

IHRE REISE

*Heilige, Helden und verborgene
 Geheimnisse – Irland & Schottland*

Reisetermin
 14.06.2027 - 24.06.2027

Reisedauer
 11 Tage

Reederei / Schiff
 Douglas Mawson / Aurora Expeditions



Aurora Stateroom Triple Share



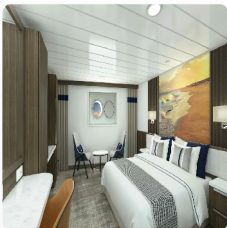
Dreibettbelegung



€ 11.596

pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Twin Share



Doppelbelegung



€ 11.836

pro Person

Einzelbelegung



€ 17.754

pro Person

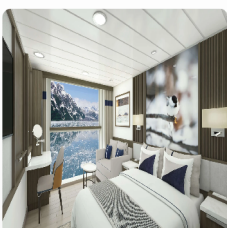
Gemeinschaftsbelegung



€ 11.836

pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Superior



Doppelbelegung



€ 12.476

pro Person

Einzelbelegung



€ 18.714

pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung




€ 12.476

pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Category C




Doppelbelegung


€ 12.876
 pro Person


Einzelbelegung


€ 19.314
 pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 12.876
 pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Category B




Doppelbelegung


€ 13.516
 pro Person

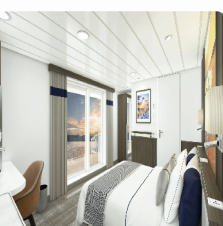
Einzelbelegung


€ 20.274
 pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 13.516
 pro Person


Balcony Stateroom Superior




Doppelbelegung


€ 15.916
 pro Person


Einzelbelegung


€ 23.874
 pro Person


Gemeinschaftsbelegung


€ 15.916
 pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Single



Einzelbelegung


€ 17.395
 pro Person

Balcony Stateroom Category A - Solo



Einzelbelegung

 
€ 18.195
 pro Person

Junior Suite



Doppelbelegung


€ 18.956
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung

 
€ 28.434
 pro Person

Aurora Stateroom Superior Single



Einzelbelegung

 
€ 18.995
 pro Person

Captain's Suite






Doppelbelegung


€ 21.596
 pro Person

Einzelbelegung

 
€ 32.394
 pro Person

Balcony Stateroom Category A

	<p><i>Doppelbelegung</i></p> <p></p> <p>Nicht verfügbar</p>	<p><i>Einzelbelegung</i></p> <p></p> <p>Nicht verfügbar</p>
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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, 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 Edinburgh. You will also receive 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 a day exploring Scotland's capital city tomorrow. This vibrant city boasts more pubs, restaurants and whisky-bars than anywhere else in the United Kingdom, guaranteeing an eventful night out. 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. Join us this evening for drinks and canapes as we celebrate the start of our journey. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 – Morning experience: Panoramic Edinburgh. If you'd prefer to view Edinburgh from the comfort of a coach, then our panoramic tour fits the bill. This locally guided tour offers an insight into Edinburgh's layered history, from rebels to heroes, authors to architects. We'll view the Scottish Parliament and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the entrance to the Royal Mile and St Giles' Cathedral, along with Edinburgh's elegant New Town and Edinburgh's favourite volcanic lookout, Arthur's Seat, where dramatic views reveal the city's unique geography and its fortress of a castle.

Option 2 – Morning experience: The Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle. Scotland's most famous mile awaits us this morning, promising a fascinating walk as our local 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: Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia. A Royal residence for over 40 years, HMY 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 HMY 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, HMY 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, HMY 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 Glasgow
 - Embark
 Troon (Port:
 Troon)

