CULTURAL CRUISING 2016

ISLES OF MY HEART : MY OWN LAND

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A voyage around Alistair McLundie’s favourite islands

4 to 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

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INFORMATION ABOUT PEARL II
Learn all about the home of the National Trust for Scotland’s cruises
For over 60 years the National Trust for Scotland have transported cruise passengers to Scotland’s most breathtaking landscapes and isolated islands.

In that time, we have carried over 30,000 people on ten different ships to dozens of different ports, from undiscovered Scottish treasures to little-known European gems.

The cruises have not only become a celebrated event in the Trust’s calendar, but also a wonderful way to support our valuable conservation work, including projects connected to Scotland’s islands and coastlines.

This will be our fifth and final year of exclusively chartering *Pearl II* (formerly named *Quest for Adventure*) and we will be offering a special 12-night cruise around the western isles of Scotland featuring an itinerary specially chosen for us by Alistair McLundie, life member and past Captain.

Over 60 per cent of our passengers return to cruise with us year after year and so we like to keep our itineraries new and imaginative; we never offer exactly the same cruise twice. Our cruises travel to rarely visited ports as well as renowned and popular destinations, and combine imaginative routes with an impeccable, friendly service and a relaxed atmosphere. Sophisticated entertainment, absorbing lectures and high-quality shore excursions have become our trademarks.

‘Congratulations on yet another wonderful cruise. Indeed, the fact that so many people return year after year is high praise indeed.’
The ship carries just 400 passengers, all of whom will be friends of the National Trust for Scotland, evoking a warm, club-like atmosphere on board with everyone sharing similar interests.

‘I enjoyed the warm and friendly atmosphere on board and the possibility to get to know so many interesting people.’

Our small, dedicated cruise team based in Edinburgh will oversee all aspects of your holiday, from the initial enquiry through to departure, and will be on board to look after you throughout the cruise, providing a personal service unrivalled in today’s holiday market.

We will be accompanied by a team of experts and guest lecturers, all acknowledged leaders in their fields. Their stimulating illustrated talks reveal fascinating facts and insights about each port and are perfect for passengers with enquiring minds and an appetite for knowledge. In addition, our lecturers accompany trips ashore to add their specialist angle to tours, and when on board they are always happy to engage in discussions. Our cruises are also renowned for their fine concerts and ceilidhs, featuring some of Scotland’s best-loved classical and traditional musicians.

‘Having been on several cruises, I rate this cruise as the best I have ever done - because of the friendliness of fellow passengers, the helpfulness of the National Trust for Scotland and ship’s staff and the programme of tours, lectures and evening entertainment.’

‘The National Trust for Scotland staff were very knowledgeable, interesting and friendly - a great team! We enjoyed the lectures, the entertainment and the casual interaction.’

We personally research and design a wide selection of shore excursions at each of our ports. These specially selected trips are tailor-made to meet the needs and interests of our passengers. A choice of full- and half-day outings at each port will include visits to the best sites for archaeology, history, art, gardens, architecture, natural history and landscape, offering new experiences to even the most frequent traveller. For those who prefer to explore by themselves, the shore excursion brochure gives suggestions for independently discovering each port as well as lots of useful local information.

‘Everything has been done to make this a fun, relaxing, stress-free, enjoyable cruise, from recognising and accommodating everyone’s needs and capabilities to having National Trust for Scotland staff on excursions to add their knowledge and be accessible for questions. No detail was overlooked.’

Watch our online video at www.culturalcruising.com to get a flavour of life on board one of our cruises. Hear our passengers describe what makes our cruises an experience like no other and has them returning year after year to sail with us.
For the last eight years, Captain Alistair McLundie has expertly sailed us around his 'backyard' on our annual cruises. Although he has decided to give up the high seas at the end of our cruise in 2015 for a life at home with his family, he kindly designed this special itinerary featuring his favourite islands for our last cruise aboard *Pearl II*.
Captain McLundie has selected a host of beautiful islands, offering a wealth of wildlife and spectacular scenery to fill our 12-day voyage.

Days will be spent ashore visiting glorious gardens, amazing archaeology, wonderful wildlife reserves and historic heritage sites; evenings will see us cruising round some of the small off-lying islands with informative deck commentaries from our lecturers and the chance to join our rangers on deck for wildlife-spotting opportunities. Many of the seabirds we have seen nesting on the cliffs during previous cruises will now be out at sea, and there will also be the chance of seeing some rare late-summer migrants as they move around the country. It is a great time of year for spotting whales and dolphins as well.

Like Thor Fleten, longstanding captain and friend from MS Black Prince, Alistair was made an honorary life member of the Trust in 2013 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Trust cruises. We are delighted to see a number of the jewels of our portfolio featuring in his chosen itinerary (Canna, St Kilda, Iona, Staffa and the Bishop’s Isles).

