



BRITISH ISLES

Legendary History & Wild Nature

MAY 8 – 20, 2024

13 DAYS

EMBARKATION: PORTSMOUTH (ENGLAND) / DISEMBARKATION: EDINBURGH (SCOTLAND)

M/V SEA SPIRIT

ACTIVITIES: ✈️ 📷

For those who go off the beaten path, there are places in the British Isles where nature is still wild and history can be touched. This expedition-style voyage from Plymouth to Edinburgh is your chance to discover some of the British Isles' most historically significant and wildlife-rich destinations. Cruising aboard our small, luxury expedition ship is the perfect way to visit difficult-to-access locations where tourist value far exceeds tourist numbers. We begin with beautiful Tresco in the Isles of Scilly. In Scotland we explore early Christian history on the peaceful Isle of Iona, magnificent archeological sites in the Orkney Islands, and exciting birdlife on Shetland's beautiful Fair Isle.

OUR JOURNEY





Day 1: May 8 - Arrival in Heathrow Airport, London

Welcome to England and the start of your British Isles cruise! Our included pre-cruise hotel, (tba) night is designed to allow for a relaxing motorcoach transfer to Portsmouth the next morning. You'll receive information about the time and place to meet the motorcoach at the hotel.



Day 2: May 9 - Embarkation in Portsmouth, England

Look for the Poseidon representative in the hotel's lobby, who will direct you to our chartered motorcoach that will take us to Portsmouth. Considered the home of the Royal Navy, its rich maritime heritage sets the mood for the beginning of our exciting voyage. In the afternoon we welcome you aboard the deluxe expedition ship Sea Spirit.



Day 3: May 10 - Tresco, Scilly Isles, England

The Isles of Scilly is a group of small islands off the coast of Cornwall boasting mild weather, secluded beaches, enchanting wildlife and a relaxed lifestyle. On the lovely, sand-fringed island of Tresco, Bronze Age burial sites and romantic 17th-century castle ruins reveal a long and dramatic history. On the hallowed grounds of a Benedictine abbey we discover the exquisite Tresco Abbey Garden with its spectacular collection of more than 20,000 exotic plants from all corners of the world. Here we also find the Valhalla Museum, a collection of colorful figureheads salvaged from the islands' shipwrecks. Delightful cafés and local shops enrich your experience even further.



Day 4-5: May 11 – 12 - Republic of Ireland

Dunmore East is a popular tourist and fishing village in County Waterford on Ireland's southeastern coast. From here it is a short journey through scenic countryside to the House of Waterford Crystal. Here you can take a guided tour of the factory to see the master craftsmen at work as well as the world's largest collection of their wares. Also, nearby there are Lismore Castle gardens which are said to be the oldest continually cultivated gardens in Ireland and they offer spectacular views of both Lismore Castle and the surrounding countryside of the Blackwater valley. The lower garden was mostly created in the 19th century and the upper one was first

constructed in about 1605, where most of the walls and terraces remain the same although the plantings have changed to suit the tastes of those living within the Castle. In April 2014 the Castle and Gardens were awarded an Eco-Merit, an award that recognizes the castle teams environmental policy and improvement plan, a system of performance monitoring and pollution prevention.

Our plan is to visit the the Saltee Islands. The larger island, Great Saltee, is the most famous bird sanctuary in Ireland. These Islands are privately owned and are one of the world's major bird sanctuaries. The Saltees are a haven for sea birds, nurturing an impressive array of Gannets and Gulls to Puffins and Manx Shearwaters. They also lie on an important migratory route and a popular stopping-off place for spring and autumn migrants



Day 6: May 13 - Llandudno, Wales

Our port for today is the vibrant seaside town of Llandudno in the north of Wales. From here we embark on a scenic overland tour of Snowdonia National Park. We drive through some of the wildest and most dramatic landscapes in Britain as we discover craggy mountains, stunning waterfalls, crystal clear lakes, dense woodlands and flowering meadows. Snowdonia is also renowned for wildlife including otters, water voles, wild ponies and rare birds such as dotterel and peregrine falcon. We enjoy a delightful stop at the charming and distinctively Welsh town of Betws-y-Coed in the Gwydyr Forest.