Check out of your hotel and say farewell to Edinburgh as we begin our drive to Troon, where Douglas Mawson awaits. En route enjoy an introductory tour of Glasgow, before taking time to explore the city at your own pace. Scotland's largest city is bold, gritty, and unpredictable. Once a sleepy medieval settlement, it exploded into life during the Industrial Revolution, becoming a global heavyweight in shipbuilding, engineering, and trade. The River Clyde was its lifeblood, carrying tobacco, textiles, and dreams of empire. Victorian Glasgow was a city of grand architecture, smoky skies, and a booming population with big ambitions, but Glasgow's post-industrial decline hit hard giving it a reputation as a 'troubled' town. In recent years, regeneration projects, cultural revolutions, and a fierce embrace of creativity has made Glasgow a haven for artists, tech innovators, and foodies alike. From shipyards to street art, Glasgow has reinvented itself without losing its soul. Grit meets wit here, and the result is pure Glasgow magic. Mid-afternoon, we drive to the seaside town of Troon, where we board Douglas Mawson. Once on board, settle into your cabin before this evening, we meet our team and crew and enjoy a Welcome Dinner as we sail for Isle of Man. Meal: Breakfast, Dinner on board.

Day 4 Isle of
 Man (Port:
 Douglas)

We sail into Douglas harbour early morning, ready for a morning exploring the unique island of the Isle of Man. Enjoy a 'Your Choice' experience, before returning to the ship, ready to sail the Irish Sea to Ireland. In the heart of the Irish Sea sits the tax-free haven of the Isle of Man, 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, the Isle of Man is particularly famous for the annual TT (Tourist Trophy) motorcycle races. This exhilarating event attracts enthusiasts from around the globe and transforms the island into a hub of high-speed excitement. Although only 220 square miles in size, and with a population of 85,000, the Isle of Man's eclectic history makes it a unique destination. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Panoramic Isle of Man with Castletown. Departing the port at Douglas, we enjoy a scenic drive through the patchwork of rural lands known as the Plains of Heaven, passing farmland and gentle hills en route to the historic town of Castletown. Dating back to 1090, Castletown is considered one of the oldest towns in the British Isles. Its narrow lanes, stone cottages, and historic harbour reflect centuries of life and trade. On arrival, you may choose to tour Castle Rushen, one of the best-preserved medieval castles in the British Isles or take time to wander Castletown's streets at your own pace, soaking in the atmosphere of this historic town. Believed to have been built around 1200, the castle was once the residence of the last Norse King of Man. Its fascinating history includes a siege by Robert the Bruce in 1313, after which it was rebuilt by Sir William de Montacute, and inside, you'll find a clock gifted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1597, originally housed in the former chapel. We return to Douglas to reboard our own Douglas via the legendary Fairy Bridge. Don't forget to greet the fairies for good luck. Option 2 – Morning experience: More Than a Bike Race – the Isle of Man TT story. For many motorcycle racing fans, legends like Conor Cummins and John McGuinness are revered as saints, their dedication earning them a place in the bike racing hall of fame. Dive into their world with our exhilarating Isle of Man TT course tour, paired with a visit to the Isle of Man Motor Museum. Begin with a drive along a section of the world-famous TT Course, where your guide will immerse you in the race's storied history, from its origins in 1907 to its current record-breaking feats. Discover the iconic spots where racers achieve speeds exceeding 320 kph (200mph) and average lap speeds over 219 kph (136mph). On a section of the course, you'll visit the Isle of Man Motor Museum, home to over 500 unique vehicles. Admire everything from the groundbreaking Ford Model T to TT heroes' bikes like Conor Cummins' Kawasaki ZX-10R and John McGuinness' Honda RLR 400. This tour promises a thrilling journey through the Isle of Man's motoring legacy. Get ready to rumble!

