Gardens of the British Isles

LONDON TO GLASGOW

Aboard the Deluxe Le Dumont-d'Urville
May 20 - 29, 2024
Dear Travelers,

Join fellow Chicago Botanic Garden members and other like-minded travelers on an unforgettable journey to the British Isles in May 2024, aboard the beautifully appointed small ship, Le Dumont-d’Urville.

The British Isles in springtime, along with Ireland, are among the most lovely, verdant places on Earth; and this voyage is carefully designed to showcase the very best they have to offer.

From London, we sail through the English Channel, rounding the westernmost tip of Cornwall, before entering the Irish Sea to call in Ireland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, before spending our final day in the Scottish Hebrides. But it is the remarkable gardens we visit in nearly every port that make this voyage a true horticulturalist’s dream. Visit the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world at Kew Gardens, the relatively new Ventnor Botanic Garden on the Isle of Wight, and Tresco Abbey on the Isles of Scilly. Hillside Gardens in Cork, the National Trust’s Bodnant Garden in Wales, and their Mount Stewart House and Gardens just outside Belfast—these are the gardens and parks we will explore during the height of the spring bloom in late May.

This voyage is truly a horticulturalist’s dream. Join Chicago Botanic Garden and fellow garden enthusiasts on this colorful and lush adventure!
OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

Highlights of the Scottish Highlands | May 29 - 31, 2024

The Scottish Highlands encompass some of the most romantic and storied landscapes in the world. Famous for their rugged beauty, they are also home to a vigorous Gaelic pride and served as the site of many battles in the struggle for autonomy from England. This program provides an introduction to all of these aspects of Highland culture, as well as a tasting of local whisky, without which any visit to the region is incomplete.

Begin with a panoramic tour of Glasgow before heading north through the beautiful scenery of Trossachs National Park and reaching Loch Lomond, the largest freshwater lake in Britain. Pause in Glencoe, a small village situated in a steep-sided valley known for its waterfalls and impressive mountain peaks, as well as Great Glen, Ben Nevis, and Fort Augustus, known for its location on the southern tip of Loch Ness. Enjoy a second day exploring the Highlands with visits to the Battlefield of Culloden and Glen Ord Distillery, ending with a walking tour and time at leisure in Inverness.

$1,440 per person, double occupancy
$2,160 per person, single occupancy
Monday, May 20, 2024
LONDON, ENGLAND
Arrive in London, where you will be met at the airport and transferred to the Great Scotland Hotel. Gather with other travelers for a welcome cocktail reception. (R)

Tuesday, May 21
LONDON | EMBARK
After breakfast at the hotel, travel a few miles up the Thames River to Kew Gardens, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world’s leading botanical research institutions. Enjoy a guided tour, a talk with a horticulturalist, and free time to explore this marvelous collection, before transferring to the pier in the late afternoon to embark Le Dumont-d’Urville and set sail. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 22
DOVER
Arrive in Dover midday and head to Sissinghurst Castle and Gardens; experience 10 different gardens, separated by walls and hedges, which contain many unusual plants and flowers. Explore this retreat at your own pace, and enjoy a traditional cream tea before returning to Dover to rejoin the ship. (B,L,D)

Thursday, May 23
COWES
From the port of Cowes on the Isle of Wight, drive to Ventnor Botanic Garden. The garden is located in the heart of the “Undercliff,” and protected by chalk downs where a Mediterranean climate allows for the cultivation of a variety of plants. A gardener will introduce and guide you through the garden before letting you explore on your own. (B,L,D)

Friday, May 24
ISLES OF SCILLY
The Isles of Scilly, located off the southwest coast of Cornwall, are a cluster of islands specially designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Walk to the world-class Tresco Abbey Gardens, where due to the mild winter climate, long hours of summer sunshine, and high walls and hedges, you will see exotic plants from the world over. (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 25
KINSALE, IRELAND
One of Ireland’s most beautiful villages, picturesque Kinsale is also a gateway to Cork and Hillside Gardens, a sprawling estate with a view overlooking Cork Harbor and the Lee Estuary. The garden’s owner will lead you on a tour of acres of woodland, hazel, and holly, planted with rhododendrons, azaleas, and camellias, as well as beds filled with celmisia, salvias, irises, gentians, and phloxes. (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 26
HOLYHEAD, WALES
Enjoy a scenic drive across the Isle of Anglesey, over the Menai Strait to the mainland of North Wales, and along the coast to the village of Conwy, home to world-class Bodnant Garden. When you visit in May, the flowers of spring—daffodils, camellias, and magnolias—will be in full bloom, while the rose beds, lily ponds, and wildflower meadows of summer will just barely make their presence known. (B,L,D)

