

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

British & Emerald Isles Journey

May 11 to 26, 2025



EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER
Allen Packwood OBE

Five Countries, Infinite Variety

Set off on a 16-day adventure around the United Kingdom and Ireland, on an incredibly diverse itinerary that brings you the best of England, Ireland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland... and five lesser-known islands, to boot. Walk among the brochs and prehistoric standing stones on Scotland's rugged Isle of Lewis. Visit four ancient and storied castles, and Andrew Carnegie's birthplace. Tour three English islands: one where Hitler stockpiled armaments during WWII; one where Queen Victoria spent her happiest hours; and one brimming with exotic blooming plants and ships' carvings. And then there are the cities: warm and welcoming Dublin, vibrant Belfast and historic, exciting Edinburgh. Sail on a bucolic lake in England's pastoral Lake District and stroll windswept cliffs above the tempestuous North Sea. Love literature? View the UNESCO-inscribed Book of Kells in Dublin; visit William Wordsworth's childhood home in the Lake District; see the lovely square celebrating Belfast's native son, C.S. Lewis; and get the chills at Whitby Abbey, the inspiration for Bram Stoker's "Dracula." Stroll in peaceful gardens, and learn first-hand about political strife. Experience all the glorious variety of the British and Emerald Isles!

Front cover: *Dunnottar Castle, Scotland*



Lake Windermere



Tobermory, Scotland

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

Dear VMFA Members:

On this exclusive journey, travel aboard the deluxe, newly constructed **World Traveller** and experience the best of the British Isles and Ireland, in all their variety and splendor. Immerse yourself in incredible destinations — from lush landscapes in Tresco and Wales to the windswept archaeological sites of the Scottish isles; from the warm gregariousness of Dublin to the breathtaking natural beauty of England's Lake District.

Learn from distinguished guest speaker Allen Packwood OBE, a WWII and Winston Churchill expert, and visit Guernsey Island, where Hitler stockpiled armaments. Visits include four UNESCO World Heritage sites, four castles, Cowes, lovely Tresco Abbey Garden, Wordsworth's home in Grasmere, the Titanic Museum in Belfast, the ancient Calanais Standing Stones, and the town of Whitby — whose abbey was inspiration for Bram Stoker's "Dracula.. Ride on ferries and in black cabs, step inside ancient castles and among prehistoric stones, stroll through lovely gardens and down cobbled streets. Enhance your experience with a London Pre-Tour extension.

VMFA is proud to be sharing this departure with travelers from Columbia University and Fordham University and other fine organizations. Book now while space on this incredible trip is still available!

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



GUEST SPEAKER

Allen Packwood OBE

Director of the Churchill Archives Centre and a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge, England, Allen Packwood OBE, B.A., M. Phil. (Cantab), F. R. Hist. S., was co-curator of “Churchill and the Great Republic,” a Library of Congress exhibition, and of “Churchill: The Power of Words,” a display at the Morgan Library in New York City. He is the author of “How Churchill Waged War,” has lectured extensively on Sir Winston Churchill, and organized a 2009 conference titled “The Cold War and its Legacy”—attended by senior representatives from China, Germany, Romania, the Russian Federation, and the U.S.

Surprising Destinations



*Osborne House and gardens,
Cowes, Isle of Wight England*

The seaside town of Cowes on the Isle of Wight is a festive harbor town known for its yachting culture and sailing races. Along with a lovely Parade and Esplanade, Cowes boasts a charming High Street filled with boutiques, galleries and restaurants (it is rumored that Cowes has more eateries per square mile than any other town in the U.K.!). More famously, Cowes is home to Osborne House, Queen Victoria's beloved vacation home. "It's hard to imagine a lovelier spot," the queen proclaimed. Yet many international travelers have not been here. And what about Tresco, on the Isles of Scilly? One of the first surprises about Tresco is that, even though it is situated off the chilly coast of Cornwall, it supports a subtropical garden filled with exotic plants, many of which bloom all year. Tour this lush parkland, built around a crumbling 11th-century abbey, and marvel at the thousands of plants. Another surprise? The Valhalla Museum located within the gardens, home to figureheads and other ships' carvings salvaged from area shipwrecks since 1840. These surprising delights — as well as many other lovely adventures — await you as you tour the British and Emerald Isles!



*Valhalla Museum carvings,
Tresco, Isles of Scilly*

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).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



2025 | 16-DAY/15-NIGHT ITINERARY

Departure

Day 1 | May 11

Depart your home city.

