



IHRE REISE

<i>Reisetermin</i> 20.05.2027 - 01.06.2027	<i>Reisedauer</i> 13 Tage	<i>Reederei / Schiff</i> Douglas Mawson / Aurora Expeditions
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Aurora Stateroom Triple Share




Dreibettbelegung




€ 13.276

pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Twin Share




Doppelbelegung



€ 13.756

pro Person


Einzelbelegung



€ 20.634

pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung




€ 13.756

pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Superior




Doppelbelegung



€ 14.476

pro Person


Einzelbelegung



€ 21.714

pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung




€ 14.476

pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Category C




Doppelbelegung


€ 14.956
pro Person


Einzelbelegung


€ 22.434
pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 14.956
pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Category B




Doppelbelegung


€ 15.756
pro Person

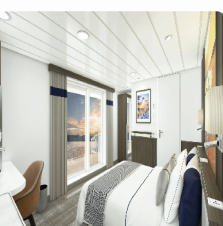
Einzelbelegung


€ 23.634
pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 15.756
pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Superior




Doppelbelegung


€ 18.396
pro Person


Einzelbelegung


€ 27.594
pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 18.396
pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Single



Einzelbelegung


€ 20.095
pro Person

Balcony Stateroom Category A - Solo



Einzelbelegung


€ 21.095
 pro Person

Junior Suite



Doppelbelegung


€ 21.916
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung


€ 32.874
 pro Person

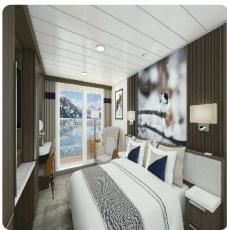
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Einzelbelegung


€ 21.995
 pro Person

Captain's Suite




Doppelbelegung


€ 25.036
 pro Person


Einzelbelegung


€ 37.554
 pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Category A



Doppelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar

Einzelbelegung


 Nicht verfügbar



Day 1 Arrive
 Edinburgh,
 Scotland, UK

Welcome to Edinburgh. On arrival at Edinburgh airport, make your way to the Arrivals Hall to meet our 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 Scotland. 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 Edinburgh' 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: Edinburgh Hotel (or similar).

Day 2
 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, gifting you an afternoon to enjoy the city independently, before we gather this evening for a Welcome 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, Welcome reception (drinks and canapés).

Day 3 Embark
 Aberdeen
 (Port:
 Aberdeen)

A 1.5-hour drive offers us a taste of royal life this morning with a visit to Glamis Castle, en route to Aberdeen. When speaking of kin, one cannot possibly overlook the most famous family in the United Kingdom, the Royal Family, led today by King Charles III, and shaped in part by the strength and grace of his grandmother, Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. Today, we encounter her legacy at Glamis Castle, the ancestral home of the Bowes-Lyon family. Steeped in history and legend, Glamis was not only the Queen Mother's childhood home, but also a place where she first developed the compassion for which she became famous during WWII. During the First World War, the castle served as a convalescent home for wounded soldiers, and it was here, as a young girl, that she helped care for them, an experience that deeply influenced her lifelong sense of duty. Choose to join a guided tour of the castle's opulent rooms and rich history, enjoy its celebrated gardens or perhaps relax with a royal inspired tea and a treat at the café, before we continue north to the 'slate city' of Aberdeen where Douglas Mawson awaits us. This evening, we meet our Aurora team and crew at an onboard welcome dinner, while we sail north to the Scottish Highlands.

Day 4
 Invergordon
 (Port:
 Invergordon)

Welcome to Invergordon, gateway to the Scottish Highlands. This picturesque stop gifts us the chance to meet two of the Highlands' most iconic identities—its legendary clans and the mysterious Loch Ness Monster. From ancient loyalties and fierce battles to enduring folklore and deep, dark waters, our 'Your Choice' experiences promise a captivating blend of history and myth set against some of Scotland's most breathtaking natural landscapes. There's time this afternoon to explore the town of Invergordon, using our complimentary ship to shore shuttle, before we follow in the wake of the Vikings to the lands known as the Orkneys. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: The Jacobite's story – Culloden. 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 and its neighbouring museum. 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 and visitors centre 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. Option 2 – Half day experience: In search of Nessie. 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 230 metres (750 feet). Part of the Caledonian Canal, it connects the country's east and west coasts and is steeped in both natural beauty and enduring mystery. The legend of the Loch Ness Monster, or 'Nessie,' dates to the 6th century, when Irish monk St Columba reportedly encountered a great beast in the River Ness. But it was during the 19th century that the tale truly captured the world's imagination, with a string of reported sightings sparking global fascination and numerous expeditions. Despite photographs, sonar scans, and ongoing speculation, Nessie has remained stubbornly out of reach, her legend only growing with time. As we drive along the loch's edge, the scenery is dramatic and hauntingly beautiful. We'll stop at the iconic ruins of Urquhart Castle, perched beside the water, for a perfect photo opportunity before returning to Invergordon.