2016 is the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design in Scotland and during our time ashore there will be the chance to visit some of the gems that form such an important part of our heritage. The director of the new V&A Museum of Design Dundee will join our lecture team and guide you through the arts centres, installations and extraordinary architecture of Scotland’s west coast.
A leisurely evening cruise down the Clyde will bring us to the Isle of Bute.

The next morning we will anchor off the Victorian resort of Rothesay with its palm-lined promenade and Winter Garden. From here it is a short drive to the spectacular Victorian Gothic Mount Stuart, the architectural fantasy of the 3rd Marquess of Bute and architect Sir Robert Rowand Anderson. The interiors of the house reflect Lord Bute's passion for art, heraldry, astrology, mythology and religion. The 120 hectares that make up the grounds of Mount Stuart comprise a fascinating mixture of wilderness, woodland and landscaped gardens.

The next day we will hop over to Ireland and visit the capital city Dublin. It was founded in the 9th century by Vikings who built a garrison fort on the south bank of the River Liffey where a tributary joined it to form a black pool (dubh linn in Gaelic). The city is now renowned for its vibrancy, literary connections and beautiful Georgian buildings. Trinity College houses the Book of Kells, a beautiful illuminated medieval manuscript. Outside the city there will be the chance to visit the wonderful gardens at Powerscourt and Mount Usher or to take a trip into the nearby Wicklow Mountains National Park and Glendalough valley, with its 6th-century monastic settlement.
In the wake of Irish monks of yore, we make our way from the Emerald Isle to Iona. Iona is one of the most iconic and sacred places in Scotland, a place of pilgrimage and of an abiding community spirit.

The vivid colours of Iona’s white sands, turquoise seas and lichen-patterned rocks were captured in the paintings of the Scottish Colourists, and continue to inspire artists and photographers today. Natural treasures such as the flower-covered machair and calling corncrakes are testament to a pattern of land use that preserves habitats and species now rare elsewhere, thanks to careful management by the local crofting community. Much of Iona came into the care of the National Trust for Scotland in 1979. The abbey and related historical buildings remained in the care of the Iona Cathedral Trust and have been managed by Historic Scotland since 2000.

In the afternoon we will sail out to Staffa and cruise around its coastline to see its distinctive stepped basalt columns and famous caves. The island came into prominence in the late 18th century after a visit by naturalist Sir Joseph Banks. He was followed by many other prominent figures including Sir Walter Scott and Queen Victoria. Felix Mendelssohn was inspired to write the *Hebrides Overture*, popularly known as *Fingal’s Cave*, after his visit. If the weather is in our favour, we will be able to go ashore to walk over the basalt columns and into Fingal’s Cave or climb to the top of the island to see its diverse flora.
The next day we begin our tour of the Outer Hebrides with a call to Lochboisdale in South Uist. This beautiful island boasts crystal-clear waters with white sandy beaches to the west and heather uplands dominated by Beinn Mhor (620m) to the east. The 20 miles of machair that runs alongside the sand dunes provides a marvellous habitat for the rarely seen but often heard corncrake, and golden eagles, red grouse and red deer can be seen on the mountain slopes to the east. South Uist is regarded as the centre of Gaelic culture and tradition and is rich in historical and archaeological sites. A series of causeways lets us explore three more Hebridean islands from South Uist: Eriskay, Benbecula and North Uist. Eriskay was the first place Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) set foot on Scottish soil and is famous as the setting of Compton Mackenzie’s Whisky Galore. To the north lies Benbecula, where freshwater lochs, moorland, bog and deeply indented sea lochs characterise the landscape. Continuing to North Uist, the village of Lochmaddy offers the chance to visit the Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre, while the Balranald RSPB reserve on the west coast is a must-see for all nature enthusiasts.

Our next destination is St Kilda, the ‘island on the edge of the world’ and the United Kingdom’s only UNESCO dual World Heritage Site. It is in fact an archipelago made up of four main islands and their offshore stacks, the remains of a long-extinct ring volcano. Despite its remote location 40 miles west of its nearest neighbour, Benbecula, the main island of Hirta was first inhabited in prehistoric times, with Bronze and Iron Age finds having been made. The village that we know today dates from the 1830s and we can see the well-preserved remains of the traditional blackhouses from this time between the more modern Hebridean houses from the 1860s laid out in a crescent above the shoreline. Emigration, food shortages and illness took their toll on the islanders and in 1930 the last 36 residents were evacuated to the mainland at their own request. The islands are now home to a thriving population of seabirds, including the world’s largest colony of northern gannets. Isolated in the Atlantic Ocean, St Kilda is very much at the mercy of the elements but, should weather and sea conditions permit, we will land at Village Bay on Hirta and spend the day ashore exploring the island, its wildlife and poignant past at our own pace. We will also circumnavigate the archipelago, a truly remarkable way to experience the birdlife, geology and striking scenery of this remote corner of Scotland.
Remaining in the Outer Hebrides we will spend the next day exploring the 'Long Island'. We will call at the capital of the Western Isles, the attractive town of Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis.

