

IHRE REISE

Vereinigtes Königreich – Krone und Clans

Reisetermin 06.06.2027 - 20.06.2027	Reisedauer 15 Tage	Reederei / Schiff Douglas Mawson / Aurora Expeditions
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Aurora Stateroom Twin Share



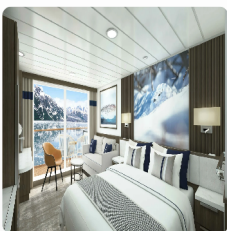
Doppelbelegung 👤👤 €7.998 pro Person	Einzelbelegung 👤🚫 €11.997 pro Person	Gemeinschaftsbelegung 👤👤 €7.998 pro Person
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Aurora Stateroom Superior



Doppelbelegung 👤👤 €8.448 pro Person	Einzelbelegung 👤🚫 €12.672 pro Person	Gemeinschaftsbelegung 👤👤 €8.448 pro Person
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Balcony Stateroom Category C



Doppelbelegung 👤👤 €8.698 pro Person	Einzelbelegung 👤🚫 €13.047 pro Person	Gemeinschaftsbelegung 👤👤 €8.698 pro Person
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Balcony Stateroom Category B



Doppelbelegung


€ 9.148
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung


€ 13.722
 pro Person

Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 9.148
 pro Person

Balcony Stateroom Category A



Doppelbelegung


€ 9.848
 pro Person

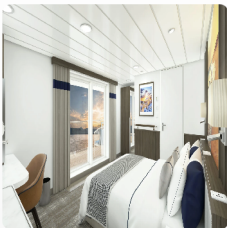
Einzelbelegung


€ 14.772
 pro Person

Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 9.848
 pro Person

Balcony Stateroom Superior



Doppelbelegung


€ 10.748
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung


€ 16.122
 pro Person

Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 10.748
 pro Person

Junior Suite



Doppelbelegung


€ 12.798
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung


€ 19.197
 pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Einzelbelegung


€ 16.895
 pro Person

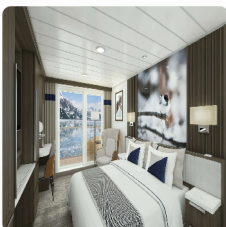
Aurora Stateroom Triple Share



Dreibettbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Captain's Suite



Doppelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Einzelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Aurora Stateroom Single



Doppelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Einzelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Balcony Stateroom Category A - Solo



Doppelbelegung



Nicht verfügbar

Einzelbelegung



Nicht verfügbar



Day 1 Arrive
 London,
 England, UK

Welcome to London. Upon your arrival, make your way to the Arrivals Hall to meet a representative from Vantage Explorations, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby to meet our team, who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and about your time in the UK. You will also receive Aurora Expeditions cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship. This evening offers time to relax in preparation for our 'day out in London' tomorrow. Our group hotel has a popular restaurant and is close to plenty of corner pubs and cosy restaurants should you wish to try some local cuisine. Accommodation: London Hotel (or similar).

Day 2 London

With its six royal palaces, numerous shops endorsed by royal charters, and a wealth of museums, galleries, and vaults housing treasures from the Crown Jewels to King Charles III himself, London indisputably embodies the essence of 'the crown'. From the iconic coronation chair at Westminster Abbey to the stately Royal Mews, and the expansive parklands of St James's Park, to countless pubs bearing royal names, every corner of London resonates with regal history, ensuring any 'crown aficionado' a right royal day out. With an abundance of royal sites to explore, the choice is yours today, when you activate your hop-on-hop-off bus pass to uncover the city's regal history. Whether you prefer the open-top or traditional inside seating, this popular mode of transport offers a fully guided tour with stops at all the significant sites. From Buckingham Palace to the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, and St Paul's Cathedral, you will have the opportunity to visit numerous iconic locations that showcase the city's rich royal heritage. This evening, join your fellow travellers and host at a right royal Welcome reception. Accommodation: London Hotel (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Welcome reception (drinks and canapés).

