

Wild Earth Travel

Small Ships, Big Adventures

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VOYAGE TO THE EMERALD ISLE - AN IN-DEPTH EXPLORATION OF IRELAND'S WONDERS

If you have been to Ireland before and have been meaning to return to explore in greater depth, or are yet to discover the appeal of what is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful countries in the world, then our voyage offers the perfect opportunity. Renowned for its warm welcome, culture, literary genius and fascinating history stretching back some 10,000 years, Ireland is a small isle with enormous character. Join the Hebridean Sky in late summer as she undertakes a unique and comprehensive voyage to discover why this beautiful island is so beloved worldwide.

Setting sail from Oban to Northern Ireland, during our voyage around the west coast of Ireland we will aim not only to show its beauty but to delve into its past to gain a better understanding of modern day Ireland. Highlights will include unearthing the myths and legends of the Giant's Causeway, cruising around the mystical Skellig Islands and visiting quaint villages, harbour towns and modern cities. We will also explore the Wild Atlantic Way stopping at the little-visited Bere Island, witness the rugged beauty of the Aran Islands at Inishmore and our final morning will be spent in the remote Isles of Scilly where nature abounds. During our summer voyage, many of the islands, gardens and estates will be at their most appealing and the countryside will be beautiful and inviting. However, perhaps most of all it will be the charm and warmth of the people that make any trip to Ireland most memorable.

A cruise around the Emerald Isle makes for a most appealing sea journey whether you be an avid gardener, birdwatcher or

simply enjoy sailing past and visiting some of the most enchanting scenery in the world. Travelling by small ship in the company of just over 100 fellow guests we have the advantage of being able to reach remote islands and, with the use of Zodiacs we will be able to explore its pure unspoiled landscapes and spot rare seabirds and marine mammals along the rugged coastline.



coastline.

ITINERARY

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Day 1 Oban, Scotland.

Embark the MS Hebridean Sky this afternoon. Transfers will be provided from Glasgow International Airport and Central Railway station at a fixed time. Enjoy welcome drinks and dinner this evening as we sail to Ireland.

Day 2 Giant's Causeway & Derry, Northern Ireland.

From our berth in Lisahally we will visit the Giant's Causeway which became widely known from the 1700s as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and large numbers of visitors came to view this amazing array of basalt columns of which there are estimated to be around 40,000 in total. After a stop at Dunluce Castle, we return to the ship for lunch followed by an afternoon to explore Derry, a vibrant city steeped in history. Walking the walls, built over 400 years ago, you can see the city's history all around you. During the tour we will visit St Columb Cathedral which has stood on its prominent site inside the city walls since 1633, as well as the Tower Museum which charts the city's history.

Day 3 Killybegs, Ireland.

Spend the day in County Donegal where from our base in the village of Killybegs we have a choice of excursions. Choose to drive west to the Glencolmcille area, a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) area steeped in culture and rich in folklore and music. One of the most scenic areas in Ireland, the drive through the countryside is outstanding. The Folk Museum, which opened in 1967, is a monument to Father James McDyer who came to the village in 1952 and set about infusing the local people with a spirit of self-reliance and pride in their heritage. Here we will learn about the history of the area and enjoy some traditional Irish music. We will also offer a walk through the Bluestack Mountains. This circular 3.5 kilometre walk offers the striking beauty and peacefulness of the mountains and spectacular views. In the afternoon there will be the option to take a stroll through Donegal town, which was invaded by Vikings in the 8th century and used as their port, giving its Gaelic name Dun na nGall, 'Fort of the Foreigners'. The walking tour will take in the town's history including the castle, the ruined Franciscan friary as well as the 'The Diamond' or centre of town where markets were held until 1967. This evening we will enjoy some Irish dancing after dinner.

Day 4 Aran Islands & Galway.