Visit to the Conwy Castle is also on our list. UNESCO considers Conwy to be one of "the finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe", and it is classed as a World Heritage site. Divided into an Inner and an Outer Ward, it is defended by eight large towers and two barbicans, with a postern gate leading down to the river, allowing the castle to be resupplied from the sea.



Day 7: May 14 - Portrush, Northern Ireland

Today we disembark at the small seaside resort town of Portrush in Northern Ireland. We travel overland to the world-famous Giant's Causeway. Here we discover a geological masterpiece—40,000 closely packed hexagonal basalt columns of varying heights descending like a staircase into the sea. According to legend, the columns are the remains of a causeway built by a giant. In this area we are also able to spot various seabirds such as fulmar, petrel, cormorant, shag, redshank, guillemot and razorbill.



Day 8: May 15 - Inner Hebrides, Scotland

Weather permitting, we also plan to visit the uninhabited island of Staffa. This island of volcanic origin is easily recognized by its striking colonnade of hexagonal basalt pillars. Here we hope to explore the island's most famous feature, Fingal's Cave. Reaching deep into the island, the undulating sea plays upon the stunning matrix of columnar basalt to create an eerie melody which was the inspiration for Felix Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture. The rugged island also provides nesting sites for seabirds including guillemots, razorbills and puffins.

Today we also explore beautiful and serene Iona, a small island in the Inner Hebrides just off the Isle of Mull in western Scotland. At the gorgeous Iona Abbey, founded in 563 AD, we are spellbound by one of Scotland's most historic and sacred sites and indeed one of the oldest Christian religious centers in Western Europe. The adjacent graveyard is said to be the final resting place of numerous medieval kings, including Macbeth. In addition to its historical and religious significance, Iona is well known for its soul-soothing tranquility, white sand beaches and excellent birdwatching.



Day 9: May 16 - St. Kilda, Outer Hebrides, Scotland

The Outer Hebrides, also known as the Western Isles, are a chain of dramatically rugged islands off the west coast of mainland Scotland. The most isolated of these is St Kilda. This remote and stormravaged island was continuously inhabited for at least two millennia by peoples of extraordinary hardiness. But as the modern world closed in after World War I, the remaining inhabitants chose to evacuate. Now we find only their rough stone buildings and distinctive storehouses called cleitean, all set amidst some of the most dramatic island scenery in the British Isles. Nature-lovers will be delighted, as the island is home to hundreds of thousands of seabirds, two

early types of sheep, and over 130 species of flowering plants. We'll also plan for a close cruise-by of Stac Lee, a sea stack about four miles northeast of St. Kilda's main island of Hirta. It is home to part of the world's largest colony of northern gannet. When St. Kilda had a permanent population, islanders would come here, precariously leaping ashore to hunt birds and gather eggs.



our next destination.

Day 10: May 17 - Kirkwall, Orkneys

Today, we'll disembark in Stromness for an overland tour of Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands off the northeastern coast of Scotland. Attractions such as the well-preserved 5000-year-old village site at Skara Brae and the ancient Ring of Brodgar within the UNESCO World Heritage Site "Heart of Neolithic Orkney" showcase the world-class cultural heritage of the island. We finish our island tour in the charming village of Kirkwall, where find the landmark Saint Magnus Cathedral, built in the Romanesque style in the 12th century. You will also have free time to roam the old streets of Kirkwall and enjoy its unique atmosphere before we head to



purchase articles hand-knitted in the intricate and distinctive style for which Fair Isle has been celebrated for hundreds of years.

Day 11: May 18 - Fair Island

On Fair Isle—an isolated island of rolling moorlands and rugged coastlines—one is easily enchanted by historic crofts, picturesque lighthouses, and friendly locals. The island is famous among birders for its abundance of British birds and for its numerous records of eastern rarities and migrants.

Fair Isle is also one of Europe's best places to watch seabirds, especially puffins, at close range.

Additionally, the island is notable for the abundance and diversity of its wildflowers. Seals are also commonly seen in its bays. Finally, during our visit it will be possible to see and



steep walls are white with guano and the sky all around is darkened by the vast multitude of seabirds in flight. Our voyage is perfectly timed to coincide with this amazing spectacle—truly one of the wildlife wonders of the world.