The island's diverse habitats are home to an assortment of fauna, such as golden eagles, red deer and seals, and are recognised in a number of conservation areas. Trips will be on offer to discover the remote corners of Lewis, including the bird cliffs and lighthouse at Butt of Lewis, the golden sands at Uig where the world-famous Lewis chessmen were found, and the tranquillity of Great Bernera with its Iron Age history. The prehistoric standing stones at Callanish and the Iron Age broch at Dun Carloway are two of Lewis’s best known and most visited attractions and a must-see for any first-time visitors to the island. Having the full day here will also give us the chance to visit neighbouring Harris, with its contrasting coastlines of golden beaches in the west and rugged shores in the east, as well as the charming church at Rodel, its southernmost point.
Canna, the most westerly of the Small Isles, is our next port of call. We will spend the day exploring this varied island, rich in archaeological remains, fertile land, seabird cliffs and coastal walks. Canna and the neighbouring island of Sanday were once owned by eminent Gaelic scholar Dr John Lorne Campbell who transferred them to the Trust’s care in 1981. He and his wife, Margaret Fay Shaw, built up a substantial collection of Gaelic literature, photographs and folk songs, which was also gifted to the Trust and remains in Canna House.

The beautiful Isle of Barra is named after the 6th-century Irish saint Finbarr of Cork and is famed for its abundance of wildflowers and butterflies. The island is made up of an enticing blend of hills, springy machair and spacious white beaches. We will anchor off Castlebay, the island’s principal town, which was an active and prosperous herring port in the late 19th century, with a fleet of over 400 boats using the harbour. The medieval fortress of Kisimul Castle stands on an islet in the bay. Choosing an island tour will take you to the Cockle Strand airstrip, Kilbarr Chapel, the Neolithic site of Allt Chrisal and over the causeway to Vatersay.
Leaving Barra we will take an evening cruise around the Bishop’s Isles of Mingulay, Berneray and Pabbay. These remote islands to the south of Barra are Sites of Special Scientific Interest for the marine vegetation, rocky shore and spectacular cliff habitats found here, as well as a Special Protection Area for the seabird population. On and around the islands’ high cliffs we are likely to see razorbills, guillemots and kittiwakes, with the chance of catching a glimpse of the white-tailed eagle.

Our journey continues back to the Inner Hebrides and the ‘sunshine isle’ of Tiree. The island is celebrated for its sweeping sandy beaches and is a haven for windsurfers, annually hosting Britain’s most prestigious windsurfing competition. At the pier you will find An Turas, an art installation that won the RIAS Scottish New Building of the Year in 2003. At the southerly tip of the island we find Hynish, the land base of the outlying Skerryvore lighthouse. The lighthouse was built here first, then taken out brick by brick to the Skerryvore reef. Tiree is a great place for spotting some interesting and unusual migratory birds in September, blown in by north-westerly winds.

Our next call will be to the community-owned island of Gigha, one of the most southerly of the Hebridean islands. The island boasts beautiful bays, magnificent views, tranquil lochs, gently sloping hillsides and a plentiful variety of wildlife. We will visit the spectacular Achamore Gardens, created by Sir James Horlick, where over 20 hectares of rare and unusual plants thrive in the climate of this low-lying island. On his death in 1972 Sir James left part of his plant collection to the National Trust for Scotland so that rare species could be propagated and shared with other great gardens.
Our final call will be to the scenic Kintyre Peninsula. This 40-mile long peninsula offers a blend of hills, lochs, rivers, forests, sandy beaches, history and archaeology. It was here that St Columba is said to have first landed in Scotland on his journey to Iona, and towards the southern tip of the peninsula what are reputed to be his footprints can be seen carved into the rocks. Scottish novelist and social activist Naomi Mitchison (1897–1999) spent her later years on the Kintyre Peninsula. Her house at Carradale is surrounded by lush gardens with a collection of over 1,000 rhododendrons, thriving in a climate warmed by the North Atlantic Drift. Tours will be on offer to explore the best of the peninsula, from the white sands at Machrihanish to the medieval carved stones at Saddell Abbey.
LECTURERS

Derek Alexander studied prehistoric archaeology at the University of Edinburgh, specialising in the later prehistory of temperate Europe. On graduation he worked for the university’s newly established Centre for Field Archaeology, undertaking archaeological research and excavation. He joined the National Trust for Scotland in 2000 as the West Region Archaeologist with responsibility for providing advice on the archaeological aspects of all properties in the region, for conducting small-scale research projects and for commissioning and managing larger projects. Derek was appointed as Head of Archaeological Services for the Trust in September 2011 and is responsible for the archaeology on many of our island properties. He has recently carried out research and excavations on Iona, Staffa and Canna.

