaurants. Sixteen products of Scottish origin qualify for the European Union’s PGI (Protected Geographical Indication) designation, including Shetland lamb, Orkney Island Scottish cheddar, Scottish salmon, and Scottish whisky. The daily Scottish diet tends to consist of meat, carbohydrates, and fried food. Here are some delicacies that you can sample all over the country:

- **Salt ‘n Sauce**: A tangy, brown condiment unique to Edinburgh that’s a cross between malt vinegar, brown gravy, and ketchup. This can be found at local fish and chip shops often referred to as **chippies**.
- **Cullen Skink**: A fish soup of smoked haddock, potatoes and leeks. Traditionally, it’s made from **finnan haddie**, a cold-smoked haddock from Aberdeen; or **Arbroath smokie**, a hot-smoked haddock.
- **Angus Aberdeen beef**: Rich marbled beef often used in roast, stew, or steak.
- **Black Pudding**: A sausage made from congealed pig’s blood mixed with oats, fat, and seasonings. It may not sound appetizing, but because it’s loaded with protein, potassium, calcium and iron, it’s considered a “superfood.”
- **Bangers and Mash**: Sausage and mashed potatoes. Sometimes served with something besides pork, such as venison or apples.
- **Lorne sausage**: Square sausages made with beef.
- **Haggis**: Scotland’s national dish. It’s made from minced sheep’s liver, lungs, and heart; mixed with spices and oatmeal; and served inside the stomach lining. It is usually served with **neeps and tatties** (mashed swede or rutabaga and potatoes.)
- **Cranachan**: A rich parfait of cream, raspberries and oats.

Whatever your meal includes, you can toast it with a wee dram of **Scottish whisky**. If you order it in a pub, please don't call it "Scotch." If you ask for it on the rocks, you may get a pitying look along with your ice. To impress your bartender, order a single malt and specify one of the six official Scottish whisky regions: Lowlands, Speyside, Highlands, Campbeltown, Islay and Islands. Then raise your glass and say *slainte-mhath* (pronounced "slange var")—to your health!

Oxford in Brief

City Layout and Details

Oxford is a city of Anglo-Saxon design, resting northwest of London and south of Birmingham. Called the "City of Dreaming Spires" by the Victorian poet Matthew Arnold for its stunning Gothic tower skyline, Oxford is a small, easily navigated city. While Oxford revolves around its universities, Carfax Tower serves as the city center, a crossroad between the four major streets. To the east, the High, a street with multiple university and college buildings, such as University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Brasenose College, and the Queen's College. St. Aldates in the south, leads to the Oxford Town Hall and the Thames River, one of the two rivers cradling the city. Queen Street to the west and Cornmarket to the north are the two main shopping streets of Oxford.

Oxford's crowning jewels are its colleges and universities, which have housed and taught such notable scholars as C.S. Lewis, Oscar Wilde, and Lewis Carrell. The most known is the University of Oxford, the oldest university in the English-speaking world, home to the second largest library in the United Kingdom, the Bodleian Library. With the University of Oxford spanning a quarter of the city, it is an impossible site to miss.

Local Transportation

Bus: Bus transportation is available in and around Oxford, with the city's main station being Gloucester Green station. The buses run frequently during the day, but there are no night services. The buses run often, with the average wait time being fifteen minutes. Should it be needed, printed schedules with routes can be found on the bus near the driver once you board.

Taxicabs: You may opt to take a cab once or twice. Metered cabs may be hailed on the street (when the "for hire" sign is lit), ordered by phone, or found waiting for riders at Gloucester Green station. A 10% to 15% tip is usual for a cab ride. Expect an additional charge for travel after 8 pm, and on weekends.

Cycling: With its beautiful scenery and flat geography, Oxford has the second highest population of cycling commuters. For visiting travelers who want to experience Oxford like the locals, short- or long-term bike rentals are available in multiple locations in the city. Average cost for a single day rental is £15.

On Foot: Due to the small size of Oxford, walking is one of the best ways to fully explore the historical city. Don't forget that cars drive on the left and to look both ways before stepping off the curb.

Aberdeen in Brief

City Layout and Details

Aberdeen was once two separate burghs (Scottish autonomous towns), each with an extensive battleground history. It was only in 1891 that Old Aberdeen was incorporated into “New” Aberdeen. Old Aberdeen, to the north of the Aberdeen city center, bordered River Don and was known for its settlement of monks, scholars, and traders who traveled to see the St. Machar’s Cathedral and the King’s College. King’s College is now part of the University of Aberdeen, whose main campus makes up most of Old Aberdeen. “New” Aberdeen is the part of Aberdeen known as the “Silver City with the Golden Sands” for its granite buildings that sparkle in the sunlight and its picturesque beaches. To the east, Footdee sits, an old fishing village at the harbor, near identical to how it looked during its height in the early 19th century.

Aberdeen is third most populated city in Scotland. Once a trading hub for granite, fish, and shipbuilding, since the 1970s, Aberdeen has been the offshore oil capital of Europe. With the economic incline, Aberdeen became the educational center of northeast Scotland.

Local Transportation

Bus: Aberdeen has an extensive bus route set up in and around the city, with most routes starting in one suburb, going through the city center on Union Street, then exiting to another suburb. These buses require exact change for fare, as they do not carry change. It is recommended to either purchase a ticket in advance or invest in a Grasshopper card, which allows for access to all bus on a daily or weekly pass.

Taxicabs: You may opt to take a cab once or twice. Metered cabs may be hailed on the street (when the “for hire” sign is lit), ordered by phone, or booked online. A 10% to 15% tip is usual for a cab ride. Expect an additional charge for travel after 8 pm, and on weekends. As it can get busy on Friday and Saturday nights, it would be best to book a cab in advance if needed.

