

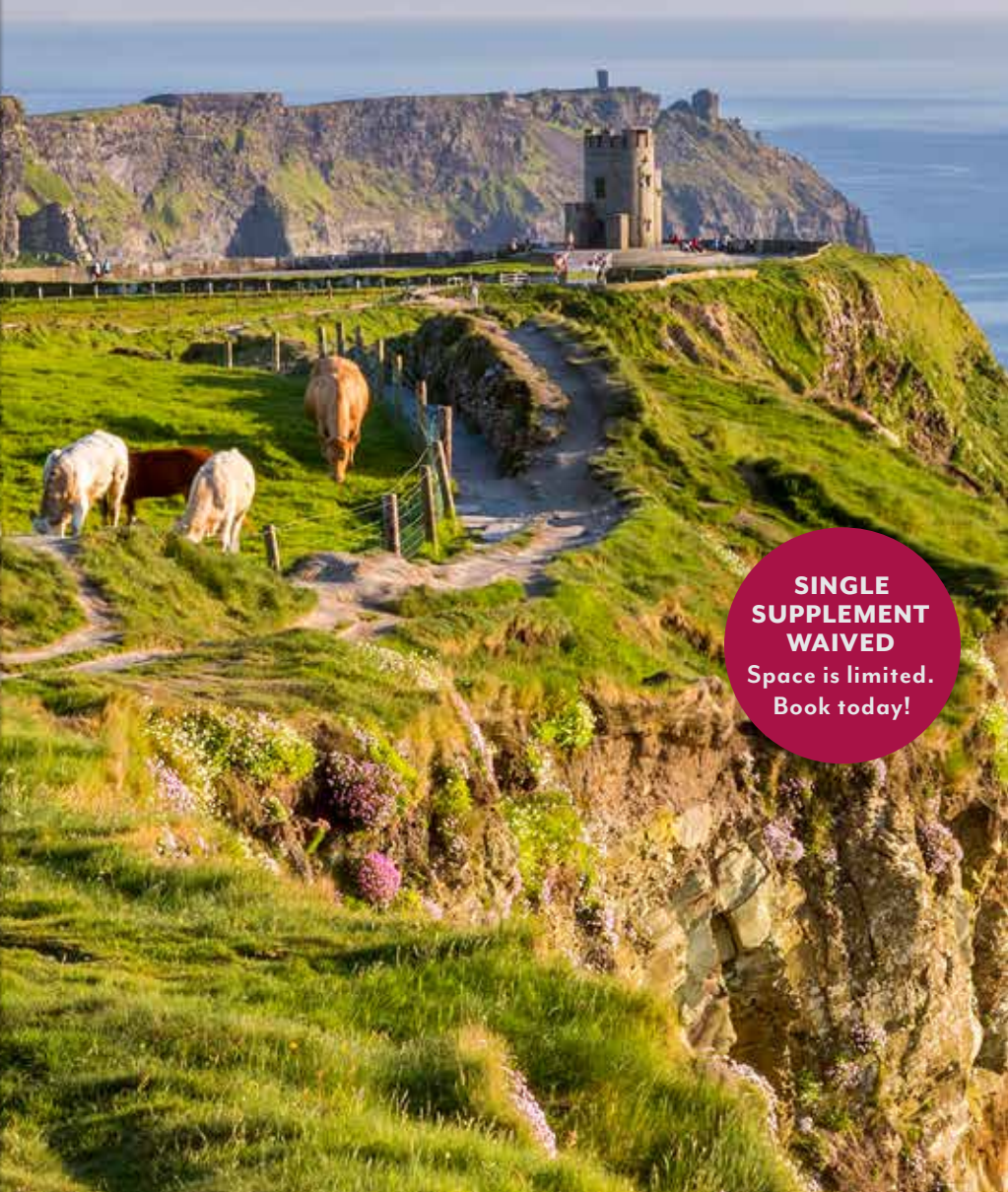


WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils

May 21 to 30, 2024

Ireland & Northern Ireland

EMERALD ISLE CRUISE



**SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT
WAIVED**
Space is limited.
Book today!

IRELAND & NORTHERN IRELAND

Circle the shores of the Emerald Isle on a captivating journey brimming with resplendent beauty, proud traditions, and a warm, welcoming ambience that radiates along the lanes of small towns and buzzing cities alike. In this legendary land of poets, music makers, and artists, embrace the magnificent, untamed landscapes that have fueled their creativity and feel your own spirits lifted.