Alexander Bennett joined the National Trust for Scotland in 1979 as a Building Surveyor in Edinburgh and has worked in various positions including Factor Highland, Conservation Manager and the Project Manager/Co-ordinator for the Culloden Battlefield Memorial Project. Alexander regards Culloden as the greatest achievement, and it has been widely praised as an example of best practice in the management of battlefield/war memorial sites. He has been involved in many exciting building and nature-based conservation projects and has had special responsibilities for some of the Trust’s island properties, including Canna, St Kilda and Fair Isle in particular. Now in his 36th year at the Trust, he is currently the General Manager of Countryside and Islands (North). Alexander lives in Inverness with his family and enjoys gardening, reading, cycling, bird-watching and other outdoor activities. He also has a keen interest in travel, social history and wildlife, so there should be no shortage of topics on which to pick his brain!

Bob Elliot is Head of Investigations for the RSPB – his team attempts to protect some of Scotland’s rarest birds both in the UK and abroad. Bob is originally from North Yorkshire and started his conservation career as the National Trust’s Head Warden on the Farne Islands. A move to Scotland in 1993 led to a career in Countryside Rangering with the National Trust for Scotland, and as Countryside Manager he moved to Inverness to manage the Highlands & Islands properties. These comprise some of the most iconic landscapes in the Trust’s portfolio including the islands of Fair Isle, Iona, Canna, Staffa and St Kilda, as well as the mainland properties of Glencoe, Inverewe and Culloden. Bob is passionate about helping people enjoy the countryside. Widely travelled, he has led expeditions to Peru, Iceland, the Arctic, Antarctica and the Scottish islands. In 2015 he visited Kazakhstan to help train rangers in protecting the rare saiga antelope.

Philip Long is Director of V&A Museum of Design Dundee, set to open in 2018. He is an Honorary Professor of the University of Dundee and was previously Senior Curator at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, where he specialised in 20th-century and contemporary Scottish art and design. In 2007 he curated Scotland’s presentation at the Venice Biennale. Jointly with Tate, he also led the development of the Artist Rooms project, which brings international contemporary art to people across the UK. Born in Edinburgh, Philip is passionate about culture in Scotland and the power of art, design and creativity to help transform people’s lives. As Director of V&A Dundee he is responsible for the delivery of the first-ever design museum in the UK outside London and is proud to be playing such a significant part in the renaissance of Dundee.

David R Mitchell spent 30 years at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, mostly as a curator. Having recently retired, he has become an Honorary Research Associate and set up Muddy Feet, an environmental education company. Throughout his career, David has worked closely with many organisations and charities including the National Trust for Scotland, the Glasgow Garden Festival, the World Orchid Congress, the National Galleries of Scotland and the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and the Royal Geographical Society, he is a respected lecturer and tour leader, and has led groups all over the globe. This is in addition to his longstanding career as a broadcaster with the BBC, STV and Channel 4. Currently David is a trustee of Pitlochry Festival Theatre, the Hidden Gardens in Glasgow and Gardening Scotland; he is also a former vice president of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society and Member of the Council for the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.
ARTISTES

The National Trust for Scotland is proud to bring our own special entertainment team as part of the unique appeal of our cruises. These Scottish performers are undoubtedly some of Scotland’s most popular and highly acclaimed entertainers, bringing an amazing wealth of talent to the evening concerts. There will be the usual mix of variety shows, solo concerts, ceilidhs and Scottish dancing, and we are sure that within this great team there is something that everyone will enjoy.

Robert Lovie is the entertainment manager and has brought this team together. Robert compères the shows each evening and is himself a well-known and highly respected public speaker and singer, who had the honour of singing the British national anthem at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. Robert also works full time with the Trust as the property manager at Fyvie Castle, Garden & Estate, making him our perfect cruise host.

Gordon Cree is an extraordinarily talented musician and all-round entertainer from Ayrshire. He is a pianist, singer, organist, trumpeter, arranger, xylophonist, conductor and composer! Gordon’s other achievements very often cause his abilities as a singer to be either overlooked or unknown, but over a long career he has worked both as a serious classical singer and as a cabaret artiste, performing as a soloist in concerts, recitals and oratorios throughout the UK.

