



## *Europe Dance Cruise*

AUGUST 25 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2025

Aboard Regal Princess

Departing Round Trip from Southampton (London)

History is everywhere you look in the British Isles. The region is home to legendary villages, thatched-roof houses and scores of castles, churches and colleges from centuries past. Find your craic (Gaelic for "fun") in Ireland amid rolling green hills and local pubs. If you enjoy city buzz more than country charm, make your way to the Isles' metropolitan epicenter of London and see Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey and Tower and Bridge. Discover the magic with a British-isles cruise

## PORTS OF CALL

### Southampton, London



The south of England boasts a dramatic coastline that encloses some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain. The landscape of hills and heaths, downs and forests, valleys and dales, is without rival.

Southampton serves as your gateway to the countryside - and to a wide variety of historic sites, national landmarks and charming. And of course, London is a two-hour drive by modern highway.

The United Kingdom's premier passenger ship port, Southampton was home for many years to the great transatlantic liners of yesteryear.

- Points of Interest
- Buckingham Palace
- Westminster Abbey
- Big Ben/Parliament Buildings
- London Eye
- Thames River Cruise
- Stonehenge
- Windsor/Windsor Castle
- Salisbury

### **More about Southampton (London), England Points of Interest**

**Buckingham Palace** - The Queen's official London residence, Buckingham Palace, found at the end of the tree-lined Mall, is protected by imposing iron gates, through which you can glimpse the red-jacketed Royal Guards.

**Westminster Abbey** - This stunning Gothic building has been the setting for Royal weddings and coronations since 1066. It is home to the 'Tomb of the Unknown Warrior', representing the thousands killed in World War I.

**Big Ben/Parliament Buildings** - The Houses of Parliament, both the House of Commons and House of Lords, is the home of British politics. An elaborate Gothic building, it is also the site of London's much-loved time-piece, Big Ben.

**London Eye** - A giant 21st-century Ferris wheel, visitors walk directly into the specially designed glass capsules located on the wheel's exterior, for a breath-taking ride that lifts you high above the city.

**Thames River Cruise** - Cruise along the River Thames on a vessel that features a glass observation deck, as well as an open-air promenade, soaking up the spectacular views including Tower Bridge, and the London Eye.

**Stonehenge** - A true archeological mystery, this mythical monument is thought to be over 5,000 years old, and holds spiritual meaning for many. Visitors can walk around the giant stones, some over 24 feet tall.

**Windsor/Windsor Castle** - Medieval Windsor Castle is a favorite residence of Queen Elizabeth II, and was built after the Norman Invasion by William the Conqueror. The nearby town boasts quaint Georgian shops, houses and inns.

**Salisbury** - Home to a 13th-century Gothic-style cathedral, which boasts a 400-foot spire and a copy of the Magna Carta, the town itself features black-and-white, half-timbered houses and quaint, narrow streets.

## **Local Currency**

Pounds and Pence

One British pound is made up of 100 pence. There are coins with 1, 2, 5, 1, 20, and 50 pence denominations as well as 1 pound and 2 pound coins. Notes are available in 5, 10, 20, and 50 pound denominations, and each one has its own distinct color. All British currency features an image of the Queen's head on one side. The other side typically shows a notable historic figure, landmark, or national symbol. British slang has many different names for various elements of the currency. You will almost always hear pence referred to as "pee", while 5 and 10 pound notes are often called fivers and tenners. In many areas of the UK, a 1-pound coin is called a "quid." It's

thought that this term originally stemmed from the Latin phrase "quid pro quo," used to refer to the exchange of one thing for another. Many stores and restaurants also accept major credit cards, which usually offer you a good exchange rate.

## Weather

Average Weather: High 68 / Low 54

## Cork (Cobh), Ireland



Founded in the 7th century by St. Fin Barre, Cork is your gateway to romantic Ireland. Stroll down narrow country lanes or see the Lakes of Killarney. The intrepid visitor may scale the narrow passages of Blarney Castle to kiss the Blarney Stone. The region around Cork is also home to one of the densest concentration of prehistoric monuments in Western Europe. And, in a land where fable and fact blend to become folklore, it was near Cork that the great Tuatha De Danaan, a race with magical powers, was driven underground by the conquering Celts. The port of Cobh is a charming town of colorful Victorian architecture with a salty maritime heritage. Culturally rich Cork City is nearby, as is the green countryside, home to villages, ancient monasteries, castles and the famous Blarney Stone. Visit the Blarney Castle, the Market provides a colorful insight into local culture.