London, England/Embark

Day 2 | May 12

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport and transfer to the **World Traveller**. Get acquainted with your fellow passengers as you enjoy a delectable dinner on board this evening. (D)

Cowes, Isle of Wight

Day 3 | May 13

Soak in the sights of Cowes—a festive, picturesque harbor town known for its yachting culture and sailing races. Visit Osborne House, Queen Victoria's beloved vacation home. Attend the Captain's Welcome Reception this evening. (B,L,R,D)

Guernsey, Channel Islands

Day 4 | May 14

During WWII the Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans for five years. Tour the island and take in the beautiful rough coastline. Visit Pleinmont Observation Tower, built and used by German forces as part of their sea defense system during their occupation. End in St. Peter Port harbor. (B,L,D)

Tresco, Isles of Scilly

Day 5 | May 15

Surprisingly, Tresco supports a lush, subtropical garden filled with exotic plants, many of which bloom all year. Tour this lovely garden, built around a

crumbling 11th-century abbey, and the Valhalla Museum, home to figureheads and other ships' carvings salvaged from area shipwrecks since 1840. (B,L,D)

Dublin, Ireland

Day 6 | May 16

Enjoy a guided panoramic tour of Dublin, featuring St. Patrick's and Christ Church cathedrals, Trinity College, and the UNESCO-inscribed Book of Kells, an illuminated manuscript believed to have been created in A.D. 800. Cruise grand O'Connell Street, lined with statues of Irish statesmen. This evening, enjoy a presentation of traditional Irish music and dance on board. (B,L,D)



Bodnant Gardens, Wales

Llandudno, Wales

Day 7 | May 17

Today, choose one of the following included excursions: Bodnant Gardens or Caernarfon Castle. Monumental Bodnant Gardens tantalizes with blooms in almost all seasons; five terraces; a lily pond, and bountiful roses,

hydrangeas and conifers. Stroll among the lush plantings, and don't miss the Laburnum Arch! Or visit Caernarfon Castle, the UNESCO-designated 13th-century fortress built by Edward I of England as a defense against the Welsh. (B,L,D)

Heysham, England

Day 8 | May 18

Cruise on Lake Windermere, the largest lake in England and the backbone of England's lovely UNESCO-inscribed Lake District, filled with lush green rolling hills, grazing sheep and beautiful vistas. Visit the Wordsworth House & Garden, birthplace and childhood home of Romantic poet William Wordsworth. Explore the house, gardens and grounds. Next, visit the picturesque village of Grasmere, situated nearby at the edge of its namesake lake. (B,L,D)

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Day 9 | May 19

Embark on a panoramic tour of Belfast, beginning with the Titanic quarter, a waterfront revitalization project that celebrates the city's shipbuilding industry. See the iconic (and tilting) Albert Memorial Clock, stately City Hall and St. George's Market. Stop for a stroll in the Botanic Gardens (established in 1828) and drop in to the Ulster Museum. Tour the Shankill and Falls Road area, nexus for much of the political activity in



Callanish Standing Stones, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Belfast during the Troubles. Spend time with a local cab driver who will talk honestly about the Troubles. (B,L,D)

Tobermory, Scotland for Isle of Mull

Day 10 | May 20

Explore the Isle of Mull, well-known for its rugged beauty and marine and bird life. The island's magnificent guardian is Duart Castle, which dates to the 14th century and is one of the last of Scotland's privately owned clan castles. Stroll the grounds, enjoying the spectacular view. (B,L,D)

Stornoway, Isle of Lewis

Day 11 | May 21

Described as Scotland's Stonehenge, the Callanish Standing Stones date from around 3,000 B.C. As with Stonehenge, mystery surrounds the prehistoric assemblage. Continue around the beautiful, rugged west coast for a visit to Dun Carloway Broch and Gèarrannan Blackhouse Village, a traditional crofter's village of thatched-roof, stone houses. Drive back across the

moorland to Stornoway. (B,L,D)

Aberdeen/Edinburgh

Day 12 | May 22

Discover Stonehaven, a lovely seaside town south of Aberdeen. Stop in at a local shop or eatery before heading on to Dunnottar Castle. Perched atop an imposing cliff, this dramatic ruin is surrounded on three sides by water. After an included lunch, stop at Dunfermline, Andrew Carnegie's hometown. Visit the Andrew Carnegie Birthplace Museum and learn the rags-to-riches story of one of America's greatest philanthropists. Delve into the industrial heritage of the town, traditionally a center for weaving and coal mining. And stroll through Dunfermline Abbey and Palace, which date back to the 11th century. (B,L,D)

Edinburgh

Day 13 | May 23

Embark on a panoramic tour. Explore Old Town, site of the ancient city, which grew up along the route of the Royal Mile (Edinburgh's Old and New Towns are a UNESCO

World Heritage site.) Visit Edinburgh Castle, which stands upon the core of an extinct volcano. Marvel at the majesty of the Crown Jewels. Spend free time on your own in Edinburgh this afternoon. (B,L,D)

Whitby, England

Day 14 | May 24

Tour this small seaside town with outsized natural and historical appeal. A ruined abbey, founded in A.D. 656 and perched high on a cliff overlooking the North Sea, was the inspiration for Bram Stoker's "Dracula." Spend the afternoon at leisure, exploring this fascinating town. (B,L,D)

Cruising at sea

Day 15 | May 25

Spend a relaxing day at sea. Tonight, join your fellow passengers for a Farewell Reception and Dinner on the ship. (B,L,R,D)

London/Disembark/Return to home city

Day 16 | May 26

Following breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight. (B)



Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland



Black Taxi, Belfast, Northern Ireland



World Traveller

This newly constructed small ship, an intimate yacht appointed in retro-chic elegance, is able to dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships. Each of the 95 suites and staterooms (up to 465 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 two twin beds, a private bathroom with spa shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities—including bath products from L'Occitane. Complimentary alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included, featuring culinary adventures that rival your discoveries ashore.



