

CRUISE & MARITIME VOYAGES

BRITISH ISLES



SHORE EXCURSIONS

2011



Dear Passenger

Introducing Your Shore Excursions

It is with great pleasure that we enclose the shore excursion brochure and booking form for your forthcoming Cruise & Maritime Voyages cruise.

This Cruise & Maritime Voyages shore excursion brochure has been designed to help you make the most of your time ashore at each port of call on your cruise. Visiting new destinations around the world is always an exciting prospect and at each port we have planned a variety of excursions designed to appeal to all tastes and budgets. By taking a shore excursion you can be sure that you are making the very most of your time in port.

Enjoy amazing experiences, magnificent sights and explore the destinations on your cruise. The shore excursions featured in this brochure provide detailed information on each excursion so that you can make the right choice for you.

Several of the shore excursions offered may have limited capacity and to avoid disappointment we strongly recommend you book your shore excursion in advance of sailing. To pre-reserve your shore excursions, please complete one reservations form per booking reference. There is no need to send any money as settlement is made at the end of your cruise through your shipboard account. A confirmation of your pre-reserved shore excursions is usually sent to you in advance of the sailing with your cruise tickets.

We thank you for choosing to sail with us and look forward to having the pleasure of your company on board and ashore on our shore excursion programme.

Yours sincerely,



Michelle Lupino, Manager of Shore Excursions

GENERAL SHORE EXCURSION INFORMATION & CONDITIONS

To enhance the enjoyment of your cruise, we have created a programme of optional shore excursions designed to show you the highlights of each of our ports of call. Our Shore Excursions staff will be pleased to assist you with your choice of tours to help make the most of your time ashore. This Shore Excursion brochure covers several cruises and not all the excursions listed may be available on your particular cruise. Please refer to the booking form for the excursions available during your voyage.

Pre-Reservation Service

It is strongly recommended that you use our pre-reservation service to ensure that places are reserved on the excursions of your choice. Several of the excursions we offer may have limited capacity. **Kindly complete one shore excursion booking form per booking reference.** Alterations to the pre-reservations, including cancellations, can only be accepted up until the date shown on the booking form; after which time all pre-reserved tours will be considered as confirmed bookings. When you take advantage of our pre-reservation facility, a copy of your signed shore excursion booking form will be passed to the Shore Excursion Manager on board. You will therefore find your pre-reserved excursion tickets will be delivered to your cabin within 24 hours of your Embarkation and the cost of your pre-reserved excursions will be debited to your shipboard account.

How to book onboard

Just complete and sign the booking form with your excursion selections and hand it in at the Shore Excursions Office on board. Desk opening hours will be shown in your daily programme.

Payment

Payments are debited to your shipboard account and the Shore Excursions team will ask you to sign in agreement that the amount to be charged is correct and will then issue your tickets accordingly.

Excursion Timings

The duration and departure times shown on the booking form are approximate and the final tour departure times will be confirmed on board. Following the ship's arrival in a port of call the relevant local authorities have to complete various formalities in order to clear the vessel and give the permission for passengers to be allowed to disembark. The time this procedure can take varies from port to port and shore excursions may only commence once these clearance formalities have been completed. Please consult the daily programme which will instruct you to assemble at a designated meeting point approximately ten to fifteen minutes prior to a tour's scheduled departure. Members of staff will direct each group of participants to the quayside and the coaches at the appropriate time. Please have the excursion ticket available to hand to the guide or driver as you board your coach.

Excursion Prices

The shore excursion prices are in Sterling and include transport, guides, meals and entrance fees according to the published description. Child prices shown apply to children between the ages of 3 and 12 inclusively. Children over the age of 13 will need adult tickets. Infants under the age of 3 can travel on the excursion free of charge, as long as they do not occupy a seat and it is not a flight or overnight excursion. Please note that all minors (under 18 years) must be accompanied by an adult on shore excursions.

Refunds & Cancellations

In the event of an excursion being cancelled, prior to operating, for reasons beyond our control, a full refund will be credited to your shipboard account. Shore Excursions will operate in all weathers unless the Shore Excursion Manager is advised by the local agent that it is inappropriate or unsafe to do so. We regret we are unable to refund the cost of excursions which are cancelled by passengers after the advertised time that the bookings close, unless the cancellation is for medical reasons duly certified by the Ship's Doctor. **From sailing day, until bookings close, a cancellation fee of 10% will be charged on any excursion cancelled by passengers for any reason other than certified medical conditions.** Details of the times when bookings close will be featured in the daily programme.

Choosing the Right Tour

Our organised shore excursions are designed to be a pleasurable experience and an enhancement of your cruise. Therefore we recommend, before you book an excursion, that you consider the physical requirements of that particular excursion, such as the amount of walking involved, to ensure that it is right for you. Please be aware that some archaeological sites, palaces, temples, museums and old city quarters can sometimes only be reached by walking on uneven paths or lots of steps, which could prove to be very difficult for those with limited mobility. Our Shore Excursions team will be pleased to assist you with any further information that you may require about individual excursions.

Transport

Dependent on the part of the world that you are visiting, the standard of transportation used for shore excursions may vary considerably. Please bear in mind that coaches may not be air-conditioned and accessibility may be challenging for some passengers. In some ports, particularly in the West Indies and in the more remote countries, local buses, taxis, minibuses, jeeps and even open trucks may be pressed into service where coach availability is limited or non-existent. The notes in the excursion description should indicate if this is known in advance, but the Shore Excursions team on board will be able to provide additional information.

Dress whilst Ashore

In general we recommend that you wear appropriate clothing and, if necessary, weatherproof coats or jackets. Footwear should be sturdy, flat and comfortable as some walking will be necessary to gain full enjoyment from the excursion programme. When you visit churches and other religious sites, please bear in mind that conservative dress will be required. Please always take your boarding pass with you and it is also prudent to have a photocopy of your passport. Leave on board jewellery, valuables, passports and other personal documents, and take only as much cash as you need for the excursion.

Excursion Descriptions

These are deemed to be correct at the time of printing but the planned content of excursions is subject to last-minute change such as detours because of heavy traffic or unexpected changes in the means of transportation. It should be noted that some of the listed attractions in an excursion may be viewed in a different order to avoid possible congestion. The term 'visit' in a description implies an inside visit to a building, monument or attraction, whereas when the term 'see' is used in a description, it indicates an external view only. When lunch is offered during full day excursions, usually one soft drink per person is included. If not mentioned specifically in the excursion description, there is no time reserved for shopping. Short comfort stops are usually included in each tour.

Activities and Water Based Excursions

You and all those in your party should be aware that some of the excursions offered may involve some degree of physical exertion and/or activity such as hiking, snorkelling, swimming etc. When booking this type of excursion you are confirming that you and all those in your party are in good physical condition and for example only, have no history of conditions such as seizures, heart conditions, respiratory problems, dizziness or fainting. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fit and well enough to take part in the activities booked and you are reminded to take care for your safety at all times. There is a possibility you may be asked by the shore excursion provider to sign a document which may limit the excursion provider's liability. For any excursion which involves water you are advised to exercise care. Alcohol and eating a full meal should be avoided before swimming. If buoyancy aids are provided, they must be worn. Please bear in mind that the sea and swells can be unpredictable and lifeguards are unlikely to be present at all beaches/venues visited. All activities on the beach and in the sea are undertaken at your own risk.

Tour Escorts

In addition to a local guide, we endeavour to send a Ship's Escort with each excursion but we are unable to guarantee that every coach or group will have its own escort from the ship. These staff members fulfil these tour duties around their own

work schedules and rehearsals or emergency drills being called may prevent participation at short notice.

Photography

Prior to taking any pictures in churches, museums or palaces etc. please check with the guide that there is no restriction on photography or video filming in that location. In some ports of call special camera and video permits need to be purchased in advance but full information will be given on board during the relevant cruises.

Restoration Work

Please be aware that restoration work on certain buildings or sights in a port of call may involve the use of scaffolding and/or screens, which may impair the view.

Smoking

For the comfort of all passengers, smoking is not permitted aboard the excursion coaches/vessels.

Important Notes

For the safety and assurance of passengers, all the excursions are operated under the management of responsible and experienced local ground handling agencies, which hold the appropriate insurance cover to offer such services. Cruise & Maritime Voyages do not provide or supply the excursions services. Only the authorised Shore Excursion team on board are permitted to arrange or accept payment for such excursions or act as Excursion Agents during the cruise. Any excursions purchased form part of the single contract evidenced by the passenger ticket issued prior to the commencement of the cruise and are subject to all the terms and conditions of that contract. It is essential that before booking any shore excursion, you ensure that your travel insurance extends to cover the specified activity you may be participating in. This information represents the shore excursion plans and intentions at the time of printing. Subsequent events may cause us unavoidably to change our plans, which could affect the published itineraries and/or fares. In the event of such changes or alterations, wherever possible you will be advised in advance, and thus all information in this booklet must be considered as subject to alteration.

Independent Shore Leave

Once the vessel has been cleared, shore excursion participants on early departures will be called to disembark first and then you can go ashore on your own as well, as long as it is not forbidden due to visa requirements; or where the ship has only a very limited layover time in ports when a technical call is scheduled to disembark or embark shore excursion passengers only. If you go ashore on your own, it is at your own risk. It is not possible to guarantee that there will be an adequate amount of taxis available in each port of call. On rare occasions, a transfer bus from the port to the respective city centre may be organised and full information will be given on board in such instances. Please note that you have to return on board 30 minutes prior to the planned departure of the vessel. The ship cannot wait for passengers who go ashore independently and return late. Our organised shore excursions offer the safest and best way to explore each city during each call.



COBH, Republic of Ireland

Leisurely Cork & Kinsale Tour

102A - Approx. 4 hours

This relaxing tour takes you to Cork to view from the coach the main highlights of the city, and also visits the award-winning sailing town of Kinsale.

Travel to the city of Cork, Ireland's second city which began life on an island on the swampy estuary of the River Lee just upstream from Cork harbour, one of the world's largest natural harbours. Today the Lee flows through the city in two main channels, so that you find yourself constantly crossing bridges. In fact, it is this feature of the city that gives it its distinctively continental air. Cork City has become the shopping and commercial capital of the south. It is a university city with a unique character, a city of Jazz, Film, Opera and Theatre. However, as well as offering the many amenities of a large city, it still manages to retain the pleasant charm and friendliness of a country town. You will see the spires of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, The Old Courthouse, City Hall and the renowned Bells of Shandon.

Leaving the city, you head to Kinsale, one of the most picturesque, popular and fashionable resorts of the south-west of Ireland, and renowned for its many fine gourmet restaurants. It lies snugly between hills and valley, safely sheltered by the rounded contours of a beautiful harbour and is believed to have been founded by the Anglo-Normans in around 1177. It was a magnificent naval base in the 17th and 18th centuries, and seems to have enjoyed a degree of prosperity uncommon in Ireland. For centuries, it had close European connections, and in 1966 became the first town to be awarded the Flag of the Council of Europe. During your tour you will see that Kinsale owes its unique character to the fact that it was a garrison town and port of consequence for over 300 years – hence the magnificent Georgian homes and the Dutch influence of its architecture. It was also the natural landfall for all the great sailing ships from the Continent and the Americas. Today it has an extensive yachting marina close to the town centre that attracts large numbers of sailing enthusiasts.

You will have free time to stroll around the narrow streets of the town or browse in some of the stylish shops or art galleries whilst you enjoy the relaxed local atmosphere. On your return drive, a photo stop will be made at Charles Fort overlooking the bay and the town of Kinsale beyond, before arriving at the ship.

✎ **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 200.**

✎ **Please note: This tour involves very little walking apart from during the free time in Kinsale. The duration of the tour may vary depending on the ship's berth.**



Panoramic Cork & Blarney Castle

Tour 102B - Approx. 4 hours

Head first to the village of Blarney, a charming Irish village situated to the north-west of Cork and not to be missed by anyone visiting the south-west of Ireland. The village lies in the protective shadow of the massive 15th century ruins of Blarney Castle, built by Dermot McCarthy, King of Munster, and ancestral home to the McCarthy family. Although mightily impressive itself, the castle is most famous for its legendary Blarney Stone embedded in the battlements of the castle wall. The stone was given to Cormac McCarthy by Robert the Bruce in return for his support at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and is said to bestow the gift of eloquence on anyone who kisses it. You may wish to venture up the many steps leading to the stone and see for yourself if the legend is true, but to do so, one has to lean over backwards from the parapet walk of the battlements. Blarney is also home to Blarney Woollen Mills, a building which dates back to 1793, and is now one of the finest craft and gift centres in Ireland. You will be offered an Irish coffee in the self-service restaurant, and afterwards have the opportunity to browse through the wide range of Irish clothing, crystal, linen and handicrafts.