Monday, May 27
BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND
Travel to Strangford Lough and visit Mount Stewart House and Gardens, built in the early 19th century by Lord Castlereagh. The gardens, ranked in the world’s top ten, are a mix of formal and informal spaces with many beautiful vistas featuring plants from across the world. Later, explore Belfast at your leisure. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 28
IONA AND TOBERMORY, HEBRIDES, SCOTLAND
From the Isle of Iona, take a short ferry ride to the Isle of Mull, where you set off on a scenic drive to reach Lip na Cloiche Gardens. After exploring this comprehensive collection, continue to drive through charming scenery around the northern tip of the island to rejoin Le Dumont-d’Urville in Tobermory. (B,L,D)

Wednesday, May 29
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND | DISEMBARKATION
After breakfast on board, disembark for a morning tour, then transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Comprehensive 8-night cruise aboard Le Dumont-d’Urville.
- All accommodations are outside staterooms and suites and feature a private balcony.
- Overnight at a deluxe hotel and welcome cocktail reception in London.
- Shore excursions as described in the itinerary.
- All meals aboard ship including early riser’s coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner, and special sweets from Ladurée.
- French-inspired gourmet cuisine, with menu creation and chef training by Ducasse Conseil.
- Complimentary open bar aboard ship, including select wines served with lunch and dinner.
- Welcome cocktail reception aboard ship.
- 24-hour room service.
- Unlimited WiFi (as available via satellite).
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage if arriving on first and last day of itinerary.
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, porters, guides, and drivers.
- Port taxes and charges.
- Pre-departure materials.

Not included

Airfare; airport taxes; visa and passport fees and/or immigration reciprocity taxes; luggage, cancellation, medical, repatriation and accident insurance; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone; spa; and beverages other than those specified above.
The five-star Le Dumont-d’Urville is one in a series of six new luxury vessels commissioned by PONANT, making her maiden voyage in 2019. The state-of-the-art ship is equipped with the latest environmental preservation technology and combines PONANT’s understated elegance with a spirit of adventure. In keeping with our company philosophy, Le Dumont-d’Urville is a small-capacity ship—430 feet in length with just 92 staterooms and a crew of 110—and features Blue Eye, the world’s first multi-sensory underwater lounge.

FARES PER PERSON, DOUBLE & SINGLE OCCUPANCY

All accommodations aboard Le Dumont-d’Urville are outside staterooms and suites, and feature a private balcony. All cabins include a bedroom with either a king or two beds, mini-bar, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, WiFi access, TV with movies on demand, Bose Bluetooth speaker, and private bathroom with fine amenities.

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Single occupancy staterooms subject to availability. Contact PONANT at (877) 415-0407 for more information.
Compagnie du PONANT, PONANT Group USA, LLC, and PONANT USA, LLC are hereinafter collectively referred to as “PONANT GROUP” is the tour Operator/ Organizer of this cruise and has invited members of the Chicago Botanic Garden (Sponsor) to participate. Please carefully read this information as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms & Conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and PONANT GROUP and the tour’s sponsoring organization.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: To secure a booking, the guest is required to pay a 25% deposit. Final payment is due by February 20, 2024, or 90 days prior to departure. Final payment must be made in full by bank transfer or credit card.

CANCELLATION, MODIFICATION PENALTIES & REFUNDS: All cancellations or modifications must be in writing. Any and all guests not reporting for departure or prevented from reporting for departure or waiving for any reason whatsoever of the benefit of services included in the program cannot claim any refund. PONANT GROUP shall not be required to refund any monies to any guests who must leave the cruise prematurely for any reason, nor shall PONANT GROUP be held responsible for any costs, fees, damages or causes of action which result from the transportation expenses incurred by guest’s early departure. For any deposit or fully paid booking, cancellation penalties will be assessed as noted below. These cancellation penalties are applicable on all services booked with PONANT GROUP.

