

Forever Irish

Aboard the *Sylvia Earle*

April 29–May 07, 2028 | 9 Days

National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

aurora expeditions

Certified B Corporation



Dear National Trust Travelers,

I am delighted to invite you to join me for a very special National Trust Travelers journey to Ireland.

Our journey will take us far beyond Dublin as we travel along Ireland's remarkable coastline and experience both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Together, we will explore communities shaped by centuries of migration, encounter the history of famine and emigration, consider Ireland's long and complicated relationship with Great Britain, and see how questions of religion, politics, independence, identity, and memory continue to resonate today. Of special interest is learning how Ireland's "economic miracle"—widely known as the Celtic Tiger—transformed the Republic from one of Western Europe's poorest nations into a wealthy, globalized tech and pharmaceutical hub.

And what a setting in which to do it. We will experience the dramatic Cliffs of Moher, the Ring of Kerry, Giant's Causeway, historic Cork and Cobh, Belfast, Dublin, and communities along a coastline that has connected Ireland to Britain, Europe, and the wider Atlantic world for centuries.

What excites me most, however, is the opportunity to experience all of this as a National Trust Traveler community.

On this journey, our classroom will continually change. It might be a historic street in Dublin one morning, the Irish coast that afternoon, and a conversation over dinner that evening.

This journey gives us an extraordinary opportunity to experience more of a country, to understand it more deeply, and to do so alongside fellow members of the National Trust Traveler community.

I hope you will join me for what promises to be a memorable exploration of Ireland: its history, people, culture, politics, landscapes, and stories.

Sláinte!

Warm regards,
Meg Annacone-Poretz, MTA
Director, National Trust Tours,

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Though scattered far from the island of their forebears, over 80 million people worldwide continue to identify deeply with their Irish heritage. This voyage invites you to explore not only the landscapes and histories of Ireland itself, but also the intertwined stories of those who left, those who remained and the modern-day Irish who continue to live in communities bound by memory, identity, and a shared reverence for the past. Join us as we celebrate the resilience and legacy of a people whose story did not end at departure, but instead grew stronger across generations and continents, ensuring their descendants consider themselves to be 'forever Irish'.







TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Ireland's most powerful stories, from Cobh's Titanic and emigration heritage to the famine histories of Galway, Achill Island and the National Famine Museum at Strokestown, revealing the resilience that shaped modern Ireland
- Experience places where myth meets history, from Cromwell's Fort on Inishbofin and the deserted village of Slievemore to Northern Ireland's UNESCO-listed Giant's Causeway and the legends woven through its volcanic landscape.
- Explore remote Atlantic islands including the Blasket Islands and Achill Island, where Gaelic traditions, storytelling and island life endured on the edge of the wild Atlantic.
- Follow the footsteps of saints and explorers on the Dingle Peninsula, uncovering early Christian heritage, ancient beehive huts and the legacy of legendary navigator St Brendan.
- Connect with authentic local culture in Dingle, Galway, Killybegs and along the Causeway Coast, where traditional music, maritime traditions, Zodiac landings and scenic coastal walks reveal the enduring spirit of the British Isles.
- Uncover your Irish heritage through engaging presentations from our onboard Irish genealogist

ITINERARY:

Day 1 (April 29) Arrive Dublin, Ireland
Arrive at Dublin Airport and transfer to our Embarkation Suite (conditions apply below). Explore Dublin at your leisure before returning to our Embarkation Suite at the designated times for the group transfer to *Sylvia Earle*.

Departing our Embarkation Suite at 1:00pm, we start our 'Forever Irish' story at a site dedicated to Ireland's emigration, when we meet one of Ireland's greatest exports, its people, with a self-guided tour of the award-winning EPIC — the Irish Emigration Museum. Discover what it means to hold Irish heritage, as you meet poets and presidents, singers and suffragettes. You will meet famous folk and families, from Bram Stoker to Oscar Wilde, Ned Kelly to JFK, as you follow your souvenir-passport to find out where they came from, why they left, and the differences they have made to our everyday lives. Housed within Dublin's historic CHQ building, EPIC provides an opportunity to delve into your own Irish ancestry at the Irish Family History Centre following your tour. Alternatively, you may wish to sample an Irish coffee, try a fine Irish whiskey, or savour a pint of Guinness in one of the center's bars and cafés, before we transfer to the port of Dún Laoghaire, to board *Sylvia Earle.*

This evening, join your fellow travelers for an onboard Welcome Dinner, where your expedition team will introduce you to the expedition ahead and raise a toast to the adventures to come.