Along the southern coast, delight in the maritime charms of County Cork's harbor towns and its verdant countryside. Further west, on the glorious Wild Atlantic Way, soaring cliffs, craggy headlands, and sheltered beaches paint a jaw-dropping tableau at Dingle Peninsula. On the rugged Aran Island of Inishmore, gaze across a sweeping, limestone terrain crisscrossed by stone walls and dotted with ancient ruins. Wonder at Skellig Michael, a brooding, austere rock of refuge, and the hexagonal stones of Giant's Causeway, both designated UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

As you make your loop around the Emerald Isle on this exciting 10-day, 8-night luxury cruise, relish a thoughtfully planned itinerary packed with storied, dramatic history, tantalizingly fresh cuisine, and plenty of "craic," as the Irish call a good time!

Front Cover: Cliffs of Moher

Shores of the Beara Peninsula





Bantry House and Gardens, Bantry Bay



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Dear Council Traveler,

Join us on a wonderfully enriching, 8-night, deluxe cruise that circumnavigates the Emerald Isle with ports of call in Ireland and Northern Ireland! Revel in a carefree voyage defined by luxurious comfort, sophisticated style, and top-notch service aboard the deluxe EXPLORIS ONE, specially designed to transport you into smaller ports.

From windswept coastal beauty to authentic culture and irresistible cuisine, you'll be captivated by the magic of Ireland! Along the Wild Atlantic Way, gaze over the starkly splendid Aran Island of Inishmore and soak up Dingle Peninsula's spectacular scenery. Encounter two arresting landmarks, Skellig Michael and Giant's Causeway, both UNESCO World Heritage sites, and explore Belfast's mural-lined streets in a black taxi on a compelling tour about "The Troubles."

Throughout your cruise, you'll enjoy a choice of engaging, included excursions featuring historic houses and acclaimed gardens, celebrated sites like the Cliffs of Moher and Blarney Castle, and scrumptious food and local specialties such as whiskey and mead.

You can also bookend your cruise with optional extensions that reveal the cosmopolitan flair of Dublin and the countryside charms of County Kilkenny. Interest in this remarkable Emerald Isle cruise is sure to be strong, so ensure your spot by reserving today. Other educational groups share this departure, so make your reservation today. Call (800) 942-5004 x 209 (email: travel@wacphila.org).

Warm Regards,

Andrew Haight, Director of Travel

Can't travel at this time? Ask about the Council's other cruises with Gohagan & Company to Greece and Sicily.

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VERMONT · WESTERN COLORADO · WESTERN MICHIGAN · WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

**To secure your spot, call Travel Department at World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
at 800-942-5004 or www.wacphila.org/travel**



Black Taxis of Belfast

While the Emerald Isle is a land of stories, it is also a land of two very separate nations, similar in landscape and culture but famously divided by politics and religion. The conflict between opposing groups known as “The Troubles” ignited around 1968 and continued to 1998—three violent decades that gave rise to paramilitary forces fighting not only for control but for a national identity. “The Troubles” saw bombings by the IRA and Ulster loyalists alike throughout Northern Ireland, Ireland, and England, with Belfast at the center of the war zone. Today, Belfast is filled with symbols of solidarity and remembrance of those who lost their lives in the struggle for peace.

One enduring symbol is the black taxicab, which became essential for safe passage in a warring city. Segregated Catholic and Protestant neighborhoods had their own fleets, navigating strategically to avoid crossing boundaries in the most dangerous areas, including volatile Shankill Road and Falls Road.

Belfast’s black taxis are now used in a uniquely profound way, driven by individuals who lived through or were impacted by “The Troubles” sharing their firsthand perspectives for a historical tour of the city like no other.