Day 5
 Waterford
 (Port
 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 of attractions, and as its reputation suggests, is full of fun. Enjoy one of our morning experiences before returning to the ship for lunch. This afternoon, a complimentary shuttle will run to/from town for those wishing to explore Waterford further. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Waterford and the House of Waterford Crystal. We stroll the streets of Waterford on a locally guided introductory tour before visiting Waterford's famed glassworks with a tour of the Waterford Crystal's - House of Waterford. The House of Waterford is home to the famous glass creations named after their hometown. Opened in 1783, this fine-cut glass is exported worldwide and is beloved in every Irish home. We will watch the master blowers, crystal cutters and engravers in action as we follow the story of the crystal masterpieces, from the initial design right up to the final engraving. Option 2 – Morning experience: Kilkenny Castle. Considered Ireland's best preserved medieval city, Kilkenny mixes small town intimacy with a big city buzz. The former home to the seat of the medieval Irish parliaments, it rivalled Dublin in importance which is evident in its imposing Norman buildings and marble-clad facades, even today. Few buildings in Ireland can boast a longer history of continuous occupation than Kilkenny's monolithic castle and few have a more fascinating family story. Kilkenny Castle's 800 years of history is associated with the rise and fall of the Marshal and Butler families who rose in nobility from Earls to Dukes. In more recent years they were known for their marriages to famous personalities like Winston Churchill's cousin, and Ellen Stager, an American heiress who brought quite a fortune into the Butler family. However, by 1922 Kilkenny Castle was embroiled in political problems when it was occupied by Republicans and besieged by troops of the Free State. In 1967, the family sold the castle to the Kilkenny Castle Restoration Committee for a mere £50. If you love a good riches-to-rags story, you will enjoy the story of Kilkenny and its powerful peerage on a self-guided tour of the castle.

Day 6 Cork
(Port: Cork)

Once a port town, always a port town, Cork sits proudly on an island in the middle of the Lee River. Surrounded by water, the city's salty air tells the story of Irish emigration, with its historical harbour of Cobh and shores of Kinsale, famed as the port of boarding for the Irish who left for foreign lands. If your ancestors are Irish, there is a high chance they came through Cork. Today, the city has a flair for great gigs, modernised traditional dishes and is considered an Irish food mecca that is centred around its restored 18th-century English Market. Our shore excursions offer you the opportunity to 'get the gift of the gab' or follow those Irish who left their homeland for foreign shores. On return to the Douglas Mawson enjoy lunch, with your afternoon free to explore Cork independently at your own pace. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: The Colourful Coastal Enclave of Kinsale. We drive to the coast and the picture-perfect town of Kinsale, where we hear stories of naval battles, foreign invasions and shipwrecks. Once a garrison town embroiled with invading navies, Kinsale became the natural landfill for ships sailing from the continent and the Americas. It is in these waters where two of the world's greatest ocean liners were last seen. In the early hours of 7 May 1915, the Cunard liner Lusitania was struck, only a mere 11 nautical miles off the coast of Kinsale, by a single torpedo shot from a German U-Boat. The people of Kinsale rallied to assist, but within 18 minutes she sank, with only 764 of the 1959 souls on board surviving. This morning there is time to enjoy a stroll around this colourful coastal enclave before returning to Cork for lunch onboard. Option 2 – Morning experience: The Queenstown story. A half-hour drive brings us to Cork's second port at Cobh. Enjoy a short, guided walking tour tracing the story of Irish emigration, before taking your own self-guided audio tour of 'The Queenstown Story' at the Cobh Heritage Centre. Seeking a better life, or simply hoping to survive starvation, hundreds of thousands boarded vessels bound for foreign lands at Cobh including Annie Moore, a young woman who was the first immigrant to be processed at the newly opened Ellis Island in New York City. Sadly, in 1912, Cobh, known as Queenstown at that time, also boarded passengers on the ill-fated Titanic. This port town, a crucial departure point for over 3 million Irish people, tells the poignant story of their quest for a better life. The 'Queenstown Story' traces Irish emigration since the 1600s, including the transportation of convicts to Australia and the impact of disasters like the Titanic and the Lusitania. The exhibition, housed in Cobh's restored Victorian railway station, features personal tales, such as Jeremiah Burke's message in a bottle from the Titanic and Margaret Drury's convict voyage to Australia. Discover these moving stories and more, reflecting the hardships and hopes of Irish emigrants across the globe. Option 3 – Morning experience: Blarney Castle and the Blarney Stone. If every myth, legend and limerick associated with Blarney Castle's indomitable 'stone' were true, the world would be asking it to solve all our problems. Where the stone came from and how its modern-day reputation was conceived is a matter of contention, but there is no doubt that the thousands of travellers who kiss it every week receive 'the gift of the gab'. Thought to endow all those who kiss it with eloquence and the skill of flattery, the Blarney stone is shrouded in stories. Was it a witch who was saved from drowning that revealed its power? Was it the Lord of Blarneys eloquent reply to the land title demands of Queen Elizabeth I? Was it the Goddess Cliodhna's hinted reply to a love-lost Cormac McCarthy? Today we will find out the truth on our visit to Blarney Castle and its emerald-green gardens.