On Foot: Aberdeen’s city center is small enough to walk, with most sites of interest being a maximum of a twenty to thirty-minute walk.

Dublin in Brief

City Layout and Details

Compared to other European capitals, Dublin is a relatively small metropolis and easily traversed. The city center -- identified in Irish on bus destination signs as AN LAR -- is bisected by the River Liffey flowing west to east into Dublin Bay. Canals ring the city center: The Royal Canal forms a skirt through the north half, and the Grand Canal the south half. True Dubliners, it is said, live between the two canals.

The focal point of Dublin is the River Liffey, with 17 bridges connecting its north and south banks. The most famous of these is the O’Connell Bridge. The Millennium Bridge is a footbridge erected in 1999 to link Temple Bar with the Northside. The newest bridge, the Samuel Beckett Bridge, opened in December 2009.

On the north side of the river, the main thoroughfare is O'Connell Street, a wide, two-way avenue that starts at the riverside quays and runs north to Parnell Square. On the south side of the Liffey, Grafton Street is Dublin's main shopping street. It is home to Ireland's most exclusive department store, Brown Thomas. Restricted to pedestrians, Grafton Street is the center of Dublin's up market shopping area, surrounded by a maze of small streets and lanes that boast a terrific variety of shops, restaurants, and hotels. At the south end of Grafton Street is St. Stephen's Green, the city's most beloved park and an urban oasis ringed by rows of historic Georgian town houses, fine hotels, and restaurants.

At the north end of Grafton Street, Nassau Street rims the south side of Trinity College. The street is noted for its fine shops and because it leads to Merrion Square, another fashionable Georgian park surrounded by historic brick-front town houses. Merrion Square is also adjacent to Leinster House, the Irish House of Parliament, the National Gallery, and the National Museum.

Local Transportation

Bus: Dublin Bus offers public transportation services within the Dublin city limits, as well as in the surrounding area. Several routes are available throughout the city. Daily, weekly, monthly and annual passes are available for purchase. Service generally runs from 6am to 11:30 pm (10 pm on Sundays) and later on weekends.

Tram: The LUAS is a tram system with two main lines in Dublin, referred to as the Green Line and the Red Line. The LUAS runs from approximately 5:45am–midnight. Weekly or daily passes are available, or you can purchase a single fare based on the length of your ride. A single fare ranges from 2.10–3.20 euros or a round trip fare costs 3.70–5.50 euros.

Edinburgh in Brief

City Layout and Details

Edinburgh consists of a New Town, dating from the 18th century, and an Old Town dating back to the city's origin in medieval times. The spine of the Old Town is the famous Royal Mile, comprised of the four linked streets of Canongate, High Street, Lawnmarket, and Castlehill. Holyrood Palace sits at the end of Canongate, next to a hilly park of the same name, while Edinburgh Castle dominates the city skyline from the Castlehill end of the Royal Mile.

Below and to the north of the Old Town lies the New Town, built in the Georgian era between 1766 and 1840. This area is laid out in a neat grid, with George Street running through the middle between the charming parks of Charlotte Square and St. Andrew Square. Paralleling George Street to its south is Princes Street, which has an elegant shopping district and offers fine views of the Old City from the adjoining Princes Street Gardens. Between Princes and George Streets, Rose Street boasts a dense concentration of shops, restaurants, and pubs.

Festivals

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Commonly referred to as “The Tattoo,” Edinburgh plays host to hundreds of musicians, pipers and drummers, singers and dancers at the annual Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo festival, including the Massed Pipes and Drums and the Massed Military Bands. The festival takes place for three weeks, typically during the month of August, with a different line up of entertainment and performers each year. From traditional Scottish costumes and bagpipes to theatrical performances and fireworks displays, this festival has become an international sensation.

Because this festival attracts international attention with over 200,000 visitors, we strongly recommend that you purchase tickets in advance if you are interested in experiencing this unique performance at the Edinburgh Castle Esplanade. To purchase tickets, please visit **www.edintattoo.co.uk/tickets**. You will have the option to purchase tickets online for a specific date and time, as there are many performances over the course of the three week festival.

More information about The Tattoo is available at **www.edintattoo.co.uk**.

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe

The Fringe is the largest arts and culture festival around the globe, featuring thousands of performances in theater, comedy, dance, opera, circus, music, and more. Lasting for 3-4 weeks and usually held during the month of August, the events range from free performances and exhibits to ticketed events. To find out more about the specific events and buy tickets for performances, visit their website at **www.edfringe.com**.

Shopping: What to Buy, Customs, Shipping & More

There may be scheduled visits to local shops during your adventure. There is no requirement to make a purchase during these stops, and any purchase made is a direct transaction with the shop in question, subject to the vendor’s terms of purchase. O.A.T. is not responsible for purchases you make on your trip or for the shipment of your purchases.

Returns

If you discover an issue with an item, you should contact the vendor directly and expect that any resolution will take longer than it would in the U.S. We recommend that you keep a copy of all your receipts, invoices, or contracts, along with the shop’s contact information. Keep in mind, local practice may vary from U.S. standards, so don’t assume that you have a certain number of days after the purchase to speak up or that you are guaranteed a refund.

Crafts & Souvenirs

England

Different parts of the United Kingdom (UK) are known for different specialties. Even if your trip only takes you to one part of the country, you’ll find these items for sale throughout. Popular items include umbrellas, Cadbury chocolate bars, Derby-style hats and fascinators, Paddington toy bears, Wedgwood china, orange marmalade, Woods of Windsor soaps and lotions, football

team shirts, Wellington boots, Burberry trench coats and accessories, books by British authors, Earl Grey tea, Beatles memorabilia and so much more. You can find all kinds of items emblazoned with Union Jacks, London Underground (Tube) imagery, and images of the royal family.

