

British Isles

– Legendary History & Wild Nature –



Atlantic Ocean

North Sea

UNITED KINGDOM

IRELAND

Fair Isle

Orkney Islands

Iona

Edinburgh

Llandudno

Portsmouth

Tresco

British Isles > Legendary History & Wild Nature

When to go

8 May - 20 May 2024

Embarkation:

Portsmouth (England)

Ship

M/V Sea Spirit

Duration

13 Days

Disembarkation:

Edinburgh (Scotland)

Activities:





Overview

A surprising combination of wild nature and historic legend and lore await those with the curiosity to discover a lesser-explored side of the British Isles. Poseidon Expeditions invites you on an expedition-style voyage from Plymouth to Edinburgh.

For 13 days, we will focus on an in-depth exploration of the remote islands of the European archipelago. Cruising aboard the small, 114-guest Sea Spirit is the perfect way to visit out-of-the-way locations where architecture dates back thousands of years and birdlife is abundant.



Castles, abbeys and botanical gardens along the coasts of the United Kingdom



Tranquil scenery of bright green fields, jagged cliffs and flowering landscapes



Well-preserved Neolithic village sites and ancient henge monuments



Enormous seabird colonies at some of the best birding destinations in Europe



Birdlife of the British Isles

The ultimate bird haven

There are few corners of the world where birdlife is this abundant. Numerous species and thousands upon thousands of birds form some of the largest and most spectacular colonies in all of Europe. Even those who do not consider themselves bird enthusiasts will be impressed by the spectacle endlessly unfolding in the sky and on nesting cliffs. Birds are whirling all

around, darting deep into the sea, carrying fish back to their nests and deftly maneuvering to avoid marauding skuas.

For experienced birdwatchers, our voyage is an excellent opportunity to add to their checklist the Atlantic puffin, northern gannet, black-legged kittiwake, razorbill, northern fulmar, common guillemot, Arctic tern and many more.



Birdlife of the British Isles

And why choose Poseidon to experience this

Smaller touring day-boats cannot reach the colonies in rough weather, which is unfortunately common along the rugged British Isles coastline, thus limiting your opportunities. And cruising aboard a large cruise vessel would significantly decrease the number of places you are able to visit.

Poseidon's nimble Sea Spirit is just the right size to maneuver into the secluded harbors

and bays and reach the most remote islands while providing safe and comfortable cruising. The must-see birding destinations of Saltee, Rathlin, St. Kilda and Staffa islands, the Isle of Mull and Fair Isle, and the famed Bass Rock are a hopeful addition to our itinerary if weather conditions permit. Our voyage is also timed to coincide with the breeding season and spring migration.

DAY 1



Arrival in Heathrow Airport, London

Welcome to England and the start of your British Isles cruise! Our included pre-cruise hotel night at the Hilton Garden Inn, near Terminal 2, 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



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



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



Dunmore East, 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 is Mount Congreve, a magnificent 18th-century Georgian estate and botanical gardens containing thousands of plant species on 70 acres of intensively planted woodland and a four-acre walled garden.

DAY 5



Saltee Islands, Republic of Ireland

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



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.

DAY 7



Portrush and Rathlin Island: 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



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. 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.

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



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 storm-ravaged 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.

DAY 10



Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Upon arrival at the historic port of Kirkwall we embark on an overland tour of Mainland, the largest of the Orkney Islands off the northeastern coast of Scotland. Attractions such as the well-preserved 5,000-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. Back in the charming village of Kirkwall, we also find the impressive Saint Magnus Cathedral, built in the Romanesque style by Vikings in the 12th century.

DAY 11



Shetland Islands

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

DAY 12



Isle of May and Bass Rock, Scotland

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DAY 13



Disembarkation in Leith (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.



Expedition leader

Dr. Huw Lewis-Jones

Huw is a historian of exploration, culture, photography and the environment, with a PhD from the University of Cambridge. He is the author of award-winning books but is happiest when out in wild nature. Huw was curator at the Scott Polar Research Institute and the National Maritime Museum in London. His books include *In Search of the South Pole*, *The Crossing of Antarctica*, *Ocean Portraits*, *The Conquest of Everest*, winner of the history award at the Banff Mountain Festival, *Across the Arctic Ocean*, and *Explorers' Sketchbooks*, an art history of discovery and adventure. His books now have been published in 14 languages.