Cheryl Forbes is an award-winning mezzo-soprano who trained at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama and the former Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Dance. Cheryl has enjoyed a brilliant career at home and abroad, and has worked with leading UK orchestras including the London Symphony Orchestra and the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. She has also sung with many great fellow Scottish celebrities, ranging from Moira Anderson to Jack Milroy. During the cruise Cheryl will share with us her amazing repertoire, from opera to popular musicals.

Richard Morrison is a prize-winning graduate of the Royal College of Music in London and a celebrated baritone. He regularly performs in operas and classical concerts throughout the world, but never forgets his roots: he has a wonderful repertoire of traditional Scottish songs. He has appeared on Classic FM, both as a soloist and as a presenter.

The Rhona MacKay Trio features Rhona MacKay on concert harp and clarsach, Eddie McGuire on flute and whistle and David Munn on cello. This group come together especially for the Trust cruises and perform an amazing blend of music specifically arranged for their fine instruments. Their style is very relaxing and is often themed on the destinations we visit on the voyage.

Bryan Gear & Violet Tulloch are two of Shetland’s most popular and most highly respected musicians. Bryan is regarded as the finest fiddler in Shetland today. His amazing playing style holds dear all that is great and traditional about Shetland fiddle music whilst simultaneously encompassing a fine modern flair. He will be accompanied by Violet Tulloch, an internationally recognised musician and accompanist. Her playing and musical technique – Shetland to the core – has been enjoyed throughout the world.

Craig Paton is arguably the best accordion player in a generation. From Milnathort near Perth, Craig has been playing accordion and piano since he was 8. He won the title of Junior Scottish Accordion Champion several times and in 2010 won the ‘All Scotland’ accordion championship in Perth. As well as being a fine traditional player, Craig has a distinctive contemporary flair to his playing, which gives a great edge to his music. Craig is much in demand both as a soloist and with his Scottish dance band.

Jim Butler is a piper and long-standing friend of the Trust’s annual cruises. Jim hails from Ayrshire and, as well as being a very fine piper, he is a great performer of the works of Robert Burns. Jim has had a distinguished career in the piping world and he will be our official piper during the cruise, piping us into ports and joining in the fun of evening ceilidhs and concerts.
‘The entire trip has been a fabulous first experience of cruising. I have enjoyed the friendly atmosphere, been stunned by the quality of the service from the staff on the ship and the food has left me speechless.’
INFORMATION

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A voyage around Alistair McLundie’s favourite islands
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PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS
As we are visiting the Republic of Ireland, passports are required by all passengers. Visas are not required for most nationalities, but non-EU passport holders should check any requirements.

See pages 20 - 24 for deck plans and descriptions of cabins.
* All prices are £ per person and inclusive of gratuities.
Book before 26 February 2016 to receive a 5% discount.

DEPOSIT
A deposit of £200 per person is required to confirm your booking.

BALANCE OF FARE
This should be paid by 24 June 2016.
PEARL II
INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHIP
‘Pearl II is an excellent ship.’

This will be our fifth year of chartering this ship, now called Pearl II and previously named Quest for Adventure, with a host of familiar faces amongst the officers and crew. The standard of on-board service, food, facilities and furnishings is superb, and balcony cabins, a cinema and spacious public areas add a little extra luxury to this stately liner.

**Library**
The library on Pearl II is stocked with over 3,400 books, along with a good selection of DVDs, jigsaws, puzzles and newspapers. There are books on wildlife, botany and our cruise destinations to help you get the most out of your holiday, and computers with internet access and complimentary Wi-Fi are available to allow you to keep in touch with those at home. Comfy sofas along with a quiet restful atmosphere ensure that this is always a popular place to relax on board.

**Lounges**
The spacious, elegant Discovery Lounge on the Promenade Deck is the venue for most of our lectures and concerts. The lounge is equipped with comfortable chairs and table service to make sure you enjoy every performance.

Along the hallway, Shackleton’s Bar provides a light and airy venue for more intimate gatherings, while the cozy Sundowner Bar on Bridge Deck opens out onto a wide aft sun deck, letting you soak up the atmosphere in the open air.

**Dining**
Meals on board are served in a single sitting with no fixed seating plans, allowing you to dine with new friends every night at a time to suit you. The relaxed, stylish Verandah Restaurant on the Boat Deck offers buffet-style dining, and there are plenty of outdoor tables for alfresco dining if the weather permits. Downstairs on the Promenade Deck the Dining Room offers a more traditional dining style with chic classic décor and friendly waiter service.

The ship’s excellent chefs prepare delicious high-quality cuisine, often using local ingredients. In addition to breakfast, lunch and dinner are indulgent afternoon teas, complimentary round-the-clock room service, late-night gourmet bites and 24-hour self-service tea and coffee; all are included in your fare.

Special dietary requirements are well catered for, so please advise us of your needs at the time of booking.