Meals: Dinner onboard

Day 2 (April 30) Cobh (Port: Cobh)
We enjoy a morning at sea to relax into shipboard life before arriving around midday at the County Cork port of Cobh. Few ports in the world tell such poignant stories of despair as Cobh. From its harbor, over two and a half million people left Ireland between the mid-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, driven by famine, poverty, and hardship in search of survival in a new world many would never reach. Known then as Queenstown, it became a place of final farewells for the ironically named 'famine ships', where families parted knowing they might never meet again, and where hope mingled with fear as ships slipped toward the horizon.



For countless emigrants, this was their last sight of home, including the final 123 passengers who boarded the ill-fated Titanic in 1912, adding another layer to Cobh's enduring legacy of loss and remembrance.

This afternoon, join your local guide for a walking tour of Cobh, exploring its steep streets, colorful terraces, and waterfront where generations once gathered to depart these shores. The tour brings to life the town's emigration history before concluding at the Queenstown Story. Here, you will enjoy a self-guided visit through a series of immersive exhibits tracing over three centuries of Irish emigration and maritime history. Personal stories bring the experience vividly to life, from emigrants and convicts to survivors of the ill-fated Lusitania and passengers connected to the Titanic. You will encounter figures such as Jeremiah Burke, whose message in a bottle became one of the most poignant relics of the Titanic, alongside accounts of families who journeyed to North America, Australia, Canada and beyond.

Following your visit, there is time to stroll independently through the streets of Cobh, perhaps pausing along the harbour to remember those who stories you've heard, before returning to the ship for an early evening sailing.

Day 3 (May 1) Dingle and the Blasket Islands
Like the monks who once settled along Irelands' remote shoreline, we find ourselves glancing skyward this morning to the weather gods, as we cruise, or possibly Zodiac ashore on one of Irelands little-known treasures.

Lying off the western edge of the Dingle Peninsula amid the vast Atlantic Ocean, the Blasket Islands tell a story of resilience won and, ultimately, lost. For generations, a small community lived here in remarkable isolation, sustained by fishing, farming, and a deep connection to the sea. The islanders spoke their own rich Irish language dialect and became renowned for their storytelling and literary legacy.

However, by 1953, worsening conditions, declining population, and the challenges of retaining young people on the islands made life unsustainable, leading to the evacuation of the remaining residents. Today, the islands stand empty of people, but alive with wildlife, home to seabirds, seals, and the ever-present rhythms of the Atlantic. Sailing to the mainland, we find the coastal gem of Dingle — gateway to the dramatic Dingle Peninsula.

Once described by National Geographic Traveller as 'the most beautiful place on earth', Dingle is away from the general 'tourist route', affording us a lesser-known access to Ireland's wild west coast. Visiting the Dingle Peninsula, northernmost of Ireland's five great Atlantic 'fingers', offers a landscape where history, faith, and raw coastal beauty are deeply intertwined. This is an area steeped in early Christian heritage, closely associated with Saint Brendan the Navigator, born nearby in Tralee in the 5th century and famed for his legendary voyages into the Atlantic. Across these windswept slopes, monks once sought solitude, leaving behind the remarkable beehive huts that still cling to the hillsides, a testament to a life of devotion on the very edge of the known world.







Driving the Slea Head loop, the scenery builds to a dramatic crescendo. At Dunquin, we pause to walk the iconic zig-zag path down to the pier, its steep switchbacks leading toward the might of the Atlantic Ocean and the Blasket Islands beyond. With each step, the sense of remoteness deepens, the Atlantic stretching endlessly ahead.

From here, we continue to the Blasket Centre, where the story of island life unfolds, complementing our earlier visit, bringing to life a community shaped by isolation, resilience, and an enduring connection to the sea. This interactive museum holds actual footage and recordings of the islanders who survived in often unlivable conditions. We hear their stories and marvel at their tenacity. Note: Zodiac cruising or landing on Great Blasket Island is subject to permit confirmations and local conditions.

Day 4 (May 2) Galway and Cliffs of Moher
Early morning we view the famed Cliffs of Moher from the decks of Sylvia Earle as we near the coastal city of Galway, where we anchor in its natural bay and tender ashore. Our onboard genealogist typically joins the voyage this evening. Over the coming days, she will present a series of engaging talks, sharing insider tips and expert guidance on researching Irish ancestry, navigating genealogical records, and discovering the many resources available to those interested in exploring their Irish heritage.