CULINARY DISCOVERIES

A NEW FOODIE CULTURE EMERGES

With a temperate, misty microclimate that gave the island its “Emerald” nickname, Ireland and Northern Ireland produce some of the world’s most exquisite fresh produce, creamiest dairy products, and finest grass-fed beef and lamb. And yet, for generations, their culinary reputation has been upstaged by their spectacular scenery, culture, and music. As you’ll discover, Ireland and Northern Ireland’s cuisine is finally getting its due—leading Europe’s burgeoning foodie scene with unique dishes created from these high-quality ingredients. A sure sign is that these two countries can now boast 21 restaurants with at least one Michelin star. Opportunities to savor Ireland and Northern Ireland’s flavors and libations are a special highlight throughout your cruise, from whiskey tastings and a visit to a Kinsale meadery in Ireland’s “gourmet capital” to specially arranged meals at family-run restaurants and iconic landmarks. So, while friends may ask upon your return what you thought of the delicious Guinness and traditional Irish breakfast, you’re sure to have even more gourmet tales to tell. *Sláinte!*



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



10-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart your home city for an overnight flight.

Dublin, Ireland/ Embark

Day 2

Arrive in Dublin, Ireland's lively capital. Enjoy lunch on your own, then embark the deluxe EXPLORIS ONE this afternoon and savor dinner on board. (D)

Cobh

Day 3

Begin in picturesque Cobh, which was the main Irish port for ships to America in the late 1800s and early 20th century. The Titanic made its last port of call here before sailing across the Atlantic Ocean. Choose from three included activities. The first features a walking tour

of Cobh, lunch and a visit to Blarney Castle and Gardens. The second option takes you to colorful Kinsale, Ireland's "gourmet capital," where you'll visit a modern meadery that crafts this ancient, honey-based drink, and relish a delicious lunch. Your final option includes a tour of the herb garden at the Ballymaloe Cookery School, lunch at charming Ballymaloe House and a whiskey tasting at a distillery. Tonight, gather for the Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Bantry Bay

Day 4

Arrive in Bantry Bay, a stunning harbor town in County Cork near the Wild Atlantic Way. Select from three included excursions with lunch—a tour of the delightful

gardens on Garinish Island and Beara Peninsula's wild grandeur; an excursion to the elegant, bayside Bantry House and Gardens; or a walking tour amid the rolling West Cork countryside. (B,L,D)

Skellig Michael/ Dingle Peninsula

Day 5

Cruise by the Skellig Islands off the coast of Kerry to behold the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Skellig Michael, an ancient Celtic site and the setting of many modern films. Atop this awe-inspiring rock lies St. Fionan's Monastery, where monks lived, prayed, and slept in *clocháin*, beehive-shaped, medieval stone huts. Cruise later to Dingle Peninsula, and take in dazzling coastal vistas and more *clocháin* on a ride along Sleah Head Drive. (B,L,D)

Galway

Day 6

Arrive in Galway and select from two included excursions. On the first choice, admire the Wild Atlantic Way's dramatic splendor at the Cliffs of Moher and The Burren. Enjoy a guided walk across The Burren's karstic landscape and watch waves crashing below you at the breathtaking cliffs that rise 702 feet above the ocean. Your other option takes you to



Cobh, County Cork



Inishmore



Giant's Causeway

Connemara's castles, including lovely Kylemore Abbey, with lunch, tea and scones on your countryside route. (B,L,D)

Kilronan, Inishmore

Day 7

Ruggedly beautiful Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands, has been inhabited since the Stone Age. On a guided tour, learn about everyday life on this striking island, where Gaelic is the first language. Head next to see *Dún Aonghasa*, the largest of the islands' prehistoric stone forts, perched on a cliff over the Atlantic Ocean. (B,L,D)