Day 7 Bantry
(Tender Port:
Bantry)

We arrive at Bantry Bay and tender to shore. The harbourside town of Bantry is the gateway to the touring route known as the Wild Atlantic Way. It is easy to see why Ireland's colour of choice for everything is green, from its national sporting uniforms to its flag, as we drive the famed Ring of Kerry, tread the trails of Whiddy Island or explore the Beara Peninsula, surrounded by the lush grass covered hills and dales of the Emerald Isle. For those choosing a morning excursion, Bantry itself is small enough for a comfortable stroll in the afternoon, with artisan shops, friendly cafes and, of course, plenty of pubs to try a local brew. The wild beauty of Ireland's western coast is on show today, along with the life it offered, past and present. Here we meet small town Ireland with an insight into a different side to the Irish. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Meet the Mayor of Whiddy Island. A 15-minute ferry crossing takes us to one of Ireland's 80 islands – Whiddy Island, with a population of 30. A former World War I US Navy seaplane base known as Bantry Bay Station; Whiddy Island offers an insight into 'island life in Ireland'. At just 3 x 1.5 miles in size, it is an island that is ideal for walking. It is famous for its red and purple hue provided in summer by an extensive planting of fuchsias and birdlife, as Whiddy is also home to kingfishers, little egrets and shags. But it is the story of its people that we have come to hear about, and we could not ask for a more local guide to show us around. He is the local publican, local postal worker, and he is locally known as the King of Whiddy Island. We learn about traditional baking and mussel farming and, of course, we wash it down at his pub with a local brew. Option 2 – Morning experience: The Beara Peninsula. The Ring of Beara, located on Bantry's neighbour, the Beara Peninsula, is one of the region's top three scenic drives, known for its rugged and less touristy charm. This 85-mile route, including the renowned Beara Way, offers a journey through some of Ireland's most striking landscapes. We encounter a dramatic coastline where the Atlantic Ocean crashes against steep cliffs, creating breathtaking views. The route is flanked by sharp-featured mountains and intricate rock formations, with exposed and contorted strata presenting a geologist's dream. Scenic detours lead to hidden gems such as ancient stone circles, secluded beaches, and picturesque villages like Eyeries, known for its brightly painted houses. Time permitting, we visit the quaint village of Allihies, famous for its copper-mining history, offering stunning vistas of Beara's lakes and valleys. With its wild beauty and diverse scenery, the Ring of Beara promises an unforgettable adventure for those seeking a truly authentic and rugged Irish experience. Option 3 – Full day experience: Ring of Kerry. No, this is not a real ring, although its presence is gold for the local economy, as a day spent driving the Ring of Kerry is the touchstone against which all other beauty spots in Ireland are measured. The Iveragh Peninsula is a magical place full of myths and legends. This landscape of sandstone hills, wooded valleys and pristine lakes has inspired poets and authors to pen many a lament. A photographer's dream, the region is dotted with quaint towns and villages. Its lands have been carved into a series of mountain passes that whisper their story as we follow the trail of the Ring of Kerry.

Day 8 Dingle
 (Tender port:
 Dingle)

