

Portugal, France and the UK: Castles, Coastlines and Cuisine

Sail north through the rich cultural tapestry of Atlantic Europe on a journey from Portugal to Ireland, discovering regions deeply tied to the ocean through rich maritime heritage. Visit Porto, the birthplace of port wine; trace Celtic legacies from Brittany and Wales to the Isle of Man, the "Gem of the Irish Sea," and hike rugged coastlines that have long inspired artists and legends alike. Along the way, taste the local flavors of each land—fresh seafood, farm-fresh Cornish fare, Breton crêpes and more, each telling its own story of place and tradition.

From
£5,840 / per person
Does not include flights

DATES
Apr

DURATION
12 Days

SHIPS
National Geographic Explorer

STARTS AT
Porto, Portugal

→

ENDS AT
Dublin, Ireland

Highlights

- Follow a Celtic thread through Brittany, Cornwall and Wales, where shared traditions and maritime histories connect these culturally rich coastal regions
- Taste your way through the Atlantic, sampling port in Porto, seafood in Brittany and more
- Hike four iconic coastlines, from the windswept cliffs of Brittany and the wild headlands of Wales to Cornwall's estuaries and the Isle of Man's UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- Explore Porto's Ribeira district, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and Quimper's historic center








Isle of Man
Dublin
Holyhead
NETHERLA
BELGIUM
LUXEM
Falmouth
BRITTANY
Douarnenez
FRANCE
Villagarcía da Arousa
Porto
SPAIN
PORTUGAL
mapbox
© Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

Day by day

■ DAY 1

Porto, Portugal / Embark Ship

Arrive in Porto, a UNESCO World Heritage city. Enjoy time at leisure, exploring its hillside streets and sampling local flavors before embarking the ship this afternoon.

Meals included: dinner

◇ DAY 2

Porto

The birthplace of port wine, Porto straddles the Douro River, its dramatic landscape linked by elegant bridges and defined by centuries of architectural heritage. Admire the city's iconic *azulejo* tiles as you explore the hillside streets of the Ribeira district and take in sweeping views from its many scenic overlooks. Alternatively, venture beyond the city into the surrounding hills for a hike in Serra do Porto Park.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 3

Vilagarcía de Arousa, Spain

Anchor in Vilagarcía de Arousa, a coastal town on the shores of the Ría de Arousa, and spend the day learning about life along this productive estuary. Home to the Rías Baixas wine region and among the world's leading mussel-producing areas, the region offers a fascinating glimpse into Galicia's culinary traditions. Meet local farmers and producers to learn about the craft and care behind these celebrated products. Alternatively, travel to Santiago de Compostela and either walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago before entering the historic Cathedral Square or focus your visit on the cathedral itself, a destination that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries. Enjoy a traditional Galician tapas lunch before returning to the ship.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 4

At Sea

Spend a relaxing day at sea, sailing along the French coast as you enjoy the ship's amenities. Join your officers on the bridge to learn about navigating the dynamic Bay of Biscay, attend a naturalist presentation on the region or schedule a rejuvenating massage with your wellness specialist.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 5-6

Douarnenez, Brittany, France / Roscoff

Arrive in Brittany, where scenic coastal trails, quaint harbors and enduring maritime traditions showcase the region's seafaring character. With the ship docked in the picturesque harbor town of Douarnenez, delve into the history of sardine fishing in the area, indulge in the local gastronomy or opt for a coastal hike. Alternatively, head inland to the ancient Breton city of Quimper, where half-timbered houses, a magnificent Gothic cathedral and a renowned pottery tradition offer insight into the region's distinctive Breton culture.

Then, venture to the northern side of the Brittany peninsula. Known for its stunning coastline, granite houses and maritime traditions, Roscoff has long been linked to Cornwall through centuries of trade and seafaring connections. Spend time exploring this charming harbor town at your own pace, or venture to nearby Saint-Pol-de-Léon, a historic market town at the heart of France's famed Golden Belt agricultural region and the seat of a powerful

bishopric since the Middle Ages.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAYS 7-8

Falmouth, Cornwall, England, United Kingdom

Known for its deep natural harbor, Falmouth has been an important maritime hub since the 1600s. Watched over by historic Pendennis Castle at the mouth of the Fal Estuary, the region retains its regal charm while also earning recognition as both an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a Special Area of Conservation for its rich marine ecosystems. Explore the shores of this remarkable estuary by venturing upriver to visit historic gardens and a tea plantation, or climb the castle ramparts to learn about the harbor's defense through the centuries.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 9

Welsh Coastline

Sail north along the Welsh coastline, known for its rich natural beauty, layered history and shoreline of sheltered coves and rugged headlands along the Irish Sea. Today unfolds at a slower pace, with expedition activities taking center stage. Enjoy opportunities for Zodiac cruising, coastal hikes or kayaking as you explore this remarkable stretch of coast.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 10