Rejoining your coach, you travel to Cork to see the main places of interest in this beautiful city founded by St. Finbarr in the late 6th century. This is a university city with a blend of old and new: steeples, bridges, winding streets and waterways. The Cathedral named after the founder and patron saint is a splendid, triple-spired example of French-Gothic architecture. It was on this site that a monastic school was established around the year 650 that drew scholars from many parts of Europe. Ireland's second city, Cork has become the shopping, commercial and cultural capital of the south with a unique character and agreeable continental air. However, as well as offering the many amenities of a large city, it still manages to retain the pleasant charm and friendliness of a country town, which you will find engagingly Irish.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum 120.**

➤ **Please note: There is a walk of approximately 400 metres from the coach parking area to the Castle, and 109 steps to climb up a narrow stone spiral stairwell to the Blarney Stone, which usually also involves some queuing. This tour is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The order of the sights may vary to that described. The duration of the tour may vary depending on the ship's berth.**

Travel to the city of Cork, Ireland's second city which began life on an island on the swampy estuary of the River Lee just upstream from Cork harbour, one of the world's largest natural harbours. Today the Lee flows through the city in two main channels, so that you find yourself constantly crossing bridges. In fact, it is this feature of the city that gives it its distinctively continental air. Cork City has become the shopping and commercial capital of the south. It is a university city with a unique character, a city of Jazz, Film, Opera and Theatre. However, as well as offering the many amenities of a large city, it still manages to retain the pleasant charm and friendliness of a country town. You will see the spires of St. Finbarr's Cathedral, The Old Courthouse, City Hall and the renowned Bells of Shandon.

Leaving the city, you will travel for approximately twelve miles in an easterly direction to the village of Midleton, a pleasant market-town with a 1798 market-house with clock tower and weathercock and some graceful old doorways to its houses. Here you visit the Jameson Irish Whiskey Heritage Centre, giving a revealing insight into the unique heritage of Irish whiskey in an authentic historical setting. The centre comprises eleven acres of mills and maltings, corn stores and still houses, kilns and warehouses, many of which have been beautifully restored. Exhibitions and audio-visual aids, graphic panels and timeless artefacts help you to appreciate more fully this golden nectar. Midleton Distillery, one of the most modern in Europe, still retains the relics of its 19th century origins including a magnificent water-wheel and the world's largest copper pot still with a capacity of 32,000 gallons. At the end of the visit you will be invited to relax in the atmosphere of a traditional Irish pub and sample the unique taste of Uisce Beatha (Water of Life), a spirit first perfected by Irish monks in the 6th century. Afterwards there will be time to shop for souvenirs in the attractive craft shop before you rejoin the coach for the short drive to Cobh.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 120.**
- **Please note: This tour involves some walking at the distillery, so flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The duration of the tour may vary depending on the ship's berth.**

Experience the thrill of a sea safari boat ride and visit the picturesque sailing town of Kinsale. Don your life vest and following the instructions from your skipper, climb aboard the safari vessel in Cobh. Enjoy the magnificent views only possible from the sea. Learn of the harbour's history and enjoy spectacular scenery and wildlife en route to Kinsale. View the Royal Cork Yacht Club, the oldest Yacht Club in the world. Enjoy a view of Camden Fort, Carlisle Fort and Roaches Point Lighthouse all of which date from the 1800s. Travelling past the last pick up point of Titanic on her ill fated voyage, continue to hug the coastline enjoying spectacular scenery all the way to the historic town of Kinsale, site of the Battle of Kinsale in 1601.

On reaching Kinsale you will make a brief photo stop at Charles Fort before disembarking in the town centre to enjoy a 30 minute walking tour of this colourful cosmopolitan town. On completion of your walking tour, some free time will be allowed. Rejoin your skipper and board the vessel for your return journey.

- **By RIB/on foot, subject to a minimum of 10/maximum of 12.**
- **Please note: This tour is not suitable for those with injuries or conditions, which may be affected by the bumpy ride. Pregnant women and children under 10 years are not permitted to participate. A safety briefing will be given and lifejackets are compulsory. The duration of the tour may vary depending on the ship's berth.**



DUBLIN, Republic of Ireland

Dublin City Highlights

Tour 103A - Approx. 4 hours

Dublin is the capital of the Irish Republic and Ireland's principal port. Dublin Bay, with its great sweep of coast from the rocky brow of Howth in the north to the headland of Dalkey in the south, is a fitting introduction to one of Europe's finest capitals. In addition to its splendid public buildings, Dublin is particularly rich in domestic architecture of the 18th century. Fine Georgian mansions, many of them with historical associations, lend sober beauty to the city's wide streets and spacious squares.

This tour will offer you an opportunity to experience Dublin's unforgettable character and undeniable charm. Departing from the quayside, you will soon pass the majestic Customs House, located on the north bank of the River Liffey. It was designed by the 18th century English-born architect James Gandon, as was the impressive domed home of the Four Courts, Ireland's courts of justice.

Crossing the river to Dublin's south side, you will view The Old Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland, and the world-renowned Trinity College. Founded in 1592 by Elizabeth I, it is Ireland's oldest college. Weather permitting you will be able to stroll through the grounds of this magnificent college.

Your tour continues to St. Patrick's Cathedral which you will visit, passing on the way other places of interest such as Dublin Castle, St. Stephen's Green, the Mansion House, residence of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the National Gallery of Ireland, Leinster House, seat of the Irish parliament and the Georgian Merrion Square, where you will have time to take a photo of the famous 'Doorways of Dublin'. The Cathedral is best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, the crusading satirist of Gulliver's Travels fame who was Dean from 1713 until his death in 1745.

The wide boulevard of O'Connell Street, Dublin's main street, is worthy of a major capital, and here you will pass its best-known landmark, the General Post Office, scene of the 1916 Easter rising. At the end of the tour, there will be some free time in the city to shop for souvenirs, before returning to the ship.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

👉 **Please note: This tour includes approximately one hour's walking including some steps and over cobblestones. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.**



River Cruise & Panoramic Dublin

Tour 103B - Approx. 4 hours

Dublin is one of Europe's liveliest cities, where medieval and 17th century buildings stand comfortably amid all the trappings of a 21st century city. Your voyage of discovery begins with a transfer to the Point where you board the 'Liffey Voyager' for a relaxing 45-minute cruise along the river. Your guide will tell you something of the history of Dublin from the first arrival of the Vikings 1,000 years ago, to the rapid development of the city during the 18th and 19th centuries. It subsequently declined during the 20th century, and today the huge redevelopment of Dublin's Docklands will astound you.

You will be told the story behind the iconic Ha'penny Bridge as well as Gandon's masterpiece, the majestic Custom House, and about the background behind Dublin's Royal and Grand Canals, and see where Oliver Cromwell landed in 1649. It may surprise you to learn how much of present-day Dublin now sits on reclaimed land, including Trinity College and the Spire in O'Connell Street, before you return safely to the pier where your coach is waiting.

Your panoramic tour of the city will take you to the Georgian squares of Merrion and Fitzwilliam, where you will have time to take a photo of the famous 'Doorways of Dublin'. After passing the National Gallery of Ireland, Government Buildings and St. Stephen's Green, you continue past St. Patrick's Cathedral. Founded in 1190, St. Patrick's is perhaps best known for its association with Jonathan Swift, who was Dean here from 1713 to 1745.

You will pass by the renowned Guinness Brewery, home of the famous 'Black Stuff' for which Dublin is famous, before travelling to Phoenix Park, Europe's largest enclosed public park. Here you will see the residences of Ireland's President and the American Ambassador. On the north side of Dublin's River Liffey, you will view the domed home of the Four Courts, Ireland's courts of justice, and your return to the ship is via the International Financial Services Centre.

👉 **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 90.**

👉 **Please note: There is very little walking on this tour apart from a few steps to board and disembark the river boat. This tour sometimes operates in reverse order to avoid congestion.**

A Viking Adventure

Tour 103C - Approx. 1½ hours

Your tour today will take you on an unusual adventure of Viking Dublin by land and by sea. Join this fun and completely unique tour of Dublin by land and water in a special reconditioned World War II vintage amphibious military vehicle called 'Ducks'. Your costumed and colourful Viking Tour Captain will tell you all about the most exciting sights in Dublin: how the Vikings first settled in the City over 1000 years ago and how Dublin has become a thriving, cosmopolitan European city. Finally, you will experience a real thrill as your Tour Captain drives the Duck into the waters of the historic Grand Canal Basin for the water portion of the tour. You may even be asked to give a Viking roar at passers-by!

In 837 sixty Viking 'Dragon' warships appeared at the mouth of the Liffey, the river on which Dublin is built. Five years later, the harbour of Dublin was taken by a Norwegian force, under the command of King Turgesius. They then 'threw' up a fort on the high ridge where Dublin Castle now stands. The River Poddle formed a natural boundary on two sides and would have been of primary importance in the choice of this site. These events created Dublin as a Viking city, a heritage of which Dubliners are still proud of.

You will see the sights where these early mariners settled and began trading, plus some of the city sights such as Trinity College, Merrion Square, the two cathedrals of Christchurch and St. Patrick and O'Connell Bridge. This bridge spans the River Liffey at O'Connell Street, Dublin's main boulevard. Enjoy the unique thrill of driving into the water, in your 'Duck', at the Grand Canal Harbour for a 20 minute 'cruise' of the inland waterway.

Each one of the Viking Tour Captains is a highly trained and certified driver guide. They are colourful characters and love to have fun. So, although they look like rough and tough Vikings, don't be afraid to ask them a question about anything you see on the tour.

After this memorable adventure, you will return to Dublin Port and your waiting ship.

- **By reconditioned amphibious military vehicle, subject to a minimum of 20/maximum of 26.**
- **Please note: There are 5 large steps to embark the vehicle and there is no storage for wheelchairs. Only 20 of the seats are under cover. Warm clothing is highly recommended as this is an open-sided vehicle. Children under 3 years of age are not permitted to participate.**

A Tale of Two Gardens

Tour 103D - Approx. 4 hours

Available to just a few guests, this garden excursion is truly special. Not only will you discover the wonders of two gardens, you will see the private garden of a world-renowned garden writer. Travel from Dublin to the home of Helen Dillon, a talented and highly respected garden writer and considered to be Ireland's foremost plantswoman, garden television star, writer and lecturer. A fascinating visit to Helen's award winning garden will be enjoyed. Featuring a large, rectangular lawn, the garden is graced by expertly planted greenery, colorful perennial borders and tranquil reflecting pools. Helen began to garden at the age of seven after she came face to face with a giant cardiocrinum growing in lonely splendour on the edge of the wood at home in Perthshire. Aged eight, she made an extensive collection of polyanthuses.

After your visit re-board your coach for the short drive to Bray and Killruddery Gardens. Killruddery is unique as it is home to the most extensive early formal gardens, still in their original style, surviving in Ireland. Dating from the 1680's they are amongst the most important gardens of their type and are regarded as mainly the work of the 4th and 6th Earls of Meath. As you admire the beautiful gardens take special note that in their core there is a pair of canals that measure 550ft-long.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 80.**
- **Please note: This tour involves considerable walking around the gardens and comfortable, non-slip footwear is recommended. The Gardens at Killruddery contain many water features and care should be taken at all times.**



FALMOUTH, England

The Eden Project

Tour 110A - Approx. 6 hours

The spectacular Eden Project opened in April 2001 and is an unforgettable experience in a breathtaking location. Eden is a gateway into the fascinating world of plants, where science meets arts and technology in a living theatre.

The journey from Falmouth will take approximately 1½ hours, giving you an insight into the delightful countryside. The home of the Eden Project is a dramatic global garden the size of 30 football pitches, nestling like a lost world in a crater overlooking St. Austell Bay. Cornwall's mild climate, clean air, ample water supply and southerly location provide ideal conditions for these plants to flourish, and you will have approximately three hours to visit this fascinating complex at your leisure. You will be given a short introduction by your guide before exploring independently. (Guided tours are not permitted in Eden)

As well as the outdoor landscape, you will be able to visit the biomes – giant conservatories with cathedral-like qualities. The Humid Tropics Biome allows you to experience the sights, smells and sheer scale of the rainforest in the world's largest conservatory, whilst the Warm Temperate Biome showcases the world from the Mediterranean to South Africa and California, demonstrating how the plants thrive on drought and poor, thin soils. The Garden of Eden contains plants and trees ranging from the Amazon and West Africa to Malaysia and is the only one of its kind anywhere in the world. You can also learn something about the inter-relationship between men and plants throughout history.

At the end of the tour, you will have an opportunity to shop in the excellent craft, gift and plant shop at The Visitor Centre, which offers a wide range of attractive goods, souvenirs and postcards.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves considerable walking, and flat, comfortable footwear is essential. There is a courtesy mini-train to transport visitors to and from the biomes; however, it is very popular at peak times and passengers using this facility should allow plenty of time for the return to the tour coach. Lunch or refreshments are not included in this tour, but there are a number of outlets from which you may purchase these.**

Trebah Gardens

Tour 110B - Approx. 4 hours

Trebah Gardens is a spectacular twenty-six acre Cornish ravine garden, rated among the eighty finest gardens in the world and listed as one of Cornwall's five great gardens. The sub-tropical paradise is home to a unique collection of rare and exotic plants, trees and shrubs winding down to a private and secluded beach on the Helford River.

Upon arrival enjoy a guided tour of the garden with your knowledgeable guide and marvel at the water gardens with waterfalls, Koi Carp, glades of 100 year old Tree Ferns and 18ft-high giant Gunnera (giant rhubarb). Dating back over 150 years, the gardens at Trebah also have a long, varied and interesting history.

Following your guided garden tour, spend some free time exploring more of the gardens at your leisure or perhaps shop for souvenirs at the garden's gift shop.