Day 3 Embark Portsmouth (Port: Portsmouth)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before we begin our transfer to the naval city of Portsmouth. Our journey takes us on a regal route with a visit to the town of Royal Windsor, where we visit King Charles III's weekend retreat; Windsor Castle. Windsor Castle stands as an iconic symbol of British royalty, recognised as the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. Initially constructed by William the Conqueror in the 11th century, it has been a royal residence for nearly a millennium. Its majestic architecture, profound historical significance, and role as a functioning royal palace make it a dream for royal aficionados. Throughout history, it has witnessed pivotal events, including rebellions and reprisals, births and burials, weddings and divorces, while during World War II, Windsor Castle provided crucial refuge for the royal family, safeguarding them from the London bombings. In 1992, a devastating fire almost destroying several galleries complete with artwork, prompting Queen Elizabeth II to famously describe the year as her "annus horribilis". Today, Windsor Castle remains an active royal residence. It continues to host state visits, ceremonial occasions and commemorations, perpetuating its legacy as an integral part of British heritage. A self-guided tour explores the State Apartments, St George's Chapel, and the extensive grounds, all of which showcase the castle's rich history and grandeur. For those looking to limit walking distances, Windsor itself offers plenty to enjoy at an easy, unhurried pace. This historic town is rich in heritage, with riverside restaurants, charming lanes, and a car-free high street lined with some of Britain's most iconic shops. We continue our journey to Portsmouth, where your vessel Douglas Mawson awaits. In the late afternoon, embark your vessel and settle into your cabins before mandatory safety briefings. This evening, meet your crew at an onboard Welcome reception to celebrate the start of journey to remember.

Day 4 Guernsey (Port: St Peters Port)

A mere 30 miles off the Normandy coast, the self-governing British Crown Dependency the Bailiwick of Guernsey, is one of the eight permanently inhabited strongholds of the Channel Islands. Despite being closer to France, Guernsey holds to its distinctive British character. When William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, became King of England in 1066, the Channel Islands, including Guernsey, became possessions of the English Crown. They have remained British Crown Dependencies ever since. Our morning 'Your Choice' experiences return to the ship for lunch, affording you an afternoon to wander the streets of St. Peters Port, with the ship berthed at the town's centrally located port. Perhaps browse the shops, cake shops and quaint pubs, tour Castle Cornet or visit Victori Hugo's 19th century home, before we set sail in the early evening. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Scenic Guernsey and the sculptures of de Sausmarez Manor. Guernsey's compact size makes it easy to take in many of its scenic highlights in one relaxed outing. Our morning involves a rich blend of history, charm, and natural beauty, with a scenic tour of the south of the island and a visit to de Sausmarez Manor — a striking example of Colonial American architecture with roots in the 13th century. Our panoramic drive reveals Guernsey's diverse landscapes—from timeless villages to dramatic coastal scenery. You'll take in views of rocky shorelines, the crescent bays, and the "cup and saucer" Fort Grey, with a stop at Pleinmont Point offering vistas across to the French coast. You'll also have time to explore the home the Seigneurs de Sausmarez; de Sausmarez, Manor. The family's dynasty included privateers, colonial governors, explorers, and artists, all of whom have left their mark on the house and its remarkable contents. The surrounding sculpture gardens feature over 150 contemporary works displayed along winding woodland paths making this visit a gardener's delight. Option 2 – Morning experience: Guernsey at War. Guernsey and the other Channel Islands were the only British territories occupied by Axis forces during World War II. The occupation began on 30 June 1940 and lasted until 9 May 1945. The Germans transformed Guernsey into a heavily fortified stronghold with bunkers, gun emplacements, and tunnels. Life under Nazi rule was harsh. Rations were limited, and by late 1944, food, fuel, and medical supplies were critically low. Communication with the outside world was nearly impossible. Over 1,000 of the 24,000 islanders who remained were deported to German prisons and labour camps; only about 700 survived to return home. Our guided tour of Guernsey's World War II sites offers a poignant insight into the island's wartime experience. Visit the German Occupation Museum, where artefacts donated by locals offer a personal glimpse into daily life under occupation. At the German Naval Signals headquarters, discover how this former hotel became a key communications centre. Explore the La Valette Underground Military Museum, housed in original wartime tunnels built with forced labour. Intended as a U-Boat fuel store, they reveal both the scale of Nazi fortifications, and the suffering endured.