Holyhead

Arrive in Wales, home to more castles per square mile than any other country in the world. Choose to explore some of the impressive fortresses that form the Iron Ring, the chain of castles built by King Edward I to consolidate his rule over the region. Alternatively, stay on the Isle of Anglesey and walk the Coastal Path—part of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty—alongside a member of the local mountain rescue team. Spot falcons, seals and springtime wildflowers as you pass through a mixture of farmland, coastal heath, dunes and more.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

◇ DAY 11

Isle of Man, British Crown Dependency

Landing on the Isle of Man, often called the Gem of the Irish Sea, provides a fitting connection to the Celtic heritage encountered throughout the voyage. The entire island is designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in recognition of its unique environment and sustainable economy. Home to the world's oldest continuous parliament and a people deeply rooted in Celtic tradition, the Isle of Man offers opportunities to connect with its rich history, dramatic landscapes and vibrant local culture, shaped by a strong tradition of coastal stewardship.

Meals included: breakfast, lunch, dinner

■ DAY 12

Dublin, Ireland / Disembark Ship

Disembark in Dublin after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals included: breakfast

Expedition

Porto, Portugal → Dublin, Ireland

2028 DEPARTURE DATES

Aboard *National Geographic Explorer*

17 Apr				



National Geographic Explorer

GUESTS	CABINS
148	81

Built to handle deep swells and towering waves, the *National Geographic Explorer* lends herself to globe-spanning travel and a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

Originally constructed for service along Norway's coast as part of the famed Hurtigruten, or Coastal Express, she ferried passengers among the fjords of this iconic coast in conditions that could deteriorate into heavy seas in a matter of minutes. She had to be able to handle deep swells and towering waves—and have a high degree of maneuverability. Those traits, and an ideal size, made her a natural choice for addition to the Lindblad fleet.

The plans to completely rebuild her drew on 50 years of pioneering expedition history and expertise. *National Geographic Explorer* was equipped with an ice-strengthened hull and advanced navigation equipment for polar expeditions; a roster of tools for exploration; and a well-appointed interior with vast expanses of glass for an unprecedented connection to the environment. Her interior and exterior design embodied the Lindblad expedition ethos—the privilege of wildness and the luxury of comfort.

For many guests she remains their paradigm of an expedition ship. She is devoted to exploration—from her Welcoming Bridge, and the Chart Room below it where you can tuck in to warm up with a hot chocolate, to her high-perched Observation deck with its aqueous light and compelling 24/7 views. Even the art on the walls— from the Hurley prints of Shackleton's expedition to the stunning National Geographic photos— tells an uber- narrative of globe-spanning travel and a dedication to curiosity and wonder.

National Geographic Explorer is a state-of-the-art expedition ship. She is a fully stabilized, ice-class vessel, with an ice-reinforced hull, enabling her to navigate polar passages while providing exceptional comfort.







Cabin Categories

Category 1

MAIN DECK **#301-308**

Cabins feature one or two portholes. Most cabins feature two single beds that can be converted to a queen. Cabins #301-306 feature one queen-sized bed. All cabins feature a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV.



Category 2

MAIN DECK **#317-320, 335-336**

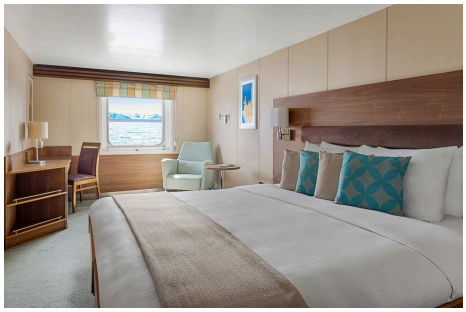
Cabins feature two single beds (some can convert to a queen-sized bed), and one large window. They offer a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, sitting chair, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV.



Category 3

MAIN DECK **#313-316, 321-328, 337-340, 342, 344, 348, 350**

Cabins feature two single beds (some can convert to a queen-sized bed), one large window, and two sitting chairs and a small table and ample storage. They have a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, well-appointed bathrooms with a roomy glass-wall shower, and a TV. Cabins 341 & 343 have a sofa bed for a triple.



Category 4



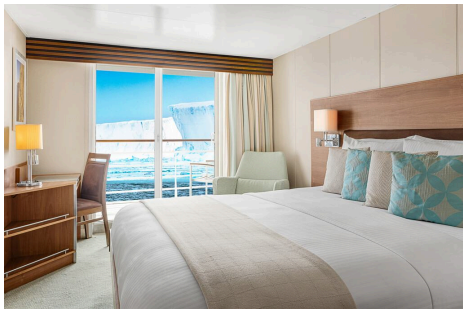
UPPER DECK **#201-202, 204-207, 210, 212, 217, 226, 228**

Cabins feature two single beds and at least one large window. All cabins can convert between two single beds to a queen, except Cabins 217, 226 and 228, which feature one queen- size bed only. All cabins feature climate controls, sitting chairs and a TV. Bathrooms are also generously sized with a roomy, glass-walled shower stall.