An experienced polar guide for more than a decade, Huw has wandered on both sides of Antarctica and in the Arctic, from the Ross Sea and the Southern Ocean, to Siberia, Greenland and the North Pole. His research interests are equally wide-ranging, from Admiral Nelson and Captain Cook, through whaling and Heroic Age expeditions, to pioneering photography and even Inuit Art. Back in Britain, Huw regularly appears on television and radio as a historian and cultural commentator, in the BBC documentaries *Wilderness Explored*, *Of Ice and Men*, *Antarctica's Forgotten Hero*, *Battle for the Himalayas*, and most recently the PBS Nova special *Franklin's Lost Ships*.



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.

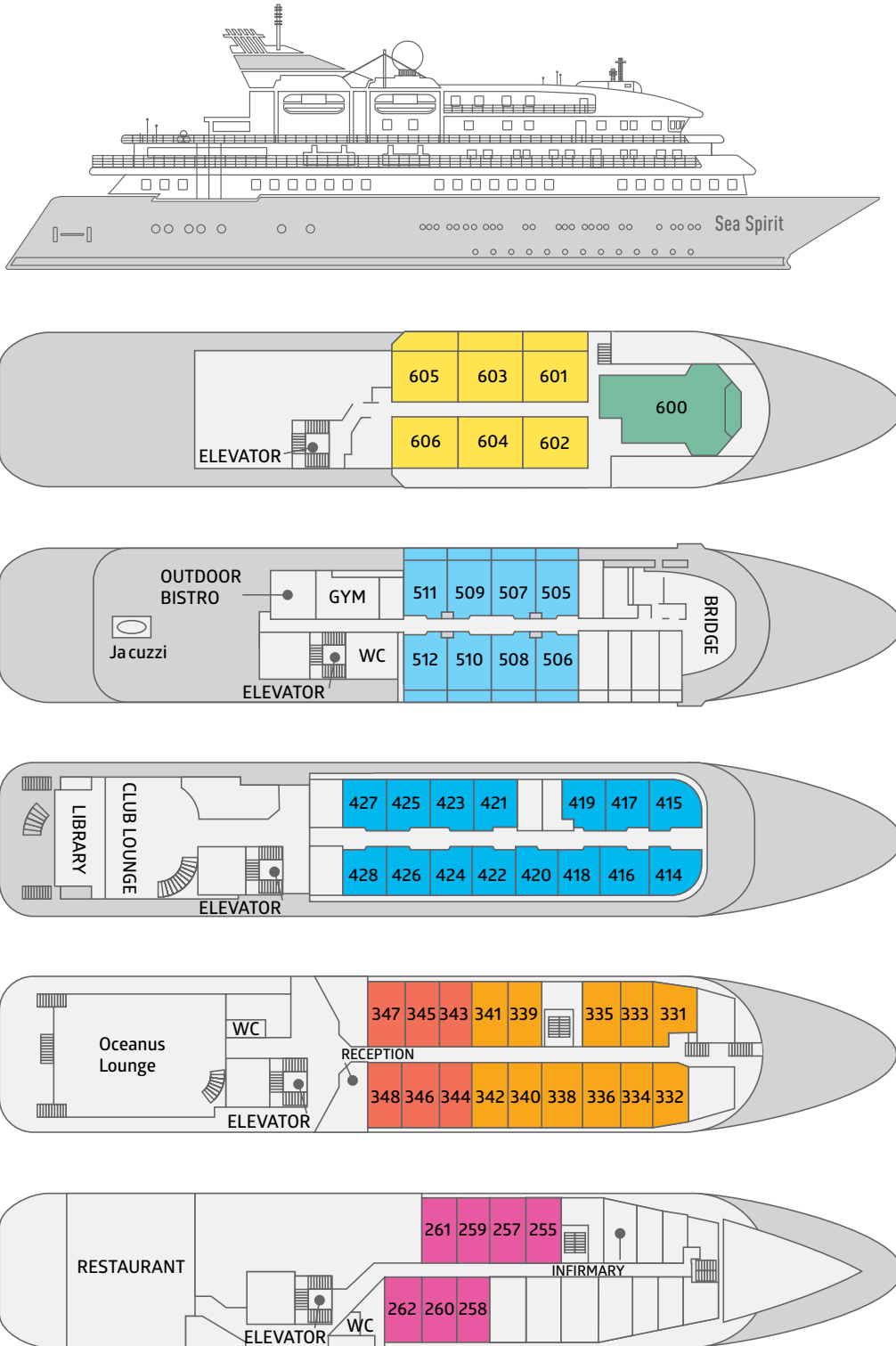
You will get plenty of practice with the special art of architectural photography as well.