Day 5
Plymouth
(Port:
Plymouth)

Today, we step ashore in a port steeped in maritime history and royal connections: Plymouth. This city's rich legacy begins with the Mayflower, which set sail from Plymouth in 1620, carrying the first Pilgrims to America. Landing at Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts, this voyage marked a pivotal moment in Europe's expansion to the 'New World', with over 30 million people today tracing their ancestry to its 102 passengers and crew from England and Leiden, Holland. Plymouth's maritime heritage extends to Sir Francis Drake, a celebrated naval commander and explorer. Famous for circumnavigating the globe and defeating the Spanish Armada in 1588, Drake was knighted by Queen Elizabeth I aboard his ship, the Golden Hind, in Plymouth harbour. Over the centuries, Plymouth's naval significance has deepened royal ties, with the late Duke of Edinburgh serving as Commodore-in-Chief for Plymouth. This enduring connection underscores Plymouth's pivotal role in British naval history and its global influence. Choose to join a local guide on an exploration of their hometown of Plymouth or take a drive to the legendary Dartmoor National Park, before Douglas Mawson sails the Devonshire and Cornish coasts in the early afternoon. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Devon's legendary moors. Step into a wilder side of England as you journey across Dartmoor National Park — 592 sq.km (368 sq.mi) of raw, windswept beauty that has stirred imaginations for centuries. Along the way, indulge in a classic Devonshire treat: a traditional cream tea featuring a light-as-air scone, a dollop of rich local clotted cream, and a spoonful of homemade jam. Dartmoor's brooding moors, granite tors, and ancient woodlands feel like pages from a storybook. It's no wonder Sir Arthur Conan Doyle chose this landscape as the setting for The Hound of the Baskervilles, and filmmakers continue to return for its haunting atmosphere. With luck, you'll spot the iconic Dartmoor ponies, roaming freely as they have since Saxon times. We'll pause for photos at scenic points along the route, before visiting the High Moorland Visitor Centre to uncover the park's fascinating natural and cultural heritage. Option 2 – Morning experience: The Story of Plymouth. Welcome to Plymouth, a city steeped in maritime heritage. Our locally guided tour starts in the historical Barbican, where the Pilgrim Fathers embarked on the Mayflower in 1620. Standing by the Mayflower Steps, you can almost hear the echoes of their momentous departure to the New World, a journey that would forever link Plymouth to American history. We wander up to Plymouth Hoe, to envision Sir Francis Drake calmly playing bowls as the Spanish Armada approached in 1588. The panoramic views of Plymouth Sound from the Hoe offer a glimpse into the natural harbour that has served as a vital naval base for centuries. On the headland, Plymouth Castle remains a military installation, its silhouette serving as a reminder of the city's strategic importance through the ages. Our tour ends with a drive to the Royal William Yard. This beautifully restored naval victualling yard, now bustling with restaurants, galleries and shops, perfectly blends Plymouth's rich maritime past with its vibrant present.

Day 6
Falmouth
(Port:
Falmouth)

Sailing west, we arrive early morning at the quintessential British county of Cornwall. The seafaring folk of Cornwall have traditionally lived around the crags and coves of the county's coastline in small villages that hug bays and cling to clifftops. Falmouth, with its rich maritime heritage, was established in the 17th century and played a crucial role in naval history, serving as a base for packet ships that carried mail across the British Empire. The town's natural harbour facilitated its development as a significant maritime centre. Modern-day Falmouth is a vibrant community known for its maritime activities, including shipbuilding and fishing. Enjoy one of our 'Your Choice' experiences before exploring Falmouth at your own pace this afternoon with our small ship berthed right in town. Perhaps visit Henry VIII's Pendennis Castle, shop for some souvenirs or try a Cornish scrumpy – that is cider to you and me, in one of the town's cosy pubs, with Douglas Mawson sailing north to Wales in the early evening. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: The Cornish coastal village of St Mawes. Enjoy a classic Cornish experience as you take the ferry across Falmouth's natural harbour to the picturesque village of St. Mawes. These historic waters, once vital to the workings of the British Empire, are steeped in seafaring tradition. Glide past wooded creeks, quiet coves, and the stretch known as King Harry Reach, where ferries have crossed for centuries. You'll pass the thatched Smuggler's Cottage, which played an unexpected role in the preparations of American troops ahead of the D-Day landings. Look out for the imposing St. Mawes Castle, one of the coastal forts built by Henry VIII to guard this strategic anchorage. On arrival in the peaceful harbour village of St. Mawes, enjoy some free time to browse local craft shops and soak up the laid-back Cornish seaside vibe before settling in for a traditional cream tea — an enduring British treat. Option 2 – Morning experience: Scenic Cornwall. Discover the picturesque heart of Cornwall and its sweeping coastal views on this panoramic tour. From Falmouth Pier, journey along the serene Fal Estuary through Penryn, once famed for shipbuilding, to Truro, Cornwall's only city, crowned by a striking cathedral with copper-clad spires tinted by verdigris, a nod to the region's mining past. Heading west, we pass through the former tin-mining strongholds of Redruth and Camborne, with views of granite cottages, tree-lined lanes, and historic chapels that evoke the world of Poldark, while our route ends in Marazion, overlooking the magical tidal island of St. Michael's Mount, linked to tales of giants and medieval monks. We'll enjoy time here to take in the panorama across Mount's Bay to Penzance, before returning to Falmouth for lunch onboard. Option 3 – Morning experience: The surprising story of Trebah Gardens. It is surprising to find a garden filled with exotic plants in the heart of Cornwall, but Trebah Garden is just that, an unexpected oasis of subtropical plants. Nestled in a sheltered valley near the Helford River, Trebah thrives with towering tree ferns, giant gunnera, bamboo, and vibrant rhododendrons, creating a landscape more reminiscent of Southeast Asia than southern England. But Trebah's story goes beyond its botanical wonders. During World War II, its quiet cove became a departure point for over 7,500 American troops from the 29th Infantry Division. In June 1944, they left from this peaceful shoreline to take part in the D-Day landings at Omaha Beach. The rustle of bamboo and the scent of magnolia, plants more at home in distant lands, echo the memory of thousands of young soldiers who once gathered here, far from their own shores, preparing to fight a war on the other side of the world.

