CELTIC CLASSICS ON THE IRISH SEA
ABOARD SEA CLOUD II
with Catherine McKenna
Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures
August 8–16, 2020
The coastlines of the Irish Sea are dotted with ports that lead to extraordinary homes and castles, sprawling estates where nobles and landed gentry have resided for centuries. On a one-week voyage, sail aboard Sea Cloud II to charming towns in Ireland, Northern Ireland, Wales, and the archaeologically rich isles of Arran and Man. Be welcomed to private ancestral homes surrounded by flower-filled terraces, manicured lawns, and miles-long trails that meander around colorful gardens, gleaming ponds, and stoic woodlands. Spend time with the esteemed owners who maintain these country houses, and admire their museum-quality collections of art and artifacts on private tours.

From medieval Brodick Castle on the Isle of Arran to the 19th-century estate of Bodnant in Wales, gain an exclusive glimpse into bygone eras of aristocratic luxury. Go inside homes that are not mere relics of the distant past but living, evolving sites where owners continue legacies with innovative landscaping and horticulture. An optional prelude in lively Dublin will offer opportunities to explore the Irish capital’s museums and historic sites.

Activity Level 3: 

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is an active program that involves extensive walking and standing during visits to museums and historic sites. Please note that Sea Cloud II does not have an elevator. We suggest that you bring a raincoat or umbrella, hat, sunblock, insect repellent, and warmer layers for evenings when the temperatures drop. For welcome and farewell dinners, jacket and tie are customary for gentlemen, with comparable evening attire for ladies. Smart casual attire is suggested for dinners aboard Sea Cloud II.

TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL

Study Leader

Catherine McKenna is Harvard’s Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures, specializing in the literature and legends of the Celtic-speaking peoples of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Brittany, and Cornwall. She has studied and taught the history and culture of the Gaelic and British worlds throughout all these periods. Prior to coming to Harvard, she spent 15 years as director of an undergraduate and graduate program in Irish studies in New York, and is currently working on a book on the cult of Saint Brigit of Ireland from its origins in the 6th century to the present day. She received her PhD from the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard.
Schedule by Day

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T=Tea, D=Dinner

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Departure
Depart for Dublin on an overnight flight.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
Dublin, Ireland
Arrive in the Irish capital and take a tour of the city’s architectural landmarks before boarding Sea Cloud II. Enjoy a glass of champagne on deck as we sail out of the harbor. L,D

MONDAY, AUGUST 10
Belfast, Northern Ireland
On a tour of revitalized Belfast, admire its rich Victorian and Edwardian architecture and see the city’s famous peace walls and vivid murals. Continue to the impressive Titanic Museum. Enjoy lunch during a visit to Ballywalter Park, a spectacular 19th-century mansion. See the conservatory, with an opulent cast-iron dome, and formal Victorian gardens. Tour the house and the surrounding landscapes with the owners, followed by tea. Return to Belfast in the late afternoon. This evening, join the captain for a festive welcome dinner. B,L,T,D

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11
Brodick, Isle of Arran, UK
Be on deck this morning as the ship sails into the Firth of Clyde and anchors at Brodick, the largest village on the Isle of Arran. The island’s rich heritage dates back to the Stone Age, with standing stones and circles in Machrie Moor. Evidence of Arran’s history of feuds, battles, and complex politics can be found at Brodick Castle, the seat of the Dukes of Hamilton. Travel north to Lochranza, passing stunning hills and mountains before arriving at the Isle of Arran Distillers, one of the few remaining independent distillers of single malt whisky on the island. Sip a relaxing dram while enjoying views of Brodick Bay and Goatfell Mountain. Return to the ship for lunch, followed by an afternoon lecture as the ship sails south along the Irish Sea. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12
Douglas, Isle of Man, UK
This morning, call at Douglas on the Isle of Man. Learn about the town’s Victorian history and architecture on a walking tour along the North Quay and its grand promenade. View the Jubilee Clock and Tynwald, the Isle of Man’s parliament. Journey through the island’s vibrant history with a visit to the Manx Museum, which houses everything from Viking treasures to 20th-century art and artifacts. In the afternoon, head inland to the ruined castle of Peel to discover its Celtic, Viking, and maritime past. Railway buffs can climb aboard a steam train for the scenic trip to Castletown. B,L,D
decorations, corbels carved as human heads, and striking checkerboard stonework bear testament to the wealth and status of this medieval order of bishops. Admire the cathedral’s impressive great hall and the fantastic wheel in the east gable. Or opt to visit medieval Pembroke Castle. Sea Cloud II sails at lunchtime. Attend a lecture at teatime. Join the captain for a festive farewell dinner tonight.                B,L,D

