Eagle-Eye Tours

Ireland Cruise Itinerary

Link: Ireland Cruise

Tour Overview

Explore the breathtaking coastlines of Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Isle of Man aboard an expedition crafted for curious hearts and lovers of both wilderness and heritage.

From embarking in the maritime gateway of Troon/Glasgow to setting sail across the Celtic Sea, you'll touch shores where geology splendours and human narrative have intertwined for millennia. You'll wander the dramatic cliffs and wildlife-rich bays of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, traverse the emerald headlands of Ireland's southern coast, explore the Gaelic-speaking isle communities of the Aran Isles and Tory Island, and stand in awed wonder at the basalt steps of the Giant's Causeway.

But this journey is more than scenery. It's a passage through living culture: music, language, craftsmanship and enduring traditions still rooted in the land and sea. You'll meet island artisans, hear Gaelic song by hearth and shore, and feel the heartbeat of communities defined by coastal ruggedness and creative resilience.

On board the purpose-built expedition ship, you'll travel in comfort and purpose, supported by an expert team, Zodiac excursions, and immersive storytelling.

Itinerary

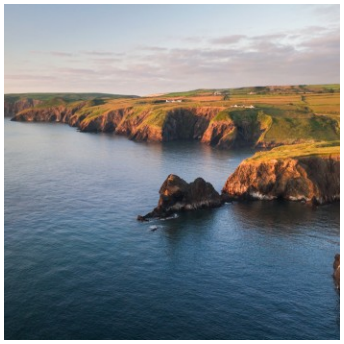
Day 1: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

Harbour lights shimmer in the distance as you embark in Troon, where ship and sea meet the spirit of Scotland's west coast. Beyond the gangway, the rolling Ayrshire hills and echoes of Glasgow's maritime past set the tone for a voyage shaped by music, story, and salt air. As the vessel slips from the pier, bagpipe strains and seabirds' cries mingle—a prelude to the journey ahead, the first notes of a Celtic tune carried across the tide.

Day 2: Isle of Man

A solitary land rising from the Irish Sea, the Isle of Man hums with ancient rhythms—and holds a rare distinction as the world's only entire nation designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Here, natural beauty and cultural heritage are deeply entwined: rolling hills meet rugged coastlines, and stories flow as freely as the tides. Celtic crosses tilt in quiet churchyards, while the Manx language lingers in local song and story. Wander narrow cobbled lanes where brightly painted doors open onto tiny shops, children's laughter drifts through the salt air, and the scent of fresh kippers mingles with baking and sea brine. There's a music to the wind here—a low, steady drone beneath the flight of seabirds, a melody of independence and endurance.

Day 3: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales



Explore the UK's only coastal national park, where seaside cliffs blaze with wildflowers and waves pound against sandstone headlands. Seal heads bob in the surf, and the cries of choughs echo through the wind—a natural symphony shaped by sea and stone. Every turn reveals another view of raw beauty and living coastline, where the elements are in constant conversation. Ashore, wander through harbour towns alive with the scent of salt and smoked fish, the hum of conversation in Welsh and English, and shop windows filled with handwoven wool and carved driftwood. Here, Welsh poetry and maritime craft endure. Beneath it all runs the quiet strength of place—steadfast, grounded, and proud, like the pulse of a harp's deep string echoed in the lilt of Welsh voices and the bilingual signs that mark the streets.

Day 4: South Coast of Ireland

Along Ireland's southern coast, rolling headlands give way to sheltered bays alive with seabirds and seals. We'll cruise by Clear Island (Cape Clear)—the country's southernmost inhabited island—where rugged cliffs, lighthouses, and green slopes reveal the wild heart of West Cork. Weather permitting, a Zodiac cruise may bring us closer to seabird colonies and quiet coves shaped by wind and tide. Continuing into Bantry Bay, we'll visit Ilnacullin (Garinish Island), home to one of Ireland's most exquisite gardens. Here, subtropical blooms and sculpted terraces flourish in a sheltered microclimate. As we trace the shores of the Iveragh Peninsula—better known as the Ring of Kerry—the landscape unfolds in layers of beauty: sweeping coastlines, tranquil villages, and stone ruins that speak softly of Ireland's deep and enduring past.

Day 5: Killarney National Park

Mist clings to the oak woods and high passes of Killarney, the Jewel in Kerry's Crown. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Killarney National Park stretches from the foot of the Macgillycuddy Reeks—the highest mountain range in Ireland—to the outskirts of town, encompassing lakes, mountains, and plains. Here, the land feels alive with myth—where red deer move through mossy glades, and lakes mirror the shifting light. The forest seems to breathe in rhythm, a quiet harmony between water, wood, and wind. You may wander beneath ancient yews or listen to the soft hush of water beneath the trees. In Killarney, time slows; the tune softens; the world feels older, gentler, profoundly green.