Day 7 At Sea Following the Cornish coastline, we spend our day relaxing onboard the Douglas Mawson. Enjoy a regal presentation by your master storyteller, catch up on some royal gossip in our library, or enjoy a Dubonnet, the royal families favourite tippie, on this right royal day at sea.

Day 8
Holyhead,
Wales, UK
(Port:
Holyhead)

Located on the Isle of Anglesey in Wales, Holyhead is a port town steeped in maritime heritage. Today, it serves as a gateway to the stunning hinterland of Snowdonia, renowned for its rustic castles and quaint Welsh villages scattered along the rugged coastline and amid the interior's rugged national parks. Our visit to this popular region of Wales affords us the opportunity to experience one of the United Kingdom's top 10 UNESCO World Heritage listed 'royal sites', or a panoramic drive through Snowdonia National Park. Both considered to be national treasures. This afternoon we are in for a real treat: an onboard performance from a Welsh choir. Welsh male mining choirs are a powerful symbol of Wales' cultural heritage. Originating in the coal-mining communities, these choirs embody the resilience and camaraderie of the miners. Their harmonies, rich and resonant, reflect the soul of the Welsh landscape and its history. Singing traditional hymns and contemporary pieces, these choirs preserve a unique musical tradition. Attending a performance is a moving experience, showcasing the strength and spirit of Welsh communities through song. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: The Prince of Wales and Caernarfon Castle. Caernarfon Castle's towering silhouette dominates the bay in Gwynedd, Wales, symbolising a triumph for medieval architecture and royal prestige. Built by King Edward I in the late 13th century to assert English dominance over Welsh princes, it was a strategic response to ongoing regional instability. Edward and his military architect, Master James of St George, oversaw the construction of not just the castle but also the town walls and a quay, a unified effort spanning 47 years and costing £25,000 – an immense sum for its time. Today, its imposing walls and polygonal towers stand as a testament to its formidable past. Beyond its military role, Caernarfon Castle is deeply intertwined with the British royal family. Here, in 1969, the then Prince Charles was invested as the Prince of Wales, continuing a tradition dating back to 1301. This ceremony, steeped in centuries-old ritual and symbolism, underscores the castle's enduring link to Welsh history and its role in British monarchy pageantry. As a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Caernarfon Castle invites visitors to explore its battlements, courtyards, and the iconic Eagle Tower, offering a firsthand glimpse into its architectural grandeur and royal connections. A must do for any visitor to Wales. Option 2 – Morning experience: A scenic journey in Snowdonia National Park. Get ready to say 'waw am olygfa'—Welsh for 'what a view!' as we journey through the iconic landscapes of Snowdonia, Wales' largest national park. Known in Welsh as Eryri, meaning "place of eagles," this dramatic region blends soaring mountains, glassy lakes, and timeless stone villages into a scene that feels both ancient and alive. From the moment Snowdon, rising to 1,085 metres (3,560 feet), appears on the horizon, the scenery stirs something primal. Glacial valleys carve through wild terrain, while folklore whispers of giants who once roamed these heights. Llanberis, nestled by a deep lake, offers views of the mountain's sheer slopes, often shrouded in cloud and legend. Further on, the winding Llanberis Pass delivers unforgettable panoramas, its rugged cliffs and crags a magnet for walkers and photographers alike. Our drive is interspersed by scenic stops while the charm continues with time to explore Betws-y-Coed, a wooded village of slate cottages, waterfalls, and the River Llugwy. Add a glimpse of Caernarfon Castle, and you've experienced Snowdonia in all its elemental glory.