The seaside charm of 21st-century Galway belies a far more turbulent past, with the city evolving from an early medieval settlement into a place shaped by some of the most challenging chapters in Ireland's history.



In the mid-17th century, with the rise of Oliver Cromwell, Britain's rule over Ireland took a brutal turn. Across the east and south, Ireland's landowners were stripped of their lands and driven west—along with their tenant farmers—across the River Shannon into what would become known as Connacht. They arrived having lost property, status, livelihoods, and any sense of certainty about their future, many coming to a city already under siege.

When Galway surrendered to Cromwell's forces, the transformation was swift. Much of the city's property was seized, and many of its established Catholic merchant families were dispossessed or exiled. Others from the wider region faced an even harsher fate, with thousands forcibly transported to the Caribbean as bonded labourers—a practice remembered as being "Barbadosed."

Today County Galway invites us to hear more about the resilience of the Irish. Those joining our locally guided walking tour will hear the stories of the city's past, traced in the streets, buildings, and spaces that still bear witness to its transformation, before enjoying an afternoon at leisure in Galway, while those travelling inland to the Workhouse or the National Famine Museum will encounter a more confronting reminder: the human cost of political power, and the stark realities faced by those with nowhere left to turn.

Personalize your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Day 5 (May 3) Connemara Islands - Achill Island
We sail north along the Atlantic coastline to Achill Island, where we make a Zodiac landing near Purteen Harbor. Here the sea leads to the mountains beyond, creating one of the most striking landscapes on Ireland's west coast. We offer both a morning and afternoon walk today. Join us for both or select your favorite and enjoy a relaxing morning or afternoon on the ship.

Personalize your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.



Day 6 (May 4) Mullaghmore
As we Zodiac ashore in County Sligo, we arrive in a landscape where history, mythology, and dramatic scenery come together. Often associated with the poet W.B. Yeats, this region is known for its striking contrasts, rugged Atlantic coastline, broad beaches, and the distinctive flat-topped silhouette of Benbulben Mountain rising above the countryside.

On its northern shores lies Mullaghmore. Today, it retains that sense of connection between land and sea, past and present as the gateway to this richly storied corner of Ireland.

After our morning walk lunch will be served on board before you can join a complimentary 20-minute shuttle transfer to the nearby town of Sligo for an independent exploration of one of County Donegal's authentic county towns. Try a whisky tasting at one of the local bars or soak in the Irish spirit by strolling the streets of the town known as 'the capital of the northwest.'

Day 7 (May 5) Killybegs and Slieve League Cliffs
The fishing village of Killybegs is the gateway to the rugged beauty of Slieve League Cliffs and the dramatic backdrop of Ireland's own Table Mountain, Ben Bulben. Jutting out of Sligo's northern edge, the peninsula of Mullaghmore pokes into the North Atlantic. Land and sea meet in confluence along the coast of County Sligo, a landscape of jagged mountain peaks that inspired the work of Nobel-winning poet William Butler Yeats. Our experiences this morning offer an insight either into the traditional crafts or the scenic beauty of this authentic corner of Ireland.

Personalize your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Day 8 (May 6) Portrush, Northern Ireland
Stretching along Northern Ireland's dramatic Atlantic edge, the Causeway Coast is a landscape where myth and geology collide, jagged cliffs, hidden bays, and sweeping headlands shaped by both ancient volcanic forces and centuries of human story. This is a place where ruined castles cling to the shoreline, where the rhythm of the ocean has long defined both those who departed and those who remain.

Both walks today visit its most famous natural attraction, the Giant's Causeway. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway consists of some 40,000 interlocking basalt columns lifted from the ocean by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. Of course, according to legend, giants strode across columns over the sea from Scotland, creating what looks like a giant pathway of stepping-stones that start on land and disappear into the ocean.

In true Aurora style, our approach to the Giant's Causeway embraces the spirit of discovery, when we experience the journey as it was meant to be; on foot, following the wild coastal paths that have long connected these shores.

Personalize your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Day 9 (May 7) Disembark Troon, Glasgow, Scotland (Port: Troon)
After breakfast, we disembark the *Sylvia Earle* in the port town of Troon and transfer to Glasgow airport.