Day 12: May 19 - Isle of May, Scotland, Bass Rock

Isle of May and Bass Rock... Both of these uninhabited islands are in the outer part of the Firth of Forth in the east of Scotland. The Isle of May is a national nature reserve and includes significant colonies of puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags, cormorants and terns. Harbor seals and grey seals can be spotted along the shores. There are also some historic architectural sites, including St. Ardin's Chapel, the lighthouse and the Low and Light Cottages.

The island known as "the Bass" plays host to over 150,000 northern gannets in the breeding season, making it the world's largest colony of these magnificent birds. The island's

Day 13: May 20 - Disembarkation in Edinburgh, Scotland



After breakfast on board Sea Spirit, we say farewell in Leith, Edinburgh's vibrant port district. We provide transfers to the airport or to Edinburgh city center if you wish to spend more time in the wonderful capital of Scotland.

M/v Sea Spirit

DECK PLAN M/V SEA SPIRIT

- Owner's

Premium

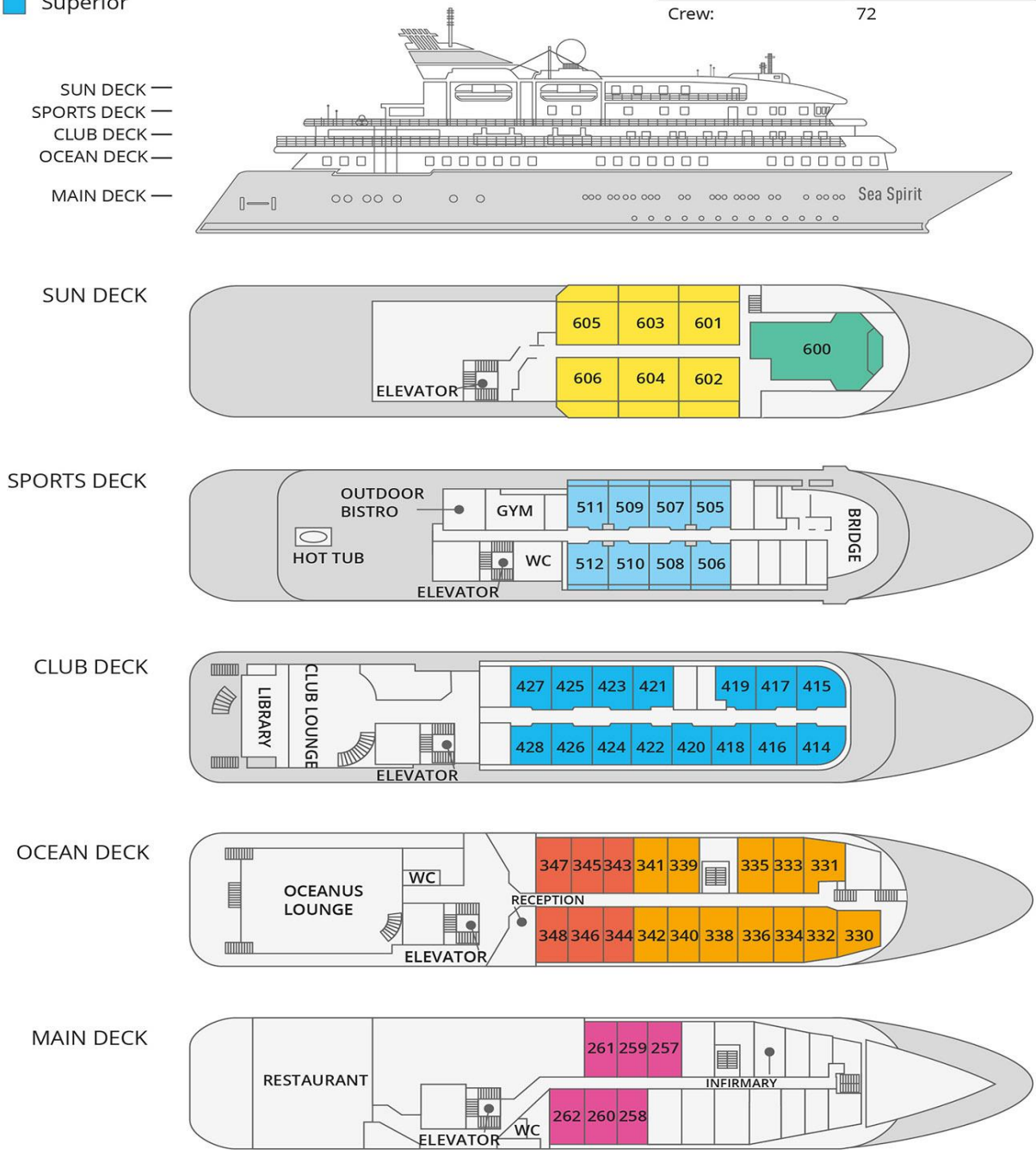
Deluxe

Superior
- Classic

Triple

Main Deck

Length:	90.6 meters (297 ft.)
Beam:	15.3 meters (50 ft.)
Speed:	15 knots
Passengers:	114
Crew:	72



Triple Suite



Averaging 21 square metres/226 square feet, these staterooms have two twins and a comfortable sofa bed. The twins also convert to a King, if desired. Located on Oceanus Deck, these suites have a picture window, two wardrobes and en suite facilities. Amenities include: in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and hair dryer.

Classic Suite



Averaging 21 square metres/226 square feet, these cabins are located on the Oceanus Deck. They feature a picture window, two wardrobes and a choice of either two twin beds or a King Size bed. Amenities include: en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control and hair dryer.

Main Deck Suite



Averaging 23 square metres/248 square feet, Main Deck cabins are equipped with either two twins or a King Size bed. They are located on the Main Deck with a minimum of two portholes for exterior views. Amenities include: en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD individual temperature control and hair dryer.

Superior Suite



Superior Suites are located on the Club Deck. Averaging 20 square metres/ 215 square feet, these cabins feature two twin beds or a King Size bed. The picture window overlooks an outside walkway on the Club Deck. Amenities include: en suite facilities, walk-in closet or wardrobe, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, hair dryer.

Deluxe Suite