Wales

Popular Welsh souvenirs to bring home are Welsh cheese, Welsh love spoons, Welsh slate (as a coaster, cheese board, or even an engraved decoration), laverbread, Welsh cakes, or traditional wool blankets.

Scotland

Scotland has many fine local products to choose from, including shortbread, handmade soaps, Celtic jewelry, and bagpipes. There are plenty of items emblazoned with the Scottish flag, Nessie the Loch Ness monster, and golf imagery (since the game was invented here.) If there's a dog lover on your gift list, consider a memento of Greyfriar's Bobby. He was a 19th-century Skye Terrier who supposedly stood by his master's grave in Edinburgh's Greyfriar's churchyard—every day for 14 years.

Many of the best souvenirs are wearable, like Scottish cashmere, Harris tweed, quality woolens, Balmoral caps, tams, and tartans (which found on everything from umbrellas to scarves and pajamas.) While the kilt is the quintessential Scottish garment, there are also special accessories that complete the look: a *sporrán* (pouch), *sgian-dubh* (a small ceremonial knife—which might be hard to get back to the U.S. in your luggage), and jaunty knee-high socks. Although women don't wear kilts, they do wear tartan skirts and special shoes known as *ghillie boots*.

And of course, there's whisky (without an “e”), which is so synonymous with Scotland that many Americans call it “Scotch.” Not a whisky fan? Scotland is also known for high-quality gin.

U.S. Customs Regulations & Shipping Charges

For all things related to U.S. Customs, the ultimate authority is the U.S. Bureau of Customs & Border Protection. Their website, www.cbp.gov has the answers to the most frequently asked questions. Or you can call them at **1-877-227-5511**.

The top three points to know are:

- At time of writing, your personal duty-free allowance is \$800 for items brought with you. Items totaling more than \$800 are subject to duty fees.
- **Items shipped home are always subject to duty when received in the U.S.** Even when the shop has offered to include shipping and duties in the price, this typically means shipping to the nearest customs facility and payment of the export duties—not door-to-door shipping or payment of the import duties. All additional duties or shipping charges would be your responsibility. Unless an item is small enough to send by parcel service (like FedEx), chances are you will need to arrange shipping or pick-up once the item is in the U.S. and will need to pay customs duties.

- It is illegal to import products made from endangered animal species. U.S. Customs & Border Protection will seize these items, as well as most furs, coral, tortoise shell, reptile skins, feathers, plants, and items made from animal skins.

DEMOGRAPHICS & HISTORY

United Kingdom

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 94,525 square miles
- **Capital:** London, with a separate parliament in Edinburgh for Scotland, a National Assembly in Cardiff for Wales, and a National Assembly for Northern Ireland in Belfast.
- **Government:** Constitutional monarchy
- **Languages:** English, Welsh, Gaelic
- **Location:** Situated off the northwest coast of Europe, the island of Britain is occupied by England, Wales, and Scotland—collectively called Great Britain. Together with Northern Ireland, Great Britain makes up the nation officially called the United Kingdom (UK). England, in the southern part of Britain, is separated from Scotland on the north by the granite Cheviot Hills. To the west along the border of Wales—a land of steep hills and valleys—are the Cambrian Mountains. To the south of England is the English Channel and to the east is the North Sea, which also washes the eastern coast of Scotland. To the west of England is the Irish Sea, mixed to the north with the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Population:** Entire UK 65,105,246 (estimate): England - 55,268,100, Scotland - 5,404,700, Wales - 3,113,200, Northern Ireland - 1,862,100
- **Religions:** Christian (Anglican, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, etc.) 59.5%, Muslim 4.4%, Hindu 1.3%, other 2%, unspecified 7.2%, none 25.7%
- **Time zone:** Great Britain is five hours ahead of Eastern Time: when it is 6 am in New York, it is 11 am in Wales, England, and Scotland.

National Holidays: United Kingdom

National holidays can vary depending on which part of the country you're in; please refer to the section for the specific area that you'll be visiting. The United Kingdom also celebrates a number of national holidays that

follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

England

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 50,346 square miles
- **Capital:** London

- **Location:** Consists of 48 counties, occupying the southern part of Great Britain
- **Languages:** English
- **Population:** 55,268,100
- **Religions:** Christianity 59.4%, Non-religious 24.7%, Unknown 7.2%, Muslim 5.0%, Hindu 1.5%, Sikh 0.8%, Jewish 0.5%, Buddhist 0.5%
- **Time Zone:** Same as the rest of the United Kingdom, five hours ahead of Eastern Time

National Holidays: England

In addition to the holidays listed below, England celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day

1st Monday in May Early May Bank Holiday

Last Monday in May Spring Bank Holiday

Last Monday in August Summer Bank Holiday

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

England: A Brief History

Prehistoric England was home to Celtic and other tribal peoples, then was ruled by the Roman Empire from about AD 43 to AD 410. After Rome fell, Jutes, Angles, and Saxons established small kingdoms and fiefdoms. When the Viking marauders hit England's shores in the 9th century, many of those small kingdoms were unified by King Alfred the Great of Wessex. Strength in numbers.

Some of England's medieval monarchs stand out for their lasting impacts on history. William the Conqueror brought Norman rule to England in 1066. Richard the Lionheart embarked on the Third Crusade in 1189. King John was compelled to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, laying the foundation for constitutional monarchy.

