IN THE WAKE OF THE VIKINGS

SCOTLAND • NORWAY • DENMARK

WITH DANIEL DONOGHUE, JOHN P. MARQUAND PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

June 8–16, 2016
HARVARD STUDY LEADER

Daniel Donoghue is the John P. Marquand Professor of English at Harvard University. He joined the faculty in 1986 after receiving a Ph.D. in medieval studies from Yale University. He recently was awarded a distinguished teaching prize by Harvard’s chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, and an “Excellence in Teaching Award” by the Harvard Extension School. Most of his published work concerns medieval literature, such as his student’s edition of Seamus Heaney’s translation of Beowulf (Norton Critical Editions 2002) and Old English Literature: A Short Introduction (Blackwell 2004). His intellectual and teaching interests include the literature of Iceland and Ireland, and extend to many cultural topics from the Middle Ages and beyond. For example, his 2003 book Lady Godiva: A Literary History of the Legend traces the genesis and reception of the famous story that has become attached to Godiva’s name. He has recently been named editor of a Harvard University Press series that will publish facing-page translations of many medieval classics. Daniel enjoys traveling with his wife, Ann Cawley Donoghue, and (when schedules allow it) with their children Nathaniel ’10, Kevin ’11, and Hannah ’14. He occasionally swings a tennis racket and enjoys outdoor activities like bicycling and backpacking. He looks forward to stimulating conversation and stunning scenery, as you retrace the sea lanes once traversed by Scandinavian knarrs and longships. His lecture topics will draw from the rich cultural and literary traditions of northwest Europe stretching from Scotland to Scandinavia. Shakespeare’s Macbeth may make a cameo.

LEGACY OF THE VIKINGS

During the ephemeral Viking Age, which prevailed almost 300 years between the 8th and 11th centuries, the Men of the North were cast as fierce barbarians who plundered their way across the known world. Viking depictions of Thor’s hammer and Odin’s ravens, symbols of their pagan gods, helped propagate, through oral traditions, their mythos as fearsome invaders in the world’s imagination for over a millennium. Yet hints of their legacy found in runic inscriptions offer a splendid pageant of history and show them as practical opportunists and traders with a heavy cultural emphasis on poetry, artistry and technology. Vikings were extraordinary mariners, setting their longships out to crisscross half the world, vastly extending its known boundaries, and founding new colonies as far west as North America, as far south as North Africa and as far east as the Caspian Sea. They created a network of merchants and trade that linked directly to the Hanseatic League in Bergen, which contributed greatly to the development of the 15th-century economy on the Shetland and Orkney Islands. The Vikings’ many-sided achievements impressed themselves upon the non-Scandinavian world, and the complexity and nuances of their culture await your discovery across these remote, verdant, storied lands.

Scheduled guest speakers may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See the General Information section.
ACROSS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF SCOTLAND AND NORWAY LIES AN UNSURPASSED RICHNESS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE LEFT FROM THE AGE OF THE VIKINGS and before, where ancient stone monuments and castles present an enigmatic and imposing face to the world. Explore this fascinating land of ruins and castles, Viking and Celtic clans, old-world villages and the spectacular natural features of misty isles, wild glens, lochs and moors. Hear the Gaelic language, still spoken in the Scottish Highlands, where the history of the people who lived here for centuries emanates from the heather-covered hillsides. Experience these remote gems of the North Atlantic on a journey to the distant and mysterious islands along the idyllic seascapes and splendid coastlines of Scotland, Norway and Denmark.

This specially designed itinerary follows along the stepping stones of Nordic and Scottish civilizations during the best time of year, when the weather is mild and the days are long. The exclusively chartered, five-star small ship M.S. Le BORÉAL, featuring just 110 deluxe suites and staterooms and providing all the luxury and sophistication of a fine hotel, is the ideal small ship to navigate the course of this unique voyage.

Cruise from Glasgow to Copenhagen—two great cultural capitals—and visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites, several of the most seldom-visited islands of the North Atlantic and the incredible natural wonders of Scandinavia. Travel aboard The Jacobite steam train, better recognized as Harry Potter’s Hogwarts™ Express and “one of the great railway journeys of the world.” Tour the iconic 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle outside Kyle of Lochalsh, admire the natural beauty of the Shetland Islands with their remarkable links to the distant past, and learn more about Viking history on the tradition-steeped Orkney Islands. Traverse the ancient shipping lanes of the Vikings as you cross the North Sea to historic Bergen; and en route to Copenhagen, admire picturesque settlements dotting the lovely Norwegian coastline and its scenic archipelago.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 9

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
Arrive in Glasgow, a dynamic Scottish city where the indelible mark of Viking conquest still permeates the art and culture. Transfer to the ms Le Boreal and depart to the dulcet sounds of a traditional bagpiper.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS/OBAN/FORT WILLIAM/THE JACOBITE STEAM TRAIN/MALLAIG
Enjoy a full day’s journey through the lush, resplendent beauty of the legendary Scottish Highlands. From Oban, travel through the heart of the Highlands and see the picturesque Pass of Brander, Loch Awe with views of the striking Kilchurn Castle and Rannoch Moor, one of the last remaining wildernesses in Europe. Enjoy the splendor of majestic Glencoe, most of which is owned and preserved by the National Trust for Scotland, and continue along the verdant shores of Loch Linhe. After lunch in Fort William, board The Jacobite steam train—immortalized as the Hogwarts Express in the Harry Potter film series—for “one of the great railway journeys of the world” through awe-inspiring natural landscapes. Begin your train journey in the shadow of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles, and ride past Loch and River Morar to Mallaig near Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe. Along the way, stop at Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied Jacobite Highlanders against King George II in 1745.