After a morning at sea we arrive off the Galway Coast at the Aran Islands. We will call into the largest, Inishmore, and explore some of the early Christian sites. This island was a place of monastic study from the earliest Christian times. Also, see the dramatic stone fort of Dun Aonghusa, parts of which date back some 3,000 years. We sail in the late afternoon towards Galway. Arrive in the early evening and maybe enjoy an after-dinner stroll or find some local music as we moor overnight.

Day 5 Galway.

From Galway we explore the beautiful region of Connemara. Here the National Park covers nearly 3,000 hectares of scenic mountains, heaths and woodland and is home to herds of ponies. During our drive along the 'Wild Atlantic Way' we will see beautiful coves, bays and traditional fishing villages where we will experience local culture in this Irish speaking part of the country. Visit Kylemore Abbey which is set on a lake against a backdrop of the Connemara Mountains and home to Ireland's only Benedictine order of nuns who have restored and cared for the Kylemore estate since 1920. Uniquely, only Victorian varieties of flowers and vegetables are grown in the walled garden which contains two distinct areas: the kitchen garden and the flower garden.

Day 6 Valentia Island & Skellig Islands.

Today we arrive at the famous Kerry (Iveragh) Peninsula and anchor at the port of Knightstown on Valentia Island. Spend the morning learning about the history of the island, with visits to the Cromwell Point Lighthouse and Transatlantic Cable Museum or alternatively visit the Portmagee distillery for a tasting of the local whiskey. Later, we will arrive off The Skelligs, tiny islands just off the magnificent coast of the Dingle Peninsula. Weather permitting, we will sail around these mystical islands with their early Christian history. Skellig Michael is a World Heritage Site and atop this rugged pyramid, that rises from the sea, are the ruins of a monastery. Meanwhile at Little Skellig the sky can on occasion turn white as some of the 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets leave their roosts.

Day 7 Bere Island.

Awake at anchor off Bere Island which lies at the entrance to the deep,

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sheltered waters of Bantry Bay. The small island, roughly 10 kilometres by three kilometres, has a population of about 200 people but its place in history is assured. After the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, the island became one of three Irish ports retained by the British because of its strategic value. Evidence remains of earlier visitors too with megalithic standing stones, wedge tombs and ring forts. We have the whole day to explore on a choice of island walks, spend time at the Heritage Centre which showcases island life and take the chance to meet the islanders.

Day 8 Waterford & Kilkenny.

From our berth in Belview, Waterford, we will drive inland to the Medieval city of Kilkenny. The great building prowess of the Normans is very evident in the 11th and 12th century buildings bestowed on the city. Characterised by many beautifully restored buildings, the most splendid is Kilkenny Castle which was until recently a stronghold of the Butler family. The castle began life as a Norman fortress and gradually became more domesticated through the centuries. After exploring the interior, including the gallery with portraits by Van Dyck and Lely we will wander in the surrounding 21 hectares of gardens. On the famous Medieval mile which leads from the castle to the city, we can see the St Canices Round Tower, the 13th century St Mary's Church and the enchanting Rothe Gardens. Return to the MS Hebridean Sky for lunch and in the afternoon there will be a visit to Waterford, Ireland's oldest city. Join a tour to the House of Waterford Crystal to learn about the world-renowned crystalware and see how it is made or, alternatively, enjoy a leisurely afternoon to explore at your own pace and perhaps visit the excellent Medieval Museum and the Viking built Reginald's Tower.

Day 9 Isles of Scilly, England.

Spend the morning in the Isles of Scilly, an archipelago of five inhabited islands and up to one hundred and forty uninhabited islets, located 30 miles off the coast of Cornwall. Our time will depend on weather and sea conditions but we hope to visit St Mary's, the largest island in the archipelago (yet still only six square miles), where you can enjoy some time in the shops in Hugh Town or walk the historic Garrison Walls. Return to the ship for a final afternoon at sea.

Day 10 Portsmouth.