2025 DEPARTURE DATE

May 11 to May 26

(Embarkation: May 12)

Category-Description		Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
8	Stateroom with panoramic ocean view picture window. Deck 3	\$13,590	\$12,590
7	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, forward.	\$15,290	\$14,290
6	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, midship.	\$16,390	\$15,390
5	Stateroom with private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, midship.	\$17,190	\$16,190
4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5, aft.	\$18,290	\$17,290
3	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, aft.	\$19,090	\$18,090
2	Stateroom with balcony. Deck 6.	\$20,190	\$19,190
1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling Juliet-style balcony and interior sitting area. Deck 6.	\$21,990	\$20,990
Journey Suite 2	Suite with large private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 5.	\$24,790	\$23,790
Journey Suite 1	Suite with large private balcony and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6.	\$27,290	\$26,290
Discovery Suite	Suite with larger private balcony and separate living room with sofa. Deck 5.	\$27,890	\$26,890
Navigator 2 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, large private balcony , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 5.	\$30,590	\$29,590
Navigator 1 Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate living room with sofa and floor-to-ceiling ocean view, large private balcony , bathroom has a tub and two sinks. Deck 6.	\$31,690	\$30,690

***Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 11/12/24 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single accommodations are available in categories 6, 7 & 8 at 160% of the standard rate, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Early Booking Savings still apply.

Port taxes in the amount of \$195 per person are included in the above prices. Deck plans available upon request.

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

London

May 9 to May 12, 2025 (Program Begins: May 10)

Take an immersive, half-day London city tour to see the iconic West End landmarks of London, including Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus. Visit the Churchill Museum to walk in his footsteps through the underground maze of rooms in the wartime bunker, such as the War Cabinet Room and the Map Room, which has remained intact as it was at war's end. Accommodations are in the deluxe **InterContinental London Park Lane**.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,395

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,795

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.



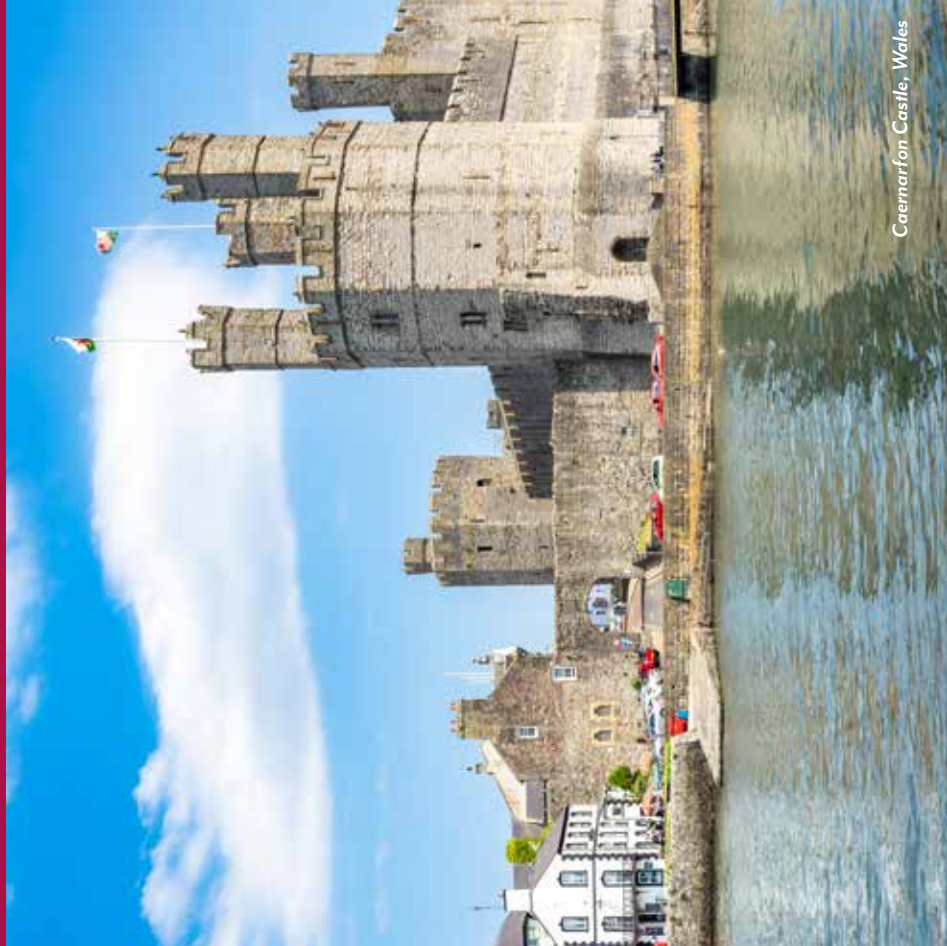
Early Booking Savings* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!

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Caernarfon Castle, Wales