English King Edward I conquered Wales in 1283 and sought to rule Scotland as well. Those imperial ambitions were not limited to the island of Great Britain—England under Edward III fought the Hundred Years' War with France between 1337 and 1453, ultimately losing all its possessions on the French side of the Channel. Then, between 1455 and 1485, the York and Lancaster families battled for the crown in the Wars of the Roses. The victor, Henry Tudor, who was a Lancaster but through illegitimate descent. He married a York, and their offspring, Henry VIII, became the third Tudor king in 1509.

Henry VIII is best known for his six marriages, the first of which, to Catherine of Aragon, he sought to end through annulment. When the Pope forbade it, Henry separated the Church of England from papal authority and made himself its head. His daughter, Elizabeth I, became queen in 1558 and ruled for 44 years—a golden age of cultural flowering, and the expansion of England's naval prowess.

England fell into civil war between 1642 and 1649, when Oliver Cromwell executed King Charles I and briefly replaced the monarchy with a republic. The monarchy was restored in 1660 with the enthronement of Charles II, though royal power was restored with limitations.

The United Kingdom came into being with the 1707 Act of Union between the parliaments of England and Scotland. Then, by 1714, the first of four King Georges ascended the throne, beginning the Georgian era, a time when England laid the groundwork for Empire. It reached its fruition in the 19th century during the Victorian era, when the British Empire straddled the globe.

During the 19th century, the entire island of Ireland was part of the United Kingdom, having been incorporated into the UK in 1801. The Irish however, sought independence, and in 1921, all but the six northern counties of Ulster became the Republic of Ireland—leaving the UK in its present form. But the United Kingdom was still able to call on its crown colonies, protectorates and Commonwealth when it declared war on Germany in 1939. The Battle of Britain and the destructive air attacks known as the Blitz besieged England from July 1940 to June 1941. Prime Minister Winston Churchill, one of England’s most influential statesmen, led the country to victory.

As a popular song of the war years put it, “There’ll Always Be an England.” But what of the United Kingdom? In recent years, the desires of the Scots and Welsh for greater autonomy have led to the process called “devolution.” In 1999, Scotland regained its own Parliament, and Wales established its own National Assembly. In 2014, a referendum was held in Scotland to vote on independence from the United Kingdom, but was defeated.

In 2016, a United Kingdom referendum passed with 51.9% in favor of leaving the European Union. Brexit went into effect on January 31, 2020, with an 11-month transition period, during which the government of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson must negotiate a new EU trade deal. With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic the same year, Johnson was faced with serious policy decisions to mitigate civilian casualties. Johnson’s struggles came to a head in July 2022, following multiple scandals, when the former Prime Minister stepped down.

His successor, Liz Truss, was in office from September 6th, 2022 to October 25th, 2022. Two days after her appointment, Queen Elizabeth II, the Queen of the United Kingdom for over 70 years, passed. Faced with universal criticism and financial instability, Truss resigned from her position, to be succeeded by Rishi Sunak, who was in office from October 25nd, 2022 to July 5th, 2024. Rishi Sunak called for a general election in July 2024, and lost the election to Keir Starmer, from the opposing Labour Party.

King Charles III was coronated as the King of the United Kingdom and 14 Commonwealth Realms on May 6th, 2023.

Wales

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 8,006 square miles

- **Capital:** Cardiff (regional); Wales is part of the United Kingdom, whose national capital is London
- **Location:** Consists of 8 counties, occupying the southwestern part of Great Britain
- **Languages:** English, Welsh
- **Population:** 3,113,200
- **Religions:** Christian 57.6%, None 32.1%, Unknown 7.6%, Muslim 1.5%, Other 1.2%
- **Time Zone:** Same as the rest of the United Kingdom, five hours ahead of Eastern Time

National Holidays: Wales

Wales typically celebrates the same holidays as England, in addition to a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

Wales: A Brief History

One of the oldest regions in the world, the area of land occupied by Wales is thought to have been inhabited since about 250,000 BC. Celts began arriving on Britain's shores in about 600 BC. The Romans came in 55 BC, but didn't fully occupy present-day Wales and England until about 60 AD. After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century, various independent kingdoms sprouted across Britain and were under constant threat by Anglo-Saxon invaders—a period that some say gave rise to the exploits of King Arthur who engaged in battles against them. When the Anglo-Saxons eventually gained control of much of present-day England, remote regions such as Wales clung to their language and customs. And by the sixth century, Wales had developed a unique identity that set it apart from the rest of Britain.

While the Kingdom of England was formed in 927 AD, internecine struggles among various Welsh kingdoms prevented Wales from uniting under a single ruler for very long. After the Norman conquest of England, the Welsh kingdoms gradually came under the sway of the English crown. Then, in the late 13th century, King Edward I conquered Wales and claimed it as a territory of England—and the successors to the English monarch would begin holding the title of the “Prince of Wales” to signify their control of the region.

After a smattering of revolts against English rule were launched by the Welsh in the 15th and 16th centuries, Henry VIII passed laws aimed at incorporating Wales into the Kingdom of England. In 1707 Wales became part of the Kingdom of Great Britain and about a century later (in 1801) was folded into the United Kingdom.

While the British Empire rose and flourished in the 19th century, Wales embraced changes brought about by the Industrial Revolution, and saw its population rise dramatically. But with the breakup of the British Empire after the Second World War, the industries of Wales also went into a steep decline, eventually giving rise to nationalist sentiments and possible paths to independence.

Northern Ireland

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 5,450 square miles
- **Capital:** Belfast (regional); Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom, whose national capital is London
- **Location:** Consists of the six counties of Ulster, occupying the northeastern corner of the island of Ireland.
- **Languages:** English
- **Population:** 1,862,100
- **Religions:** Roman Catholic 40.8%, Presbyterian 19.1%, Church of Ireland 13.7%, Methodist 3%, none or unknown 23.5%
- **Time Zone:** Same as the rest of Ireland, five hours ahead of Eastern Time

National Holidays: Northern Ireland

In addition to the holidays listed below, Northern Ireland celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and the Spring and Summer Bank holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit www.timeanddate.com/holidays.