Cobh was the single most important port of emigration from Ireland.

Note: Your ship will dock in Cobh which is about 15 miles from Cork.

### Points of Interest

- Blarney Castle
- Blarney Woolen Mill Shop
- Kinsale



- St. Fin Barre's Cathedral
- House of Waterford Crystal
- St. Colman's Cathedral
- Killarney National Park
- Muckcross House

### **More about Cork, Ireland (Cobh - For Blarney Castle) Points of Interest**

- **Blarney Castle -**  
Set in a sprawling park, this romantic ruin was the stronghold of the McCarthy clan, and features thick stone walls. Those who kiss the Blarney Stone are said to be gifted the power of eloquence.
- **Blarney Woolen Mill Shop -**  
This converted mill is Ireland's largest Irish gift store selling traditional Irish goods, including Waterford crystal, Irish linen, hand-loomed Donegal tweed, knitwear, bone china and Celtic brooches.
- **Kinsale -**  
Kinsale is a historic fishing port featuring a pretty harbor, along with many well-preserved, 18th-century houses. It was off the coast here that the Lusitania was torpedoed by a U-boat during World War I.
- **St. Fin Barre's Cathedral -**  
This French, Gothic-inspired cathedral designed by William Burgess was built on the site of Fin Barre's 7th-century monastic settlement. It boasts mosaics, rich carvings and medieval gargoyles.
- **House of Waterford Crystal -**  
The manufacture of glass has a long history in Ireland. Ireland's famed Waterford Crystal dates from 1783.
- **St. Colman's Cathedral -**  
Built in 1868 and completed in 1915, ornate St. Colman's Cathedral is made of granite and limestone, and features elaborate stained glass windows. It boasts views of Cobh harbor and also has 49 bells.
- **Killarney National Park -**  
Killarney National Park boasts stunning views of the countryside set against a backdrop of rugged mountain peaks, and covers 26,000 acres, while the lakes of Killarney are famous for their beauty.
- **Muckcross House -**  
This delightful 19th-century manor house features a gorgeous sunken garden, folk museum and crafting workshop. The interior of the house features beautiful hand-made Victorian furnishings.

### **Local Currency**

The Euro (EUR), the currency of the European Union, is the official currency of Ireland. Many stores and restaurants also accept major credit cards, which usually offer you a good exchange rate.

The main difference between Northern Ireland vs Ireland is that the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland are two separate countries. The Republic of Ireland is a sovereign state of around 5 million people that's part of the European Union (EU), whereas Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom (UK) which is no longer a part of the EU.

### **Weather**

Average Weather: High 65 / Low 53

# Holyhead, Wales



Since the time of Elizabeth I, the road running from London to Holyhead has been a vital strategic route, linking England, Wales and the sea route to Ireland.

Approaching Holyhead from the sea, your first image is of towering sea cliffs rearing above the waves. Natural beauty abounds on the island of Anglesey, the northernmost part of Wales. Anglesey has a long and turbulent history, it was the last stronghold of Druids resisting the Roman invasion, and it was the last refuge of the Welsh princes who resisted English conquest and dominion. Today, Holyhead and Anglesey are your gateway to Wales, a land with a strong and proud Celtic tradition and with some of the most beautiful countryside in the British Isles.

Note: Your ship will anchor in Holyhead and use launches to transport all passengers ashore.

## Points of Interest

- Castles
- Ffestiniog Railway
- Betws-y-Coed
- Llechwedd Slate Caverns
- Bodnant Garden
- Welsh Highland Railway
- Porthmadog
- Portmeirion