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.

M/V Sea Spirit

- Owner's
- Classic
- Premium
- Triple
- Deluxe
- Main Deck
- Superior

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





■ Owner's suite

Passengers: 2

Size: 43 m² (463 ft²)

View: private deck

Super-spacious (43 square metres/ 463 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.

■ Premium suite

Passengers: 2

Size: 30 m² (323 ft²)

View: private balcony



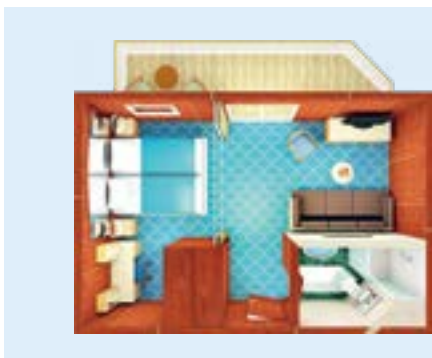
The Premium Suites are located on the Sun Deck. Averaging a generous 30 square metres/ 323 square feet, with two twin beds or a King Size bed. Access the private balcony by a sliding glass door. Amenities include: en suite facilities, lounge area, in-room safe, refrigerator, satellite telephone access,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

■ Deluxe suite

Passengers: 2

Size: 24 m² (258 ft²)

View: private balcony



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.

■ Superior Suite

Passengers: 2

Size: 20 m² (215 ft²)

View: picture window



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.

■ Classic Suite

Passengers: 2

Size: 21 m² (226 ft²)

View: picture window



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

Passengers: 2

Size: 23 m² (248 ft²)

View: portholes



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.

■ Triple Suite

Passengers: 3

Size: 21 m² (226 ft²)


View: picture window



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.

Dates and Rates

SEASON
2024

DATES	DAYS	OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES 	CABINS/RATES PER PERSON						
			TRIPLE CLASSIC	MAIN DECK SUITE	CLASSIC SUITE	SUPERIOR SUITE	DELUXE SUITE	PREMIUM SUITE	OWNER'S SUITE
BRITISH ISLES									
May 8 – May 20, 2024	13	.	\$5 995	\$8 295	\$8 795	\$8 995	\$10 095	\$11 095	\$14 195
Super Early Bird discount*			\$5 096	\$7 051	\$7 476	\$7 196	\$8 076	\$8 876	\$11 356
Early Bird discount**			\$5 396	\$7 466	\$7 916	\$7 646	\$8 581	\$9 431	\$12 066
Half-price for children in double-occupancy cabin with adult: Children under 12 years old travel at half the regular rate in double-occupancy cabin with adult.									
*Super Early Bird discount (15% off Triple, Main Deck, and Classic Suites; 20% off Superior, Deluxe, Premium, and Owner's Suites) is available for new bookings confirmed by May 31, 2023.									
**Regular Early Bird discount (10% off Triple, Main Deck, and Classic Suites; 15% off Superior, Deluxe, Premium, and Owner's Suites) will be available from June 01 till October 31, 2023.									

Rates Include:

- 1 pre-voyage hotel night;
- Group transfer to the ship for 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 & 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 right after disembarkation;
- Pre-departure materials;
- Digital Voyage Log;
- Wi-Fi on board.

Rates Do Not Include:

- Airfare;
- 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;
- Emergency evacuation insurance to a minimum coverage of US\$ 100,000 per person;
- Staff gratuities.

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.

Packing Checklist

What to bring!

Packing for an expedition cruise doesn't have to be daunting, and to make it easier for you, the voyage includes an expedition parka to keep, and a loan of appropriate footwear.

Clothing checklist

- Rubber boots (no need to pack them, as we provide them on board)
- Lightweight thermal underwear and thin socks
- Thermal and thick woolen socks
- Waterproof pants (Gore-Tex)
- Warm hat
- Winter gloves or mittens x2 (to rotate when wet)
- Glove liners (great for taking photos)
- Expedition parka or outer shell (we provide Poseidon Expeditions softshell for our passengers)
- Fleece jumper

Other essentials:

- Casual clothing to wear on board, optional – something a little more formal for the cocktail parties
- Walking shoes
- Sunglasses (polarized, close-fitting are best)
- Sunblock
- Lip balm with sun protection
- Waterproof backpack
- Bathing suit (for the ship's hot tub)
- Binoculars
- Camera (don't forget extra batteries and memory cards!)
- Medications (be sure to bring enough of your prescription and over-the-counter medicine)
- An extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses



FOR RESERVATIONS:

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