Day 9 Isle of
Man (Port:
Douglas)

We sail into Douglas harbour to explore the unique island of the Isle of Man. Although only 570 square kilometres in size, and with a population of 85,000, the Isle of Man's eclectic history makes it a fascinating destination. In the heart of the Irish Sea this tax-free haven is an island steeped in ancient mythology. Its name, 'Man', is believed to be derived from 'Manannán mac Lir', a figure from Celtic mythology who was the god of the sea and the island's legendary first ruler. In the 21st century, the island's captivating blend of rugged coastline, medieval castles, and rolling hills is a self-governing British Crown dependency, offering an insight into island life under British rule. With its own parliament, Tynwald, claimed to be the oldest continuous parliamentary body in the world, the Isle of Man has a rich history, having been passed from the Celts to the Romans, to the Vikings, and finally to the British 'Lords of Mann'. Self-governing since 1866, when it was granted limited home rule due to its unique cultural identity and historical ties. Our 'Your Choice' experiences offer an insight into island life, along with time in Douglas to soak up the electric atmosphere of one of the United Kingdom's most iconic sporting 'get togethers'. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Isle of Man Steam Railway and Historic Castletown. Our morning features a journey into the island's past as we travel from Douglas to historic Castletown aboard the Isle of Man Steam Railway. Our rail journey ends in the charming enclave of Castletown, where you may choose to join your local guide for a visit to Castle Rushen, or explore the town independently. Developed by successive rulers between the 13th and 16th centuries, Castle Rushen's towering limestone walls once dominated the southern landscape, symbolising the power of the island's Kings and Lords. The castle's long and eventful history reflects the Isle of Man's strategic importance during the medieval period as a key possession on Britain's western seaboard. Prefer a more leisurely morning? Simply stroll the streets of this classic Manx township—browse souvenir shops, enjoy a traditional morning tea, or wander along the waterfront at your own pace. Option 2 – Morning experience: A Crofters Life For Me. Nestled on the island's fertile southern lands, the village of Cregneash offers a glimpse into the traditional life of a Manx crofter. Once a communal form of small scale farming, rooted in shared effort, Manx families produced enough to sustain themselves while trading surplus within the community, with this way of life shaping much of the island's rural landscape up until the early 20th century. Today, the entire village of Cregneash is preserved as an open-air folk museum, where visitors can explore traditional Manx cottages, see rare four horned sheep and pat friendly Manx cats, all overseen by friendly locals happy to share stories of family life, hardship, heritage and resilience.

Day 10 Belfast
(Port: Belfast)

It is fair to say Belfast has endured its share of turbulent times. Famines, disease, invasions and recessions have painted a picture of a resilient city, but it was the more recent period known as 'The Troubles' that defined its image of division. Barbed wire, armed soldiers, and constant bomb searches kept tourists away. Today, however, Belfast has transformed, thanks to open political dialogue and foreign investment. The city feels lighter, as if a heavy burden has been lifted from its shoulders. Spend your morning on a guided tour of the iconic Dockyard of Belfast to experience the story of the city's most famous production: HMS Titanic or enjoy an introductory driving tour of Belfast's famous 'quarters'. Our small ship status affords us a berth 'in town' with time to explore Belfast independently this afternoon using our complimentary shuttle. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Welcome to Belfast. Welcome to Belfast, a city shaped by stories, creativity, and resilience. This morning, enjoy a scenic drive through its lively streets where you'll notice the city isn't divided by north, south, east, or west, but by cultural "quarters," each with its own unique character. In the Cathedral Quarter, cobbled lanes echo with live music and colourful murals, while the Titanic Quarter stretches along the waterfront, where shipbuilding once ruled the skyline. Over in the Queen's Quarter, elegant gardens and striking university buildings reflect Belfast's academic heart, and the Gaeltacht Quarter adds a vibrant dose of Irish language and tradition. Belfast is full of surprises, from its Victorian architecture and quirky pubs to the humour and warmth of its people. After this relaxed introduction, you'll enjoy free time to explore the city at your own pace, whether shopping, sightseeing, or simply soaking up the atmosphere, before returning to the ship in time for lunch. Option 2 – Morning experience: The Queen of all ships – The Titanic Experience. This interesting tour is filled with stories of the workers who toiled 14-hour days to build the world's most glamorous ships. Did their haste affect the fate of the Titanic? The dockyard's Titanic Experience, located where the ship was built, may provide some answers. Guided by a local, you will hear why and how the ship was constructed and what happened in its final hours, walking in the footsteps of the designers and shipbuilders. Discover the world-famous story through their eyes. In the self-guided Titanic Experience, uncover the sights, sounds, and stories of the ship, the city, and the people who built her. Learn about the sinking, the aftermath, the quest to find Titanic, and her final resting place, through unique artefacts and replicas of staterooms and social areas. After our tour, we return to the ship for lunch, with our afternoon free for further independent exploration of Northern Ireland's capital city, using our complimentary shuttle.