The return journey takes a scenic route with great views of the stunning Cornish coastline.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves considerable walking over varying terrain, and flat, comfortable footwear is essential.**

Scenic Cornish Drive & Land's End

Tour 110C - Approx. 4 hours

The far west of Cornwall is a beautiful and compelling land, enriched by thousands of years of Celtic tradition. You shall see the contrast between the spectacular cliffs and granite moorlands of the Land's End peninsula, and the softer, sub-tropical vegetation of the gardens, flower-filled lanes and tranquil wooded valleys as you continue inland. Travel alongside the River Fal and some of its tributaries as we leave Falmouth. The River's tree-lined banks and creeks fringe the country road as you journey towards the market town of Helston. Peaceful villages and quiet farmland are glimpsed through curtains of trees before the rural landscape gives way to flat terrain, with occasional views of the coastline leading to dramatic cliffs.

After passing through Penzance of pirate fame, see the granite mass of Land's End tumbling into the sea at the end of the Cornish peninsula – the westernmost point on the mainland of England. For generations of British mariners, sighting Land's End meant the end of a long, often arduous, journey; watching it fade from view over the stern meant the beginning of unknown adventures to come. See why this rocky headland has been a symbol to travellers for centuries.

At Land's End you will see this famous headland has been developed into a popular tourist complex that even has an amusement park. There will be time to walk down to the rocky plateau and viewing area on top of the 60-foot-high granite cliffs of Land's End; on a clear day, this blustery but majestic headland offers dramatic views of the coastal areas and wind-eroded outcrops lying just off shore. There will be an opportunity to photograph the popular signpost that marks the number of miles to New York and other well-known destinations, and afterwards there will be free time to purchase refreshments or shop for souvenirs.

The return journey takes you via the sleepy village of Marazion. Lying off shore is a small granite island, rising out of the water like a giant sandcastle – St. Michael's Mount. The mount is connected to the coast by a stone footpath that is accessible only at low tide. From the shoreline you may photograph the island which is crowned by a castle and a cluster of other buildings hugging the rock's peak.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

👉 **Please note: From the coach park, it is a walk of approximately 150m to the Land's End signpost, where there is rough, uneven ground and a few steps. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**



St Michael's Mount & St Ives

Tour 110D - Approx. 7 hours

Transfer to 'the jewel in Cornwall's crown', St. Michael's Mount. The crossing to the Mount will be along the causeway during low tide or boats during high tide.

According to ancient Roman historians, the Mount was the island of Ictis, an important centre for the Cornish tin trade during the Iron Age. It is dedicated to the archangel St Michael who, according to legend, appeared here in 495AD. Following the Norman Conquest in 1066, the invaders were struck by the similarity of the mount to their own Mont St Michel off the Normandy coastline, whose monks were invited to build a smaller abbey here in Cornwall. During Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, St Michael's Mount was turned into a coastline defence to protect England from feared French invasion. In 1659, the Mount was purchased by Sir John St Aubyn whose descendants turned the fortress into a magnificent residence.

St Michael's Mount is now the ancestral home of Lord St Levan and The St Aubyn Family. Enjoy a 'free-flow' tour of the Mount and gardens followed by some free time to take photographs and enjoy the scenery.

Afterwards you continue to the lovely town of St. Ives, an artist's haven and typical Cornish fishing village. Enjoy time to wander its narrow streets at leisure and explore the galleries and shops or visit a café. After your visit you head back to Falmouth with views across the south of the county.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

👉 **Please note: Lunch has not been included in the tour to allow you maximum flexibility during your visit to St. Ives. There is considerable walking on this tour and flat, comfortable walking shoes are essential. There is a two hour walking tour of the Mount, plus more walking at your own discretion during free time. There are several steps and the walk can be steep in places with cobblestones and inclines.**

Truro – On Your Own

Tour 110E - Approx. 4 hours

The only city in Cornwall, Truro's most striking feature is the Cathedral with its green spire and Gothic appearance. The city's heritage is of a market town and port dating back over 800 years. Truro is also the main shopping town of Cornwall and many of its streets have been converted to pedestrian areas.

This transfer has been arranged for those of you who wish to explore Truro independently. An escorted coach will transfer you to Truro, where you will have approximately 2½ hours free time to discover the sights.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

👉 **Please note: Comfortable, walking shoes are recommended. The transfer to Truro will take approximately 45 minutes depending on traffic. This tour is unguided and exclusive of entrance fees. Coaches cannot be held for latecomers, please take note of the pick-up time and place.**



HONFLEUR, France

Monet's House and Gardens

Tour 406A - Approx. 5½ hours

From the port of Honfleur, travel along the motorway in an easterly direction through the attractive Normandy countryside to Giverny, a pretty village situated on the banks of the River Seine and best known as the home of Claude Monet.

The world-famous Impressionist painter lived in this house from 1883 until his death in 1926. Between 1886 and 1890, a whole colony of painters joined him in order to take advantage of the 'garden art' form. It was in this very picturesque setting that Monet painted the huge canvases of the water lilies which can be seen in Paris at the Orangerie Museum.

In the gardens, visit the 'clos normand': the arches of flowers surrounded by amazing flower beds which provide from spring to autumn the palette of varying colours this painter and gardener used for his art. Monet wrote daily instructions to his gardening staff, precise designs and layouts for plantings.

The house, which is now a museum, was first opened to the public in 1981. It has been lovingly restored in green and pink and you will see the blue salon, the bedroom with the bed and roll-top desk, the old studio, the yellow dining room with its delightful painted wooden furniture and the tiled kitchen. Reproductions of Monet's works and his collection of 18th and 19th century Japanese prints can be seen in the different rooms.

The adjacent flower gardens have been replanted to Monet's own designs and offer a spectacular array of colours. The famous Japanese water garden has a lily pond with gracefully arched bridges bordered by bamboo, azaleas, rhododendrons and a majestic weeping willow which contributed to Monet's inspiration in his work.

Prior to leaving Monet's house, there will be some free time to browse in the gift shop which offers numerous reproductions of the painter's work, souvenirs, postcards, posters, books and videos.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 180.**

➤ **Please note: The drive to/from the Giverny is approximately 1¼ hours each way. This tour involves a long walk to/from the coach park to the entrance of Monet's House. It is not permitted for guides to give a commentary inside Monet's House. Photography and videos are not permitted inside. It is not possible for guides to give a guided walk in the Garden's due to the number of visitors. Guides will however explain the layout and the facilities, leaving participants to wander at leisure in the Gardens. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended as this tour involves considerable walking. We recommend you take water or a drink with you as refreshment facilities are limited.**

The old seafaring town of Honfleur, on the Seine estuary opposite Le Havre, is one of the most charming towns in Normandy.

You drive through the town and follow the coast road along the 'Côte Fleurie', passing through Trouville before arriving at Deauville, a fashionable resort of wide, tree-lined avenues and chic restaurants and boutiques. One of the characteristic features of this delightful seaside town is 'les planches', the boardwalk created in 1923 along the sea front which allowed the ladies to enjoy the beach without dirtying their dresses. Lined by elegant buildings, it runs the length of the beach and is now an area where celebrities like to meet and enjoy being seen. Between the famous casino and 'les planches', you will see the Centre International de Deauville, a remarkable ensemble of suspended gardens, fountains and transparent façades.

It is sometimes known as the 'lady of the French coast', and it was a very stylish lady, Coco Chanel, who both launched her own career and helped give Deauville status as an upmarket seaside town when she opened a boutique selling her distinctive hats to the ladies of Edwardian society. It is also considered the birthplace of the Impressionist and Romantic art movements. With its lavish yachting marina, horse racing, thriving nightlife and casino an inspiration for Ian Fleming's 'Casino Royale', Deauville maintains its reputation as a playground of the European élite, a status it has enjoyed since Napoleon III's half-brother came here in the mid-19th century.

There will be time at leisure in the town before you rejoin the coach and return to Honfleur. The best way to explore the town is on foot, and on your one-hour guided walk you will see the Governor's House, 'La Lieutenance', the ancient gateway to the town, as well the 17th century Old Dock and nearby a remarkable monument to this fishing town's seafaring traditions - the wooden St. Catherine's Church (Eglise Ste-Catherine) built by naval craftsmen and whose vaulted roof resembles a ship's upturned hull. At the end of the tour you may either return to the ship by coach or, if you prefer, stay in town and make your own way back which is a walk of approximately 20 minutes.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves considerable walking, some over cobble-stoned streets in Honfleur. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Shopping is limited in Deauville on Sundays.**

You leave Honfleur and drive along the Côte Fleurie to Deauville, a fashionable resort of wide, tree-lined avenues and chic restaurants and boutiques, where you will enjoy a short panoramic tour. One of the characteristic features of this delightful seaside town is 'les planches', the boardwalk lined by elegant buildings which runs the length of the beach. Between the famous casino and les planches, you will see the Centre International de Deauville, a remarkable ensemble of suspended gardens, fountains and transparent façades. This area is a popular rendezvous for celebrities who like to meet and enjoy being seen in trendy venues such as the Bar du Soleil.

There will free time to stroll around before you leave Deauville and drive through the heart of the Normandy countryside to the village of Le Breuil en Auge, where you visit a traditional distillery, 'Le Château du Breuil', which specialises in producing cider, Pommeau and Calvados. Classified as a historic monument, the Château du Breuil, an attractive slate-roofed château, was built in the 16th and 17th centuries. During a guided tour you will learn something of the different stages of cider pressing, and the exhibits include apple presses and mills, crushers and stone grinders dating back to the 16th century as well as the traditional distillery with its bright copper stills.

You will also discover the history and making of Calvados, the delicious local apple brandy. The fermented juice of fine Normandy apples is distilled twice, and then it slowly ages in oak casks, the subtle interaction between oak, air and alcohol giving the Calvados its unique bouquet. At the end of the tour, you will be invited to sample the Calvados, cider and pommeau as well as taste some delicious Normandy cheeses such as Camembert, Pont l'Eveque and Livarot together with bread and butter. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to purchase some of the local produce before returning to the ship.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 90.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves approximately 1½ hours of walking. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**



D-Day Landing Beaches

Tour 406D - Approx. 10 hours

The beaches of Normandy and the events of June 6, 1944, will never be forgotten. Join this full day excursion to the Normandy landing beaches for a look into the past and to remember the heroism of the allied forces, as you visit the sites of the historic D-Day and the British Cemetery of Ranville.

The British Cemetery located near the historic Pegasus Bridge site, Ranville Cemetery holds 2,564 graves, including those of 2,154 British soldiers. The village of Ranville was captured on the morning of D-Day. The churchyard was used for immediate burials and some soldiers were laid to rest at this location as the fighting for the eastern flank continued.

During the tour you have the opportunity to see the famous Pegasus Bridge at Benouville. The original bridge, built in 1933 was removed from the canal in 1993. The historical bridge, the first bridge to be liberated in continental France, was stored on waste ground for six years. Since February 2000, the bridge has been exhibited in the park of the museum 'The Memorial Pegasus'.

In Arromanches, your guide will take you to the Museum of the Landing Day officially opened on June 5th 1954 by René Coty then President of the French Republic. It was the first museum to be built in commemoration of June 6th 1944 and the Normandy Campaign. Models, dioramas and films depict the monumental exploits and sacrifices of the allied forces during the Mulberry and Overlord operations. You'll have a chance to photograph remains of the floating harbour, where thousands of allied soldiers came ashore, still visible on this historical beach.

The Battery of Longues, the German artillery battery which gave the allied ships a pounding on the morning of June 6th, is the only coastal battery to have kept its guns. Built on a rather picturesque cliff, it was composed of four 150mm guns with a range of 20km. In spite of the release by 124 RAF planes of 600tons of bombs during the night before 6th June, the four guns were still operational on the morning of 6th June and they began firing at 5.37am. The French Cruiser Georges-Leygues was the first to return their fire. With three of their guns being put out of action, the Germans were silent for a while but resumed firing in the afternoon. The battery was finally reduced to silence at 7pm by two direct hits from the Georges-Leygues. The observation post and control room were the setting of one of the most famous scenes of the film 'The Longest Day'.

A three-course lunch including a glass of wine is included in the tour.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 90.**

👉 **Please note: This is a long day with approximately 3 hours of walking, some of which is over uneven ground. Flat, comfortable shoes are recommended.**



INVERGORDON, Scotland

Dunrobin Castle

Tour 112A - Approx. 4 hours

This tour takes you up the northern stretch of the east Highland coast, passing through the enchanting, historic town of Dornoch and visiting the largest house in the Highlands, Dunrobin Castle, seat of the Duke of Sutherland, who was once the largest landowner in Scotland.

From Invergordon you travel approximately 35 miles in a northerly direction passing the pretty, historic town of Tain, before crossing the Dornoch Firth to Dunrobin Castle, situated on the eastern seaboard of the County of Sutherland, near the fishing village of Golspie.

The breathtaking Dunrobin Castle dramatically unveils itself to you at the end of a long, tree-lined drive. The Castle is the ancestral home of the Earls and Dukes of Sutherland, dating back to the 12th century, and is the largest house in the Highlands. There will be an opportunity to visit each of the three additions to the Castle, built in c1650, c1780 and 1845-1850, and to see the old keep or tower in the centre of the building. Inside the Castle is an opulent and fascinating collection of furniture, pictures, artefacts and family memorabilia displayed in many cases in their original setting. Displays include antique household equipment, ceremonial robes, uniforms, arms and a complete working 19th century fire engine, all of which give a detailed insight into life for the earlier Earls and Dukes of Sutherland.