01/01 New Year's Day
03/17 St. Patrick's Day
07/12 Battle of the Boyne
12/25 Christmas Day
12/26 Boxing Day

Northern Ireland: A Brief History

The arc of history followed a similar curve in Northern Ireland as it did in the southern island until the 20th century. In the 1600s, northern Ireland (which lies in the province of Ulster) was a bastion of resistance against the forces of King Henry VII, who was instituting widespread programs of colonization by taking Irish lands and giving them to English and Scottish Protestant settlers. Key leaders of the anti-British forces were from the Ulster county of Tyrone, but many of them fled to Europe after being defeated at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601.

The Protestant colonization program, called the "Ulster Plantation," continued until another rebellion broke out in 1641. Many Protestant settlers were massacred, but when the New Model Army of Oliver Cromwell arrived from England in 1649, four years of bloody anti-Catholic reprisals followed and land ownership reverted to the Protestants. Over the next several hundred years, there were Irish revolts, but the Protestant population grew into a majority.

Fast forward to 1921, after the island had been ripped by three years of guerilla warfare. A truce was reached between Irish republican and British forces, which resulted in the Anglo-Irish Treaty creating the Irish Free State. Under its terms Northern Ireland would be part of the Free State unless its parliament opted out. The parliament was controlled by the (Protestant) Ulster Unionist party and as expected, it chose to remain as part of the United Kingdom.

For the next 50 years, Northern Ireland enjoyed limited self-government within the UK. But since its parliament was controlled by the Ulster Unionist Party, the large Catholic minority had little participation in the government, which at times openly encouraged discrimination against Catholics. This led to large civil rights protests in the 1960s, which the government brutally suppressed, most notably on “Bloody Sunday.” During this time the paramilitary Provisional IRA, who favored the reunification of Ireland, began its campaign against what it called the British occupation of the six counties. Other splinter groups began to participate in the violence.

The Northern Irish government’s inability to manage the conflict prompted the British government to suspended home rule in 1972 and impose direct rule. The British tried to portray themselves as neutral peacekeepers, but British officers often colluded with illegal loyalist paramilitaries, were involved in murders, and obstructed justice when their crimes were investigated. Irish nationalist and republican groups further fragmented and also committed violence against civilians, as the so-called “Troubles” rolled on for 30 years.

In 1998, following a Provisional IRA cease-fire, the Good Friday Agreement restored self-government to Northern Ireland on the basis of power sharing between the two communities. Violence greatly decreased since the signing of the accord. In 2001, the police force in Northern Ireland, the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was replaced by the Police Service of Northern Ireland. On July 28, 2005, the Provisional IRA (PIRA) announced the end of its armed campaign and that September, international weapons inspectors supervised the full disarmament of the PIRA.

The elections of 2017 marked the first time since partition that the Unionists did not win a majority of seats. The opposing Sinn Féin party has stated its main goal is the reunification of Ireland. After three years of political deadlock, a power-sharing deal was reached in 2020. In 2024, the Sinn Féin party became the largest party in representing Northern Ireland in Westminster. Considering shifting demographics and the fact that the majority of voters in Northern Ireland were opposed to Brexit and wanted to remain within the European Union, maybe reunification with the Republic of Ireland (which is an EU member state) is not a far-off dream.

Scotland

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

- **Area:** 30,918 square miles
- **Capital:** Edinburgh (regional); Scotland is part of the United Kingdom, whose national capital is London

- **Location:** Consists of 32 council areas, occupying the northern part of Great Britain and islands
- **Languages:** English, Scots, Scottish Gaelic
- **Population:** 5,404,700
- **Religions:** None 49.4%, Church of Scotland 24.1%, Roman Catholic 14.5%, other Christian 7.8%, Other 2.3%, Muslim 1.6%, Unknown 0.3%
- **Time Zone:** Same as the rest of the United Kingdom, five hours ahead of Eastern Time

National Holidays: Scotland

In addition to the holidays listed below, Scotland celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

01/01 New Year's Day

01/02 2nd January Holiday

1st Monday in May Early May Bank Holiday

Last Monday in May Spring Bank Holiday

First Monday in August Summer Bank Holiday

11/30 St. Andrew's Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

Scotland: A Brief History

We know that various hunter-gatherer tribes inhabited Scotland as far back as 9,600 BC. By 3,000 BC, they used tools, established farming and scattered standing stones all over. You can see some of these Neolithic monoliths on the Isle of Lewis, Shetland, Orkney, and beyond.

The Romans arrived in Great Britain 43 AD, but when they attempted to occupy Scotland, they met fierce resistance from the native tribes, who they referred to as Caledonians. The Romans built several fortifications, including Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall. But they were never able to conquer the Caledonians and by 212 AD, they left.

In the wake of the Romans, Scotland was divided into four main kingdoms. The Picts held the northeast, the Scots (from Ireland) established Dal Riata in the west, the Britons occupied the southwest, and the Angles had Bernicia, which eventually morphed into Northumbria and stretched into England. Their rivalries were set aside in the face of a new threat: by 793 AD, Viking marauders arrived, ferociously attacking the monasteries at Iona and Lindisfarne, taking over villages and establishing trading posts. In 843 AD, the various kingdoms united under Kenneth MacAlpin, the first King of Alba. Eventually, his domain became known as Scotland. A nation was born.