Portrush, Northern Ireland/Giant's Causeway

Day 8

Dock in Portrush for a tour of intriguing Giant's Causeway, a geological wonder and UNESCO World Heritage Site,

where more than 40,000 interlocking, basalt columns jut up along the shoreline like a miniature city of skyscrapers. While science tells us that these otherworldly stones were formed by ancient volcanic activity, legend has it that the giant Finn McCool placed them there to cross the water to fight a Scottish giant. Learn about their origin, see unique formations like Giant's Boot and the Wishing Chair, and delight in native seabirds and plants. (B,L,D)

Belfast

Day 9

Northern Ireland's vibrant capital is renowned for its impressive Titanic Belfast museum on the site where the famous vessel was designed, constructed and launched. At the engrossing "Titanic Experience," delve into the full story of the Titanic and

Belfast's shipbuilding heritage. Later, see Belfast's highlights, including City Hall and the Botanic Gardens, and visit the Shankill and Falls Roads area, the site of brutal sectarian violence during "The Troubles," from the late 1960s to 1998. View bold, vivid murals commemorating individuals and events on both sides of the conflict, and get in-depth and personal insights about this turbulent period from your driver on a Belfast Black Taxi tour. Join the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner tonight. (B,L,R,D)

Dublin, Ireland/Return to Home City

Day 10

After breakfast, disembark and begin the County Kilkenny Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Kylemore Abbey, Galway



EXPLORIS ONE This sleekly appointed and intimate small ship can navigate and dock within smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships. Each of the 72 suites and staterooms (up to 728 square feet) features a stunning ocean view, and most include a private balcony. All accommodations in your private haven at sea offer a queen-sized bed that can be separated into 2 twin beds, a private marble bathroom with shower, and luxury bath amenities. While cruising, unwind in the sauna, hammam, and outdoor Jacuzzis or book a rejuvenating massage. Complimentary alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access are available throughout the cruise. Included onboard meals feature delectable, sophisticated culinary experiences to rival your discoveries ashore.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: May 21 to 30 (Embarkation: May 22 at 3:00 p.m.)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through April 21, 2024	Rates after April 21, 2024
Premium Stateroom	Stateroom with two portholes featuring bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 3</i>	\$6,385	\$7,095
Ocean Stateroom	Stateroom with picture window featuring bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 3</i>	\$7,105	\$7,895
Superior Stateroom	Stateroom with picture window featuring bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 4</i>	\$7,555	\$8,395
Deluxe Stateroom	Stateroom with large picture window featuring bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 4</i>	\$8,005	\$8,895
Balcony Stateroom	Stateroom featuring a French balcony and a bathroom with shower. <i>Deck 5</i>	\$8,455	\$9,395
Navigator Suite	Suite with private balcony, a full-sized tub, and separate shower. <i>Deck 7</i>	\$9,175	\$10,195
Discovery Suite	One bedroom, living room with sitting area, two French balconies , and a full-sized tub and separate shower. <i>Deck 5</i>	\$10,075	\$11,195
Grand Suite	One bedroom, living room with sitting area, a private balcony with furniture , full-sized tub and separate shower, and a walk-in closet. <i>Deck 7</i>	\$10,795	\$11,995
Owner's Suite	One bedroom, living room with sitting area, a large private balcony with furniture , full-sized tub and separate shower, and a walk-in closet. <i>Deck 7</i>	\$12,595	\$13,995

Single Supplement waived for solo travelers wishing to reserve in categories Ocean and Premium Staterooms! This offer is limited capacity controlled. Once capacity is filled single price goes to 200% of the per person double price and are subject to availability.

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at time of booking for additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Port taxes are an additional \$500 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Travel Department at World Affairs Council of Philadelphia at 800-942-5004 or www.wacphila.org/travel

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PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

Dublin

May 18 to 22, 2024 (Tour Begins: May 19)

Kick off your adventure with a 3-night, pre-cruise extension in dynamic Dublin at the deluxe CONRAD DUBLIN, ideally located near St. Stephen's Green. Revel in the city's bustling streets and leafy parks on a panoramic tour. Stroll through Trinity College and view the exquisite, hand-illuminated, 9th-century Book of Kells. Admire Dublin Castle's 18th-century State Apartments used for ceremonial events and sip smooth whiskey at a distillery. You'll also head further afield to marvel at the superbly landscaped gardens of Powerscourt Estate in Wicklow and tour Russborough, a stately Georgian gem regarded as one of Ireland's most beautiful houses.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1,495**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$1,995**