**Other facilities**
The ship’s leisure facilities include an outdoor and an indoor swimming pool. Also available are a sauna and fitness equipment, as well as a range of spa treatments. An outdoor short-tennis court and table-tennis table can be found on the Sun Deck. There is an on-board cinema, hairdresser, gift shop and self-service laundrette.

**Cabins**
The friendly environment of our cruises makes them very popular with single travellers. Around a quarter of the cabins on Pearl II are single cabins. Alternatively, we would be pleased to find you a like-minded travelling companion with whom you could share a twin cabin.

‘As a single traveller I found it easy to meet people and found it a very friendly ship. This was due not only to the crew but also the National Trust for Scotland staff and my fellow travellers.’

There are a variety of inside and outside cabins to choose from, some of which are equipped with balconies and bathtubs. Cabins are graded depending on their size and location on the ship, and on the facilities they offer, with the suites benefiting from a Butler service.

All cabins are air-conditioned and have an en-suite bath/shower room with wash basin and WC. They are all equipped with a television, DVD player, refrigerator, telephone, binoculars, hairdryer, bathrobe and complimentary luxury toiletries. All cabins offer the convenience and comfort of fixed beds. Outside cabins have double windows, letting the light flood in and allowing you to enjoy the passing scenery while you are in your cabin. Inside cabins are bright and well lit, offering comfort and value for money.
1D/T – Grand Suite with balcony
The Grand Suites on Pearl II are the ultimate in spacious luxury, an open-plan loft-style space with private balcony, lounge and dining area. They are immaculately styled with chic furnishings, walk-in wet-rooms and standard-size bathtubs. The beds can be separated as twins or offered as a king-size double, and the suites’ angled windows mean that the sea is visible even when relaxing in bed. Grand Suites benefit from complimentary mini-bars and butler service.

2D/T – Owner’s Suite with terrace
The Owner’s Suite, as its name suggests, is designed as a home away from home, with all the comfort and space of an elegant studio apartment. There is an open-plan lounge and bedroom area (twin or king-size double) which leads out on to a large private terrace with table and chairs for relaxing outdoors. A walk-in shower and separate bathtub complete the suite, which also benefits from a complimentary mini-bar and butler service. The view from the cabin is partially restricted by equipment on the deck area.

3D/T – Suite with balcony
Pearl II’s Suites are spacious and lavish, with custom-built sofas and lounge chairs, private balconies and king-size beds, which can also be separated into twins. There is a small table for private dining, and the bathrooms boast a separate walk-in shower and standard-size bathtub. Butler service and a complimentary mini-bar are offered with the Suites.

4T – Twin Junior Suite with terrace
These twin cabins offer compact extravagance, with sofas and coffee tables for lounging and a terrace with table and chairs for enjoying the fresh air on deck. Junior Suites feature stylish bathrooms with a rain showerhead suspended over a standard-size bath. Butler service and a complimentary mini-bar are included with these cabins. These cabins have partially restricted views.

4S – Single Junior Suite with balcony
Our Single Junior Suite consists of a king-size double bed, a coffee table area with lounge chairs, and a wide terrace area accessed by a full-length glass door, allowing sunlight to fill the room. There is also a writing desk, and the bathroom is equipped with a standard bath with shower above. Our Single Junior Suite benefits from a complimentary mini-bar and butler service. This cabin has a partially restricted view.

5D/T – Deluxe Twin with balcony
These chic Deluxe cabins have twin beds (which can be made into a king-size double), sizeable dressing tables and writing desks for keeping up with your correspondence while at sea. Their private balconies are irresistible for catching the sunrise or enjoying the sunset, and the bathrooms offer standard-size bathtubs with rain showerheads above. Butler service and a complimentary mini-bar are included with these cabins.

5S – Deluxe Single with balcony
Ample spacious with a dressing table and writing desk, these Deluxe single cabins open out on to a private balcony for alfresco reading and relaxing. A king-size bed is the centrepiece, while the bathroom is equipped with a standard bathtub with shower above. Butler service and a complimentary mini-bar are included with these cabins.

6T – Deluxe Twin with lounge area
Our Deluxe twin cabins with lounge area have a two-room feel to them, with the twin beds tucked away in a separate alcove leaving plenty of space for stretching out on the sofa or at the writing desk. They benefit from a double set of windows and a bathroom with a shower over the bathtub. These cabins look out on to the open deck and have a partially restricted view.

6S – Deluxe Single with lounge area
These large cabins are divided into a bedroom niche and a lounge area, with a coffee table, sofa and writing desk. A double set of windows let the light flood in, while the bathrooms have a shower over the bathtub. These cabins look out on to the open deck and have a partially restricted view.
7D – Deluxe Double with balcony
These are light and airy cabins with a spacious double bedroom and private balcony, accessed via a glass patio door. The bathrooms have a separate walk-in shower and standard-size bath.