Day 6: Aran Isles

On the edge of Ireland's western sea lie the Aran Isles, windswept, enduring, and geologically unique. Set in Galway Bay, these limestone islands—Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, and Inisheer—enjoy a temperate climate and host an extraordinary diversity of plant and animal life. The Arans are bastions of Irish culture, where a large proportion of the population are Gaelic speakers. Stone walls run like script across the fields, and the Aran sweater, homespun of local wool in intricate patterns, remains a symbol of island identity. You might explore Dún Aonghasa, a prehistoric hill fort perched on a 100-metre cliff edge on Inis Mór—an archaeological wonder and one of Ireland's most significant ancient sites. Here, language, land, and sea are interwoven—a harmony as enduring as the Atlantic itself.

Day 7: Tory Island

Toraigh (Tory Island) lies nearly fifteen kilometres off the northwest coast of County Donegal, where Gaelic remains the main spoken language. Since the 1950s, the island has been home to a small community of artists and musicians, with its own art gallery and a tradition of warm hospitality. Conversations here feel like songs, and every visit carries the sense of being welcomed into something rare—a community defined by creativity, resilience, and warmth, its heartbeat kept in time with the sea's quiet measure.

Day 8: Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway is a geological wonder where about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns rise from the surf like steps built by legend. Formed by ancient volcanic eruptions, these stones lead from the coastal cliffs down into the North Sea. The Causeway invites both awe and reflection—its symmetry the work of time, fire, and the patient sea, and its myths tied to the hero Fionn mac Cumhaill. The air vibrates with the deep hum of the Atlantic, a bass note beneath the cry of kittiwakes. Nature's artistry and human story entwine here, composing a quiet symphony—the harmony of earth and ocean.

Day 9: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

Returning to Troon, the coastline greets you like an old song revisited. There's a fullness to the homeward passage—the sound of waves against hull, the camaraderie of new friends, and a deepened sense of familiarity with these Celtic shores. The voyage ends where it began, its melody resolved but still echoing with in—the refrain of sea, story, and kinship carried onward.

What to Expect

Our small ship Ireland cruise program allows you to experience the best of the natural world, while enjoying the comforts of our friendly floating hotel. The ship generally makes crossing between islands at night, so every morning you awake to new vistas and discoveries. Every day we offer a combination of interesting shore excursions and fun shipboard activities. You can choose which elements of the program you want to participate in.

This is a general natural history and cultural expedition rather than a dedicated birding tour. Travellers can look forward to a mix of wildlife viewing, cultural experiences, and time to appreciate the region's incredible scenery — with opportunities for birding included along the way.

This expedition cruise necessitates passengers to be in reasonably good health. Zodiac cruises and transfer times can be lengthy. You must be able to climb stairs between decks on the ship, as well as the external gangway stairs to transfer between the zodiac and ship.

Some of our shore landings will be 'wet', requiring waterproof boots. Once you have left the zodiac, you'll find our shore excursions accommodate both those who wish to enjoy a gentle stroll and those who prefer more active hikes. The excursion may involve walking over uneven or sandy terrain in variable weather conditions. Our onboard specialists will join us on these shore excursions to provide interpretation and narration to these wonderful landscapes and experiences.

Each evening we will gather in the lounge to recount the day's events and share memorable stories. Our onboard musician will provide some lively entertainment during happy hour and the expedition leader will outline the following day's schedule. Our resource staff of naturalists, historians, and

other guest speakers will give informative talks at various times throughout the voyage.

Meals in the ship's dining room are a great opportunity to meet new friends and recount the day's adventures. Special diets can be accommodated with advance notice. Safety is also a top priority with Eagle-Eye Tours – our team has extensive experience in the field, and all of our Voyages are run in conjunction with operators with the highest safety standards.

When the ship is underway, it is a wonderful time to join a naturalist on deck, take photos of the stunning scenery, or get caught up on some reading in the library.

Weather, ice, government regulations, and community requests may necessitate changes to the planned itineraries and/or the cancellation of certain shore excursions and enhancements. Published itineraries are examples only and we reserve the right to change or modify the itinerary and landing sites at any time prior or during an expedition. Changes will be communicated at your expedition orientation or during your onboard expedition briefings.

We know that everyone travels for different reasons. Over the years, however, we have found one common element among the guest who choose to travel with us – a thirst of knowledge and authentic experience. Knowing this drives us to ensure the highest quality learning experience on our trips, by taking time to carefully design each trip we offer.

What's Included

Tour Price Includes
• Passage aboard the Ocean Victory
• Applicable taxes and credit card fees
• Complimentary expedition jacket
• Special access permits, entry, and park fees
• Expert expedition team
• Guided activities
• Sightseeing and community visits
• All Zodiac excursions
• Port fees
• Pre-departure materials
• Educational program
• Interactive workshops
• Evening entertainment
• All shipboard meals
• Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks are served with dinner
• Wi-Fi access (basic service included)

Tour Price Does Not Include
• Commercial and charter flights
• Program enhancements/optional excursions
• Gratuities
• Personal expenses
• Mandatory medical evacuation insurance
• Additional expenses in the event of delays or itinerary changes
• Possible fuel surcharges and administrative fees
• Pre- and post-trip hotel accommodation
• Kayak program
• Premium internet access available at an additional cost