VERANDA DECK **#103-104, 107-108**

Cabins feature two single beds that can convert into a queen. They have a writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, sitting chair, private bathrooms with a glass-wall shower, and a TV.

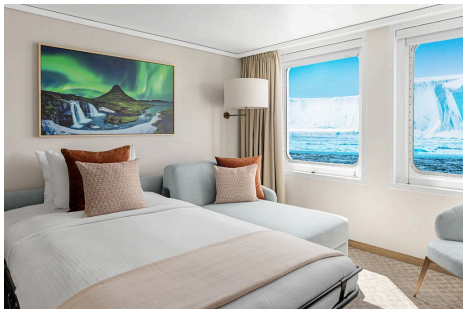
Category 5



UPPER DECK **#209, 211, 214, 216, 218, 220-222, 224**

Cabins feature a balcony with sliding glass doors, one queen-sized bed, writing desk, floor length mirror, reading lamps, private bathrooms with a glass-wall shower, and a TV. (Cabin 221 has two single beds that can convert to a queen.)

Category 6



UPPER DECK **#213**

This spacious cabin has a private balcony, two single beds that can be converted into a queen, a writing desk, double closet, bookcase, pull-out sofa, armchairs, two large windows and a TV. The sleeping area has a glass partition separating the living room. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.

VERANDA DECK **#101-102**

These spacious cabins can be converted into triples. They have two single beds that can be converted into a queen, a writing desk, double closet, bookcase, sofa-bed, chairs, two large windows and a TV. The sleeping area can be closed off with the glass partition. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.

Category 7

UPPER DECK **#215, 219, 230**

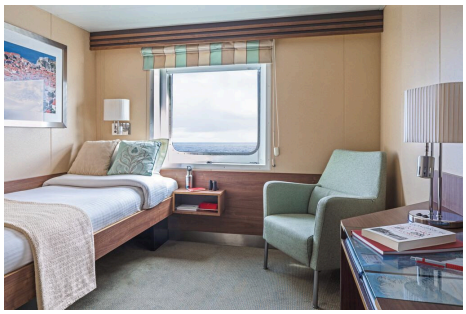
These large cabins with private balconies have two single beds that can convert to an Olympic-sized queen. They have seating areas with a sofa-bed and can be converted to triples. Cabins also include a desk with chairs, coffee table with sitting chair, and a small table. Bathrooms are generously sized with a roomy glass-walled shower stall and twin sinks.



Category A Solo

MAIN DECK **#309-311, 329-334**

These cabins feature one single bed and a large window, a writing desk, reading lamp, bathroom with a roomy glass-wall shower stall, and a TV.



Category B Solo

UPPER DECK **#203, 208**

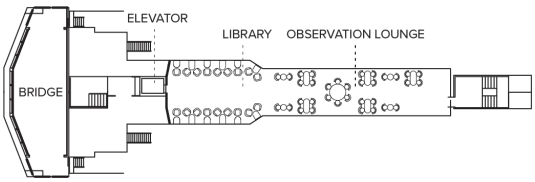
VERANDA DECK **#105-106**

These cabins feature one single bed and a large window, a writing desk, reading lamp, bathroom with a roomy glass-wall shower stall, and a TV.