There will be time to admire the beautiful gardens in this wonderful setting, before you rejoin the coach and travel to the delightful 12th century town of Royal Dornoch for a brief photo stop. The town's oldest buildings are all clustered around its spacious and beautiful square. You return to Invergordon by crossing the Dornoch Firth via the low causeway bridge.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 225.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves some walking and a number of steps at the Castle. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Inverness & Highland Castles

Tour 112B - Approx. 8½ hours

This tour will appeal to those who wish to see Scotland's most famous lake, Loch Ness (world-renowned for its mythical monster), the Highland Capital of Inverness, at the head of the loch, and two of the country's most romantic medieval castles, one a ruined fort, the other a fully-furnished residence.

Travelling south-west from Invergordon, you follow the banks of the beautiful Cromarty Firth and continue past Muir of Ord and Beaully ('beautiful place') with its atmospheric ruined abbey. Reaching a steep hill you descend towards Loch Ness, Britain's deepest freshwater loch, whose murky depths conjure up such lurid tales of weird creatures, including its most famous legendary inhabitant, the Loch Ness Monster. You stop at the 14th century Urquhart Castle, magnificently situated right on the Loch's edge, one of the most photographed scenes in Scotland for a guided tour in the state-of-the-art visitor centre.

From here you head to Inverness, 'Capital of the Highlands', for a city tour that takes in some of the most historic sites, such as the Gothic-style Town House and Tolbooth Steeple, as well as the pretty tree-lined River Ness. Afterwards you will have approximately 1¼ hours of free time to continue your exploration and stop for some lunch at a venue of your choice.

Continuing inland, you travel past Culloden Battlefield, an eerie, windswept moorland, which was where the last battle on British soil took place, when the Jacobites were finally subdued, marking a turning-point in Scottish history.

Your next destination is the pretty conservation village of Cawdor and the impressive medieval Cawdor Castle, a truly beautiful residence which dates back to 1372 and still remains in the hands of the Cawdor family. The approach is over a drawbridge; inside it is romantically furnished and outside, surrounded by exceptionally pretty gardens. After the visit to Cawdor, you re-board the coach to return to the ship.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 120.**

➤ **Please note: Lunch has not been included in the tour to allow maximum flexibility during free time in Inverness. There is walking and climbing around the ruins at Urquhart Castle as well as a number of stairs to climb inside Cawdor Castle. This tour is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Whisky & Royal Dornoch

Tour 112C - Approx. 3¾ hours

This tour takes in a traditional distillery that produces one of Scotland's best-loved malt whiskies and a picturesque historic town put on the international map by rock star Madonna, who selected it for her Scottish wedding.

A short trip north takes you to the ancient Royal Burgh of Tain, an attractive small town of grand whisky-coloured sandstone buildings, where we embark on a walking tour of the Glenmorangie Distillery, famous for its highly-rated malt distributed round the world. 'Glenmorangie' in Gaelic means 'Glen of Tranquillity', a particularly appropriate description for its calm and scenic location, and during our leisurely visit you see displays of traditional skills before savouring a glass of this fine whisky.

Following the distillery visit you cross the Dornoch Firth via the low causeway bridge to the enchanting 12th century town of Royal Dornoch. Surrounded by sand dunes and blessed with an exceptionally sunny climate, it's a very popular but select resort with grand Edwardian hotels, trees and flowers in profusion, miles of sandy beaches, and a championship golf course. The town's oldest buildings are all clustered around its spacious and beautiful square and we stop to admire the impressive medieval Cathedral of Dornoch, the scene of Madonna's rock 'n' roll wedding and her son's baptism. Opposite stands the majestic 16th-century Bishop's Palace, with stepped gables and towers, and next door the Old Town Jail, now home to a series of enticing galleries and shops. On departing from Dornoch we travel back to Invergordon.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 135.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves some walking and a number of steps to climb at the distillery, some of which are rather steep and narrow. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**



Loch Ness Monster Trail

Tour 112D - Approx. 4 hours

This tour has been devised specially for those eager to go in search of the world-famous Loch Ness Monster, known affectionately as 'Nessie'.

Starting out from Invergordon, you drive alongside the banks of the Cromarty Firth and pass through Beauly on your way to Drumnadrochit, where from a height affording stupendous views you approach an area of water known the world over, Loch Ness, the deepest freshwater loch in the country. At this point have your binoculars at the ready to catch a possible glimpse of the elusive monster!

Visit the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, where you can see a fascinating exhibition presentation passing through the seven themed areas of a journey from the dawn of time to the third millennium. A highly effective mix of lasers, special effects and digital projection charts the history of the Loch Ness Monster by exploring Scotland's geological past, its folklore and the various research projects undertaken on the loch. Some sceptics claim the photos are simply pictures of logs or otters, but the lake is so deep and there are still so many unexplored caves and channels connected to the sea that nobody can really dismiss it definitely as a myth!

Afterwards you return to Invergordon and the ship, skirting the eastern loch shore and making a photo stop at the Clansman Hotel, on the loch side, before passing through Inverness.

➤ **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 225.**

Inverness On Your Own

Tour 112E - Approx. 4½ hours

Inverness, the Highland capital, is an approximate 45-minute drive from the port of Invergordon. On arrival, you will be dropped off at a central location and have around three hours free time for shopping and exploring. The River Ness runs through the heart of the town offering picturesque riverside walks and is crossed at several points by foot, road and rail bridges. The town offers an excellent choice of shopping with many shops specialising in woollens, tartans, tweeds and a range of hand-crafted items from around the Highlands and Islands. You return to the ship in time for lunch.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35.**

➤ **Please note: This is not a tour, but a return coach transfer for those passengers who are interested in visiting Inverness independently. No guide has been included, but maps of Inverness will be supplied to assist passengers find their way around the town.**



KIRKWALL, Orkney Islands, Scotland

Scenic Orkney

Tour 113A - Approx. 4 hours

During this scenic circular tour explore areas containing some of the most spectacular wildlife and places of botanical interest in the British Isles amid some of its most rugged and forbidding landscape.

From Kirkwall you travel in a southerly direction towards the former naval base at Scapa Flow, where you will hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the best-known stretches of water in the world.

You then head inland towards the heart of Neolithic Orkney, designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999, where you stop at the imposing Standing Stones of Stenness, one of the earliest stone circles in Britain.

There will be a brief stop for tea or coffee and delicious home-bakes at a local café before heading for the sandy beach at Birsay Bay, from where you can see the wild and spectacular 300-foot-high cliffs at Marwick Head a designated RSPB Reserve (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and arguably the best sea bird cliffs in Orkney. Across the bay lies the Brough of Birsay, a small tidal island around which Orkney's political and religious power was centred for centuries and upon which stands David A. Stevenson's Lighthouse, established in 1925.

At the magnificent cliffs of Yesnaby you will find one of the most dramatic seascapes in Orkney as well as the rare *Primula Scotica*, the Scottish primrose which blooms only in May and July. Finally you pass the great ceremonial stone circle known as the Ring of Brodgar, en route back to Kirkwall.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 180.**

👉 **Please note: There is some walking on this tour with uneven ground at the Stones of Stenness and a grassy path. At Yesnaby there are gravel paths and rocks and care should be taken.**

During this scenic circular tour explore the beautiful West Mainland and location of one of the greatest concentration of World Heritage prehistoric sites in Britain.

Leave Kirkwall, the capital and administrative centre of the Orkney Islands, and after passing through an area of rich farmland, stark rolling hills and moorland fringed by magnificent rugged cliffs, you arrive at the great ceremonial circles of Stenness and Brodgar.

The next stop is Skara Brae, Orkney's most exciting and oldest monument: a 5,000 year-old Neolithic village beautifully preserved and complemented by a recently opened visitors' centre. Lying beside the pretty, sandy crescent of the Bay of Skail, this ancient stone settlement was totally buried under sand for thousands of years before being revealed after a violent storm in 1850.

Among the fascinating relics found here are tools, beads, pottery and whalebone artefacts, spanning many ages of occupation based on a farming economy. Looking across at the village, it is easy to imagine how it would have looked all those centuries ago, and closer inspection of the dwellings gives a unique insight into how our ancestors lived.

The hardship of life in Skara Brae can be directly contrasted when you visit the nearby Skail House, Orkney's finest manor house built by a powerful bishop on the site of an ancient graveyard.

On our return we drive past the natural deep-water harbour of Scapa Flow, where H.M.S Royal Oak was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1939 with very heavy casualties.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 180.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves a walk of more than a quarter of a mile each way from the coach park to Skara Brae over an exposed and uneven foot path. Flat, comfortable footwear and suitable outdoor clothing are recommended. At the Stones of Stenness there is a grassy flat path. At the Ring of Brodgar there is a slightly hilly grassed path.**

This relaxing tour takes you for a scenic drive through the southern Orkney Islands where you will have an opportunity to shop for local souvenirs and afterwards enjoy refreshments at a charming waterside location.

From Kirkwall we head in a southerly direction towards the former naval base at Scapa Flow, where you will hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the best-known stretches of water in the world.

Leaving Mainland, you travel via causeways known as Churchill Barriers linking the islands, which were constructed during the Second World War to protect the naval base at Scapa Flow from enemy submarines. Your first stop is on the island of Lamb Holm to visit the beautifully hand-painted Italian Chapel. Known as the miracle of Camp 60, this remarkable structure was built by Italian Prisoners during the last World War. The Chapel has been preserved and maintained for its historical connection with the soldiers from Italy.

From here you continue south to the island of South Ronaldsay and on to the pretty village of St Margaret's Hope. Local legend says that the village is named after Margaret, Maid of Norway, who died near here on her way to marry King Edward II of England. Stop for a while here to explore the excellent Craft Workshop or take a walk through the old street.

Turning north, you pause for tea or coffee and a scone at the Sands Hotel, located in a delightful setting overlooking the peaceful harbour of Burray Village, before returning to the ship at Kirkwall.

👉 **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 135**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves very little walking.**



South Island & Distillery

Tour 113D - Approx. 3¾ hours

This tour combines the scenic southern Orkney Islands with a visit to the northernmost whisky distillery in Scotland and to see the impressive St. Magnus Cathedral.

Just outside Kirkwall, you visit the unique Highland Park Distillery, the world's most northerly producer of whisky founded in 1798 producing highly acclaimed 12-year-old malt. After an interesting guided tour and audio-visual presentation, you will be offered the traditional 'peedie dram' and afterwards there will be time to browse in the attractive gift shop.

From here you drive close to the Second World War Naval Base of Scapa Flow and hear dramatic wartime stories that make this one of the most famous stretches of water in the world. The causeway that links the two islands together was originally built from cement blocks to restrict access to the Naval Base in World War II, but is now surfaced with a roadway to provide a service to the islands which were previously only connected by ferry. On Lamb Holm, visit the beautifully hand-painted Italian Chapel, built by Italian Prisoners during the last World War.

From here continue to the centre of Kirkwall for some free time to enjoy this pretty town, dominated by the magnificent and beautiful 12th century red sandstone Cathedral of St Magnus, known locally as the 'Light of the North' and the finest medieval building in northern Scotland. The most poignant memorial in the Cathedral is dedicated to the 833 sailors who lost their lives when a German U-boat sank the British battleship HMS Royal Oak just a few months after the declaration of war. Nearby there are many narrow, winding streets and lanes which have hardly altered over the centuries, and there will be free time to wander round and shop for souvenirs before returning to the ship.

👉 **By coach/on foot subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 135.**

👉 **Please note: The itinerary of this tour may be reversed. The tour does not include entrance to the Cathedral, but you may wish to visit independently during free time. Photography is not permitted inside the Distillery. There is some walking on this tour and flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. It may be possible that your visit will be during 'silent season' of the distillery. If this is the case then there will be certain areas which are not accessible although you will still learn about all the processes involved.**



LEITH, Scotland

Taste of Edinburgh of Edinburgh & Shopping

Tour 123A - Approx. 4 hours

This tour will appeal to those passengers who wish to see Edinburgh, Scotland's magnificent capital, from the comfort of a coach combined with some free time for shopping in the Old Town.

An approximately 20-minute drive from Leith will bring you into the centre of Edinburgh, where you start your panoramic sightseeing tour. You will see the main sights such as Edinburgh Castle, Holyroodhouse, the Queen's residence in Edinburgh, Lawnmarket in the medieval 'Old Town', the Georgian 'New Town' with its Robert Adam masterpiece, Charlotte Square, 'the noblest square in Europe' and the famous Princes Street.

There will be several photo stops, traffic permitting, and you will have approximately 1½ hours free time to explore independently or shop for souvenirs in the Royal Mile, the Old Town's historic cobble-stoned thoroughfare which runs downhill along the high ridge from Edinburgh Castle to Holyroodhouse. At the end of the free time, you rejoin the coach for the return transfer to the ship in time for lunch.

- 👉 **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35.**
- 👉 **Please note: This tour involves very little walking apart from during the free time. Due to ongoing tram works, parts of Princes Street may be closed to traffic and so there may be limited access to the street.**



City of Edinburgh & Castle

Tour 123B - Approx. 4 hours

This tour offers passengers a chance to explore Edinburgh, Scotland's magnificent and historic capital, whose Old Town and Georgian New Town form a World Heritage Site. Many attractions are seen from the comfort of the coach and this tour also includes a visit to the world-famous medieval Edinburgh Castle.

From Leith you drive to Edinburgh, one of the world's most beautiful capital cities. Built on a series of spectacular hills and valleys, Edinburgh is a gracious city, famed for the elegance of its classical architecture, panoramic views, parks and open spaces.