Day 11

Londonderry~Derry,
Northern
Ireland, UK
(Port:
Londonderry~Derry)

Our overnight sailing allows us to delve deeper into the story of Northern Ireland, at the fascinating city of Londonderry. Simply known as Derry to the Nationalist (Catholic) population but still referred to as Londonderry by the Unionist (Protestant) population, this 'border' town has seen it all. The sectarian 'Troubles' of this predominantly Nationalist city may have blemished its reputation, but in recent years these tensions have eased, and although some suburbs retain their sense of division, strolling the streets is safe and the general population are happy to share stories of their stormy past and ambitious future. We come alongside on the river Foyle, the now open, natural border between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Our location affords us the chance to visit the Giants Causeway or take a locally guided tour of Londonderry~Derry, with a shuttle ship to town, this afternoon for those who would enjoy exploring the city at their own pace. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Londonderry~Derry. Our local guides interpret the story of Londonderry~Derry as we drive the streets of this fascinating city. Having lived through the tumultuous times of 'The Troubles' as the locals refer to it, their firsthand experiences immerse us in the era, where a word to the wrong person, a stroll on the wrong side of the street or a misplaced glance, could cost you your life. In recent years, the artists and youth of Londonderry~Derry have painted emotive murals on walls around the city. We pass several of these as our guides explain the city's tumultuous past. Several monuments in the Bogside neighbourhood shed even more light on key events, such as the hunger strikes that marred the city. Our route allows us to stop at some of these sites, along with free time in the city centre to explore independently before returning to the ship for lunch. Option 2 – Half-day experience: Giant's Causeway. Northern Ireland is blessed with impressive natural scenery: vast valleys, glittering lakes and cliffs hoisted up from the Atlantic. We visit its most famous natural attraction, the Giant's Causeway. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it consists of some 40,000 interlocking basalt columns lifted from the ocean by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. According to legend, giants strode across columns over the sea from Scotland, creating what looks like a giant pathway of stepping-stones that start on land and disappear into the ocean.

Day 12
 Disembark
 Troon (Port:
 Troon)

Arrive in the coastal town of Troon, where you bid farewell to your crew, disembark the vessel, and board your coach for the scenic drive north to Inverness. Pack your camera, as you may spot an elusive creature. Not men in kilts, but something nearly as Scottish. Loch Ness is Scotland's most famous freshwater lake, stretching 37 kilometres (23 miles) and plunging to depths of 229 metres (750 feet). Part of the Caledonian Canal, it connects the country's east and west coasts and is shrouded in mystery thanks to its most famous inhabitant. The legend of the Loch Ness Monster, or 'Nessie', dates to the 6th century, when Irish monk St Columba reportedly encountered a large beast in the River Ness. But it wasn't until the 19th century that the tale took hold globally, with a series of reported sightings capturing imaginations and inspiring countless expeditions. Despite photos, sonar scans, and endless speculation, Nessie has remained stubbornly out of reach, her story growing larger with every passing decade. Even without a monster sighting, the loch's brooding beauty and sweeping Highland backdrop make it an unforgettable stop. We'll drive along the loch's edge, pausing for a brief lakeside stop, our own chance to scan the dark waters for a ripple, a shape, or perhaps a glimpse of Scotland's most famous mystery, before finding ourselves at Inverness. Our overnight stop is in Inverness, the Highland capital and a place deeply tied to Scotland's clan heritage. Home to clans like the MacDonalds, MacLeods, and Frasers, Inverness played a key role in shaping the region's identity. These clans lived by a feudal code, fiercely loyal to their 'laird' and often involved in historic battles and alliances. Once a vital clan stronghold, Inverness hosted gatherings that helped define Highland life. Traditions like clan reunions and the Highland Games, with their unique mix of sport and music, still celebrate this proud legacy. This evening, we gather for dinner, ready to head to Scotland's capital tomorrow. Accommodation: Inverness Hotel. Meals: Breakfast, dinner.