The Deluxe Suites with balconies are located on the Sports Deck. Averaging 24 square metres/ 258 square feet means plenty of room. Choose from either two twin beds or a King Size bed. A sliding glass door leads to a private balcony. These suites feature a walk-in closet or wardrobe. Amenities include en suite facilities, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and a hair dryer.

Premium Suite



The Premium Suites are located on the Sun Deck. Averaging a generous 30 square metres/ 323 square feet, with two twin beds or a King Size bed. Access the private balcony by a sliding glass door. Amenities include: en suite facilities, lounge area, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access, TV/DVD, individual temperature control, and hair dryer.

Owners Suite



Super-spacious (63 square metres/ 678 square feet) elegant suite on the Sun Deck. Designed for entertaining, the Owner's Suite has a separate living room with game and meeting area. A BOSE stereo system provides background music, or watch videos on the HD plasma TV. Sliding glass doors lead to a private deck. Refresh in the jetted bathtub in en suite facilities. Slumber in the King Size bed. A sofa bed can accommodate a third person.



Sea Kayak Club

Kayaking fee \$195

We are pleased to offer our sea kayaking option along the coastal waters of Ireland, Wales and Scotland! Experience some fascinating bird cliffs and unusual geological structures against a backdrop of ethereal verdant slopes, all from our sturdy and stealthy sea kayaks. Join us for an unscripted adventure as we explore rugged coastlines and remote coves in which few people have ever paddled.



Photography

FREE OPTION

This voyage offers a wealth of subjects for photographers of all levels and interests. Our included photography program gives you the chance to learn and practice your skills alongside a professional photographer.

Zoom out to capture dramatic landscapes of sweeping moorland and rugged coastlines or go macro to expose the beauty of flowers. You will get plenty of practice with the special art of architectural photography as well. From historical monuments to colorful puffins, the sights on this voyage will make a photographer out of anyone. Our expert will be there to help you make the most of the bounty in your viewfinder.

University of Michigan Special Rates

Triple Suite	Main Suite Deck	Classic Suite	Superior Suite	Deluxe Suite	Premium Suite	Owners Suite
US\$ 5 995	US\$ 8 295	US\$ 8 795	US\$ 8 995	US\$ 10 095	US\$ 11 095	US\$ 14 195
US\$ 5 096	US\$ 7 051	US\$ 7 476	US\$ 7 196	US\$ 8 076	US\$ 8 876	US\$ 11 356

The University of Michigan Alumni will enjoy our Early Bird discount (15% off Triple, Main Deck, and Classic Suites; 20% off Superior, Deluxe, Premium, and Owner's Suites) up to the time of travel.