Once described by National Geographic Traveller as ‘the most beautiful place on earth’, Dingle is away from the general ‘tourist route’, affording us exclusive access to the wild west coast. Traditionally a fishing port, Dingle Harbour is where we anchor and tender into town. Known for its rugged scenery, dramatic cliffs and sandy beaches, the surrounding promontory is the coastal heart of County Kerry, while Dingle itself has a bohemian flair and is famous for its hardware pubs where you can enjoy a brew and buy wares. Our ‘Your Choice’ experiences today showcase the relationship between the people and this rugged coast. Their triumphs and tragedies. There is time to browse Dingle independently this afternoon by joining our tender to return ashore, before we sail north towards Galway. Personalise your exploration with our included ‘Your Choice’ experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: The Saintry Sites of the Dingle Peninsula. Journey today to the Dingle Peninsula, the northernmost of the five fingers projecting into the Atlantic Ocean. This area is steeped in Christian heritage, with numerous sites dedicated to Saint Brendan the Navigator, who was born nearby in Tralee in c. 484. Saint Brendan is celebrated for his legendary sea voyages and is a significant figure in Irish spirituality. Our drive takes us along the scenic coast road, past Inch to Sleah Head, the most westerly point in Europe. We follow in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims and visit the 12th-century church at Kilmalkedar, a traditional assembly site for those who journeyed along Saint Brendan’s Road northeast to Mount Brandon. We also visit the renowned Gallarus Oratory, the most impressive early Christian monument on the Dingle Peninsula. This oratory, built in the shape of an upturned boat, has withstood the test of time for over 1200 years. It was part of a larger monastic site and served as a place of prayer and reflection. The Irish cherish visiting these saintly sites, finding solace and inspiration in their deep spiritual and historical significance. Option 2 – Morning experience: Life on the Land – Past and Present. We hear tales of ‘life on the land’ this morning as we visit ‘famine cottages’ and meet the shepherds and the sheep dogs of the Dingle Peninsula. Our scenic drive follows a route along the dramatic cliffs of the promontory, before heading inland to the farmlands of Dingle. This land is sheep country. Generations of farmers have survived here through wild weather, outbreaks of disease and, of course, famine. The Kavanagh family is one of them. In the 19th century, the densely populated, western counties of Ireland were poverty stricken. The people in these areas were hugely dependent on the potato crop, and when the potato blight arrived in the 1840s, West Kerry experienced severe hardship. Neglected by the ruling classes, people endured horrific conditions, forcing many to emigrate, while those who remained, starved. We hear tales of extreme poverty and struggle for survival as we visit the family’s 19th-century cottages, which remain as they were during the great famine. The story of this land continues in a lighter vein as we enjoy a sheepdog demonstration. The shepherds’ ‘best friends’ take instructions in native Irish as they show off their skills and win our hearts with their cunning ability to herd even the most determined of sheep. Option 3 – Half-day experience: Dingle Peninsula with the Blasket Centre. As the Atlantic carves the coast, we watch its waves from our clifftop drive to Sleah Head. Our route weaves and twists as we follow the peninsula, with stops to take in its dramatic scenery as the road narrows, and we literally drive to the edge of the ocean. An unforgiving land, this peninsula attracted medieval monks, who lived in beehive-shaped, stone clocháns, which we visit at the Fahan Beehive. On the horizon we see the deserted Blasket Islands; an unenviable place to live. The islands were evacuated in 1953 due to a dwindling, ageing population, but the islanders’ stories live on, thanks to the Blasket Centre. This interactive museum tells tales of the islanders who survived in often unliveable conditions. We hear their stories, learn some ‘real Irish’ and marvel at their tenacity.

Day 9 Galway
 and Cliffs of
 Moher
 (Tender port:
 Galway)

Arriving at Galway, we anchor in its natural bay and tender ashore. This popular west coast seaside town of Galway attracts a steady flow of local visitors. The Irish come here to walk its mile-long promenade and as tradition dictates, kick the walls end for good luck, enjoy fish and chips straight from the newspaper and, of course, ‘go on the gargle’ in its cosy pubs. Join our morning experience to spend more time in Galway independently, or cruise the Connemara, before we set sail for Killybegs. Personalise your exploration with our included ‘Your Choice’ experiences. Option 1: Morning experience: Getting to Know Galway. Experience the spirit of Galway on this guided city tour led by a local expert. This panoramic journey blends driving and walking to showcase the city’s most iconic landmarks and lesser-known treasures. We visit the Claddagh Ring Museum, where you’ll discover the origins of this traditional Irish symbol. According to legend, the first Claddagh ring was crafted by a Galway goldsmith who was captured by pirates and sold into slavery. He created the ring for his beloved back home, with its hands, heart, and crown representing friendship, love, and loyalty. Today, it holds deep meaning for generations of young Irish women. As our tour ends, enjoy free time to explore Galway at your own pace. Sample local food, browse shops for unique souvenirs, or wander the lively streets of Ireland’s favourite seaside town. Option 2 – Morning Experience: Cruising the Connemara. Today’s journey takes us through the wild beauty of Connemara, as we drive from Galway to Lisloughrey along winding roads flanked by quiet lakes, peat bogs, and dramatic mountain views. This rugged landscape sets the tone for what’s to come. At Lisloughrey, we board a scenic cruise on Lough Corrib, the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland, famously said to hold 365 islands, one for each day of the year. As we glide across its still waters, our guide tells tales of Viking raids, sunken castles, and ancient monastic sites bringing this uniquely Irish region to life. Rising from the treeline, you’ll spot sites like Ashford Castle, once a medieval fortress, later transformed into a Victorian estate by the Guinness family, and now one of Ireland’s most celebrated hotels, The Old Steamers Quay and Lord Ardilaun’s Obelisk. Returning to Galway, in time for lunch, choose to tender to the ship, or linger longer in Ireland’s favourite seaside resort.