Day 13
 Inverness and
 Edinburgh

Lingering in the Highlands this morning, we gain an insight into the clash between the clans and their British rulers, brought vividly to life by our local guides on the battlefield of Culloden. Scottish clans played a major role in the country's history and politics, their relationship with the British crown marked by both alliances and fierce conflict. Many clans supported rival factions during the Jacobite uprisings of the 17th and 18th centuries, backing the Stuart claim to the throne. The decisive defeat of the Jacobites at Culloden in 1746 marked the end of clan power. Afterward, British policies dismantled the clan system, banning tartan, Gaelic, bagpipes, and communal living. These measures aimed to integrate Scotland fully into Britain and diminish clan influence. Today, the clans' legacy thrives in Scottish culture, celebrated worldwide through gatherings and tartans. Our guided visit to Culloden Battlefield offers a poignant reminder of this bitter feud. Here, Jacobite forces under Bonnie Prince Charlie suffered a crushing defeat, with heavy casualties and harsh reprisals. Standing on this ground reveals the brutal reality of 18th-century warfare and its lasting impact. We continue south to arrive in the capital city of Edinburgh late afternoon and check in to our hotel. Enjoy your evening at leisure. Accommodation: Edinburgh Hotel (or similar). Meals: Breakfast.

Day 14 Edinburgh

Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, is more than just a city of castles and royal connections; it is a place where the stories of saints and heroes who saved Scotland echo through its ancient streets. Perched dramatically on volcanic hills and dominated by the iconic Edinburgh Castle, the city has been a strategic stronghold for centuries. Renowned for its connections to Scottish heroes like Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, who took up residence at Holyrood Palace as a widow at 18 years of age; and St Giles, the patron saint of Edinburgh; the city holds secrets including hidden underground tunnels beneath the Royal Mile, and tales of ghostly apparitions that haunt the ancient closes and wynds. Beyond its imposing fortifications, Edinburgh was a centre of political intrigue, and a gathering place where clan leaders negotiated, celebrated, and sometimes clashed, leading to dangerous liaisons and hidden nooks and crannies scattered throughout the city. Today, visitors are encouraged to explore Edinburgh's royal residences, museums and galleries to uncover these stories and witness firsthand the secrets that have shaped its unique identity. Edinburgh stands as a living testament to Scotland's resilience and spirit, where the legacies of saints and national heroes merge with the city's enduring royal heritage in a puzzle of history and legend. Our experiences this morning showcase a myriad of classic sites, allowing you an afternoon to enjoy the city independently, before we gather this evening for a farewell reception. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 – Morning experience: Introducing Edinburgh. Scotland's capital invites us to hear stories of its iconic inhabitants, past and present, on this locally guided driving tour. As we travel through the city's historic heart and elegant Georgian avenues, tales unfold of kings and queens in their royal residences, religious upheaval at ancient cathedrals, and fierce rebellions echoing from the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle. The route takes us around Arthur's Seat and the Crag, where we pause to take in sweeping views of the city's dramatic skyline. Throughout the journey, your guide brings Edinburgh's rich past to life with engaging stories of monarchs, poets, rebels, and reformers. Whether you are drawn to the architecture, the legends, or the landscape, this morning tour offers a vivid and memorable introduction to the city. Pair it with an afternoon to explore at your own pace, and you have the perfect day in Edinburgh.