Following a fascinating city tour that embraces most of Edinburgh's historical monuments and sights in both the medieval 'Old Town' and the 18th century 'New Town' nearby, you visit on foot the world-famous Castle, standing proudly on its soaring rock, dominating the city skyline. You will see the tiny 12th century St. Margaret's Chapel; the old palace with the Crown Room in which are displayed the regalia of Scotland; the Old Parliament Hall, which now houses a fine display of armour and weapons; and the deeply impressive Scottish National War Memorial.

Leaving the castle, you travel along the historic and picturesque Royal Mile, the bustling cobble-stoned street that is the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. After passing Holyrood Palace, the Queen's residence in Edinburgh, you pass through the extensive, rather wild Royal Park, including the crag of Arthur's Seat, which affords superb panoramic views across the city, and eventually enter the broad, stately shopping street, Princes Street, with the towering Scott Monument and beautiful Princes Street Gardens. The town possesses an unrivalled number of art galleries and museums, relative to its size and population, like the National Museum on the Mound. We glimpse some of these, before touring the Georgian New Town, with its elegant townhouses, tree-lined squares and crescents.

Finally, you head back to Leith and the ship.

- 👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 225.**
- 👉 **Please note: This tour involves significant walking some over steep uneven ground, and is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is essential. Due to ongoing tram works, parts of Princes Street may be closed to traffic and so there may be limited access to the street.**



LERWICK, Shetland Isles, Scotland

Scenic Shetlands

Tour 114A - Approx. 3½ hours

Shetland is the crossroads of the northern seas and unlike anywhere else in Scotland. The sight and sound of the sea is almost always present, woven into the island's maritime heritage. Spectacular vertical stacks coated with seabird colonies, cliffs and coves curtained with wild flowers, hidden white beaches on an endless coast, small crofts and settlements sheltering by the sea edge: all these are typical Shetland scenes, and the pollution-free air has an unbelievable clarity beloved of photographers and painters.

After a short sightseeing tour of the town with its narrow main street and small shops, you leave Lerwick and travel to the Pictish Broch at Clickimin, where you stop to view on foot (in the distance) a good example of a Broch Tower with surrounding buildings dating from the Iron Age. The tour then continues through Gulberwick and Over and heads in a westerly direction through small agricultural areas, passing the distinctive black and brown Shetland sheep grazing in pastures enclosed by neat dry-stone walls which are a feature of the landscape.

You then drive across heather-clad hills to Scalloway, former capital of the Shetlands and an important fishing village on the western side of Shetland. During free time you may wish to see Scalloway Castle, a forbidding ruin dominating the town, built by Earl Patrick Stewart in 1600 using forced local labour, or visit Scalloway Museum – the choice is yours.

Then, your route takes you northwards, passing the pretty Loch of Tingwall with its Norse heritage to the Gott Pony Stud, where we will meet the owner and have an opportunity to photograph the delightful Shetland ponies.

Travel through an area of uninterrupted views across farmland, small lochs and streams. The road passes a collection of farm buildings, and then suddenly there are belts of trees, the only ones of any significance on Shetland, rising abruptly amongst the barren hills. A short stop is made at Shetland Jewellery, where traditional Shetland gemstones are still hand-crafted in the Celtic – and Norse-inspired fashions. On your return drive, pause for splendid panoramic views across the water to Whiteness Voe and Stromfirth before arriving back at Lerwick.

👉 **By coach, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum 180 – varies depending on call date.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves very little walking.**

Shetland is a mosaic of over one hundred islands where land and water intermingle and the past and present merge. The most northerly part of the British Isles, it is inhabited by approximately 22,000 people and an abundance of wildlife. It is a land shaped by the sea, varying from dramatically sculptured cliffs to tranquil, sandy bays. There are over 100 islands ranging in size from the large island of Mainland, 351 square miles, to the numerous small skerries (islands) and islets along the coast. Both the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea wash Shetland's coast, which is dramatic and beautiful. Lerwick has always been an important centre for fishing: not only are the home waters productive, but it lies on the edge of the valuable northern fishing grounds.

Leaving the harbour area, we drive through Lerwick, capital of the Shetland Isles, and follow the coastal road in a southerly direction through crofting communities to Hoswick, where we will stop at the Visitor Centre. It has an interesting local museum where you will learn something about Shetland life and the world-renowned Shetland weaving industry. Following the visit, we continue to Sumburgh, the most southerly tip of the Shetland mainland.

Here sitting side by side in complete contrast are the modern airport and the famous archaeological site of Jarlshof, which has evidence of human habitation spanning 3,000 years. A violent storm in 1905 uncovered this remarkable archaeological site sprawled over a low green promontory by the sea, revealing remains from the Stone Age and settlements from the Bronze Age. Rectangular stone houses from an ancient Viking community can also be seen, and we shall be able to explore independently the remains of these village settlements. Following the visit, refreshments of coffee, tea and biscuits will be served at the nearby Sumburgh Hotel.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/ maximum of 180 – varies depending on call date.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves some walking, so flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. The refreshments are sometimes served at the Hoswick Visitor Centre. The stop at the Sumburgh Hotel is for refreshments only and has been reserved as part of the tour. The Hotel can only cater for the pre-booked group visit and not ad-hoc visits or lunch requests without reservations.**

The ancient fishing port of Lerwick is the cultural and administrative hub of the Shetland Isles, the most northerly islands in Britain. The town itself dates from the 17th century when it began to grow as a trading port for Dutch herring fishermen. Local merchants built Lodberries - houses and warehouses, each with its own pier, from which they could serve incoming fishing boats, directly from their own property - these are still there today, along the harbour front.

Overlooking the harbour, you see Fort Charlotte - built in 1665 and later rebuilt in 1780 - named after Queen Charlotte, George III's consort. Fine views over the harbour can be gained from the fort which, though not in use today, was once a prison and a Royal Navy reserve base. 465 German passengers were once billeted here after the ship *Lessing*, bound for America, was shipwrecked off the Fair Isle in 1868.

The Victorian Town hall on Hillhead Street displays fine architecture and offers a delightful insight into the development of the islands through its stained glass windows - these depict the main events in Shetland's history, in pictorial narrative.

Opened in June 2007, the Shetland Museum provides an interesting insight into island life, past and present. You will enjoy some free time to view the various displays about local archaeology, folk life, social and maritime history, as well as exhibitions of contemporary art.

You also explore the intriguing 'closes' (narrow lanes), which run from the harbour area to the top of the hill, home to many secret tales from the lives of the town's inhabitants, including the smugglers who used to run clandestine operations beneath the town. This walking tour will allow you to take in all of these highlights, and provide an excellent backdrop for further exploration of the town.

➤ **On foot, subject to a minimum of 10/ maximum of 100.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves walking, up steep lanes and on cobblestones and so sturdy walking boots and waterproofs are essential.**



OBAN, Scotland

Inveraray Castle

Tour 122A - Approx. 4 hours

This tour takes you to Inveraray, to visit one of the most famous castles in Scotland, seat and family home of the Duke of Argyll, the chief of the Campbell clan.

From the attractive fishing port of Oban you drive in a northerly direction towards the mouth of Loch Etive at Connel, and follow the narrow Pass of Brander inland to the distinctive ruins of Kilchurn Castle, where you turn and head southwards through Glen Aray towards Inveraray to visit Argyll's most famous castle.

Built in 1774 and surrounded by two acres of formal gardens and 14 acres of park and woodland, this is one of the great bastions of Scotland's National Heritage and is amongst the earliest examples of Gothic revival in Britain. The borders on either side of the main path are cut in the shape of the Cross of St. Andrew, the national flag of Scotland.

Its fairytale exterior sets the scene for the grandeur of the gracious interior which reflects the many different styles and tastes of the Campbell family through the years. You will see the magnificent Armoury Hall containing some 1,300 pieces including Brown Bess muskets, Lochaber axes and preserved swords from the Battle of Culloden. The State Dining Room and Tapestry Drawing Room display splendid French tapestries as well as wonderful examples of Scottish, English and French furniture and a fine collection of family paintings. Following the visit you will return to Oban.

- 👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 180.**
- 👉 **Please note: The use of cameras and video cameras is prohibited inside Inveraray Castle. Flat, comfortable shoes are recommended. The drive to Inveraray is approximately 1 hour each way depending on traffic.**



Arduaine Gardens

Tour 122B - Approx. 3 hours

This tour takes us to a part of the country with a unique temperate climate and fertile terrain that has facilitated the development of one of the most stupendous gardens in Scotland, a must-see attraction for all horticultural enthusiasts and lovers of cultivated landscapes, garden plants and flowers.

Starting out from Oban, we travel past pretty sea lochs, such as Loch Feochan, and through quaint old villages like Kilmelford, to Arduaine, which enjoys an idyllic loch side location, affording views out to Asknish Bay and to the islands of Shuna, Luing, Scarba and Jura, some of the wildest and most inhospitable islands off the coast of Scotland. By contrast, the Arduaine Gardens are wonderfully green, calming and welcoming, possessing a feel of an intimate private garden, with pristine lawns, lily-strewn ponds, mature woods and spectacular rhododendrons and azaleas. A tea plantation owner, James Campbell, brought the rhododendrons back from Ceylon and it was thanks to the efforts of Victorian plant hunters like Campbell that huge numbers of seeds and plants came back to Scotland to eager local landowners, who filled their glens and estates with the new discoveries, the plants thriving in the damp, acid soil, which replicated conditions found in other regions of the world.

This sheltered area, 20 acres in size, is home to a huge diversity of plants from all over the world, both well known and unfamiliar. From great towering trees to homely herbaceous borders, from moss-covered rocks to magnificent shrubs, Arduaine provides the discerning visitor with something of interest at all times of the year. From here we return via the scenic coastal route to Oban and the ship.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 225.**

👉 **Please note: Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Refreshments are available at participants own expense in the Loch Melfort Hotel, a short walk from the Gardens.**



PORTLAND, England

Lulworth Cove and Corfe Castle

Tour 116A - Approx. 4½ hours

You leave Portland and follow the main road to Weymouth, made famous by King George III, and then head in an easterly direction towards Lulworth Cove on the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site. The cove is probably the best coastal formation of its type anywhere in the world. The beach, the surrounding cliffs and countryside all contribute to make Lulworth Cove one of England's most popular tourist destinations. You will have free time to admire the views, take a stroll along the beach or enjoy a refreshment (not included), before continuing your journey through the beautiful Dorset countryside to Corfe Castle, which boasts more than 1,000 years of turbulent history.

One of the most impressive and romantic medieval ruins in England, its marvellous hilltop position offers magnificent views of the surrounding countryside. It was originally built by order of William the Conqueror in 1080, and commands a gap in the Purbeck Hills on the route between Wareham and Swanage. In the 11th century the wooden Norman castle was rebuilt in stone, and over the following centuries additions were made, particularly by King John and Henry III.

By the 13th century the castle was being used as a royal treasure storehouse and prison, and it remained a royal fortress until 1572 when it was sold by Elizabeth I to her Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton. During the English Civil War, the castle twice came under siege by Parliamentary forces and finally fell in 1645. Parliamentary engineers then proceeded with a systematic demolition, using explosives to try and bring down the walls. Their work has left the castle as it looks today. At the end of your guided tour, you will have some time at leisure before the return drive to the ship.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves considerable walking at Corfe Castle. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**



Dorchester & Athelhampton House

Tour 116B - Approx. 4½ hours

From the ship, you head for nearby Dorchester, county town of Dorset, where you will have free time to explore its picturesque streets lined with elegant 18th century houses, or hunt for souvenirs in the bustling shopping precincts and perhaps find a bargain antique.

Rich in history, it was in Dorchester in 1685 that Judge Jeffreys presided over the Bloody Assize, following Monmouth's defeat at Sedgemoor. In 1834 six agricultural workers, now known as the Tolpuddle Martyrs, were transported to Australia for their part in forming a trade union. Thomas Hardy, who was born in 1840 just outside the city, made Dorset his own, reviving ancient Wessex in a series of powerful contemporary novels, with Dorchester becoming Casterbridge in his book 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'.

A short drive from Dorchester takes you to the award-winning historic Athelhampton House, one of the finest examples of 15th century domestic architecture in England. You will be able to visit the inside of the house at your leisure and view the richly furnished and decorated rooms, all retaining their original period features and contents. The author Thomas Hardy's father, a builder, was involved in restoration works to the Great Hall and West Wing roofs in the 19th century, and it was during these times that Thomas Hardy himself first visited Athelhampton at the age of nineteen.

After the visit, you will be able to view the magnificent listed gardens which surround the house. Laid out in 1891, some of the gardens are walled and have ponds, water fountains, statues and a dovecote. They contain famous topiary pyramids as well as a magnificent collection of magnolias, roses and seasonal plants. Those who prefer not to walk through the gardens may browse in the gift shop or purchase refreshments in the excellent Topiary Restaurant.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum 140.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves climbing some stairs inside Athelhampton House and walking through the gardens along gravel paths, and during the free time in Dorchester town. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

From Portland you drive to nearby Dorchester, county town of Dorset, where you will have free time to explore its picturesque streets lined with elegant 18th century houses, or hunt for souvenirs in the bustling shopping precincts and perhaps find a bargain antique. Rich in history, it was in Dorchester in 1685 that Judge Jeffreys presided over the Bloody Assize, following Monmouth's defeat at Sedgemoor. In 1834 six agricultural workers, now known as the Tolpuddle Martyrs, were transported to Australia for their part in forming a trade union. Thomas Hardy, who was born in 1840 just outside the city, made Dorset his own, reviving ancient Wessex in a series of powerful contemporary novels, with Dorchester becoming Casterbridge in his book 'The Mayor of Casterbridge'.