When the Normans took over England in 1066, many Anglo-Saxons moved north into the Scottish Lowlands. This is when the Scots began adopting English cultural ways. But when a succession dispute arose, the English King Edward I seized the opportunity to invade and name himself king. This led to the first War of Scottish Independence in which William Wallace, of *Braveheart* fame,

routed the English at Stirling Bridge in 1297. The victory was short lived, as the English returned in 1298, captured Wallace and executed him in 1305. But Robert the Bruce picked up the baton (and the crown), and defeated the English at Bannockburn in 1314. Scotland's independence was assured, but peace was not.

Centuries of conflict with England ensued, often fueled by religion and marked not just by physical violence, but by various English attempts to suppress Scottish culture. The connections between clans were broken, and the chieftains became feudal lords whose rapacity often forced their own people off lands in evictions known as "clearances." In 1707, the two nations signed onto the Act of Union, which united England and Scotland under the same flag and Parliament, but allowed Scotland to keep its own church and legal system. The United Kingdom was born, but again, the bloodshed did not die as years of rebellion continued. The last one, led by Bonnie Prince Charlie, culminated with the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Despite tensions, Scotland's economy was supercharged by the Industrial Revolution. The 18th century saw the Scottish Enlightenment, and Glasgow became a great trading port. Scotland's educational system flourished, and its inventors exported their genius around the world. During World Wars I and II, the Scots' warrior legacy made huge contributions to the Allied War effort.

Following deindustrialization in the 20th century, the Scottish economy hit a wall. Tensions with England continue, manifesting as periodic calls for independence. In 2014, voters rejected a referendum for independence by a slim margin. They may well be reconsidering that decision: only 38% of Scots were in favor of Brexit, and a 2020 poll showed that 52% of voters support leaving the UK, post-Brexit.

Isle of Man

Facts, Figures & National Holidays

The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown dependency. This means the island is British—and shares much of its history with England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland—but unlike those nations, it is not an official part of the United Kingdom nor it is a part of the European Union.

- **Area:** 221 square miles
- **Capital:** Douglas
- **Languages:** English, Manx Gaelic
- **Location:** The Isle of Man is located in the Irish Sea, about halfway between the eastern coast of Ireland and the western coast of Great Britain.
- **Population:** 87,545 (estimate)
- **Religions:** Protestant (Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Society of Friends), Roman Catholic

- **Time zone:** The Isle of Man is on the same time zone as Ireland, which is five hours ahead of Eastern Time: when it is 6 am in New York, it is 11 am in the Isle of Man.

National Holidays: United Kingdom

In addition to the holidays listed below, the Isle of Man celebrates a number of national holidays that follow a lunar calendar, such as Easter and the Spring and Summer Bank holidays. To find out if you will be traveling during these holidays, please visit **www.timeanddate.com/holidays**.

01/01 New Year's Day

07/05 Tynwald Day

12/25 Christmas Day

12/26 Boxing Day

RESOURCES

Suggested Reading

England

A Traveller's History of England by Christopher Daniell (2005, History) An entertaining refresher course in English history, from hunter-gatherers to Margaret Thatcher's resignation. Written by a noted British historian and archaeologist

London by Edward Rutherfurd (1998, Fiction) A very ambitious historical novel of London's past, which sweeps from Roman times through the medieval, Elizabethan, Victorian, and Edwardian eras on up to the present.

All Creatures Great and Small by James Herriot (1998, Memoir) A heart-warming book, in which a veterinarian in Yorkshire shares amusing anecdotes about his dealings with animals and their owners.

Bath by Edith Sitwell (1932, History) Sitwell, the famed Bloomsbury writer, provides a fine portrait of Beau Nash, the 18th-century "Master of Ceremonies" who put the city Bath on the Georgian social map. Insightful commentary on the fashions of the day, the development of the city, and the colorful array of politicians, peers, matchmakers, gamblers, artists and con artists who flocked here to "take the waters."

Wales

The Ladies of Llangollen: A Study in Romantic Friendship by Elizabeth Mavor (2011, Non-Fiction) A beautifully written account of two 18th-century women who abandoned their aristocratic lives in Ireland to settle in Llangollen, Wales. Wanting to keep their lives private and away from the glare of society, their achievements, intelligence, and wit would instead make them local legends.

The Matter of Wales: Epic Views of a Small Country by Jan Morris (2000, Travel Writing) One of the world's leading travel writers celebrates her native country in this deeply personal study of the architecture, landscapes, and national character of Wales.

Here Be Dragons by Sharon Kay Penman (1985, Historical Fiction). This is the first book in a highly praised trilogy that follows the decline of Welsh kings. Penman skillfully melds history and fiction and brings 13th-century Wales vividly to life.

Northern Ireland

Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe (2019, Nonfiction) In 1972, 38-year old Jean McConville, a widowed mother of eight, was abducted from her Belfast home and murdered. What would otherwise be a gripping true crime story is revealed to be part of a web of other stories, which altogether provide an epic portrait of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Scotland

Complete Poems and Songs of Robert Burns by Robert Burns (2012, Poetry) A collection by the famous Scottish poet who is known for writing in the Scots language, including the famous *Auld Lang Syne*.

Corrag by Susan Fletcher (2010, Historical Fiction) In Glencoe in 1692, 38 members of the Macdonald clan are killed by the redcoats of William III—after they'd enjoyed the family's hospitality for a week. This real-life incident is told from the perspective of Corrag, a young woman who is accused of witchcraft after the event, and imprisoned in Inverary.