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15
Fishguard, Wales
From the port of Fishguard, visit evocative St. Davids Cathedral. Lavish estate’s owners will guide us through their personal collections. Alternatively, enjoy an afternoon visit to Gwydir Castle, an ancient Welsh house situated in the beautiful Conwy Valley and regarded as one of the finest Tudor houses in Wales. Its restoration has taken over 20 years to complete and is still underway by its current owners. Return to Sea Cloud II before dinner tonight.  B,L,D

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16
Dublin/ Return
Disembark Sea Cloud II and transfer to the airport for flights home.                                B

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13
Day at Sea
Spend a day at sea, enjoying the amenities of Sea Cloud II as she sails for Holyhead.  B,L,D

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14
Holyhead, Wales, UK
From Holyhead, travel overland to Lord Aberconway’s home and gardens at Bodnant, considered one of the finest Edwardian naturalistic gardens in the world. After lunch, continue to Plas Newydd, a National Trust property with period furnishings and lovely gardens. By special arrangement, the estate’s owners will guide us through their personal collections. Alternatively, enjoy an afternoon visit to Gwydir Castle, an ancient Welsh house situated in the beautiful Conwy Valley and regarded as one of the finest Tudor houses in Wales. Its restoration has taken over 20 years to complete and is still underway by its current owners. Return to Sea Cloud II before dinner tonight.  B,L,D

Dublin Prelude
AUGUST 6–9, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6
Depart on a flight to Dublin, Ireland.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7
Arrive in Dublin this morning and transfer to the elegant and centrally located Merrion Hotel. Lunch is at leisure, followed by a visit to the National Gallery to view its collection of British and Dutch paintings. This evening, gather for a welcome cocktail reception.  R

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Begin the day with a visit to the Old Library at Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, the collection of illuminated manuscripts that is one of Ireland’s greatest treasures. Continue with a visit to St. Patrick’s Cathedral. After lunch at the Old Storehouse Temple Bar, stroll through Inveragh Gardens. At the Chester Beatty Library, see the remarkable collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, rare books, and drawings from around the world. The remainder of the day is at leisure for individual pursuits. You may wish to attend a performance at the famed Abbey Theatre.  B,L

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9
This morning, take a scenic drive with views of the rugged coastline, and visit the monastic ruins at Glendalough. Continue to County Wicklow to visit Powerscourt House & Gardens. Take a garden tour with one of the estate’s gardeners, and enjoy breathtaking vistas of Sugar Loaf, Pepper Pot Tower, and the terraces rolling down to the formal gardens. Afterwards, join the main program participants for lunch before transferring to Sea Cloud II this afternoon for embarkation.  B,L

Additional details and pricing for the optional extension will be sent to confirmed participants.
Ship Details

Sea Cloud II is a three-masted sailing yacht steeped in the elegance of yesteryear and complemented with the most modern amenities. Sister ship of the legendary Sea Cloud, Sea Cloud II has 47 outside cabins and travels under 23 billowing sails trimmed by hand. From the mahogany-paneled library and gracious lounge to the fitness area and watersports platform, no detail has been overlooked. Praised by the world’s most discerning travelers, Sea Cloud II receives consistent high rankings from Condé Nast Traveler. Passengers enjoy open seating at all meals and complimentary use of all water sports equipment. A doctor is on call 24 hours a day. Please note: there is no elevator on Sea Cloud II.