7S – Deluxe Single with balcony
Deluxe single cabins offer a double bedroom, dressing table and private balcony, and are given a distinct nautical feel by their sloped windows. Their bathrooms are large and luxurious, with separate walk-in showers and standard bathtubs.

8T – Superior twin with French doors
Pearl II’s Superior twin cabins are bright and spacious bedrooms. A French door opens out on to a promenade shared only with the other cabins in this grade and offers direct access to the outside deck. The bathrooms have a bathtub with shower above. Due to the position of the lifeboats these cabins have obscured views.

8S – Superior single with French doors
These Superior single cabins offer a spacious double bedroom with a French door opening out on to a promenade shared only with the other cabins in this grade and allowing direct access to the outside deck. The bathroom has a bathtub with shower above. Due to the position of the lifeboats these cabins have an obscured view.

9T and 10T – Superior twin with lounge area
These Superior cabins are divided into a bedroom alcove and lounge area with dressing table/writing desk. The bathrooms have a bathtub with shower above. 9T cabins are located on Boat Deck while 10T cabins are on A Deck.

9S – Superior Single with lounge area
Divided into a sleeping recess and lounge area, these Superior single cabins offer both style and space. They are equipped with both a coffee table and a writing desk. The bathrooms have a bathtub with shower above.

Disabled Access Cabins – Cabins 232 and 233 in grade 10T are fully equipped for disabled access, with wide doorways, ramp access over the threshold, space between two low twin beds, and a shower room equipped for disabled users with handrails and emergency cord. We ask that wheelchair users have their own assistance when embarking and disembarking the ship and regret that it may not be possible to take wheelchair users aboard tenders.

11, 12 and 12 Aft – Standard outside cabins
There is a choice of twin, double and single Standard outside cabins on A and B Decks. They are all elegantly finished with wood panelling and rich cotton bed linen, and have double windows, ample wardrobe space and en-suite shower rooms.

13, 14 and 14 Aft – Standard inside cabins
The Standard inside twin, double and single cabins are situated on A and B Decks. They are bright and well lit with en-suite shower rooms and the same fixtures and fittings as the Standard outside cabins.

Passengers in Aft cabins on B Deck may at times notice the noise from the ship’s engines, and we have reflected this in the lower cost of Aft cabins.
**Pearl II**

**PORT OF REGISTRY**
Malta

**TONNAGE**
18,627

**DRAUGHT**
20 feet (6.3m)

**LENGTH**
539 feet (164.35m)

**BREADTH**
74 feet (22.6m)

**AIR-CONDITIONED AND STABILISED**
Yes

**MAIDEN VOYAGE**
1981

**LAST REFURBISHMENT**
2010

**PASSENGER CAPACITY**
449

**OFFICERS AND CREW**
252 (European and Filipino officers and Filipino crew)

**PASSENGER DECKS**
7

**PASSENGER LIFTS**
3

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**SUN DECK**

**BRIDGE DECK**

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**Grade**

- **2D/T** Owner’s Suite £6,700
- **4T** Twin Junior Suite £5,620
- **4S** Single Junior Suite £6,400
- **7S** Deluxe Single £5,900
- **7D** Superior Double £5,130
- **8T** Superior Twin £4,750
- **8S** Superior Single £5,500

All prices are per person
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price (£)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12S</td>
<td>Standard Outside Single</td>
<td>Outside Single</td>
<td>£4,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12S aft</td>
<td>Standard Outside Single</td>
<td>Aft Outside Single</td>
<td>£4,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12T</td>
<td>Standard Outside Twin</td>
<td>Outside Twin</td>
<td>£4,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12T aft</td>
<td>Standard Outside Twin</td>
<td>Aft Outside Twin</td>
<td>£3,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12D</td>
<td>Standard Outside Double</td>
<td>Outside Double</td>
<td>£4,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12D aft</td>
<td>Standard Outside Double</td>
<td>Aft Outside Double</td>
<td>£3,680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14S</td>
<td>Standard Inside Single</td>
<td>Inside Single</td>
<td>£3,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14S aft</td>
<td>Standard Inside Single</td>
<td>Aft Inside Single</td>
<td>£3,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14T</td>
<td>Standard Inside Twin</td>
<td>Inside Twin</td>
<td>£3,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14T aft</td>
<td>Standard Inside Twin</td>
<td>Aft Inside Twin</td>
<td>£2,710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14D</td>
<td>Standard Inside Double</td>
<td>Inside Double</td>
<td>£3,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14D aft</td>
<td>Standard Inside Double</td>
<td>Aft Inside Double</td>
<td>£2,710</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All prices are per person.
INSURANCE

All passengers must have adequate and valid travel insurance including cover for cancellation, medical expenses and repatriation. Please provide us with details of your cover, including insurance company, policy number and 24-hour emergency telephone number.