44 *Scotland Street series* by Alexander McCall Smith (2004, Fiction) Alexander McCall Smith, also known for the bestselling No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency series, depicts the lives of colorful residents in an Edinburgh apartment building

The Crow Road by Iain Banks (1992, Fiction) Set in the west Highlands (in a town reminiscent of Oban), this darkly comic tale from one of Scotland's most acclaimed writers touches on themes of love, death, sex, addiction, family and the power of the Scottish landscape. In it, Prentice, a bumbling student, attempts to unravel the disappearance of his Uncle Rory, just one of the eccentric characters in the sprawling McHoan family. The Crow Road is a real road in Glasgow, but the expression "to take the crow road" means you are dead.

The Scottish World: History and Culture of Scotland by Harold Orel, et al (1981, Culture) Ten essays seek to show that Scottish culture is distinctly different from English in its art, architecture, literature, music, and history.

Suggested Films & Videos

England

All Is True (2019, Drama) After the Globe Theater is burned in a fire, William Shakespeare (Sir Kenneth Branagh) returns to Stratford-Upon-Avon and his stoic wife, Anne Hathaway (Dame Judi Dench). Fame is trailing him, as are the ghosts of his past, and the genius for wit and wordplay that he can no longer summon. Also starring Sir Ian McKellen.

Atonement (2007, Drama) On the eve of World War II, a 13-year old girl irrevocably changes the lives of three people when she mistakenly accuses her sister's lover of a crime. The depiction of the manors and manners of the British gentry is at once searing and beautifully evocative. And the war scenes—notably the famous tracking shot on the beaches of Dunkirk—are harrowing. This Oscar winner stars Keira Knightley, James McAvoy and a young Saoirse Ronan.

Gosford Park (2001, Drama) "Upstairs, Downstairs" meets Agatha Christie in this whodunit set in an English country estate in 1932. The powerhouse ensemble cast includes Helen Mirren, Maggie Smith, Michael Gambon, Kelly MacDonal and Clive Owen.

British TV

The Crown (2016, Historical Drama) A Netflix original drama following Queen Elizabeth II in the mid-20th century as she assumes the throne and the events that follow.

The Great British Baking Show (2010, Reality Cooking Series) Sometimes known as *The Great British Bake Off*, this competition features 12 aspiring bakers from Britain as they take on challenges to create everything from traditional British treats to twists on the classics with their “showstopper” dishes before facing the judges.

Prime Suspect (1991, Mystery) This gritty modern crime drama introduced Helen Mirren to wider audiences as the no-nonsense detective Jane Tennison. The show deals with some dark subject matter, such as crime and alcoholism.

Wales

The Englishman Who Went up a Hill but Came Down a Mountain (1995). Scored with a Welsh choir, this heartwarming tale recounts the experiences of two cartographers who arrive in a Welsh village in 1917. Loosely based on actual events, the film reveals how the Welsh are very different from the English.

How Green Was My Valley (1941). Grab a hankie for director John Ford’s Academy Award winning film that chronicles the lives of a 19th-century Welsh coal-mining family.

Northern Ireland

’71 (2014, Drama) During the height of The Troubles, a British soldier becomes separated from his unit after a riot breaks out in a mixed Belfast neighborhood. Suspense and compassion mix as the film explores the humanity of all the characters, regardless of their sectarian roles.

Derry Girls (2018, TV Show). This acclaimed sitcom follows the lives of high school girls in Northern Ireland during the end of the Troubles in the 1990s. Enjoy the dark humor, raw writing and irrepressible cast.

In the Name of the Father (1994, Biopic) The true-life story of Gerry Conlon, one of the “Guildford Four” — four Irish youths who were falsely convicted of blowing up an English pub in the 1970s. Although only partly set in Northern Ireland (the trial and jail time are in England), the film does a good job at exploring the tensions between the Catholics and Protestants at the time.

Scotland

Mary Queen of Scots (2018, Historical Drama) History has cast Queen Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie) and her cousin Mary (Saoirse Ronan) as enemies. This film imagines them as both power brokers and pawns whose mutual admiration is crushed by the misogyny, nationalism and treachery of their courts.

Macbeth (2015, Drama) Evocative Scottish settings, outstanding production values and the timeless themes of Shakespeare’s tragedy make this a must-see. Stars Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard bring intensity and depth as Scotland’s most famous power couple.

Trainspotting (1997, Dark Comedy/Drama) Danny Boyle’s electrifying breakthrough film follows a young heroin addict (Ewan MacGregor) and his outrageous friends as they struggle to score in the underside of Edinburgh. Plenty of black humor and provocative social commentary.

Scottish TV Shows

Outlander (2014–present, Drama) Based on the novels of Diana Gabaldon, this wildly popular, historical time-travel series begins when a WWII nurse visits Inverness, Scotland, where she is mysteriously carried from the standing stones at Craigh na Dun back in time to 1743. She falls in love with a rebel Highlander, whose Jacobite cause, she knows, is doomed.

Shetland (2013–present, Mystery) Small town life is more complicated than it seems in this acclaimed BBC series. Follow detective Jimmy Pérez as he investigates crime amidst the elemental landscapes of the Shetlands.