Leaving Dorchester, you travel cross country in a south-westerly to Abbotsbury Swannery, which is unique as it is the only place in the world where you are able to walk through the heart of a colony of nesting mute swans. There are about 800 mute swans at the Swannery, and they are so-called not because they are mute but because they make a quieter noise than other swans. They nest in colonial fashion, which is unusual for swans as they normally like their own territory. But here in the Fleet Lagoon conditions are ideal with an abundance of weeds, so they learn to tolerate the company of each other and of the visiting humans. If you wish, you may put this to the test as feeding time is at 12:00 pm and adults and children are allowed to feed the swans. This is a spectacular sight with hundreds of swans crowding round the feeders.

The Swannery was established by Benedictine monks, who built a monastery at Abbotsbury during the 11th century and farmed the swans to produce food for their lavish banquets. Swan feathers played an incalculable role in England's cultural development, as it was from them, hardened in sand, that quill pens were cut. St Peter's monastery was destroyed in 1539 during the Dissolution, and some of the ruins are still visible around St Nicholas' Church in the village.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30.**

➤ **Please note: This tour involves walking along gravel paths at the Swannery and during the free time in Dorchester town. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Lyme Regis boasts breathtaking scenery and is a resort for all seasons. Its historic Cobb and harbour are iconic features, set against moody blue cliffs yielding fossilised evidence of life on earth millions of years ago.

This transfer has been arranged for those of you who wish to explore Lyme Regis independently. An escorted coach will transfer you to Lyme Regis, where you will have approximately 2½ hours free time to discover the sights.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30.**

➤ **Please note: Comfortable, walking shoes are recommended. The transfer to Lyme Regis will take approximately 45 minutes depending on traffic. This tour is unguided and exclusive of entrance fees. Coaches cannot be held for latecomers, please take note of the pick-up time and place.**



ROTHESAY, Isle of Bute, Scotland

House of Mount Stuart

Tour 126A - Approx. 3¼ hours

This fascinating excursion takes you back in time to glimpse places and sights unchanged since their Victorian heyday, with the highlight being the uniquely beautiful House of Mount Stuart, home of the Marquess of Bute, and its wonderfully mature garden. Thanks to its mild climate and cherished tranquillity, it has long been a favourite convalescence spot.

Leaving the pier you pass through the only real town on the Isle of Bute, Rothesay - a genteel Victorian seaside resort with handsome period mansions lining the broad sweep of bay and palm trees flanking the elegant promenade and Winter Gardens.

Then you drive a few miles to the magnificent House of Mount Stuart, a spectacular Victorian Gothic house, surrounded by acres of lush, woodland gardens. This somewhat spooky architectural fantasy of the 3rd Marquess of Bute, a direct descendant of Robert the Bruce, is a hidden treasure and one of Scotland's finest houses. The combination of the astrological designs, stained glass and marble is breathtaking, and all combine to envelop the visitor in the mystique and history of the house. Guests are free to explore the many different gardens that make up this wonderful estate.

Finally, you travel to the picturesque west coast of the island along Scalpsie Bay. It is the least populated part of the island and hosts some beautiful sandy beaches. After taking in the stunning scenery during the drive, you return to Rothesay.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 25/maximum 90.**
- **Please note: There is some walking on this tour over uneven ground and with steps. Flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Photography is not permitted inside the House. Owing to the extremely limited maximum on this tour, early booking is recommended.**



SCRABSTER, Scotland

Dramatic Cliffs & Lighthouses

Tour 125A - Approx. 4½ hours

This leisurely tour travels through Scotland's northern wilderness, the county of Caithness, and reveals an area rich in natural history and heritage as well as varied landscape, from rolling farmland and lonely moorland to stunning coastal vistas. Departing Scrabster, you pass through the Scottish town of Thurso and travel across open moorland en route to Dunnet Head, the most northerly point of mainland Britain. Here you find Robert Stevenson's famous lighthouse, built in 1831, overlooking the Pentland Firth and Orkney Islands beyond. You also discover imposing sandstone cliffs, a haven for seabirds including breeding puffins, razorbills and kittiwakes.

You continue along the coast and past Castle of Mey, former home of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, before stopping at Canisbay Church where the late Queen Mother worshipped while on her biannual breaks at Castle of Mey.

You then enjoy some time at leisure in John O'Groats, famed for being the most northerly settlement of mainland UK, with its iconic sign pointing south to Land's End. Afterwards there is a stop at Duncansby Head where you can capture photos of the dramatic northerly seascapes and majestic lighthouse built by Robert Stevenson's son, David, in 1924, which stands high above the eastern entrance to the Pentland Firth.

Before returning to the ship, there will be a brief stop for photos in each of the area's two largest towns; Wick and Thurso, both historically important harbour towns - the former during the great herring-boom of the 1800s and the latter during medieval times as the main connection with Scandinavia.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum 270.**
- **Please note: At Canisbay Kirk there is a slight incline and a paved path. At John O'Groat's and Wick the ground is paved. There is some rough ground and uneven surfaces at Dunnet Head and Duncansby Head. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

This Tour takes you to Castle of Mey, the beloved residence of the late Queen Mother and the northerly castle on the Scottish mainland, as well as visiting John O' Groats, the most northerly point on the British mainland.

Departing Scrabster you travel to the Castle of Mey, Having saved the castle from ruin in 1952, Elizabeth oversaw the restoration of the Castle herself, as well as creating its beautiful gardens. For almost half a century she spent many happy summers here. It is possible to view many of the artefacts and personal memorabilia that she collected, including the Great Sword of Mey, once wielded by the Sinclair Clan Chief's sword-bearer. There is even the chance to sit in the Queen Mother's favourite seat in the Shell Garden, amongst its old-fashioned shrub roses.

After visiting the Castle, travel on to John O'Groats, long famous as the most northerly point on the British mainland - although Dunnet Head is actually slightly further north. There will be a chance to browse through the numerous shops and take photos next to the famous sign to Land's End. From here you return to Scrabster and the ship.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum 180.**

👉 **Please note: To enjoy the tour to the full there is some walking involved including mainly gravelled ground and some steps. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Your tour will take you to some of the highlights of Northern Scotland, with its rugged beauty and spectacular views. You will visit the northernmost distillery in the land, and have some free time to shop in a harbour town after a local homemade lunch in a sea front hotel.

Depart the quayside and head to your first stop at the Old Pulteney Distillery in Wick. This is the northernmost distillery on the Scottish mainland and is located about 18 miles from John O'Groats in a rugged, windswept, sea-pounded area. This is an unlikely setting for a distillery, except for its close proximity to the sea, which at one time was the only means of transporting the whisky to the south. During the herring boom of the 19th century, many of the distillery workers were also employed as fishermen; many were coopers making up to eight barrels each day to hold cured herring for export to Russia and Germany. Sadly, the herring industry is no longer part of the daily life in Wick, but the Pulteney Distillery continues to operate, distilling one of the finest Highland Malts available.

After a tour of the distillery and a wee dram to taste, you will take a walk around Wick with time to admire the views and get a feel for life in this harbour town.

Then it's on to John O'Groats, the farthest point from Land's End. Admire the views out to sea and visit the small shops selling various local wares. From here, you will drive to the Sea View Hotel for a light homemade lunch, then re-board the coach and continue around the coast to Thurso. This small harbour town of 10,000 inhabitants is ideal for some free time to wander the streets, visit the 17th-century ruins of St. Peter's Church, or view the Town Hall and the heritage museum on the high street. Alternatively, have a drink in one of the cafés (at your own expense) or shop for some local souvenirs.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 25/maximum 60.**

👉 **Please note: To enjoy the tour to the full there is some walking involved including mainly gravelled ground and some steps. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**



ST. MARY'S AND TRESKO, Isles of Scilly

St. Mary's Island Tour

Tour 119A - Approx. 1 hour

St Mary's is the largest of the five inhabited islands, yet it is only two miles long and one mile wide! It is the administrative centre and hub of commercial and social life, as well as the terminus for year-round transport links both by air and sea with mainland Britain. The capital, Hugh Town, sits on a narrow sandbar and, although it has a substantial harbour, is really little more than a large village. Away from the hustle and bustle of the town the landscape is varied, with rugged granite cliffs, wild scenery, fine beaches and nature trails, all of which you will see during our short tour of the island.

There will be photo stops en route, and your entertaining driver/guide will give you an opportunity to see some of the main places of interest and admire some of the most spectacular views. Forming part of the Duchy of Cornwall, it is easy to understand why so many people, including the former Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who had a holiday home and is buried here, find the Isles of Scilly so peaceful and enchanting.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum 180.**
- **Please note: Owing to the limited capacity of transport on the island, passengers are recommended to pre-book this tour. There is a walk of approximately 800 metres from the quayside where the tender boat arrives to the bus departure point in the main street.**

Tresco Abbey Gardens

Tour 119B - Approx. 2½ hours

The second largest of the Scilly Islands, Tresco is only two miles long, but has an amazing variety of scenery, and with its mild, frost-free climate, plants from all over the world thrive here. Cars are prohibited, and the tranquil way of life and old-fashioned courtesy enjoyed by both islanders and visitors alike has not changed for more than half a century.

The Abbey Gardens, which we shall visit, flourish here, and there is nowhere else in the British Isles that has such an exciting and exotic collection of plants growing in the open. Apart from plants obtained from Kew Gardens, countless others from South Africa, Australia, the Mediterranean and Mexico, which are normally under glass, prosper within the secure embrace of massive holm oak hedges, which protect the island from the fierce, salty gales.

The gardens also house the Valhalla Ship's Figurehead Collection with magnificent figureheads from old sailing ships, each with its own story to tell. Tresco has two freshwater pools, one being the Abbey Pool, which attracts birds including dunlins, plovers and ducks such as the mallard and teal.

From its early days Tresco has welcomed visitors, and the effect is so astonishing that even the non-gardener cannot fail to be impressed. Experienced staff, whose extensive knowledge of the flora will enhance your visit, will give a short guided tour of the gardens and afterwards there will be free time to enjoy them at leisure. There is an excellent Visitor Centre, and souvenirs and refreshments can be purchased in the attractive new gift shop and cafeteria.

👉 **On foot, with approx. 20 persons per group/maximum 225.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves walking including some steps at the Gardens. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. There is an approximate 10 minute walk each way from the landing pier at Carn Near (tides permitting) to the Abbey Gardens. For those with walking difficulties, transport is available and will be provided by Tresco Abbey Gardens. In the event of high tide, the alternative quay for tenders will be at New Grimsby which is approximately a 40 minute walk to the Gardens. For those with walking difficulties, transport is available and will be provided by Tresco Abbey Gardens.**

Island Sea Safari

Tour 119C - Approx. 1 hour

This memorable excursion takes you on a marine safari boat trip to see wildlife and spectacular scenery. Board the RIB (rigid inflatable boat) and cruise around the Islands of Scilly in search of grey Atlantic seals and seabird colonies. You may also see puffins, guillemots, razor bills and fulmars depending on the time of year, as well as some of the island's shipwreck sites. On this trip there are plenty of photo opportunities, and full, friendly and informative commentary by Scillonian skipper Mark and his wife Susie. This trip will give you a fascinating insight into the natural history of these unique islands.

👉 **By rigid inflatable boat, subject to a minimum of 8/maximum of 10.**

👉 **Please note: Although not strenuous, this excursion is not suitable for those passengers with limited mobility or back problems. Participants are required to embark the RIB with minimal help and sometimes a floating landing stage may be used. Lightweight waterproofs are recommended to protect against the wind or possible spray.**



ST. PETER PORT, Guernsey, Channel Islands

Coast & Countryside

Tour 101A - Approx. 3 hours

Experience historic sites and beautiful scenery of St. Peter Port as you enjoy a circular coach drive around the island.

Travelling inland, the route takes you past Saumarez Manor and through St Martin's Village to the Little Chapel at Les Vauxbelets, where there will be a stop for you to visit this unique monument. The Little Chapel is said to be the smallest consecrated church in the world, built as a labour of love. The design is based on the Grotto at Lourdes, and it is intricately decorated with shells and small pieces of china.

The tour continues through country lanes leading to the west coast where there will be a short stop for photos at Pleinmont Point, the westernmost tip of Guernsey, for a splendid view of Les Hanois lighthouse and spectacular cliff scenery.

Descending the hill you will see, nestling inside the natural fishing harbour of Rocquaine Bay, the Napoleonic Martello Tower of Fort Grey which was built to deter Napoleon's invasion forces. A stop will be made at the tourist outlet Guernsey Pearl, where there are toilets and you will have an opportunity to shop for souvenirs or purchase refreshments.