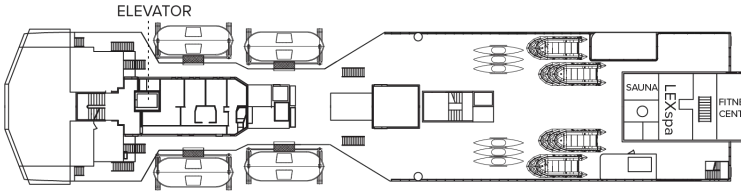


Deck Plans

Bridge Deck

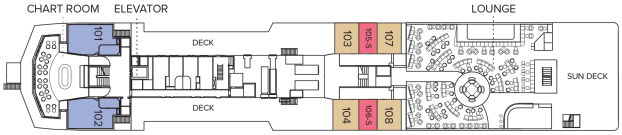


Wellness Deck



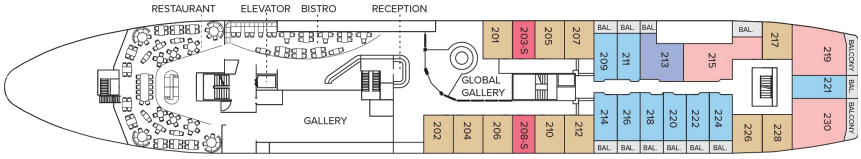
Veranda Deck

- Category 4
- Category 6
- Category B Solo



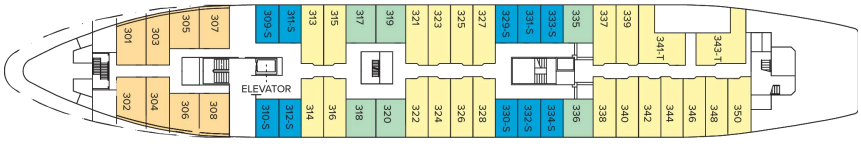
Upper Deck

- Category 4
- Category 5
- Category 6
- Category 7
- Category B Solo

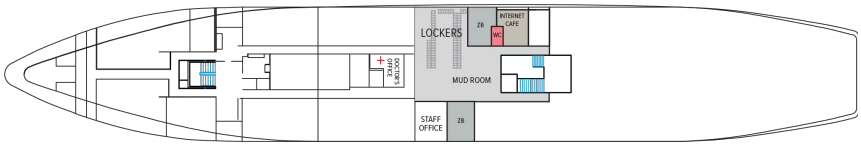


Main Deck

- Category 1
- Category 2
- Category 3
- Category 2 Solo



B Deck



Ship Amenities

Public Areas

Reception; three dining areas; global gallery; library, OM System photo locker; 24-hour Bistro area beverage bar; lounge with bar and state-of-the-art presentation facilities; observation lounge; mudroom with lockers for expedition gear; plus open access to the Bridge, the Captain, officers and on-duty wildlife spotters.

Meals

Meals are served in the dining room, Bistro bar or the Observation lounge, at a single seating with unassigned tables for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. Menus feature sustainable choices, local where possible.

Cabins

81 outside cabins. All cabins face outside with windows or portholes, private bathroom and climate controls. Cabins are equipped with Wi-Fi, multiple electrical outlets, USB outlets, full length mirror and phones. TV featuring entertainment on demand, live feed for onboard presentations, bow camera and ship's position. Luxury bed linens and pillows. Botanically inspired shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and lotion are all available in cabin bathrooms, as well as an Expedition Essential Kit. Hair dryers, complimentary insulated water bottles and a National Geographic Atlas are available in each cabin.

Expedition Equipment

Zodiac landing craft, a fleet of double kayaks, a crow's nest camera, a hydrophone, underwater video cameras, video microscope and an ROV. Plus, for South Pacific voyages: snorkeling gear for all guests, scuba gear for a number of pre-qualified guests, stand-up paddleboards, glass-bottom Zodiac and splash-cam.

Special Features

A full-time doctor, undersea specialist, National Geographic photographer and National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions certified photo instructor, internet café and laundry. Enjoy a session in the topside library with a good book.



Wellness

A glass-enclosed fitness center, outdoor stretching area, a LEXspa treatment room and sauna, staffed by wellness specialists.

Self-Disinfecting Ships

ACT Clean CoatTM is a light-activated, self-disinfecting cleaning process that continuously breaks down viruses, bacteria, mold, and airborne allergens across all ship surfaces. Not only does this create a cleaner, healthier shipboard environment for guests and crew alike, but this non-toxic, chemical-free system also saves more than one million gallons of water each year in our cleaning procedures, and reduces our carbon footprint as well as the amount of plastic and waste in our supply chain.

Special Offers

10% OFF BACK-TO-BACK VOYAGES

Save 10% on consecutive departures, applicable on voyage fares only and not valid on extensions or airfare. Valid for new bookings only, subject to availability, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

COMBINING OFFERS

Certain offers may be combinable, up to two savings opportunities, except where noted otherwise. For example, travel with a group of 8 or more on back-to-back expeditions, and take advantage of both savings.

CELEBRATE LIFE'S MILESTONES

Celebrate a milestone with a group of eight or more and enjoy a special amenity package including: 5% savings on voyage fares, custom group photo, US$150 shipboard credit for the group, and other special gifts. Milestone celebration to be communicated at time of booking.

SAVE 5% TRAVELING AS A GROUP

Save 5% when traveling as a group of 8 or more people. Valid for new bookings only on select departures, subject to availability, not applicable on extensions, and may not be combined with other offers. Call for details.

TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN

We strongly recommend our guests to take advantage of our Travel Protection Plan. This plan offers comprehensive coverage to protect you from cancellation fees, costs incurred due to trip delays/interruption, damage or loss of baggage, medical assistance, and evacuation during your travels. Our Travel Protection Plan is available for U.S. residents only, and may be purchased any time prior to final payment due date, Travel Protection premiums are non- refundable once plan is purchased. Learn more about our Travel Protection "Plus" Plan: https://www.expeditions.com/terms-conditions/travel-protection-plan/

CANCELLATION POLICY

Review our cancellation policy: https://www.expeditions.com/cancellation-policy/