Disembark this morning. Transfers will be provided to Portsmouth Harbour railway station at a fixed time.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: HEBRIDEAN SKY

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VESSEL TYPE: Expedition

LENGTH: 90.6 metres

PASSENGER CAPACITY: 118

BUILT/REFURBISHED: 1992 / 2016

The MS Hebridean Sky is one of our three elegant sister ships--alongside the MS Island Sky and MS Caledonian Sky--renowned for their small size, comfort, and service. Built in the same Italian shipyard, this refined vessel underwent a multi-million-pound refurbishment in 2016, enhancing its private yacht-like atmosphere.

Suites

The ship offers 59 spacious, outside-facing suites over five decks, with 14 featuring private balconies. Each suite includes a sitting area, en-suite bathroom with rainfall shower, flat-screen TV, minibar, safe, dressing table, Molton Brown toiletries, robes, slippers, and individually controlled climate settings. Beds can be configured as twins or doubles, except in suites 601 and 602. The luxurious Hebridean Suite includes a large balcony, sitting room, and complimentary minibar and laundry.

Public Areas

Public spaces include a panoramic lounge for talks and briefings, The Club bar with live piano music, a library with books and games, and ample outdoor deck space including a wildlife observation area. A lift serves all decks, and there is a small hair salon and an onboard doctor. Complimentary satellite

Wi-Fi is available, though signal strength may vary.

Dining

Meals are served in a single sitting in the elegant dining room or al fresco on the Lido Deck. Cuisine is fresh and varied, often featuring local produce. Enjoy daily afternoon tea, pre-dinner canapes, and wines with lunch and dinner. Breakfast is buffet-style with cooked-to-order options. Barbecues and live cooking stations are also offered. Special diets can be accommodated with notice.

Experience

Designed for those who prefer a quiet, enriching cruise, the Hebridean Sky offers a relaxed, yacht-like ambiance without large ship distractions. There's no organised entertainment or dress codes--just thoughtful service, enriching lectures, and scenic cruising among like-minded travellers.

Comfort & Safety

The vessel is fitted with stabilisers, modern navigation systems, and safety equipment. Guests can visit the Bridge, view route information on suite TVs, and enjoy peace of mind with a fully equipped clinic on board.

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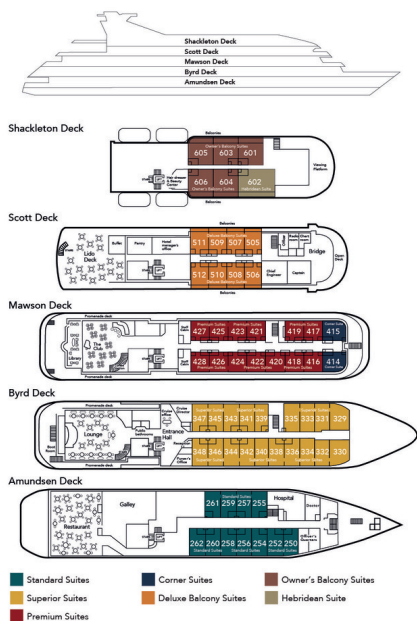
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INSIDE YOUR SHIP



Amundsen Deck Standard Sole



Amundsen Deck Standard Suite



Byrd Deck Superior Sole



Byrd Deck Superior Suite



Mawson Deck Corner Suite



Mawson Deck Premium Suite



Scott Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite



Shackleton Deck Hebridean Suite



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PRICING

27-Aug-2026 to 05-Sep-2026

Amundsen Deck Standard Suite	6195 GBP pp
Byrd Deck Superior Suite	6395 GBP pp
Mawson Deck Premium Suite	6595 GBP pp
Mawson Deck Corner Suite	6895 GBP pp
Amundsen Deck Standard Sole	7095 GBP pp
Byrd Deck Superior Sole	7295 GBP pp
Scott Deck Deluxe Balcony Suite	7795 GBP pp
Shackleton Deck Owner's Balcony Suite	7995 GBP pp
Shackleton Deck Hebridean Suite	8495 GBP pp

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