Day 5 Orkneys
 (Port:
 Kirkwall)

We arrive at the Orkney Islands, a rugged archipelago of around 70 islands, 20 of which are inhabited by a close-knit population of around 22,000. Though most Orcadians proudly trace their heritage back to the Vikings, they have consistently voted to remain part of the United Kingdom. This small but strategic group of islands has played an outsized role in world history, from ancient Neolithic settlements that predate the Egyptian pyramids to pivotal naval events during both World Wars. Orkney's rich heritage and resilient community continue to shape Scotland's story today. The capital, Kirkwall, welcomes us today with two iconic 'Your Choice' experiences to enjoy this morning, followed by some free time to explore its charming streets, shops, or historic sites at your leisure. Mid-afternoon, we sail southward toward Scotland's Isle of Lewis. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Scapa Flow at War. As we journey through Orkney's rugged landscape, we uncover the hidden story of Scapa Flow, a vast natural harbour that became the strategic heart of the British naval fleet during both World Wars. This remote stretch of water off Scotland's northern coast was a fortress of naval power, where thousands of sailors were based and crucial battles were planned. In particular the island groups most dramatic chapter which unfolded after World War I, when 74 German warships were held captive here, waiting for their fate under the Treaty of Versailles. In 1919, unaware of a last-minute treaty extension, German Rear Admiral Ludwig von Reuter ordered the entire fleet scuttled to avoid capture, after secretly preparing for this act during months of internment. Your tour winds along the southern coast, crossing the iconic Churchill Barriers, which allow us to reach the southern island of Lamb Holm, home of the poignant Italian Chapel, hand-crafted by WWII prisoners of war. We then visit the tranquil village of St. Margaret's Hope on South Ronaldsay, where charming stone cottages and local craft shops tell stories of a community shaped by resilience and history, before returning to Kirkwall. Option 2 – Morning experience: The ancient lands of the Orkneys. Venture into the UNESCO World Heritage listed heartland of Orkney, where layers of history — neolithic, Norse, and medieval — are scattered across a hauntingly beautiful landscape like chess pieces discarded during a forgotten game. From Kirkwall, we journey across Mainland Island into the UNESCO-listed Heart of Neolithic Orkney, home to ancient stone circles and remarkably preserved settlements. Pass the dramatic Standing Stones of Stenness before stopping to admire the vast Ring of Brodgar, a ceremonial stone circle dating back nearly 5,000 years. Continue to Skara Brae, a remarkably preserved Neolithic village exposed by a storm just 150 years ago. At the visitor centre, explore its fascinating history before walking 200 metres (0.12 miles) to Skaill House, Orkney's finest manor. Built in 1620 by Bishop George Graham on a Norse-era farmstead, the house has remained in the hands of twelve interconnected lairds, each leaving their mark. Inside, discover an impressive collection of heirlooms and artefacts that speak to 400 years of local heritage. This tour offers a seamless blend of Orkney's ancient and more recent past—each site visited by coach, with time to explore at your own pace.

Day 6 Isle of
Lewis (Port:
Stornoway)

We spend our day on the Isle of Lewis, one of largest islands in Scotland's Outer Hebrides. Known for its dramatic landscapes, strong Gaelic identity, and lengthy inhabited history, Lewis offers a striking introduction to Scotland's remote Atlantic edge. From sweeping moorlands and rugged coastlines to ancient stone circles and traditional crofting villages, the island tells stories shaped by nature, resilience, and time. It's little wonder National Geographic named the Outer Hebrides one of its 'Best of the World' destinations for 2025. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Cultural Lewis. Our morning immerses us in the culture of the Outer Hebrides, beginning with a visit to Museum Tasglann nan Eilean, located in the grounds of Lews Castle. This grand Gothic Revival castle, which is today a luxury hotel, was built by Sir James Matheson, who made his fortune in the 19th-century opium trade. The museum offers an interactive journey through the islands' rich history, from prehistoric times to today. Gaelic-led exhibitions showcase unique artifacts, including the famous Lewis Chessmen, while videos and personal stories reveal island life across Lewis. After time at the museum and the castle's exotic gardens, you'll visit the nearby Harris Tweed Story Room (or a similar Harris Tweed establishment). Here, the heritage of the iconic handwoven fabric is brought to life in a weaving demonstration and exhibits which highlight its vital role in the islands' culture and economy. Returning to the ship berthed in downtown Stornoway, you'll have the afternoon free to browse local shops filled with authentic tweed creations and Lewis's artisans works, celebrating the Outer Hebrides' craftsmanship and spirit. Option 2 – Morning experience: The story of Lewis. Experience the stark beauty of the Isle of Lewis on a panoramic drive through windswept moorlands and a coastline shaped by centuries of hardship and resilience. With our local guide, hear stories of ancient clans, Norse invasions, and the demanding crofting lifestyle that defined this remote island. Life here was never easy — poor soil, harsh weather, and isolation meant survival depended on strength, self-reliance, and community. Stop at the haunting Calanais Standing Stones, older than Stonehenge, still standing against the elements after 5,000 years. Then visit Gearrannan Blackhouse Village, a restored crofting settlement perched above the sea. These thick-walled stone black houses, once home to both families and livestock under a single roof, reflect the harsh realities of life in the Hebrides. This immersive tour offers a powerful glimpse into the endurance, grit, and spirit that shaped Lewis and its people.