This evening, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception. The ship will overnight in Mallaig.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

ISLE OF SKYE/KYLE OF LOCHALSH
Cruise the coastline of ethereal Isle of Skye, home to some of Scotland’s most phenomenal geography, and where the mist, shafts of sunlight and vivid rainbows congregate in a dazzling array of colors that seem to make the glens greener and the sea bluer. Visit Armadale Castle’s spectacular 17th-century gardens and learn about the powerful reign of Clan Donald, Lords of the Isles until 1493. Then cross the Skye Bridge to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit the 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle, named for a 6th-century Irish saint and one of the most iconic castles in the world.

This evening, Nick Card, the director and head archaeologist at the Ness of Brodgar archaeological site, will provide insights about this impressive ancient compound.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

KIRKWALL, ORKNEY ISLANDS
Seven hundred years before the pharaohs built Giza’s pyramids and Neolithic man raised Stonehenge, ancient inhabitants of this archipelago employed technological prowess centuries ahead of its time to erect Ness of Brodgar. Today, this mysterious compound rivals the scale of the 5th-century BC Athenian Acropolis, though it was constructed nearly three millennia earlier. Walk around the stone monoliths of the Ring of Brodgar, which were raised more than 3,500 years ago to chart the seasons. See the ceremonial Stones of Stenness en route to visit the settlement of Skara Brae. Archaeologists suggest these sites, along with the Ness of Brodgar, were inhabited by an early Orcadian culture known for decorative arts and sophisticated craftsmanship. Pilgrims and traders carried the Orcadian innovations to the mainland and beyond—making Orkney more than just a remote scatter of islands but rather a hub of Neolithic civilization.

Thousands of years later, the Vikings established the port town of Kirkwall on Orkney’s main island, leaving behind the towering 12th-century St. Magnus Cathedral, known as the “Light of the North.” Enjoy time at leisure to explore Kirkwall. Hear the evocative melodies of a traditional Scottish bagpiper as you reboard the ship. This evening, listen as a seanachaí weaves the traditional stories that have been handed down by word of mouth for generations in these remote isles.

MONDAY, JUNE 13

LERWICK, SHETLAND ISLANDS
Dock in Lerwick and explore the majestic Shetland Islands, declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO for their geologically diverse landscapes and seascapes carved and shaped by ice. Admire nature’s endlessly changing colors and textures, and listen for the clamor of gannets and puffins crowding the dramatic sheer rock cliffs. Though remote, these islands have a unique 6,000-year-old culture.
JARLSHOF, SHETLAND ISLANDS

- scenic excursion to visit Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye
- Full-day excursion through the Scottish Highlands featuring a specially arranged trip aboard The Jacobite steam train (Hogwarts™ Express), “one of the great railway journeys of the world,” including lunch
- Scenic excursion to visit Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Enrichment program of lectures and discussions by Daniel Donoghue
- Seven-night cruise aboard the five-star M.S. Le Boreal
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages on board the ship
- Full-day excursion through the Scottish Highlands featuring a specially arranged trip aboard The Jacobite steam train (Hogwarts™ Express), “one of the great railway journeys of the world,” including lunch
- Scenic excursion to visit Armadale Castle on the Isle of Skye
- Scenic excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Orkney Islands' Neolithic Ring of Brodgar and 5,000-year-old Skara Brae
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel, guides and drivers
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
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Explore two of Scotland’s great cities and their histories. In Edinburgh, discover the historic Old Town, Royal Mile and iconic Edinburgh Castle and visit the Museum of Scotland. During a tour of Glasgow, walk through George Square, visit the St. Mungo Museum and see the Tolbooth of Glasgow. Admire the art and antiquities at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Accommodations for two nights are in the five-star Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh—the Caledonian.

JUNE 16–18

COPENHAGEN POST-CRUISE OPTION
$1,385 DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
$935 SINGLE OCCUPANCY

The capital of Denmark is an exuberant showcase of culture rooted in Viking ancestry. See Amalienborg Palace and Tivoli Gardens and cruise the 400-year-old canals past Christiansborg Palace and the King’s Palace and gardens. In Roskilde, visit the ancient cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and explore the Vikings’ life at sea in the Viking Ship Museum. Accommodations for two nights are in the centrally located, deluxe Copenhagen Marriott Hotel.

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
YEAR OF CONSTRUCTION: 2010
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This exclusively chartered ship offers 110 suites and staterooms (200 to 484 square feet). Each has a private bathroom with shower, two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, minibar with complimentary beverages, control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, minibar.

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