## More about Holyhead, Wales Points of Interest

- Castles -  
Majestic Caernarfon, Beaumarais and Conwy Castles were all built for King Edward I during England's 13th century conquest of Wales, and are impressive examples of British medieval military architecture.
- Ffestiniog Railway -  
The Rheilffordd Ffestiniog is the oldest railway company in the world. Celebrating almost 200 years of history, this classic company still uses the 150-year-old original locomotives and antique carriages.
- Betws-y-Coed -  
North Wales' most popular inland resort is located in lovely Snowdonia National Park. This charming Victorian village boasts cascading waterfalls, hill-top lakes, river pools and ancient bridges.
- Llechwedd Slate Caverns -  
A Miners' Tramway tour travels underground via the dramatic "Cathedral Chambers" to reveal the Welsh Slate Miner's world during the reign of Queen Victoria. See the Slate Mill and souvenir shop.
- Bodnant Garden -  
This narrow gauge rack and pinion railway travels to the summit of Snowdon, the highest peak in England and Wales. It inspired a series of books and the Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends tv show.
- Welsh Highland Railway -  
The Welsh Highland is Snowdonia's newest railway. Trains start their spectacular 25 mile scenic journey from beneath the historic castle walls at Caernarfon.
- Porthmadog -  
This small coastal town in the Eifionydd area of Gwynedd is known locally as "Port." The terminus of the Ffestiniog Railway and the gateway to Snowdonia National Park, it is a destination in itself.
- Portmeirion -  
Portmeirion is a popular tourist village in Gwynedd, North Wales. It was designed and built by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925 and 1975 in the style of an Italian village.

## Local Currency

The Euro (EUR), the currency of the European Union, is the official currency. Many stores and restaurants also accept major credit cards, which usually offer you a good exchange rate. When shopping, remember there is a Value-Added Tax added to most purchases.

## Weather

Average Weather: High 65 / Low 56

## Belfast, Ireland







The capital of Northern Ireland - part of the United Kingdom - Belfast has experienced a renaissance since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 that promised an end to the decades-old "Troubles" between Catholics and Protestants. Stretching along both sides of the River Lagan, this graceful city of Victorian and Edwardian buildings has become a cosmopolitan tourist destination. Once a major industrial center, Belfast is also your gateway to the rich, Irish countryside of Counties Antrim and Down.

Belfast was an industrial giant in the 19th century, famed for its linen and its shipyards. Explore this exuberant city, marvel at the Giant's Causeway or shop for superb Irish linens.

#### **Points of Interest**

- Giant's Causeway
- Antrim Coast
- City Hall & Titanic Memorial
- Belfast Pubs
- Botanic Gardens
- Londonderry
- Downpatrick
- Carrickfergus Castle

#### **More about Belfast, Northern Ireland Points of Interest**

- Giant's Causeway -  
Along the Antrim Coast is the world-renowned Giant's Causeway. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Giant's Causeway is considered the Eighth Wonder of the World.
- Antrim Coast -  
The Antrim Coast in the north of Northern Ireland, is one of the most scenic coastlines in Britain and Ireland, with breathtaking landscapes, the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, and the dramatic cliff-side ruins of Dunluce Castle.
- City Hall & Titanic Memorial -  
The Titanic Memorial, located on the east grounds of Belfast City Hall, honors those who died in the RMS Titanic disaster, and includes a list of all those who perished on April 15, 1912.
- Belfast Pubs -  
Belfast Pubs have been the cornerstone of Belfast life for centuries. Some have music, many have good food and all offer a great pint or a comforting hot whiskey and loads of craic (the term for fun and conversation in Irish).
- Botanic Gardens -

The Botanic Gardens reflect Belfast's Victorian heritage, boasting two notable period buildings, a children's playground, a bowling green, a rose garden and assorted tropical plants and trees.

- Londonderry - Originally named Derry, Londonderry is the second largest city in Northern Ireland and lies on the west bank of the River Foyle. It features an almost completely preserved circuit of medieval walls.
- Downpatrick - The town of Downpatrick in County Down, Northern Ireland has a strong connection to St. Patrick. It is here that St. Patrick began the conversion of Ireland and built his first church.
- Carrickfergus Castle - Considered the first real Irish Castle, Carrickfergus was built in 1180 by the Norman John de Courcy to guard the approach to Belfast.

## Local Currency

Northern Ireland both use pound sterling, their bank notes are different from those issued in England and Wales. Confusingly, Scottish and Irish bank notes are not afforded official legal tender status in England and Wales, but can legally be used in any British country.<sup>1</sup> Most shopkeepers will accept them without complaint, but they are not legally obligated to do so and can refuse your Scottish or Irish notes. If you have any problems, most banks will exchange Scottish or Irish notes for English ones free of charge. Standard English bank notes are almost always accepted throughout the U.K. Many visitors make the mistake of thinking that the euro is widely accepted as an alternative currency in the U.K. While shops at some major train stations or airports do accept euros, most other places do not. The exception is iconic department stores like Harrods, Selfridges, and Marks & Spencer, which have historically accepted euros but give change in pound sterling. Lastly, some bigger stores in Northern Ireland may accept the euro as a concession to visitors from the south, but they are not legally required to do so. Credit cards can be used in most places.

