

Celtic Island Escapade

From **4/5/2021**
to **11/5/2021**

Ship: **L'AUSTRAL**

From **Glasgow, Scotland**
to **Dublin**



From **Glasgow** to **Dublin**, **PONANT** brings you an exceptional cruise to Celtic lands following **an all new 8-day itinerary** along the magnificent shores of Britain and Ireland .

Departing from **Glasgow**, Scotland's warm cultural capital with a rich artistic and architectural heritage, you will set sail for **Liverpool**. A former industrial powerhouse, the city has now been completely redeveloped. Located on the banks of the Mersey, it is famous for being the birthplace of the Beatles.

L'Austral will then take you to the Isle of Man, located between the United Kingdom and Ireland. The capital **Douglas** is an authentic postcard from United Kingdom of yesteryear with a Victorian atmosphere.

You will discover the **Hebrides** archipelago: the **Isle of Skye**, known for its rich Gaelic culture, its famous bridge, and its stunning scenery, **Stornoway** and **Iona**, the cradle of Christianity in Scotland where the famous *Book of Kells* was written.

Before you disembark in **Dublin**, your ship will call at **Belfast**, where you can visit the **Giant's Causeway**. This massive geological formation is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and features over 40,000 basalt columns.

Your cruise will end in **Dublin**, the Irish capital with a convivial atmosphere and authentic charm. This city, recognised by UNESCO for inspiring great writers since the 19th century, is highly recommended.



The information in this document is valid as of 5/2/2021

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Embarkation 4/5/2021 from 16h00 to 16h00

Departure 4/5/2021 at 17h00

In the heart of the **Clyde Valley**, the bustling city of **Glasgow** contrasts starkly with the wild beauty of the surrounding countryside. Scotland's biggest city overflows with landmarks from its extensive artistic heritage and outstanding architectural tradition. The city's chequerboard layout makes walking through the major pedestrian thoroughfares easy: go with the flow and let the lively street atmosphere take you past the many Victorian monuments. Don't miss the collections on display in the numerous museums and art galleries. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is an outstanding example.

LIVERPOOL

Arrival 5/5/2021 early afternoon

Departure 5/5/2021 evening

The fast-moving and appealing city of **Liverpool** sprawls along the banks of the River Mersey. This former bastion of industry in England's north-west has found its second wind, thanks especially to the highly successful redevelopment of its docks, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 2004. The city, the **Beatles'** birthplace, has lots to offer to its visitors. While a walk down the Waterfront from Pier Head to Albert Dock is a major highlight you'll also love the quality of museums such as the **Walker Art Gallery** and the wealth of architecture in the city. But what will really impress you is the playful and open-minded spirit of its inhabitants, which John Lennon referred to as "positive energy".

DOUGLAS

Arrival 6/5/2021 early morning

Departure 6/5/2021 midday

Douglas is the capital of the **Isle of Man**, a self-governing island in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. The Isle of Man is best-known for its gruelling annual TT motorbike race but Douglas itself is a charming traditional seaside resort. The stroll along the busy **promenade** is very popular, as well as the visit of the **Manx Museum**, which retraces the island's fascinating Celtic and Viking heritage. It is possible to take a steam train into the mountainous interior, where medieval castles and pretty villages and farms can be observed.

SAILING ALONG SKYE BRIDGE

Arrival 7/5/2021 late morning

Departure 7/5/2021 late morning

The Isle of Skye is the largest in the **Inner Hebrides** archipelago. Nicknamed **the island of the mist**, its romantic and

magical landscapes have inspired the greatest authors and filmmakers, such as the poet Walter Scott or Virginia Woolf. The almost deserted interior of the island and its coast are a concentration of the most emblematic **beauty of the Scottish Highlands**: rocky outcrops, basalt columns, hills and wide vales covered in peat bog and heather, lakes, waterfalls, fine sandy coves and cliffs. You may be lucky enough to see a **sea eagle** perched on their summits, watching the waves beneath which otters, sea lions, seals, dolphins and whales may be hiding.

PORTREE, ISLE OF SKYE

Arrival 7/5/2021 early afternoon

Departure 7/5/2021 early evening

Nestling in the crux of a gorgeous bay, **Portree** reflects the magnificence of the grandiose **Isle of Skye** as well as being its main town. Apart from the charm of its colourful houses, the town's outstanding location on the banks of a loch makes it a very pleasant place to be. From its colourful harbour bustling with local craftsmen's shops, you can take in a stunning view of the surrounding hills. Before trekking through the wilderness and drinking in the natural beauty of the Isle of Skye, check out some of the beautiful images in the **Aros Centre**.

STORNOWAY, HEBRIDES

Arrival 8/5/2021 early morning

Departure 8/5/2021 early evening

Discover **Lewis**, the largest island of the Hebrides, considered to be the cradle of Gaelic culture. Here, the peat- and heather- covered valleys and lochs stretch on to infinity, and numerous bird colonies have taken up residence in the long, jagged coastlines where. Not far from **Stornoway**, the island's main town, built by the Vikings in the 9th century stands one of Scotland's most prominent prehistoric sites: The **Standing Stones of Callanish**. Dating back to more than 3,000 years B.C., these imposing stones placed in a cruciform pattern were laid out according to the moon and stars and their main purpose was to keep track of seasonal cycles, as this was essential for farmers at the time.

IONA, HEBRIDES

Arrival 9/5/2021 early morning

Departure 9/5/2021 late afternoon

Of all the islands in the **Inner Hebrides**, **Iona** is by far the most conducive to contemplation and meditation. And for good reason... it is here that St Columba landed from Ireland in 563 and undertook to establish Christianity in **Scotland**. Now an abbey, the island's true spiritual centre stands where the ancient monastery founded by the Irish missionary was built. Many kings of Scotland, including the legendary **Macbeth**, are buried in the nearby cemetery. In sunny weather, arriving on the Isle of Iona is a stunningly beautiful experience.

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

Arrival 10/5/2021 early morning

Departure 10/5/2021 late afternoon

The capital city of Northern Ireland is located on the very tip of Belfast Lough, in the north-east of the Emerald Isle. Along the waterfront, the building shaped like a fragmented liner is none other than the Titanic Belfast, a homage to the famous transatlantic liner, with full-scale reconstructions making for an insightful experience of the Belle Epoque.

In the historical centre, you'll also travel back in time when you see the majestic Edwardian columns of the City Hall, and the imposing neo-gothic towers of Queen's University for example. The carved wooden façades of the Victorian pubs will certainly entice you in for a pint of beer or chilled cider.

DUBLIN

Arrival 11/5/2021 early morning

Disembarkation 11/5/2021 at 07h00

The Irish capital stretches along the banks of the Liffey to Dublin bay, on the East coast of Ireland. Discover Ireland's warm conviviality in the pedestrian district of **Temple Bar**. Its cobbled streets are brimming with fabulous shops, pubs and arts centres. Next to Trinity College, famous for its 18th century library, you can stroll along Grafton Street: in one of its famous tea shops, try a delicious scone and clotted cream served hot and melt-in-the-mouth with jam. Not far from here, the majestic O'Connell bridge leads you to the avenue with the same name, on which **Spire**, a luminous contemporary sculpture presides.