

SMALL-SHIP EXPEDITION CRUISE

Ireland and the Celtic Shores: Wildlife, Culture & Coastal Wonder

May 17–25, 2027
From **\$6,995** to **\$15,195** USD

Aboard the *Ocean Victory*

Starts: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland
Ends: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

Trip Summary

Sail through the heart of the Celtic world on a voyage that traces the music, myth, and memory of Ireland and its neighbouring shores. From Scotland’s rugged coast to the wild beauty of Wales and Ireland’s emerald heart, this journey reveals landscapes shaped by story and sea. Each port offers new perspectives: the Gaelic songs of the Aran and Tory Isles, the mist-shrouded forests of Killarney, the volcanic geometry of the Giant’s Causeway, and the windswept heritage of the Isle of Man.

Guided by an expert expedition team, you’ll explore a mosaic of cultures, each deeply connected to the Atlantic. Hike through wildflower-strewn cliffs, visit UNESCO treasures, and discover local crafts—from the smoky taste of Manx kippers to the intricate stitches of Aran sweaters. Along the way, learn from artists, storytellers, and historians who bring these places to life with insight and warmth.

This voyage is a celebration of connection: between land and sea, past and present, people and place. Moving in rhythm with the tides, you’ll feel the pulse of Celtic tradition in every encounter. Whether standing before ancient stones or sharing a song aboard ship, each moment reveals how the spirit of the Atlantic unites these shores—through resilience, creativity, and the quiet music of belonging.

Commented [MP1]: Confirmed by Cedar to MJ 10/29/25



Itinerary

Day 1: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

Day 2: Isle of Man

Day 3: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Wales

Day 4: South Coast of Ireland

Day 5: Killarney National Park

Day 6: Aran Isles

Day 7: Tory Island

Day 8: Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland

Day 9: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

Highlights

The music of the isles

Experience the living rhythm of the Celtic world as you sail from Scotland to Ireland and Wales. Hear the songs of seabirds over basalt cliffs, the hum of Gaelic conversation, and the steady percussion of waves against the shore.

Ireland's emerald heart

From the lush oak woods of Killarney to the sweeping headlands of the Iveragh Peninsula, Ireland unfolds in shades of green and gold. Hike, photograph, or simply breathe in the island's quiet grandeur and timeless charm.

Language and legacy on the isles

Visit communities where Gaelic remains a living language and local traditions thrive. On the Aran and Tory Isles, art, music, and storytelling keep culture alive, echoing across stone walls and wind-swept fields.

Craft and coastal life

Taste the heritage of the Celtic coast—from the smoky flavour of Manx kippers to the intricate patterns of Aran knitwear. Each tradition reflects a deep connection to the sea and to the enduring creativity of island life.

Echoes of ancient worlds

Stand before Dún Aonghasa's prehistoric cliffs and the Giant's Causeway's volcanic geometry. These landscapes hold stories written in stone, where legend and geology meet in humbling harmony.

A voyage in the key of green

This journey follows the rhythm of the sea—through music, history, and human connection. Each day adds another note to a melody of discovery, inviting you to see, listen, and feel Ireland and the Celtic shores anew.

Highlights at a Glance

- Experience the rhythm and culture of the Celtic world across Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.
- Explore Ireland's emerald landscapes, from Killarney's woodlands to the Ring of Kerry on the Iveragh Peninsula's sweeping coast.
- Discover living Gaelic traditions on the Aran and Tory Isles through language, music, and art.
- Savour local heritage—from Manx kippers to Aran knitwear—celebrating craft and coastal life.
- Witness ancient wonders like Dún Aonghasa and the Giant's Causeway, where legend meets geology.
- Journey in harmony with the sea, guided by music, history, and heartfelt connection.

Itinerary

Day 1: Troon/Glasgow, Scotland

From Ayrshire Hills to Atlantic Horizons

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

The Island of Ancient Rhythms

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

Cliffs of Colour and Song

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

Harbours and Headlands

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

The Jewel in Kerry's Crown

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

Stones, Stories, and Sea

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

Art and Community

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

Steps of Fire and Legend

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

Journey's End

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.