## Weather

Average Weather: High 65 / Low 54

## Glasgow (Greeneck), Scotland







Glasgow was Scotland's great industrial center during the 19th century. Today, the city remains the commercial and cultural capital of the Lowlands. Lying on the banks of the River Clyde, Glasgow boasts some of the finest Victorian architecture in the entire United Kingdom, including the stately City Chambers. Elegant Princes Square offers excellent shopping, and among the host of museums and galleries, the Burrell Collection features a superb treasure trove of paintings and art objects.

Note: Your ship docks in Greenock, which is approximately 45 minutes from Glasgow.

### **Points of Interest**

- Loch Lomond
- Glasgow Cathedral
- Transport Museum
- Inveraray Castle
- Stirling
- Culzean Castle
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery
- Edinburgh

### **More about Glasgow (Greenock), Scotland Points of Interest**

- Loch Lomond -  
This stunningly beautiful and popular leisure destination has been featured in song and is Scotland's second largest freshwater lake, dotted with many islands.
- Glasgow Cathedral -  
The only cathedral in Scotland to have survived the Reformation intact, this 12th-century medieval church houses one of the finest post-war collections of stained glass windows in Britain.
- Transport Museum -  
Take the opportunity to climb aboard some of the exhibits to get a real feel of public transport or take a stroll along one of the museum's recreated streets dating back to the early 1900s.
- Inveraray Castle -  
Featuring four imposing conical spires, this 18th-century Scottish castle is the seat of the Duke of Argyll and houses a stunning collection of family portraits, artifacts and English china.
- Stirling -  
Known as Scotland's crossroads, this charming city is home to the popular and historic Stirling Castle, scene of royal coronations, weddings, baptisms and even murders.
- Culzean Castle -  
Converted from a fortress by great Scottish architect Robert Adams in the 18th century, this splendid storybook castle is filled with architectural marvels and memorabilia.

- Kelvingrove Art Gallery - This imposing Victorian red sandstone structure is one of Glasgow's landmark building and houses ever-changing exhibits highlighting dinosaurs, suits of armor, weaponry and treasures from around the world.

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## Weather

Average Weather: High 66 / Low 51

## Orkney Islands /Kirkwall, Scotland



Just north of Scotland lay the Orkney Islands. Washed by the furthest reach of the Gulf Stream, this chain of over 70 islands offers dramatic landscapes that range from sea cliffs rearing 1,000 feet above the waves to sweeping white sand beaches. Bird watchers flock to the Orkney Islands, drawn by the

multitudes of sea birds. Divers explore the wrecks lying in the clear waters of Scapa Flow, the Royal Navy's fleet anchorage in two world wars. And most fascinating of all, the Orkney Islands boast the greatest concentration of prehistoric sites in all Europe, including the mysterious Ring of Brodgar and 5,000-year-old Skara Brae.

Vikings - Norsemen - ruled the Orkney Islands from the 9th to 13th centuries, leaving in their wake such monuments as St. Magnus Cathedral in Kirkwall. This hint of Scandinavian influence can be heard in the lilting accent with which Orcadians speak.

### **Points of Interest**

- Skara Brae
- Italian Chapel
- Scapa Flow
- St. Magnus Cathedral
- Ring of Brodgar
- Maeshowe
- Distillery
- Balfour Castle

### **More about Orkney Islands (Kirkwall), Scotland Points of Interest**

- Skara Brae -  
This Neolithic village dates back 5,000 years and has such well-preserved features, including beds and dressers in the houses. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.
- Italian Chapel -  
A lovely chapel simply constructed with two nissen huts during World War II, is a symbol of peace and reconciliation. Built by Italian prisoners of war, among them, an artist and sculptor named Domenico Chiocchetti who stayed to finish it once the war ended.
- Scapa Flow -  
This stretch of water links the North Sea to the Atlantic and is famous for its role in both World Wars as a natural harbor offering shelter for the British naval fleet.
- St. Magnus Cathedral -  
Known as the "Light in the North," this cathedral was founded in 1137 by Viking Earl Rognvald in honor of his uncle St. Magnus.
- Ring of Brodgar -  
Perhaps, once used to study the stars, this perfect circle of immense standing stones is an impressive vision and one of Orkney's most a popular attractions. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.
- Maeshowe -  
Dating back to prehistoric times, this chambered tomb hidden beneath a grassy mound is a marvel of ancient architecture. It also contains the largest concentration or runic writing (Viking "graffiti") outside of Scandinavia. This monument is part of Orkney's World Heritage site, the Heart of Neolithic Orkney.
- Distillery -  
Highland Park is the most northerly Scotch whisky distillery in Scotland and produces arguably the most respected single malt in the world.
- Balfour Castle -