Finally, you follow the coastal road to view the fine sandy beaches of L'Eree and Vazon and the beautiful pink granite formations of Cobo Bay, before arriving back at St. Peter Port.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 140.**
- **Please note: The coach drivers will also act as guides and give a commentary during this tour. There is no wheelchair access inside the Little Chapel which has 10 steps at the entrance and a few outside. The itinerary may operate in reverse to that described.**

Guernsey Highlights & Cream Tea

Tour 101B - Approx. 3¼ hours

You leave the harbour and drive along the seafront of the bustling capital of St Peter Port, and travel across the island to the picturesque Cobo Bay, where you follow the coast road in a south-westerly direction past Vazon Bay until you reach the natural fishing harbour of Rocquaine Bay, where you can see the Napoleonic Martello Tower of Fort Grey, affectionately known as The Cup and Saucer. There will be an opportunity for photographs at Pleinmont Point, the westernmost tip of Guernsey, for a splendid view of Les Hanois Lighthouse and spectacular cliff scenery.

The tour continues along winding country lanes leading to the Little Chapel at Les Vauxbelets, where there will be time for you to visit this unique monument. The Little Chapel is said to be the smallest consecrated church in the world, built as a labour of love. The design is based on the Grotto at Lourdes, and it is intricately decorated with shells and small pieces of china. There will be a short time to shop at the nearby Guernsey Jewellers and Clockmakers, where there is a wide range of attractive souvenirs and timepieces.

During the tour, enjoy refreshments of tea or coffee, together with scones, jam, and of course the famous Guernsey cream at a local hotel.

On your return, you will pass through St Martin's Village and descend Les Val des Terres passing the historic Castle Cornet and 12th century Town church, before arriving back at the harbour.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 60.**

👉 **Please note: The coach drivers will also act as guides and give a commentary during this tour. There is no wheelchair access inside the Little Chapel which has 10 steps at the entrance and a few outside. The itinerary may operate in reverse to that described.**

Floral Guernsey

Tour 101C - Approx. 4 hours

This delightful tour will enable you to appreciate some of the diverse aspects of the island's flora in more detail. From the quayside you drive to the Freesia Centre, where you shall see the freesias at different stages of development. A section of one of the large glasshouses here is kept in full bloom for you to enjoy the scent and colours of this delicate flower.

You then travel along the west coast and through Kings Mills, an area of natural beauty with many traditional Guernsey farmhouses, before arriving at Bruce Russell's Gold and Silversmith's, a small, exclusive family-run jewellers set amidst five acres of beautiful landscaped gardens. There will be time to relax in this idyllic setting and an opportunity to purchase refreshments at the Pavilion Restaurant, such as the delicious traditional 'Guernsey Gache'.

Following the visit, you travel to the Little Chapel at Les Vauxbelets, where there will be a stop for you to visit this unique monument. The Little Chapel is said to be the smallest consecrated church in the world, built as a labour of love. The design is based on the Grotto at Lourdes, and it is intricately decorated with shells and small pieces of china.

Finally, you continue to the privately-owned, award-winning cliff-top garden in St. Martin's parish. Here there will be ample time to enjoy the sights, scents and colours of the diverse plants, which thrive in the temperate climate, before returning to the harbour at St. Peter Port.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a maximum of 30.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves moderate walking with steps in the garden. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. Due to the low maximum on this tour, pre-booking is advisable.**



Sark Island

Tour 101D - Approx. 7 hours

From the tender point you will walk the short distance to the harbour where a boat will be waiting to take you to the delightful Island of Sark. During the 45-minute journey you pass the islands of Herm, Jethou and Brecqhou, where you will have a close view of the newly-built Gothic-style castle.

The only motor vehicles allowed on Sark are tractors, and on your arrival at La Maseline harbour, one of these will transport you to the top of Harbour Hill, affectionately known as 'The Toast Rack'. If you prefer to walk there is a narrow, winding woodland path, which leads to the top of the hill, though this is a fairly strenuous climb. You will then have the remainder of the day to spend at leisure and enjoy the unspoiled Island of Sark, for this is a naturalists' paradise. Here you will find no cars, no tarmac roads, no high-rise developments, only spectacular coastal scenery and wild flowers in a delightful setting just three miles long and one-and-a-half miles wide at its widest point.

Horses and carriages are available for hire (limited availability), as are bicycles if you prefer to get around the island other than on foot and a local guide will travel with you and be on hand to offer assistance during your stay. The island is easy to explore and has several craft shops and places for light refreshments. Sark's most popular visitor attraction is the beautiful walled and formal gardens of La Seigneurie, the home of the Seigneur of Sark, the head of its government, the last remaining feudal constitution in the Western world until the 600 residents voted in December 2008 for its first democratic government in 450 years. Whatever you choose to do, you will find your day filled with natural beauty, and all too soon it will be time to return to the harbour and rejoin your boat for the trip back to St. Peter Port where a tender will be waiting to transfer you to the ship.

- **By boat/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 60.**
- **Please note: This is a walking tour. Meals, refreshments, island transportation (apart from the tractor transfer) and entrance to La Seigneurie Gardens are all at your own expense. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. There are many steps at both embarkation points and care should be taken if it is wet. This tour is not suitable for those with walking difficulties.**

German Occupation

Tour 101E - Approx. 3 hours

This special tour will show you the historical significance of the Channel Islands. Over the centuries they have been seen as the gateway to an invasion of Great Britain, a strategic stronghold between continental Europe and the United Kingdom. Leaving the harbour you drive directly to The German Occupation Museum. This Museum holds an impressive collection of war memorabilia gathered over the years by the present owner and includes the evocative reconstruction of a street in St. Peter Port during the German Occupation.

After your visit, you travel across the island to the west coast, where there will be ample opportunity to view the fortifications from both the Napoleonic era and the German Occupation years, profound legacies of Guernsey's turbulent past.

On reaching the most south westerly point at Pleinmont, you will have the chance to explore and photograph a German Gun Emplacement at La Batterie Dolman, which is sited on the top of the cliff with a high Observation Tower alongside.

A short stop will be taken at Guernsey Pearl Restaurant where you may purchase refreshments before continuing the tour.

The tour then continues to The German Underground Hospital, a chilling series of tunnels commissioned by the German High Command during the Occupation, and painstakingly excavated by Russian prisoners of war. Emerging into the sunlight once again, your coach will return to the harbour.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 60.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves some walking. The ground may be slippery at The Underground Hospital and so care should be taken. Flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended.**

Herm Island

Tour 101F - Approx. 2½ - 3 hours

Just 3 miles off the coast of Guernsey and a 20-minute boat ride away, lies the beautiful little island paradise of Herm, a friendly island with cliffs, wild flowers, sparkling blue sea, pretty harbours and white sandy beaches. On arrival at the harbour, take a walk across the common to Shell Beach, where you are sure not to be able to resist walking along the strand looking for shells. The path continues to Belvoir Bay, a little sandy lagoon, perfect for relaxing. A steep woodland path now stretches up to the top of the island where you can visit the little church of St Tugual, dating from the 11th century. This wander around the whole island will take you approximately one hour at a gentle pace.

Descending the hill, The Mermaid Tea Garden is always open and you may wish to purchase a light snack, before you visit the mezzanine of little shops which stock a variety of gifts and souvenirs.

The boat will depart from either the harbour or the Rosaire steps, depending on the height of the tide, for the return trip to Guernsey.

👉 **By boat/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 50.**

👉 **Please note: This tour is intended for the more independent passenger who prefers to wander alone. But, for those who prefer to be accompanied, a local guide will travel with you and accompany those who wish to go on the one hour guided walk. An illustrated walking map is provided. Flat, comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The duration of the tour in April is slightly shorter due to boat schedules.**



STORNOWAY, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

Hebridean Highlights

Tour 120A - Approx. 4 hours

This tour takes you around the stunningly beautiful Isle of Lewis, largest of the Hebridean Islands, made famous by Mendelssohn in his moving and melodious masterpiece, 'Hebridean Overture'. It's a wild, windy and totally unspoilt part of Scotland, where landscapes range from brilliant, golden sands to heather-backed mountains. The island is the heartland of Gaelic culture with long-standing traditions and relics, where people's lives are still dominated by traditional pursuits like crofting, fishing and weaving. We visit some of the most important pre-historic sites in Scotland, as well as legacies of the earlier crofters.

After leaving Stornoway, the capital of the Outer Hebridean Isles and home to the Western Isles Council, which strives to promote the Gaelic language and culture, you cross the typical peat moors of central Lewis with their boulders and hillocks. The tour then continues towards the stunning west coast and the village of Callanish, site of the island's most dramatic prehistoric ruins, the Callanish Standing Stones, rated as the most important in Britain after Stonehenge. These stones date from 1500 B.C., are laid out in the form of a cross with a circle in the centre, and were aligned with the sun and the stars to provide the seasonal cycle on which the early Neolithic farmers were so dependent.

Continue along the beautiful Atlantic coastal road and stop at Carloway, a pretty parish with a scattering of island croft houses, where you see the best preserved broch in the Hebrides, Carloway Broch, a fortified stone tower built around 100 B.C. for defensive purposes, possibly against Roman slave-traders. From here you drive northward to Arnol, where you find the remains of numerous abandoned blackhouses, built as a combined byre, barn and home in the tradition of ancient 'long-houses', where poor folk lived together with their animals. One has been entirely restored and is now the Arnol Black House Museum. It possesses thick walls and a thatched roof and is complete with homely furnishings and a welcoming peat fire. From Arnol the tour finally turns inland again and crosses fairly desolate open moorland before arriving back at Stornoway.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 180/225 depending on call date.**
- **Please note: This tour involves some walking some over rough uneven terrain, and is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and Standing Stones but it is on a gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. At Carloway Broch there is also grassy and muddy terrain with slopes and stone paths with low arches to enter the Broch.**



South Lewis and Harris

Tour 120B - Approx. 4¾ hours

This panoramic tour takes you to picturesque South Lewis and over to Harris - a gentle landscape known around the world for its Harris Tweed, a hand-woven cloth made from pure new Scottish wool and dyed using natural colours from indigenous plants. Heading south from Stornoway towards Tarbert, you pass through spectacularly-varied scenery. Starting with the barren Lewis peat moor, becoming increasingly mountainous nearing Tarbert, with majestic views of Clisham - the highest peak in the Outer Hebrides – and ending up at the enchanting, golden sand and turquoise seas of the beaches overlooking Taransay.

Start out from Stornoway - capital of the Outer Hebrides - and travel southward, skirting the fjord-like sea lochs of Loch Erisort and Loch Seaforth. The road then climbs steadily past Bowglass and Ardvourlie, and then through a mountain pass, offering excellent views of the rugged countryside - including the peak of Clisham, which at 800 metres is the highest mountain in the Outer Isles. Native wildlife can be spotted, including red deer, otters and golden eagles. There are also rocks here which have been discovered to be the oldest in the world. Powerful forces of ice and sea in the distant past have carved and polished a dramatic landscape of stark sea-cliffs, sweeping beaches and rugged heather uplands.

Just before reaching Tarbert, you pass the pre-World War I whaling station of Banamhuinneader. Enjoy some free time in Tarbert - the largest village, with 400 occupants – which overlooks Loch Tarbert. Continuing on your journey, pass through a dramatic lunar landscape of rocks dotted with tiny lochans. Then, descend towards the vast expanse of the Luskentyre Bay, heading for Horgabost Beach – here you can take time to enjoy the bleached white sand which fills the entire bay, washed by turquoise sea and backed by steep dunes. All this is set against the backdrop of the mountains to the north and the beautiful, uninhabited island of Taransay - which was the setting for a hugely popular televised encampment - ‘Castaway’ - where people were left to their own devices, devoid of all mod cons. After time at the beach, you return north via the same route to the ship at Stornoway

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 135/225 depending on call date.**

👉 **Please note: This tour involves some walking and comfortable footwear is recommended.**



Wonders of the Western Isles

Tour 120C - Approx. 3¾ hours

Journey to the western part of the stunningly beautiful Isle of Lewis - the largest of the Western Islands - made famous by Mendelssohn in his moving and melodious Hebridean Overture. Enjoy the landscape of vast peat moors, the island's best prehistoric remains at Callanish and the wonderfully restored crofting village of Gairranan. In the heartland of Gaelic culture, this is a great opportunity to travel back in time to a land of people who still pursue long-standing traditions such as crofting, fishing and weaving.

Departing from Stornoway - capital of the Outer Hebridean Isles - you cross the vast expanse of peat moors, so typical of central Lewis and head towards the stunning northwest coast, the most populated rural area of the isle. You arrive at the village of Callanish, site of the island's most dramatic prehistoric ruins - the Callanish Standing Stones - rated as the most important in Britain after Stonehenge. These towering stones date from 1500 BC and are laid out in the form of a cross with a circle in the centre - they were aligned with the sun and the stars to provide the seasonal cycle on which the early Neolithic farmers were so dependent.

Continue along the beautiful Atlantic coastal road and make your second stop at the beautifully remote coastal settlement of Gairranan. Stepping into the restored village of typical black houses on the edge of the ocean is like a journey back through time and an opportunity to enjoy the tranquillity of this location. In the Museum enjoy an introductory talk by a local guide, about the history of the village and the island, and this is followed by a weaving demonstration. There will be time to discover more in the resource centre and to take a wander along the pathways through the village.

From here the tour finally turns inland again and crosses fairly desolate open moorland before reaching the ship at Stornoway.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 30/maximum of 45/90, depending on the call date.**
- **Please note: This tour involves walking some over rough uneven terrain, and is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. At Callanish Standing Stones, a tarmac path leads from the car park to the visitor centre and Standing Stones but it is on a gradient and with some grassy and muddy terrain. There are a few steps and uneven ground at the Museum.**



TOBERMORY, Isle of Mull, Scotland

Iona and Isle of Mull

Tour 121A - Approx. 7¼-7½ hours

This fascinating tour combines both the Isle of Mull and the tiny island of Iona, accessible by ferry from Fionnphort, for a true taste of the Scottish islands and a glimpse at their history and religion.