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

County Kilkenny

May 30 to June 2, 2024 (Tour Ends: June 2)

Be charmed by tranquil countryside scenery, historic architecture and picturesque towns on this 3-night, post-cruise extension at the deluxe MOUNT JULIET ESTATE in Thomastown, County Kilkenny. Take in the atmospheric Rock of Cashel, once the stronghold of the Kings of Munster, and its medieval church ruins majestically set on a limestone outcrop. Tour grand Kilkenny Castle, filled with handsome period rooms, and enjoy free time in the scenic town of Kilkenny. You'll also delight in a private, guided visit to pastoral Jerpoint Park, home to the ruins of a 12th-century medieval town.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1,495**

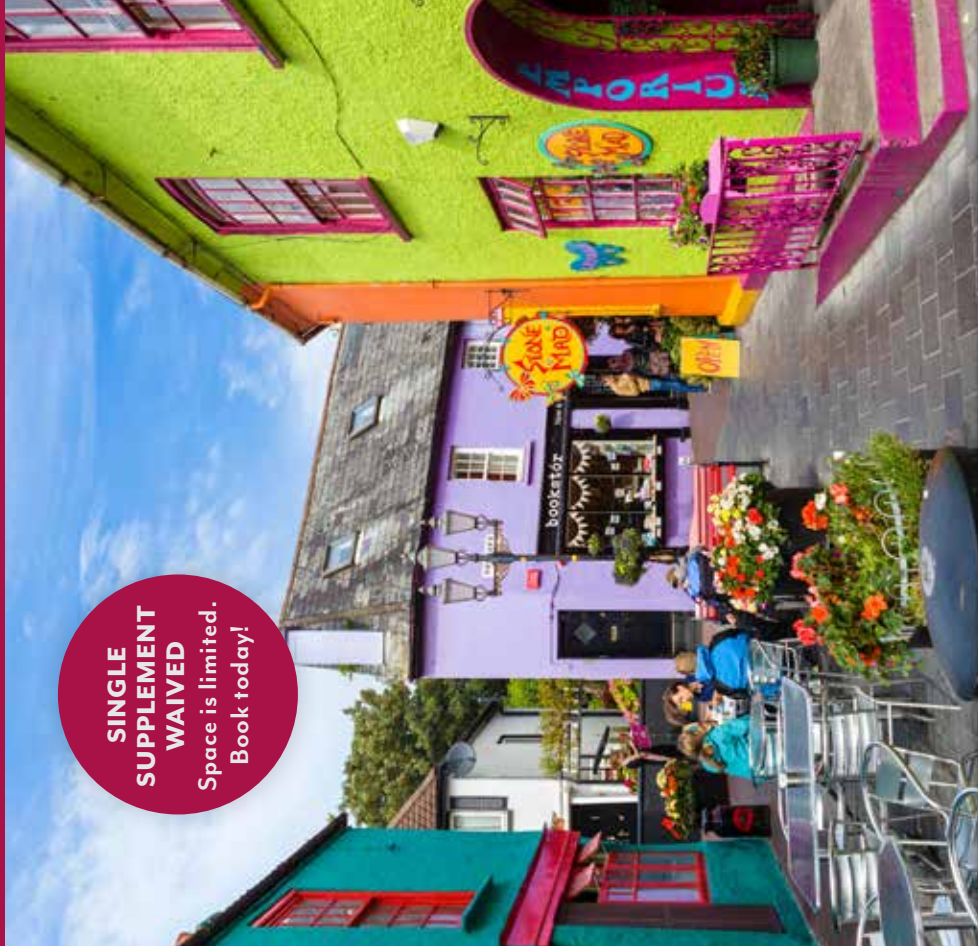
Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$1,995**

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

EXTENDED BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO \$2,800 PER COUPLE

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