Day 10
 Killybegs and
 Slieve League
 Cliffs, Ireland
 (Port:
 Killybegs)

The fishing village of Killybegs is the gateway to the rugged beauty of Slieve League Cliffs and the dramatic backdrop of Ireland's own Table Mountain, Ben Bulbin. Jutting out of Sligo's northern edge, the peninsula of Mullaghmore pokes into the North Atlantic. Land and sea meet in confluence along the coast of County Sligo, a landscape of jagged mountain peaks that inspired the work of Nobel-winning poet William Butler Yeats. We'll spend the afternoon in Killybegs, where you can either explore the dramatic cliffs and enjoy the scenic cliffside walk or delve into sustainable whiskey production at the family-owned Ardara Distillery. After returning to the ship, we'll set sail south along the rugged coastline, heading towards the picturesque natural bay of Galway. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Afternoon experience: Slieve League Cliffs. Slieve League is Ireland's ultimate sea cliff experience and a signature point on the Wild Atlantic Way. Believed to be Europe's highest accessible sea cliffs, they rise 2,000 feet from the ocean below. The lookouts here offer unspoiled views of the Atlantic as it slams the coastline of Donegal. Slieve League boasts a raw landscape and challenging lifestyle for those who call County Sligo home. We meet some of these stoic characters at the Tí Linn café and craft shop for a hot drink and scones. The Slieve League Cliffs Centre supports local artisans by selling their handmade specialties including items from the Donegal Tweed company and Triona, a company located only a few miles away at Ardara. Option 2 – Afternoon experience: Ardara and the Ardara Whiskey Distillery. For those who would prefer to hear about the most popular 'spirits' of the region, we visit the friendly folk of Ardara. One of the five designated heritage towns in County Donegal, Ardara has built itself a reputation as a village of craftsmen and women. The movement towards uniquely Irish goods is a growth market for the villages scattered throughout Ireland's isolated peninsulas. It provides work for young people and whole families are typically involved in the production. As home to the popular Triona Design, visitors enjoy weaving demonstrations based on traditional methods. Steeped in tradition the Ardara Distillery operations produce An Dúlámán Irish Maritime Gin and Sliabh Liag Whiskeys. Established by two 'scatterlings', James and Moira Doherty, who returned to the Sliabh Liag peninsula to build a legacy, the distillery employs 30 people in the village of 700. We tour the distillery to appreciate a sustainable, boutique side of Irish whiskey making. One inspired by the almost lost tradition for a smoky style of spirit, brought up to date with the best distillation know-how. We will learn about the history of Donegal's distilling heritage and see skilled workers breathing new life into it – all while sampling this unique brew during the tour.