The tour starts with a wonderful scenic drive from the colourful, picture-postcard Tobermory, to Salen, before branching off on the west coast route along the banks of Loch Scridain and on to Fionnphort at the western tip of Mull. Here you board the ferry on foot for the 10-minute journey across to the tiny island of Iona.

This has been the cradle of Scottish Christianity since St Columba landed here in the year 563. Just three miles long and never more than 1½ miles wide, Iona is a thin cut of land steeped in history and religion, and also the burial place of more than sixty kings. The present Abbey dates from medieval times and is open all year round to pilgrims who come from all over the world (entrance is not included in the tour fare).

After a guided walk around the island, you return to the harbour and take the ferry back to Fionnphort. From here we travel back along the same scenic route via Craignure to Tobermory.

- 👉 **By coach/ferry/on foot, subject to a minimum of 35/maximum of 135.**
- 👉 **Please note: The walk from the pier to Iona Abbey is fairly flat but exposed to the elements, so warm or waterproof clothing and flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. A lunch box will be provided by the ship. The drive to and from Fionnphort is approximately 2 hours. This tour is not possible on all call dates due to the timings of the ship in port. Please refer to your booking form.**



The Maclean Clan Castle & Scenic Drive

Tour 121B - Approx. 3½ hours

This tour offers spectacular views from the east coast of Mull and a visit to the ancestral home of the Clan Maclean – Duart Castle – which stands proudly on a cliff top, guarding the Sound of Mull.

The excursion commences from the colourful picture-postcard town of Tobermory and heads south along the east coast of the island with splendid views across the Sound of Mull to the Morvern Peninsula. Our destination is Duart Castle, perched on a dominant rocky promontory called Dubh Ard, the Gaelic name for Black Point.

From the 13th to the 17th century, the Maclean Clan lived at Duart Castle, controlling the sea lanes around Mull, in between fighting the MacDonalds and the Campbells as well as each other. The castle was garrisoned by government forces following the Jacobite Rebellion of 1746, and razed to the ground when they left in 1756.

Duart remained a ruin until 1911 when the 26th Chief of the Clan, Sir Fitzroy MacLean, commissioned architect John Burnett to restore the castle to its former glory.

Today visitors can see the dungeons in which prisoners from the Spanish Galleon Florencian, blown up in 1588, were incarcerated. For those prepared to climb the ancient worn steps, the turnpike stairs lead to the top of the 13th-century keep, and a walkway around the battlements affords views as far as Ben Nevis to the north and the Isle of Jura to the south. After your visit you will return to the ship via the same coastal route.

➤ **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 20/maximum of 54.**

➤ **Please note: There are a number of steps inside the Castle, and this tour is not suitable for passengers with wheelchairs or those with walking difficulties. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Western Mull Panoramic

Tour 121C - Approx. 2¾ hours

This panoramic tour takes you to the north west of Mull, through gently undulating countryside and some of the most beguiling scenery on the island.

Heading west from Tobermory along a winding road, you reach the village of Dervaig which nestles beside narrow Loch Chumhainn. Distinguished by its unusual conical church spire and a single street of small whitewashed cottages and old corrugated-iron shacks, Dervaig is a perfect photo opportunity.

You continue along the beautiful scenic coastal route and pass through tiny hamlets and by sandy beaches overlooking the sea with views out to the islands of Coll and Tiree - stopping at the white sand beach of Calgary to admire the spectacular views. You return to Dervaig and then take an alternative route to see some of the inland scenery, crossing the island via Achnacraig.

➤ **By coach, subject to a minimum of 20/maximum of 54.**

Tobermory Town Walk

Tour 121D - Approx. 2½ hours

You start your guided walk from the quayside in Tobermory and continue up the Eas Brae taking in Tobermory's first Power House. The walk takes you along Breadalbane Street (home to many of the houses in the children's BBC programme – Balamory), and up to St. Mary's Well from which the town takes its name - Tobar meaning Well and Mhoire meaning Mary. The remains of the chapel opposite were dedicated to the Virgin Mary and a climb up to the cemetery gives a wonderful photo opportunity.

Continue along Argyll Terrace, named after the 5th Duke of Argyll. Here, the settlers were given a plot of land to build a house with a garden behind. You will walk past Tobermory Parish Church where you will have a good view looking up to Tobermory School.

Finally you come back into the town past the Western Isles Hotel and see the granite obelisk, in its commanding position, commemorating the war dead of Tobermory. Walk past the Bathing Boxes Beach which was once one of Tobermory's liveliest places and continue onto the Calmac pier. We walk along the front, stopping at the clock which was erected in 1905 by the famous early traveller, Isabella Bird in memory of her sister Henrietta and continue along the promenade past the distillery back to the quayside.

👉 **On foot, subject to a minimum of 10/maximum of 20.**

👉 **Please note: This is very much a leisurely paced walk with plenty of stops to admire views and points of interest. There is a steep gradient to climb out of the town at the start of the walk. The route taken may differ from that described. Part of the tour involves walking along roads with no footpaths. Walking shoes are essential and you should dress according to the weather. This tour will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. Wind and rain are not considered extreme.**

Aros Park Coastal Walk

Tour 121E - Approx. 3- 3½ hours

On this wonderful walking tour you will enjoy breathtaking views across Tobermory Bay to Calve Island and the cliffs of Morvern on the mainland. See an assortment of flora and fauna associated with coastal and forest environment including trees, wild flowers, birds, butterflies, mosses, lichens and fungi.

Departing from the Harbour Building in Tobermory the path leads off from the end of the marina and climbs gently through the woodland alongside Tobermory Bay. There are fabulous views out to Calve Island and sometimes seals can be seen out on the skerries.

You follow the track to the old pier where timber was once shipped from the Aros Estate for building and repair in the town and learn about the Allan shipping family who gave the park to the people of Tobermory. The view from the old pier to Tobermory is breathtaking and after bird-watching at the pier you walk on to Lochan a Ghurrabain, and around the attractive loch making a detour to see the old power house and spectacular Upper Falls. The woodland area consists of many varieties of shrub, fungi and trees. In places the park has a temperate rain forest feel to it and many interesting ferns and grasses grow freely. However, the most spectacular display is created by the large number of Rhododendron Ponticum. You leave the park and travel back even further in time to take in the Bronze Age Standing Stones at Baliscate before descending back into Tobermory.

👉 **On foot, subject to a minimum of 10/maximum of 20.**

👉 **Please note: There is a steep gradient to climb out of the town at the start of the walk. The route taken may differ from that described. Part of the tour involves walking along roads with no footpaths. Walking shoes are essential and you should dress according to the weather. This tour will only be cancelled in extreme weather conditions. Wind and rain are not considered extreme.**



TÓRSHAVN, Faroe Islands

Kollafjørður & Kvivik

Tour 300A - Approx. 3½ hours

You will board your coach at the harbour, just across from the historic town of Tinganes, the rocky peninsula in Tórshavn harbour where the ancient Vikings held council meetings and now home to the Faroese Government. You travel up to the scenic, ridge-top road that runs along the southern part of Streymoy Island, pausing above Tórshavn for a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking this colourful capital city.

In the green, sheep pastures above Tórshavn, be on the lookout for stone cairns, which marked the footpaths between villages in olden times. Further north views of Kaldbak and Kollafjørður fjords open below you – a perfect photo opportunity. Winding down into a valley, you pass a charming mountain tarn and pause to admire the hand-hewn stone salmon ladders leading to Lake Leynar.

Arriving in Leynar you may choose to visit the local woodcarver and watch him work or take a walk on the Leynar beach during some free time. Afterwards a short drive will take you further west where you can discover the colourful village of Kvivik situated in a beautiful broad valley, running from the high mountains down to the sea. You will explore the ruins of a well preserved Viking farmstead dating from the 10th century. Traditional stone fences still mark the boundary between infield pastures and the wild reaches of the mountains above, and an attractive stream runs through the middle of the village.

Afterwards, you continue on to the village of Kollafjørður, which lies along a broad fjord and is home to many salmon farms. Step back in time with a visit to the old Lutheran church built in 1837, constructed in typical Faroese style with black-tarred wooden sides and a turf roof and white bell tower.

Your journey back to Tórshavn takes you through a three-kilometre long tunnel and then along a fjord at sea level.

- **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 40/maximum of 120.**
- **Please note: The tour may operate in reverse order to avoid congestion at the sites visited. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended. There is approximately 45 minutes of walking on this tour, over mainly flat and gravelled ground, with steps at the wood-turner's home. There are two tunnels, the longest of which is approximately 1½ miles.**

You will board your coach at the harbour, just across from the historic town of Tinganes, the rocky peninsula in Tórshavn harbour where the ancient Vikings held council meetings and now home to the Faroese Government. Your first stop will be at Kollafjørður, which lies along a broad fjord and is home to many salmon farms. Step back in time with a visit to the old Lutheran church built in 1837, constructed in typical Faroese style with black-tarred wooden sides and a turf roof and white bell tower.

Afterwards, you head for the village of Saksun, one of the most idyllic villages in the Faroes, with its small cove and deep sloping grassy banks almost completely enclosed by the surrounding mountains. A narrow, curving inlet is the only indication that the great swell of the Atlantic is just beyond, and oyster catchers, the national bird of the Faroes, abound along a shallow stream.

Of special interest is the old turf-roofed farm house, Duvugardar. Now a museum, it is a well preserved and typical example of a Faroese farm house of any period from medieval times to the end of the 19th century. On display here are many interesting old domestic utensils and household objects and furniture. The local people have managed to retain many of the characteristics and values of the old established life of subsistence farming, fishing and hunting.

As the coach makes a leisurely return to the harbour there will be a stop to admire the panoramic beauty of the colourful town of Tórshavn.

- 👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 40/maximum of 120.**
- 👉 **Please note: The tour may operate in reverse order to avoid congestion at the sites visited. Flat, comfortable footwear is recommended.**

Travel by coach from the harbour and journey alongside the fjords, savouring the views, past colourful coastal villages, to Vestmanna to board a boat and sail out to the famous sea cliffs. All your senses will awaken with the sound of sea birds, the salty scent of the sea and its cool spray on your face, the stunning, weather-beaten cliff formations and the raucous riot of squawking birds who call the sea cliffs home. You sail along the cliff wall, into a narrow gorge where sheer rock walls rise vertically on both sides towards the sky. The boat slowly enters one of the many grottoes, and for a moment, daylight disappears. Darkness and the sound of dripping water surround you and then, suddenly, you emerge on the other side. The boat stops for a while so you can enjoy the scenery. Take photographs to help you remember the details.

After the boat trip, return to Tórshavn via the mountain road and stop at the viewpoint looking over the capital.

- 👉 **By coach/boat, subject to a minimum of 40/maximum of 90.**
- 👉 **Please note: This tour is weather dependent and may be cancelled at short notice. Passengers who suffer from sea-sickness are recommended to take precautions in case of sea swells. The bird cliffs at Vestmanna are a breeding area and boats are not permitted to approach too closely; we suggest you take binoculars. We recommend you take a wrap or jacket as it is cooler at sea, than on land. Owing to the limited capacity, early booking is recommended. Many species of birds migrate from the bird cliffs from mid-August. Wildlife sightings are likely but are not guaranteed.**



Panorama & Tinganes

Tour 300D - Approx. 2½ hours

You board a coach at the harbour across from historic Tinganes, the rocky peninsula in Tórshavn harbour where the ancient Vikings met. Travel up to the scenic, ridge-top road that runs along the southern part of Streymoy Island, pausing above Tórshavn for a photo stop at a viewpoint overlooking this colourful capital city.

In the green, sheep pastures above Tórshavn, be on the lookout for stone cairns, which marked the footpaths between villages in olden times. Pause for another photo stop above Norðradalur (North Valley) where on clear days a dramatic view of the Island of Koltur stands gloriously before you. Further north views of Kaldbak and Kollafjørður fjords open below you.

Winding down into a valley, you pass several colourful villages. The journey back to Tórshavn takes you through a three-kilometre long tunnel and then along a fjord at sea level. Arriving in Tórshavn you visit the old part of the city 'Tinganes' for a short walk in the narrow streets between the old houses with traditional turf roofs.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 40/maximum of 200.**

👉 **Please note: There is little walking involved on this tour.**

Island of Vágur

Tour 300E - Approx. 4 hours

You will leave Streymoy Island via Kaldbakfjörð and the Kollafjørður Valley then pass through the new underwater tunnel to arrive on the Island of Vágur.

This trip gives you the chance to see Vágur's changing scenery and explore its villages. At Sandavágur you will visit the village church. You drive through Midvágur and pass the largest lake in the Faroe Islands before reaching Vatnsøygar and then Bøur for a visit to see both old and new houses with green sod roofs. There is a spectacular view of the Tindhólmur islet and the Island of Mykines in the distance as you drive up to the tunnel which takes you to Gásadalur, Vágur's westernmost village, and the last road to be connected with the rest of the island.

Return to Tórshavn via the mountain road to capture the extraordinary panoramic views out over the fjords and the capital.

👉 **By coach/on foot, subject to a minimum of 40/maximum of 120.**

👉 **Please note: There is little walking on this tour over mainly flat and gravelled ground.**



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