Option 2 – Morning experience: The Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle. Scotland's most famous mile awaits us this morning, promising a fascinating journey as our guide shares quirky tales and local gems. Immerse yourself in the rich Scottish history woven into the medieval labyrinth of cobblestone alleyways and tenements. Along the Royal Mile, discover the captivating St. Giles' Cathedral, the historical Parliament Square, and the storied John Knox House. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is brimming with secrets and unforgettable stories, offering an experience you won't want to miss. At the pinnacle of the Royal Mile, follow in the footsteps of kings, queens, soldiers and prisoners as you explore the historical Edinburgh Castle. This former royal residence is brimming with fascinating stories from its past. Perched high on a volcanic rock, the castle had a strategic advantage over invaders and has witnessed many sieges, often switching hands between Britain and Scotland. An iconic UNESCO World Heritage Site, Edinburgh Castle holds many historical treasures, including the Honours of Scotland – the oldest Crown jewels in Britain. Created during the reigns of James IV and James V, these jewels were first used together for the coronation of Mary, Queen of Scots, in 1543. During World War II, the Crown of Scotland was cleverly hidden in a medieval latrine closet in David's Tower. Our audio tour of the castle is stacked with fascinating facts about this stoic fortress, making it both factual and enjoyable.

Option 3 – Morning experience: The Royal Yacht Britannia. A Royal residence for over 40 years, the Britannia enchants us with an audio tour of her decks, apartments, bridge and engine room. Launched on 16 April 1953 from the John Brown & Company shipyard in Clydebank, Scotland, the Royal Yacht Britannia served the royal family for over 44 years. It sailed more than a million nautical miles, becoming one of the world's most famous ships. To Queen Elizabeth II, Britannia was the ideal royal residence for state visits, official receptions, royal honeymoons, and family holidays. For Great Britain, it was a symbol of the Commonwealth and a proud ambassador, generating billions in trade deals. For the royal family and its 220 dedicated crew members, Britannia was a cherished home. When she was decommissioned in 1997, it marked the end of a long tradition of British royal yachts dating back to 1660 and the reign of Charles II.

Accommodation: Edinburgh Hotel (or similar). **Meals:** Breakfast, Farewell reception (drinks and canapés).

Day 15 Depart Edinburgh

After breakfast, we take our leave. An airport transfer shared with your fellow explorers is included for your onward flight. **Meals:** Breakfast

Im Preis inbegriffen

- Airport arrival and departure transfers to/from our group hotel on the first and the final day of your voyage package
- Two nights' hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in London on Days 1 and 2
- One night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in Inverness on Day 12
- Two night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in Edinburgh on Days 13 and 14
- Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea and coffee during voyage
- Meals listed as included during shore excursions and land portions of the package
- Beer, house wine and soft drinks with dinner onboard the ship
- Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- Pre-voyage, post-voyage and shore excursion, 'Your Choice' experiences as outlined in the itinerary
- Enrichment experiences as listed, including Welcome and Farewell receptions
- Onboard presentations and guiding services provided by our Voyage Host, Aurora Expeditions Team and local operators
- Gratuities during excursions and enrichment program for local guides, drivers, venues and local sites
- Port surcharges, permits, tender boat transfers, pilotage and landing fees
- Onboard Wi-Fi
- Headsets are available for use during our 'Your Choice' experiences when needed
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation)
- Comprehensive pre-departure information

*Our 'Your Choice' shore excursions listed in the itinerary are included. One excursion per person per port of call and city stay package is included, unless stated otherwise. The listed experiences are indicative only and must be reserved through our passenger portal at least 60 days prior to embarkation and cannot be amended after this time. If we do not receive your choices by this time, you will be allocated excursions by our automated system. Due to restrictions imposed by site management and government bodies, your passport details are required to purchase tickets for the included sites at the time of booking. While every effort is made to ensure you are allocated your primary preference shore excursion, we may occasionally need to allocate you on an alternative excursion due to operational reasons beyond our control.

Nicht im Preis inbegriffen

- International or domestic flights – unless specified in itinerary
- Transfers – unless specified in itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Hotels and meals – unless specified in the itinerary
- All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to, alcoholic beverages (outside of dinner service), on board gratuities#, laundry services, personal clothing, medical expenses, email or phone charges

#Note: A \$15 USD per person per voyage day gratuity for the crew is automatically added to your onboard account. It is at your discretion if you would like to remove the tip (or adjust the amount) when you settle your bill. It is not necessary to tip the Aurora team members, local guides, drivers, venues and local sites. This gratuity amount is included for suites as part of their 'Suite Benefits'.

Ihr Schiff

Ihr Schiff ist die "Douglas Mawson". Ausführlich stellen wir Ihnen dieses Schiff auf unseren Schiffseiten vor. Ausführliche Informationen zu diesem Schiff.

Passagiere
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Bordsprachen


Eisklasse
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