If you don’t already have your own insurance, we are delighted to recommend Saga Travel Insurance. They offer cover for many pre-existing medical conditions with no upper age limit. If you are aged 50 or over, call 0800 096 0460 or visit www.saga.co.uk/travelinsurance for a quote. Please mention reference CR2411.

CONFIRMATION OF BOOKING

Applications will be dealt with and reservations confirmed in order of receipt. Confirmation of booking is subject to the General Cruise Booking Conditions sent out with this brochure.

The balance of fare must be paid on or before 24 June 2016. After this date, if the balance is not received, we reserve the right to retain the deposit paid and, further, to claim the balance of fare. If you wish to cancel your booking you must immediately write to The National Trust for Scotland Enterprises Ltd. We reserve the right to retain any deposit or full fare received and passengers will be expected to claim from their travel insurance.

The completion of the booking form shall constitute an offer only and no contract shall exist until the relevant deposit (or where required the full amount due) has been received by The National Trust for Scotland Enterprises Ltd and the Trust has issued a written confirmation of the booking to the passenger.

All bookings are accepted, and the conveyance of passengers, their baggage and personal property is made, subject to the terms of the said General Cruise Booking Conditions. The National Trust for Scotland Enterprises Ltd reserves the right to cancel the cruise, in which case the passage money will be refunded. We reserve the right to vary, without notice, the advertised itinerary of the cruises, to cancel landings and shore excursions, and otherwise vary arrangements previously advertised, in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Prices quoted are based on the operating costs and prevailing rate of exchange when this brochure was printed and the right is reserved to alter the prices at any time prior to sailing as circumstances dictate.

While every effort has been made to determine an accurate fare structure, we reserve the right to implement a fuel surcharge should world fuel prices escalate beyond those predicted.

HOW TO BOOK

We are happy to accept provisional bookings by telephone or email. For reservations please telephone 0131 458 0234 or email cruises@nts.org.uk during normal office hours (Monday to Friday).

To confirm your booking please complete and return the booking form, with deposit, to The National Trust for Scotland, Cruise Department, Hermiston Quay, 5 Collins Road, Edinburgh EH11 4DF.

DEPOSIT

A deposit of £200 per person should be sent with the booking form. Remittances should be in favour of The National Trust for Scotland Enterprises Ltd Trust A/C. If you decide to cancel your cruise before the balance of fare is due, we will return your deposit, less a £50 per person cancellation fee.

WHAT’S INCLUDED

The cruise fare includes your accommodation, on-board meals and gratuities. The ship is one class, and fares are graded according to cabin and facilities available. All passengers, irrespective of fare, can enjoy the public rooms and decks. Extras that are not included in the cost of your cruise are on-board purchases (drinks, cigarettes, beauty salon, etc), shore excursions, transport to/from the ship, parking and insurance.

MEALS

Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and late-night gourmet bites are served on board for your pleasure. Meals throughout the cruise, including meals taken on board while the ship is in port, are included in the cruise fare.

However, meals not taken on board cannot be refunded. Packed lunches can be requested free of charge. Cabin service is available 24 hours a day at no extra cost.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Details of shore excursions, with costs, will be sent to passengers approximately 12 weeks prior to the cruise. We offer a wide range of excursions at each port where transport and guides are available. These range greatly in duration, cost, theme and activity level and our aim is to have a tour to suit everyone. The shore excursion brochure will have full details of all the tours along with information about our ports of call and ideas for exploring on your own. Tours are offered at cost price; for guidance, a standard half-day excursion usually costs between £30 to £40.

TRANSPORT & PARKING

Transport will be arranged for passengers from central Edinburgh (Charlotte Square), central Glasgow (Buchanan Bus Station) and Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. Passengers will be asked to book and pay for transport when paying the balance of fare. Secure parking will be available at Greenock docks.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

These will be issued about three weeks prior to the date of embarkation, together with all tickets, luggage labels and confirmation of transport timings to and from the ship.

FINANCIAL PEACE OF MIND

All moneys paid to the National Trust for Scotland for the cruise and associated transport, shore excursions and car parking are held in a bonded trust account and will not be released to the National Trust for Scotland until after the cruise has taken place.

EARLY-BIRD SCHEME

We do not give last-minute discounts on our holidays. We feel that benefits should go to our early bookers, so if you book before 26 February 2016 you will qualify for a 5% discount.
'Everything on the cruise is quite excellent - the fact that we are on our 10th National Trust for Scotland cruise speaks for itself. The National Trust for Scotland staff are so pleasant, helpful and patient with us all, and make the whole experience like a happy family party.'