Meals: Breakfast onboard

INCLUSIONS:

- Group transfer from the airport to Embarkation Suite and to Sylvia Earle on Day 1 — conditions apply
- Group departure transfer ship to airport or city center location on Day 9
- Embarkation Suite, including luggage storage and Aurora Expeditions staff support on Day 1
- Onboard accommodation during voyage, including daily cabin service
- All meals, snacks, tea, coffee, soft drinks and juices during voyage
- Premium spirits, cocktails, beer, wine and liqueurs during voyage
- Captain's Farewell reception including four-course dinner, house cocktails, house beer and wine, non-alcoholic beverages
- All shore excursions and Zodiac cruises
- Educational lectures and guiding services provided by Expedition Team
- Complimentary access to onboard expedition doctor and medical clinic (initial consultation)
- One 3-in-1 waterproof, polar expedition jacket
- Comprehensive pre-departure information
- Port surcharges, permits and landing fees
- Onboard Wi-Fi





EXCLUSIONS:

- International or domestic flights — unless specified in the itinerary
- Transfers — unless specified in the itinerary
- Airport arrival or departure taxes
- Passport, visa, reciprocity and vaccination fees and charges
- Travel insurance or emergency evacuation charges
- Optional excursions and optional activity surcharges
- All items of a personal nature, including but not limited to onboard gratuities*, laundry services personal clothing, and medical expenses email or phone charges.

**A gratuity of USD $20 per person, per day for the crew and Expedition Team will be automatically added to your onboard account. You may remove or adjust this amount when settling your account. For suite guests, this gratuity is included as part of the Suite Benefits.*

150
maximum
passengers

SYLVIA EARLE

DECK PLAN

Ship Features

1. Change room/mudroom
2. Zodiac access points
3. Activity launching platform
4. Lecture theatre & lounge
5. Assembly station
6. Reception
7. Ship shop
8. Dining room
9. Library
10. Gym
11. Wellness centre/sauna
12. Seating area
13. Observation lounge
14. Rockhopper restaurant
15. Bar
16. Upper glass atrium lounge
17. Lower glass atrium lounge
18. Observation decks
19. Swimming pool* and sun deck
20. Jacuzzis
21. Medical clinic
22. Bridge
23. Elevator
24. Main entrance
25. Expedition desk
26. Citizen science centre

♿ Disability accessible staterooms

↔ Connecting staterooms and suites.

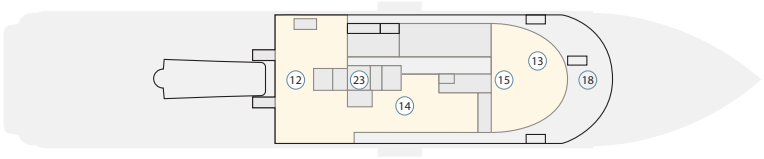
*Swimming pool not operational when sailing in open waters. Hours of operation subject to weather conditions.

Deck plan is subject to change.

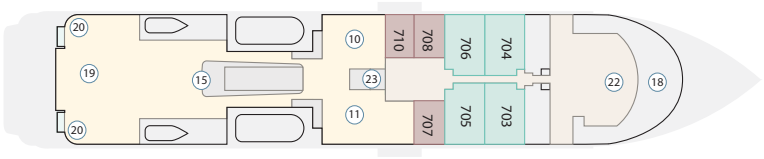
Stateroom Category

- Aurora Stateroom Triple
- Aurora Stateroom Superior
- Balcony Stateroom — C
- Balcony Stateroom — B
- Balcony Stateroom — A
- Balcony Stateroom Superior
- Junior Suite
- Captain's Suite

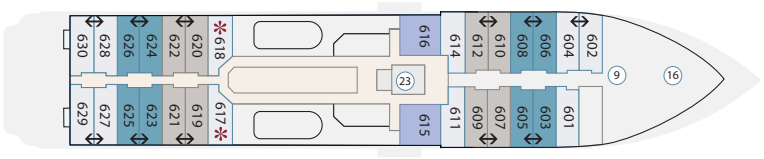
Deck 8



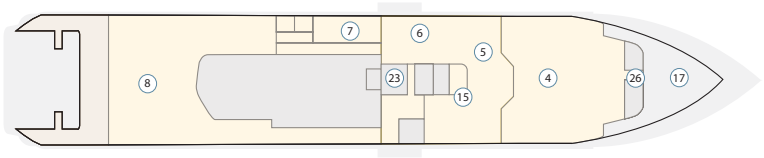
Deck 7



Deck 6



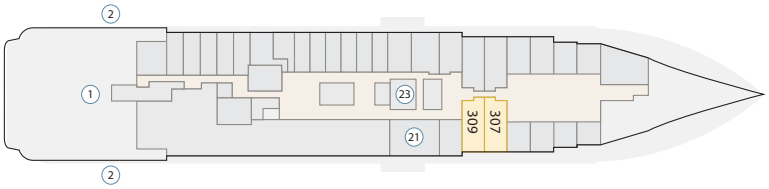
Deck 5



Deck 4



Deck 3



* Single cabins.