Day 7 At Sea

We navigate the Scottish Isles as we sail south towards Glasgow. Join our host's presentation to uncover the stories of this captivating region, unwind in the rejuvenating sauna, or lose yourself in a good book from our well-stocked library. As evening falls, we'll watch the sunset over the horizon before settling in for a peaceful night's rest.

Day 8 Glasgow
(Port: Troon)

Once a gritty, working-class town built on shipbuilding and heavy industry, Glasgow has redefined itself as one of Britain's most creative and dynamic cities. Today, it's a place where grand Victorian buildings sit alongside bold street art and vibrant cultural spaces. We begin with a panoramic drive to take in the city's striking mix of heritage and modern energy, before heading to a local distillery to explore one of Scotland's proudest traditions, whisky. Scotch is more than a national drink; it's a craft rooted in centuries of history. You'll discover how pure Highland water, malted barley, and time in oak casks come together through distillation and ageing to create whisky's signature flavours. As you tour the distillery, the warm scent of malt fills the air, and each barrel holds the character of the region, smoky, sweet, or peaty. A tasting brings those flavours to life, offering a deeper appreciation of why whisky is such a cultural emblem. We continue our time in Glasgow with free time for you to enjoy the shops, galleries and streetscapes at your own pace before returning to the ship, moored at the seaside outer suburb of Troon.

Day 9 Dublin
 (Port: Dun
 Laoghaire)

Dublin, the vibrant capital of Ireland, is a city brimming with energy and resilience. Once under British rule, Dublin has emerged with a distinct sense of identity, leading Ireland as a proud member of the European Union and reflecting its evolving role in modern Europe. The city has been home to some of the world's most influential literary figures, including Oscar Wilde, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, and George Bernard Shaw. Iconic landmarks such as Trinity College, home to the esteemed Book of Kells, highlight its storied past, while the city also serves as a hub of artistic and cultural expression, with global musicians like U2, whose impact resonates from their Dublin roots, having invigorated its creative scene. Dublin's vibrant pub culture offers a lively social fabric, where traditional and contemporary influences merge to create a city to explore both day and night. Join your favourite 'Your Choice' experience to hear epic tales of Dublin's emigrants, famous faces and a former bookworm or two. After your excursion, choose to explore Dublin independently, or return to the ship. An afternoon shuttle will transport guests who choose to continue exploring Ireland's capital to the port of Dún Laoghaire in time for the ship's early evening departure. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Walking Dublin. The size of central Dublin makes it an ideal one for a walking tour. This morning, our local guides entertain us with tales of the city's character-filled history. We will hear stories of Ireland's emotional past through the eyes of its many artists, manic lord mayors and rebellious citizens whilst following the park-side alleys of Dublin's 'backyard', St Stephen's Green, to the grand Georgian buildings of Ireland's first university, Trinity College. Founded by Queen Elizabeth I, the grounds of the college offer 40 acres of academic seclusion from the hustle and bustle of downtown Dublin. Our path slows to hear quotes from Dublin's most flamboyant son, Oscar Wilde, passing the historic Huguenot cemetery enroute to our hotel. Option 2 – Morning experience: An EPIC Tale of Emigration. Our morning is spent at one of Dublin's top sites, focused on Ireland's favourite topic: emigration. Our ancestry theme allows us to meet one of Ireland's greatest exports, its people, with a self-guided tour of the award-winning EPIC – the Irish Emigration Museum. Discover what it means to hold Irish heritage, as you meet poets and presidents, singers and suffragettes. You will meet famous folk and families, from Ned Kelly to the Kennedys, as you follow your souvenir-passport to find out where they came from, why they left, and the differences they have made to our everyday lives. Take your time to enjoy this EPIC experience on a self-guided audio tour or enjoy free time to wander the adjacent Custom House Quay (CHQ) building's restaurants, cafes and shops. Option 3 – Morning experience: The Spiritual Centre of Dublin. Join a locally guided tour of Glasnevin Cemetery, where the stories of 1.6 million souls are meticulously preserved. This historical Victorian cemetery, adorned with statues of shamrocks, high crosses, and harps, offers a window into Ireland's rich past and psyche. Discover the final resting places of notable figures such as Michael Collins, a leader in the struggle for Irish independence, and Éamon de Valera, a key political figure and former president of Ireland. You may also visit the graves of Brendan Behan, the influential playwright, and Thomas Kinsella, a celebrated poet. Look out for final resting places of Countess Markievicz, a revolutionary and the first woman elected to the British Parliament, and Daniel O'Connell, the great emancipator. Glasnevin is a testament to Ireland's deep-rooted belief in spirits and saints, reflecting the nation's spiritual heritage. Each monument and grave not only tells the story of its occupant, but also offers insights into the Irish psyche, where reverence for historical figures and a connection to the spiritual world are intertwined.