Day 11
 Londonderry~Derry
 (Port:
 Londonderry~Derry)

Our overnight sailing takes us to the fascinating city of Londonderry~Derry. 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 meet the tidal mouth of the River Foyle at sunrise, arriving at Londonderry~Derry's port mid-morning. Choose to 'stay in town' to hear the city's fascinating story, or head north to the coast to follow fables of giants and failed dynasties at the Giant's Causeway, before we sail west in the early evening for the Republic of Ireland and the cliffside town of Killybegs. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Afternoon experience: Londonderry~Derry – Past, Present, Future. Relax this morning, grab some lunch onboard and get ready to hear a fascinating story this afternoon. Our local guides interpret the story of Londonderry~Derry on this excursion which combines a driving tour with intermittent short walks. Having lived through the tumultuous times of 'The Troubles' as the locals refer to it, their first-hand experiences immerse us in the era when 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. Option 2 – Half-day experience: Dunluce Castle, Giant's Causeway. Heading north we find the northern shores of Northern Ireland and follow the coast to the Giant's Causeway. This region is blessed with impressive natural scenery: vast valleys, glittering lakes and cliffs hoisted up from the Atlantic. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway consists of some 40,000 interlocking basalt columns lifted from the ocean by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. Of course, 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. After lunch at a local restaurant, we follow the Scenic Causeway Road to Dunluce Castle. Once the headquarters of the MacDonnell clan, the castle fell victim to a violent storm and was abandoned. Its ruins and spectacular backdrop have been popular recently, after it was used as the Castle of Pyke in the famous series Game of Thrones.

Day 12
 Disembark
 Belfast,
 Northern
 Ireland -
 Dublin, Ireland
 (Port: Belfast)

After breakfast onboard, we disembark the ship at Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. Belfast has endured more than its share of hardship—famines, disease, invasions, and economic strife have shaped a tough, resilient city. But it was the recent period known as The Troubles that defined its global image. Barbed wire, armed patrols, and bomb searches once deterred visitors. Today, however, Belfast is a city renewed. Lighter, more open, and on the rise thanks to political progress and investment. We drive from dock to dock, as we reach Belfast's famous dockyards, where thousands laboured to build the world's most glamorous ship. The Titanic Experience, located on the original dockyard, brings this story to life as we explore the pride, pressure, and tragedy tied to the ship's legacy on this hands-on tour. Having survived the Titanic Experience, a short driving tour offers us insights into Belfast's Unionist and Nationalist communities. Occasional security gates serve as reminders of a complex past, but the city now embraces seven vibrant 'quarters': Cathedral, Gaeltacht, Smithfield Market and Library, Linen, Market, and Queen's. There's time to grab a bite to eat or browse the shops before we reboard our coach and head south. Our two-hour drive returns us to the Republic of Ireland. Upon our arrival in Dublin, we check in to our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure. Accommodation: Accommodation in Dublin (or similar). Meals: Breakfast on board.

Day 13 Dublin

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. Choose your favourite 'Your Choice' experience this morning to meet Dublin's saints, spirits and saviours, before a leisurely afternoon. Join us this evening for drinks and canapés as we celebrate the end of our journey. Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences. Option 1 – Morning experience: Dublin Walking Tour. The size of Dublin makes it an ideal one for a leisurely 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. Option 2 – 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 tell 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. Option 3 – Morning experience: The Lock Up – Kilmainham Gaol. Your morning begins with a visit to Kilmainham Gaol, a historical prison in Dublin now serving as a museum. One of the largest unoccupied gaols in Europe, Kilmainham opened in 1796 and closed as a prison in 1924. It played a crucial role in Ireland's struggle for independence, housing leaders from numerous rebellions, as well as prominent figures from the Irish War of Independence. The gaol's history is marked by harsh conditions and notable executions. Leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, including James Connolly and Patrick Pearse, were executed here, symbolising the dire costs of Ireland's fight for freedom. The prison also housed many political prisoners under severe conditions, highlighting the brutal treatment they endured. The guided tour provides a detailed look into the prison's dark past, including its role in shaping Ireland's path to independence. You'll see the stark cells and hear poignant stories of sacrifice and struggle, offering a profound insight into the nation's history and the personal stories of those who fought for its freedom. Accommodation: Dublin Hotel (or similar). Meals: Breakfast, Farewell reception (drinks and canapés).

Day 14 Depart
 Dublin

After breakfast, we take our leave, carrying with us the vibrant tales of Ireland's and Scotland's saint's, saviours and uncovered secrets. 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 day and the final day of your voyage package
- Two night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast in Edinburgh on Days 1 and 2
- Two night's hotel accommodation, including breakfast in Dublin on Days 12 and 13
- 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 our 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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