



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

## CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE EMERALD ISLE

Ireland aboard the 72-stateroom *Exploris One*

May 20–30, 2026  
(10 days)

This new spring itinerary features an eight-night private charter of the *Exploris One* as she circles Ireland, starting in Belfast and ending in Dublin. Criterion includes a pre-cruise hotel night to ensure all arrive in time to embark and to allow for Dublin excursions customized to lecturer preferences. Cruising the entire Emerald Isle, this itinerary includes remote and legendary sites of Ireland's "Wild Atlantic Way," as well as UNESCO protected ancient sites, lush gardens, sea-swept islands, and charming towns. Travelers enjoy a perfect combination of small scenic harbors, cosmopolitan cities, and spectacular coastal landscapes. In addition, at nearly every port of call, there will be a choice of shore excursions, usually with one excursion following a castle & garden theme and the other featuring an archaeological/historical site. The variety of these excursions are combined with a relaxed pace, a robust lecture program, free time for independent exploration, and options for meals ashore in Belfast, Galway, and Kinsale.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Customize your experience with a **menu of excursion options** in each port, including walking excursions to explore Ireland's natural wonders.
- Marvel at the beauty of **Ireland's celebrated gardens** including Powerscourt (considered top 3 garden in the world); the Mount Stewart Home and Gardens of the Londonderry family near Belfast, the charming Saltil Gardens of County Donegal, and Kylemore Abbey with its beautiful Victorian walled garden, located in the heart of Connemara National Park.
- Dig deep into Ireland's **rich archaeological heritage** with visits to Dublin's National Museum of Archaeology, the 5,000-year-old tombs at Newgrange, the 3,000-year-old stone fort of Dun Aonghusa on the Aran Islands and the UNESCO Skellig Michael, ruins of an early Christian monastery.
- Experience the jewels of Ireland's famed Atlantic Coast including the dramatic **Cliffs of Moher** and the stunning mountains, and the bogs and grasslands of **Connemara National Park**.
- **Dock overnight in Belfast and Galway** for a chance to dine ashore and/or enjoy their lively atmosphere and famed music scene.
- Discover **Belfast's intriguing history** including a visit to Titanic Belfast, a state-of-the-art museum on the site of the yard where the ill-fated ship was built.
- Travel along the Northern Ireland's Antrim coast to the **World Heritage-listed Giants Causeway**, the site of some 40,000 hexagonal basalt column

## **CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE EMERALD ISLE**

### **Ireland aboard *Exploris One***

#### **EXPLORIS ONE**

Previously known as the *Silver Explorer* and owned by Silversea Cruises, *Exploris One* began her new life with the French company Exploris Expeditions in 2023. Having known this vessel for many years, we know her to be ideal for small ship cruising; for our exclusive charter, we will be accommodating just 120 guests on board, including staff. The vessel's shallow draft will allow us to navigate in areas that larger ships would not be able to access and whilst cruising, the vessel benefits from spacious deck areas from where you can watch for passing wildlife and admire the beautiful scenery.

*Exploris One*, renovated in 2023, combines adventure and an exceptional level of comfort. The 60 staterooms and 12 suites are all outside and finished to high standards. Equipped with 12 zodiacs, all passengers disembark to explore the region at one time. Le Grand Restaurant and the Outdoor Grill offer refined French and International cuisine. The Grand Salon and Panoramic Lounge provide opportunities for breathtaking views. Additional onboard amenities include a dedicated conference room for lectures, hair salon, fitness center, massage room, sauna, and two hot tubs.



**CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE EMERALD ISLE**  
Ireland aboard *Exploris One*

**ITINERARY MAP**



# CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE EMERALD ISLE

## Ireland aboard *Exploris One*

### ITINERARY OUTLINE

May 20 Wed	Depart U.S.		
May 21 Thu	Dublin	TBD	Arrive Dublin and transfer to the hotel; optional walking tour of Georgian Dublin, including Merrion Square, St. Stephen's Green; welcome orientation and reception at hotel. (R)
May 22 Fri	Belfast	<i>Exploris One</i>	<b>Lecture #1;</b> Morning visits to the Marsh Library and Trinity College; lunch at local brewery; optional afternoon visits to ancient tombs of Newgrange and Dublin Castle or gardens at Powerscourt; embark ship late afternoon; Captain's welcome reception and dinner. BLD
May 23 Sat	Belfast	<i>Exploris One</i>	<b>Lecture #2;</b> Morning city tour of Belfast including the Titanic Museum; afternoon options: 1) Mount Stewart Home and Gardens; or 2) free time in the city; option to dine ashore. BLD
May 24 Sun	Lisahally	<i>Exploris One</i>	Morning visit to either 1) the UNESCO-listed basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway; or 2) the walled city of Derry to learn about its tumultuous past; afternoon at sea with <b>Lecture #3.</b> BLD
May 25 Mon	Killybegs	<i>Exploris One</i>	Full day in County Donegal with optional excursions: 1) Glenveagh National Park and its 19 <sup>th</sup> century castle and woodland gardens or 2) Countryside drive to the Glen Colmcille area for visits to Folk Museum and Salthill Gardens; evening onboard entertainment by Irish dancers BLD
May 26 Tues	Kilronan, Aran Islands/ Galway	<i>Exploris One</i>	<b>Lecture #4;</b> morning Zodiac to visit early Christian sites on Inishmore and ancient fort of Dun Aonghusa; afternoon Galway city tour with free time and evening in port; option to dine ashore and/or experience traditional music scene. BLD
May 27 Wed	Galway	<i>Exploris One</i>	Optional full day excursions to 1) Cliffs of Moher with an Irish music lesson over lunch; or 2) Connemara National Park with a private visit to Kylemore Abbey BLD
May 28 Thu	Valentina/ Skellig Islands	<i>Exploris One</i>	<b>Lecture #5;</b> Zodiac to Valentina Island, off of Kerry peninsula, for coastal walk, visit to Derrynane House and Glanleam Gardens; afternoon cruise around Skellig Islands to view UNESCO Skellig Michael, an early Christian monastery. BLD
May 29 Fri	Cobh	<i>Exploris One</i>	<b>Lecture #6;</b> dock in Cobh harbor; exploration of Cork's old city, English Market and the Huguenot Quarter; free time in Kinsale with option for lunch ashore; afternoon at sea; farewell reception and dinner onboard. BLRD
May 30 Sat	Return to U.S.		Disembark in Dublin for flights home or stay on in Dublin post-cruise extension. B

## CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE EMERALD ISLE

### Ireland aboard *Exploris One*

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

**Program Fees:**

Premium Stateroom, Deck 3, per person, sharing .....	\$8,990
Ocean Stateroom, Deck 3, per person, sharing .....	\$9,990
Superior Stateroom, Deck 4, per person, sharing .....	\$10,790
Deluxe Stateroom, Deck 4, per person, sharing .....	\$11,590
Balcony Stateroom, Deck 5, per person, sharing.....	\$12,590
Navigator Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing.....	\$13,990
Discovery Suite, Deck 5, per person, sharing.....	\$15,990
Grand Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing.....	\$17,490
Owner's Suite, Deck 7, per person, sharing .....	\$18,990
Premium Stateroom, Deck 3, single .....	\$13,990
Ocean Stateroom, Deck 3, single .....	\$15,990
Superior Stateroom, Deck 4, single .....	\$17,290

Fees and services are based on current exchange rates and are subject to change.

**Program Length, Capacity:**

11 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 78; Maximum capacity: 118 (all sponsors, not including staff)

**Fees Include:** All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Scheduled coach transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome reception in Dublin and Welcome and Farewell Receptions & Dinners aboard *Exploris* • All alcoholic (except premium drinks) and non-alcoholic beverages included onboard *Exploris* • Criterion Tour Managers throughout the program

**Fees Do Not Include:** U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; premium alcoholic drinks • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

**For more information or  
to reserve 888.484.8785**