Day 10
 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 11
 Waterford
 (Port:
 Waterford)

Returning to Ireland we arrive at the popular riverside city of Waterford. Known as the city where culture meets the 'craic' (that is Irish for a good time), Waterford is a modern city with a layered history. Invaded by the Norsemen in 914 CE, Waterford became a Viking settlement, which is reflected in its people even today. It emerged from the Middle Ages as a trading port with the wealth from goods that came from as far away as Newfoundland, the profits of which funded the construction of the many Georgian mansions that line the city's streets. A town for those who enjoy a good stroll, Waterford is attractive, offers plenty to see and, as its reputation suggests, is full of fun. Today's 'Your Choice' experiences let you dive into some intriguing encounters. Discover the John Fitzgerald Kennedy family's ancestral stronghold in Wexford, where the Kennedys are considered American royalty, or stroll the streets of Waterford, where an added treat of a tour of The House of Waterford allows us to view the city's iconic crystal masters at work. We'll dock at the Port of Belview only a handy 10-minute coach shuttle into town, affording you an afternoon exploring Waterford should you wish to explore independently before we sail in the early evening. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Introducing Waterford and Waterford Crystal. This morning, we embark on a locally guided introductory walking tour of Waterford, a city steeped in history and renowned for its crystal craftsmanship. Known as the Viking Triangle, Waterford's city centre reflects its roots, dating back 1,100 years when Norse invaders settled here, enriching the area with their trade. Moving through the city's modern side, with its vibrant mix of pubs, clubs and artisan shops, we explore its centre before joining our artisan tour. At the House of Waterford Crystal, established in 1783, we witness the artistry behind these world-famous glass creations named after their hometown. From the initial design to the final engraving, we observe master blowers, crystal cutters and engravers at work, gaining insight into the meticulous craftsmanship that defines each masterpiece. Option 2 – Morning experience: The John Fitzgerald Kennedy family heritage. Our scenic drive takes us towards the coast, where we find the compact town of Wexford. Escaping the Great Famine in the 1840s, the John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Fitzgerald families seized an opportunity, boarding a ship bound for Boston. A century later, their great-grandson, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, made history as the first Catholic President of the United States. During his 1963 visit to Ireland, JFK journeyed to Wexford, retracing his ancestors' footsteps. Today, we follow his pilgrimage to the small John Fitzgerald Kennedy homestead, where an interpretative exhibit tells their remarkable story. The centre offers a guided tour featuring audio-visual presentations, a photographic exhibition, and historical displays detailing the John Fitzgerald Kennedy family's journey as a famine emigrant and the achievements of his descendants.

Day 12
 Falmouth
 (Port:
 Falmouth)

Sailing west, we arrive at the quintessential British county of Cornwall around noon. 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. Savour one of our 'Your Choice' experiences to immerse yourself in the charm of Cornwall, or simply stroll the streets of historic Falmouth, before the Douglas Mawson sails into the English Channel in the early evening. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Afternoon experience: The Cornish coastal village of St Mawes. Enjoy a classic Cornish experience as you take the ferry across Falmouth's magnificent 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, 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.

Day 13
 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. 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 HQ, 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 14
 Disembark
 Poole –
 London (Port:
 Poole)

After breakfast onboard, we disembark and begin our journey to London. A two-hour drive takes us to the royal town of 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. Our 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. After our royal visit, we continue our journey to London for a two-night stay. Your evening is at leisure to enjoy England's capital city. Accommodation: London Hotel (or similar). Meals: Breakfast.

Day 15
 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, with your hop-on-hop-off bus pass uncovering 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 farewell reception. Accommodation: London Hotel (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Reception (drinks and canapés).

Day 16 Depart
 London

After breakfast, we bid farewell to London with a shared transfer to Heathrow Airport alongside your fellow travellers. Meals: Breakfast.

Im Preis inbegriffen

- Airport arrival and departure transfers to/from our group hotel on the first and final day of your voyage package
- Two nights' hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in Edinburgh on Days 1 & 2
- Two nights' hotel accommodation, including breakfast, in London on Days 14 & 15
- 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
154

Bordsprachen


Eisklasse
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