Useful Websites

Overseas Adventure Travel

www.oattravel.com

Overseas Adventure Travel Frequently Asked Questions

www.oattravel.com/faq

International Health Information/CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

www.cdc.gov/travel

Electricity & Plugs

www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets

Foreign Exchange Rates

www.xe.com/currencyconverter
www.oanda.com/converter/classic

ATM Locators

www.mastercard.com/atm
www.visa.com/atmlocator

World Weather

www.intellicast.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com

Basic Travel Phrases (80 languages)

www.travlang.com/languages

Packing Tips

www.travelite.org

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

www.cbp.gov/travel

Transportation Security Administration (TSA)

www.tsa.gov

National Passport Information Center

www.travel.state.gov

Holidays Worldwide

www.timeanddate.com/holidays

History & Culture

en.wikipedia.org

Useful Apps

Flight Stats

Track departures, arrivals, and flight status

LoungeBuddy

Get access to premium airport lounges around the world

Timeshifter

Personalized tips for avoiding jetlag, based on neuroscience and your own data

GoogleMaps

Maps and directions anywhere in the world

Triposo

City guides, walking maps, and more – and it works offline

Rome2rio

Where to go, what to see, and what to do in more than 160 countries

Flush or Sit or Squat

Find a clean toilet anywhere

Uber

Ride sharing around the world

Visa Plus and Mastercard Cirrus

ATM locations

Shows the location of the nearest ATM in your network

TunnelBear

Provides a secure VPN (virtual private network) that will encrypt your browsing data when you use a public WiFi network

What's App, Skype, or Signal

WiFi calling anywhere in the world

Duolingo, FLuentU, or Babbel

Learn dozens of foreign languages

Google Translate

Fast and simple translations

XE

Currency conversions

SizeGuide

Clothing and shoe sizes in all countries

Best Units Converter

Converts currency, mileage, weights, and many other units of measurement

Tourlina

For women only, it connects you with other female travelers

Happy Cow

Locate vegan and vegetarian eateries in 195 countries

Eatwith

Dine with locals all over the world

Meetup

Connects you with locals who share your interests

Skyview

Identifies constellations and heavenly bodies

Travello

Find travel friends on the road

ALIX for One

Created by and for women, it identifies solo-friendly dining spots in major international cities

TripWhistle

Maps your location and provides emergency numbers for police, medics, and more

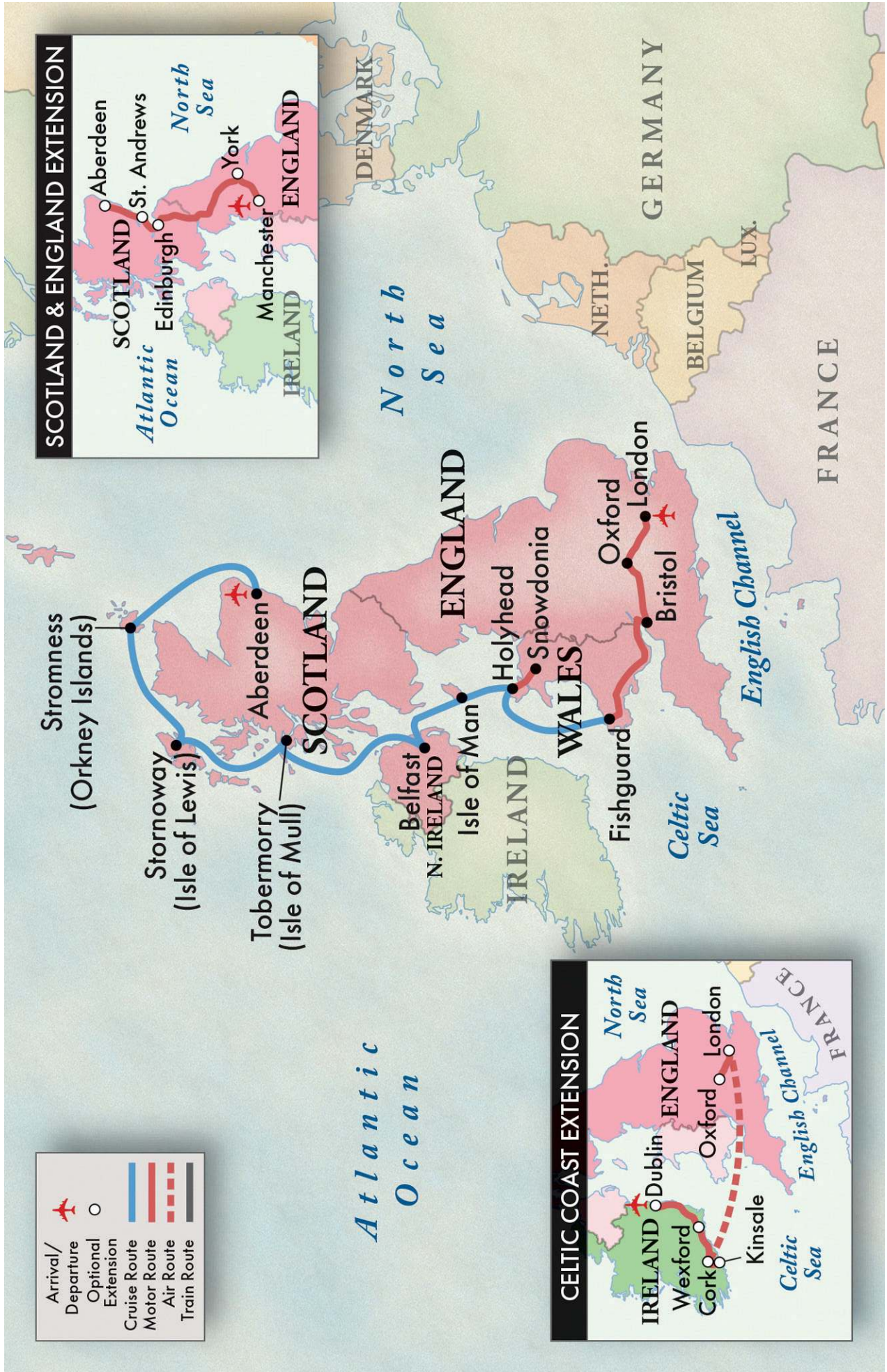
GeoSure

Safely navigate neighborhoods around the world

Chirpey

For women only, connect with other women, find out what's safe, meet up, and more

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