Rates Per Person

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<td>204–206</td>
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<td>401 &amp; 402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lido Deck. Owner’s Suites. Queen-size bed, bathtub and separate shower.</td>
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Onboard dining (top) and a Junior Suite (above)
TOUR COST INCLUSIONS
Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard Sea Cloud II; meals as indicated in the itinerary; bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; carefully selected wine and beer with lunches and dinners; complimentary open bar throughout the cruise; airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights; enrichment program of lectures and special events; escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits; customary shipboard gratuities; taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance (to nearest hospital).

NOT INCLUDED IN COST
Airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; optional Dublin prelude; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS & FINAL PAYMENT
To reserve your space on this program, a $1,000 deposit per person is required. Please either call us at 800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Your final payment is due 120 days before departure.

AIRFARE The tour operator will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including suggested flights or individual requests for a processing fee of $40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your welcome packet.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS All cancellations must be made in writing to Harvard Alumni Travels and are subject to a $500 nonrefundable administrative fee. Cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure will be charged a fee in the amount of 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation occurring after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Harvard Alumni Travels and the tour operator. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfare, and currency exchange rates in effect at the time of brochure printing and are subject to change. While the tour operator will do everything possible to maintain the published trip price, it may be necessary to institute a surcharge.

INSURANCE We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. A brochure for insurance will be provided upon confirmation.

Trip Sampling

**LAND & RAIL**

**Journey in Greece for Students & Alumni**
MAR 10–19, 2020
Keith Stone

**Tanzania Migration Safari**
MAR 6–16, 2020
Joseph Henrich

**HMSC Colombia: From Bogota to Cartagena**
MAR 12–23, 2020
Jeffrey Quilter

**Detroit, The Motor City: Then & Now**
JULY 4–8, 2020
Alice DeLana

**Symphony of the Senses (Heart of Italy)**
JUN 1–6, 2020
Lisa M. Wong & Lynn Chang

**The Holy Land: Israel & Palestine**
SEP 6–16, 2020
Peter Machinist

**HMSC Silk Road Odyssey: The Five ‘Stans**
JUL 29–Aug 8, 2020
Alexandra Vacroux

**Kumano Kodo: The Sacred Sites & Pilgrimage Routes of The Kii Mountains of Japan**
NOV 6–14, 2020

**CRUISES**

**Mediterranean Masterpieces: Cadiz to Nice on Sea Cloud II**
APR 16–25, 2020
Joseph A. Greene

**Crossroads of Cultures: Canary Islands, Morocco, & Iberia on Sea Cloud II**
APR 17–30, 2020
Susan G. Miller

**Sailing Ancient Trade Routes: Helsinki to Copenhagen on Sea Cloud II**
JUN 27–JUL 9, 2020
Timothy Colton

**Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Catania on Sea Cloud II**
OCT 4–12, 2020
Lino Pertile

**Sicily by Sail: Catania to Naples on Sea Cloud II**
OCT 11–19, 2020
Diana Sorensen

**Elbe River Cruise on Elbe Princesse II**
MAR 31–APR 11, 2020
Thomas F. Kelly

**The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma on La Venezia**
MAY 9–17, 2020
Joyce Chaplin

**Great Journey Through Europe: The Rhine River & Switzerland**
JUL 17–27, 2020
Christie McDonald

**Iconic Christmas Markets: Vienna to Nuremberg on AmaViola**
DEC 6–14, 2020

**RIVERS & LAKES**

**Elbe River Cruise on Elbe Princesse II**
MAR 31–APR 11, 2020
Thomas F. Kelly

**Tanzania Migration Safari**
MAR 6–16, 2020
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NOV 6–14, 2020

**FAMILY ADVENTURES**

**Egypt & the Nile: A Journey into Antiquity on Sanctuary Sunboat III**
DEC 26, 2020–JAN 6, 2021
Jay Ellison

**Egypt & the Nile (A Family Adventure) on Sanctuary Nile Adventurer**
DEC 27, 2019–JAN 5, 2020
Noel Michele Holbrook

**Greece Family Odyssey: The Peloponnese on Running On Waves**
JUN 18–27, 2020
James Simpson