PRICING

Voyage Dates: April 29 - May 07, 2028
Ship: *Sylvia Earle* — 150 passengers maximum
Tour code: IRL001S

STATEROOM OPTIONS	PRICING
Balcony Stateroom Category C Sleeps: 2 Deck: 6	FROM ~~$14,195~~ **$10,646.25 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts
Balcony Stateroom Category B Sleeps: 2 Deck: 4 & 6	FROM ~~$14,995~~ **$11,246.25 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts
Balcony Stateroom Category A Sleeps: 2 Deck: 4 & 6	FROM ~~$16,095~~ **$12,071.25 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts
Balcony Stateroom Superior Sleeps: 2 Deck: 4	FROM ~~$17,595~~ **$13,196.25 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts
Junior Suite Sleeps: 2 Deck: 7	FROM ~~$20,895~~ **$14,626.50 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts
Captain Suite Sleeps: 2 Deck: 4	FROM ~~$17,595~~ **$16,726.50 pp twin share** Price is inclusive of all discounts





Single Supplement:

A 150% Single Supplement Rate will be charged on all stateroom categories.

To confirm your booking, a completed booking form and non-refundable deposit is required within 7 days of reserved berth/s.





TERMS AND CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION
Expeditions offer an adventurous style of travel that can be complex and costly to arrange. This includes traveling to remote places that can be subject to unpredictable, volatile conditions and other factors (often outside of our control), which require flexibility and can involve adjustments to schedules and itineraries at short notice. We will always use reasonable endeavors to operate in accordance with an expedition's published itinerary, but we cannot guarantee them and they do not form part of your contract with us.

PRICE AND VALIDITY
Prices quoted in this brochure are per person based on double occupancy in USD. Prices and availability are valid at the time of printing and are subject to change. Airfare is an additional cost unless otherwise indicated.

RESPONSIBILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK
By booking this trip, you agree to accept all inherent risks of the proposed adventure trip and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage, or loss; that if you suffer injury or illness, Aurora Expeditions can, at your cost, arrange medical treatment and emergency evacuation service, as Aurora Expeditions deems appropriate for your well-being; and you release Aurora Expeditions from any and all liability for any loss or damage.

BOOKING CONFIRMATION AND PAYMENT TERMS
To confirm your booking, an advanced deposit of 25% of the price of each ticket is required within 7 days. To confirm your participation in an activity, a deposit of $250 per person per activity is required. The activity deposit is in addition to the deposit required to confirm your place on the expedition, and the deposit for the activity is only refundable if the activity is canceled due to minimum numbers not being reached or the activity is canceled by a third party. Final payment is due at least 120 days prior to the departure date of the expedition. If final payment is not made when due, Aurora Expeditions reserves the right to terminate the reservation and retain the deposit. Credit card payments are accepted.

CANCELLATION OF YOUR EXPEDITION
If you wish to cancel your expedition, we ask that you notify your Travel Agent or our expedition sales team immediately in writing. Cancellation will take effect upon receipt by Aurora Expeditions (not the Travel Agent) of your written notice.

Written notice received days prior to departure date	Cancellation Fee per Passenger
121 days or more prior to departure:	Deposit
120 days or less prior to departure:	100% of the full ticket price

To confirm your booking, an advanced deposit of 25% of the price of each ticket is required within 7 days. To confirm your participation in an activity, a deposit of $250 per person per activity is required. The activity deposit is in addition to the deposit required to confirm your place on the expedition, and the deposit for the activity is only refundable if the activity is canceled due to minimum numbers not being reached or the activity is canceled by a third party. Final payment is due at least 120 days prior to the departure date of the expedition. If final payment is not made when due, Aurora Expeditions reserves the right to terminate the reservation and retain the deposit. Credit card payments are accepted.

MANDATORY TRAVEL INSURANCE
Due to the adventurous style of travel offered by Aurora Expeditions and the remoteness of the areas in which we travel, it is a condition of travel with Aurora Expeditions that all passengers are covered by comprehensive travel insurance prior to departure, and that they maintain such insurance for the duration of the expedition.
https://nationaltrusttours.com/travel-insurance/
866-322-9970 USI Travel Insurance Services

For complete Term and Conditions, visit:
aurora-expeditions.com/terms-and-conditions





National Trust *for* Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

aurora expeditions

Certified B Corporation