Britain's most northerly inhabited castle and its two-acre Victorian gardens form part of the private Balfour Estate on the Island of Shapinsay. Magnificent Balfour Castle has stood overlooking Kirkwall Bay for more than 160 years.

## Local Currency

In the Orkney Islands, the official currency is the UK pound sterling (GBP), which is widely accepted. Most transactions occur using Scottish banknotes, but in our increasingly cashless society, you can conveniently pay with cards almost everywhere. Interestingly, a few places even accept Euros in note form<sup>1</sup>. So whether you have British Pounds or Euros, you'll find them useful during your visit to this beautiful archipelago!

## Weather

Average Weather: High 60 / Low 45

## Edinburgh, Scotland



South Queensferry is the gateway to Edinburgh, the political, commercial and cultural heart of Scotland. Nestled between the Highlands and the Border Hills, Edinburgh is a gracious city noted for its superb skyline, its impressive collection of architecture and its beautiful parks. The streets of the elegant New Town are lined with graceful Georgian buildings, many designed by the great architect Robert Adam. Edinburgh has also exerted a tremendous cultural force on Europe and the English-speaking world. The International Festival has been one of the premier European cultural events for over half a century. Among those who have called the city home are the writers, Robert Burns, James Boswell, and Sir Walter Scott and the philosophers, Adam Smith and David Hume. To stroll the streets of Edinburgh is to experience one of the world's great cities.

Note: South Queensferry is an anchorage port. Passengers transfer to shore via ship's tender.

### **Points of Interest**

- Royal Mile & Edinburgh Castle
- Princes Street
- Royal Yacht Britannia
- Holyrood Palace
- Stirling
- St. Andrews
- Floors Castle & Dryburgh Abbey
- Glamis Castle

### **More about Edinburgh (South Queensferry), Scotland Points of Interest**

- Royal Mile & Edinburgh Castle -  
This imposing castle dominates the cityscape from atop its rocky perch. Situated at the end of historic Royal Mile, its dramatic, medieval design remains largely unchanged since the 18th century.
- Princes Street -  
Delight in the lively atmosphere and scenic beauty of Edinburgh's most popular thoroughfare in the "New Town" area. Browse the colorful shops and fashionable boutiques and enjoy the many sidewalk cafes.
- Royal Yacht Britannia -  
Explore the fine art and ancient artifacts at Edinburgh's exceptional museums and view the monarch's personal possessions on the Yacht Britannia, the Royal Family's former seagoing palace.
- Holyrood Palace -  
Dominating the end of Edinburgh's famed Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace is the official home to the monarch while in Scotland. Its hallowed halls have witnessed some of the most turbulent times in Scotland's history.
- Stirling -  
Located at the crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling has seen much of Scotland's tumultuous history. Tour its famous castle and battlefields and view royal memorabilia and military artifacts.
- St. Andrews -  
Known worldwide as the birthplace of golf, this charming medieval town is home to the legendary Old Course, the venerable Royal & Ancient Golf Club and the exceptional British Golf Museum.
- Floors Castle & Dryburgh Abbey -  
Travel south from Edinburgh to explore the Lowlands, the famed Border Country. Visit stunning Floors Castle, the largest inhabited castle in Scotland, and explore the ruins of 12th-century Dryburgh Abbey.
- Glamis Castle -  
A royal residence since 1372, the castle is thought to be haunted. Tour Duncan Hall, made famous in Shakespeare's Macbeth, view the medieval royal rooms, and look out for the legendary ghosts.

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## Weather

Average Weather: High 62 / Low 48

**GENERAL TIP: AAA offers foreign currency exchange with no fee.**



**Travel info. & Registration to book with our group: Cathy & Brent Paxton**

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