Cruise rates are quoted per person and based on passengers sharing a cabin. Single supplement: 1.7 for Main Deck and Classic, Superior Suite; 2 for Deluxe, Premium and Owner's Suite.

Voyage Rate Includes:

- One pre-voyage night on Day 1 (Hotel to be advised)
- Group transfer to Portsmouth on the day of embarkation on Day 2
- Shipboard accommodation
- All meals on board throughout the voyage
- Tea and coffee station 24 hours daily
- All scheduled landings/excursions (subject to weather conditions)
- Leadership throughout the voyage by our experienced Expedition Leader and Expedition Team
- Branded Poseidon Expeditions windbreaker jacket
- Rubber boots for shore landings for the time of the cruise
- Welcome and farewell cocktails
- All port fees
- Group transfer to airport or central location after disembarkation
- Pre-departure materials
- Complimentary Wi-Fi on board
- Destination Cabin book with bird/mammal lists, journal entry pages
- Digital Voyage Log to keep

Voyage Rate Excludes:

- Airfare (we can assist you with your airline arrangements)
- Visa and passport fees (if applicable)
- Luggage and trip cancellation insurance
- Soft drinks and alcoholic beverages other than those for special events and celebrations
- Personal expenses such as laundry and telecommunication charges
- Tips for the local guides and drivers
- Travel Insurance & Emergency evacuation insurance with a minimum coverage of US \$100,000 per person which is required by Poseidon Expeditions
- Staff gratuities

All extra on-board services are added to the passenger on-board accounts. Hotel Manager shall balance the accounts and organize the possibility for passengers to pay their bills (cash or credit cards) on board before disembarkation.

How to Make A Reservation

For questions, cabin availability and reservations please contact Poseidon Expeditions at (347)-801-2610 or salesUSA@poseidonexpeditions.com and our reservation specialists, can assist you. You may also contact Jennifer Kunath, Director of Sales, if any questions, at jkunath@poseidonexpeditions.com. After receipt of your deposit you will be sent pre-departure information by email.

For questions or additional information about the University of Michigan Alumni Association, please contact the Michigan Alumni Travel team, at 855.764.0064 or alumnitravel@umich.edu.

Air Arrangements

Airfare is not included in the cruise rate. However, we can assist you with your airline reservations. Please contact us at salesUSA@poseidonexpeditions.com.

Insurance for your Polar Cruise Expedition

Traveling to the Arctic is a great adventure, but sometimes unexpected illness or injury during the trip itself may change your plans and require medical evacuation. **Please note that Poseidon Expeditions requires Emergency medical and evacuation/repatriation insurance coverage for all aboard the *Sea Spirit*, as per our [Terms and Conditions](#).** You will receive information on travel insurance from the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan, shortly after your reservation has been made.

Reservations and Payments

A non-refundable deposit of 20% of the appropriate cabin rate is required to confirm the reservation of the Expedition Cruise. The final payment (80%) is due 90 days prior to the departure. Payments can be made via bank transfer (preferred method of payment) or by credit card. All payments are to be made in the agreed currency indicated in the invoice. Poseidon affiliate Poseidon Expeditions USA, LLC of Providence accepts credit cards and checks for payments.

Terms and Conditions

https://poseidonexpeditions.com/upload/files/terms/PE_T&C.pdf

Itinerary, landings and all other activities during the cruise depend strongly on weather conditions and are subject to the decisions of the Expedition Leader and the Captain of the vessel. Encounters with any mentioned wildlife cannot be guaranteed.

Associations Disclaimer: The Association is not the tour operator. The Association is not responsible for any changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or car-rental reservations, delays, losses injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The Association acts only as an independent contractor and not as a principal, agent, or joint venture for the airline, hotel, car rental company, cruise line, and/or tour operator named in the brochure. As a result, the Association is not responsible for their acts or omissions. The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel

services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel, or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents, or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond its control. The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions, or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept.

Travel with the Alumni Association of the University of Michigan is a member benefit. All participants must be members of the Alumni Association. Please contact the Alumni Relations team at (800) 847-4764 or alumni@umich.edu for more information.