• From confirmation of booking date to February 19, 2024 (91 days prior to departure): 10% of full fare cancellation penalty
• From February 20 – March 20, 2024 (90-61 days prior departure): 50% of full fare cancellation penalty
• From March 21, 2024, until departure (within 60 days prior to departure): 100% of full fare cancellation penalty

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Passengers shall be responsible for subscribing to cancellation/luggage/assistance repatriation/medical insurances.

ITINERARY: PONANT GROUP reserves the right to withdraw and/or cancel a sailing to make changes in the itinerary whenever, in its sole judgment, or in the judgment of the vessel owner or operator, conditions warrant it.

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS/LIMIT OF LIABILITY: The passenger agrees that PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden acts as agents and/or trustees for any person, ground and maritime agents and subcontractors, who provide any service forming, or in connection with, any part of the cruise. Transportation services to the port of departure, transfers to the ship, including, as applicable, hotel room and restaurant bookings or guided tours, are performed by independent suppliers who are not employees of PONANT GROUP nor Chicago Botanic Garden. In this respect, PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden acts only as an agent and shall not be held liable for said services or for the acts or omissions of subcontractors or other contractors. PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden shall not be held liable for bodily injury to, or death of passengers, or for loss of, or damage to luggage or other personal belongings, unless it is proved that the carrier has infringed statutory obligations or that it or one of its employees or agents has committed gross negligence. However, in the event the liability of PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden is incurred, such liability is limited (details available upon request). PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden shall in any case not be liable for failure of an improper performance when the same is due to or caused by the fault of the passenger; the unforeseeable or unavoidable fault of a third party unconnected with the provision of any services to be provided under the contract, unusual and unforeseeable circumstances beyond the control of PONANT GROUP and Chicago Botanic Garden; an event of “Force Majeure” such as a war, threat of war, riots, civil commotion, acts of God, terrorist activities, natural and nuclear disaster, fire, technical problems with passenger’s personal portable electronic devices, or any other event beyond the control of PONANT GROUP or Chicago Botanic Garden.

RATES: The prices given at the time of booking are based on economic conditions known on July 25, 2023, and are subject to change. These conditions are, amongst others, the cost of transport and fuel, relevant duties, and taxes for the proposed operation (port taxes, embarkation and disembarkation taxes, entrance costs to tourist sites), currency exchange rates relevant to the pricing of these programs. PONANT GROUP reserves the right within the legal limits of applicable laws to vary the prices if necessary. All variation of the cost of transport, fuel, taxes, duties, and visa costs will be passed on within the voyage cost. Any change in fare cannot be imposed less than 60 days prior or March 21, 2024, to departure.

PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY: Report any physical conditions and dietary or treatment requirements to PONANT GROUP in writing at the time of booking. Special dietary or treatment requirements will be considered where possible. Any extra costs associated with special accommodation are the responsibility of the passenger. For limited mobility, wheelchair users, or conditions requiring assistance, inform PONANT GROUP in writing at the time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: All passengers are responsible for subscribing to a travel insurance policy that provides at least $1,000,000 in coverage for medical costs, hospitalization, medical evacuation, and repatriation. We recommend coverage for inclusion in your travel insurance policy. This policy is a requirement (in most cases) in order to secure your reservation and is mandatory. Travelers who do not provide proof of satisfactory travel insurance coverage will be denied boarding and are subject to penalties. Third parties in the event of illness, injury, or loss of personal belongings must be covered by an insurance policy as a condition of this contract and in accordance with the provisions of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission Travel Watchdog guidelines. No limit is placed on traveler’s personal liability.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We, the operator, are not jointly responsible and are not otherwise connected with any other carrier or administrative entity. We do not assume responsibility or liability for acts or omissions of any third party unconnected with the operation of the cruise. We do not assume responsibility or liability for acts or omissions of any third party unconnected with the operation of the cruise. We do not assume responsibility or liability for acts or omissions of any third party unconnected with the operation of the cruise. We do not assume responsibility or liability for acts or omissions of any third party unconnected with the operation of the cruise.

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GARDENS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

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For reservations or information, please call
(877) 415-0407 • chicagobotanic.org