
Travel with The Met

June 9–18, 2023

Celtic Classics:

The English Channel & the Irish Sea Aboard *Sea Cloud Spirit*

with Melanie Holcomb,

Curator and Manager of Collection Strategy,

Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters



THE
MET

Celtic Classics: The English Channel & the Irish Sea Aboard *Sea Cloud Spirit*

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

From the Norman Conquest of England to the D-Day landings in French Normandy, the English Channel has witnessed astonishing history. Meanwhile, the Irish Sea's rugged coastlines are dotted with beautiful gardens and the sprawling estates of nobles and landed gentry. In the summer of 2023, join me along these historic waters, as we set sail aboard a new member of the *Sea Cloud* family, the classically elegant yet technologically innovative *Sea Cloud Spirit*.

As a scholar of medieval art, I'm thrilled to introduce you to this region's treasures dating to Norman times. After boarding *Sea Cloud Spirit* in Portsmouth, we'll explore both sides of the English Channel. Among the highlights in France will be William the Conqueror's former home of Caen and its iconic medieval stone houses. In the 11th-century Bayeux Cathedral, we'll discover one of the landmarks of medieval art, the *Bayeux Tapestry*, a 230-foot-long embroidery depicting 58 scenes from the Norman Conquest.

Fascinating lesser-visited islands await: In the Channel Islands, we'll visit the marvelous walled subtropical garden at La Seigneurie on tiny Sark and stop at Victor Hugo's exile hideaway on Guernsey. Back in England, we'll join a guide to stroll the Elizabethan streets of Dartmouth, a Norman port featured in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. Then we'll head to Tresco in the Isles of Scilly, where we'll stroll and its subtropical Abbey Garden set amid a 10th-century monastery.

After a day at sail in the Irish Sea, we'll anchor off the Welsh coast and venture to the 19th-century Bodnant Garden to see its famous Laburnum arch in bloom. Nearby, at the enchanting 18th-century mansion Plas Newydd, the owners will introduce us to their private collection, including an acclaimed landscape mural by Rex Whistler. In the Northern Irish capital of Belfast, we will join the owners of exquisite Ballywalter Park for a tour of their magnificent holdings of painting and sculpture before disembarking in Dublin.

We will enjoy this cruise in the company of members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Author and renowned horticulturist Patrick "Paddy" Bowe will also accompany us to share his insights on the region's gardens. I hope to see you on this June sea expedition aboard the splendid new *Sea Cloud Spirit*.

Sincerely,

Melanie Holcomb

Curator and Manager of Collection Strategy, Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters
The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Traveling with you

Melanie Holcomb

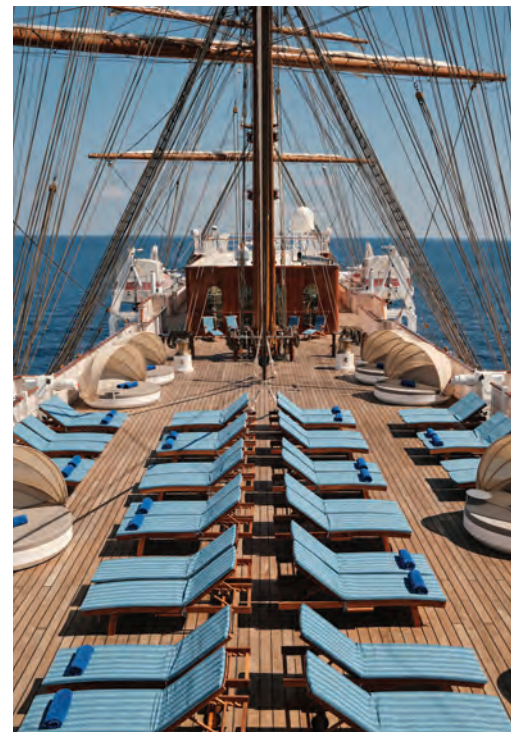
Melanie Holcomb is Curator and Manager of Collection Strategy in the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she's worked since 1999. She is a specialist in the luxury arts of the Middle Ages with a particular interest in the arts that merge sea travel and trade. An alumna of Smith College and the University of Michigan, she was co-organizer of the award-winning exhibition *Jerusalem, 1000-1500: Every People Under Heaven* (2016) and *Jewelry: The Body Transformed* (2018). Her next exhibition *Rich Man, Poor Man: Art, Class, and Commerce in a Late Medieval Town*, focuses on a merchant's household in Exeter, England. It opens at The Met Cloisters in March 2023.

Trip Highlights

- Cruise aboard the spectacular newly built *Sea Cloud Spirit*, which boasts amenities such as an elevator between decks as well as select cabins with balconies or openable panoramic windows
- Enjoy an owner-led private tour of Belfast's **Ballywalter Park**, a 19th-century mansion on a 1,200-acre estate, and admire its Victorian gardens and conservatory topped with a stately cast-iron dome
- In the company of the owners, experience a behind-the-scenes tour of **Plas Newydd**, an 18th-century Welsh estate, and explore their personal art collection including Rex Whistler's landscape mural, one of the largest and most famous in Britain
- Delve into **Normandy's** rich history, including a private look at the *Bayeux Tapestry*, the legendary 11th-century embroidery, and a visit to the **Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy**, which vividly brings the events surrounding D-Day to life
- Wander through idyllic subtropical gardens on lesser-visited islands in the English Channel, including **La Seigneurie's** delightful walled garden on Sark and Tresco's **Abbey Garden**, which is set amid the ruins of a medieval Benedictine monastery



Bayeux Tapestry (detail), Bayeux, France



Photos clockwise from top right: Map of the region; On deck, *Sea Cloud Spirit*; Titanic Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland, photo courtesy of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board; Bayeux Cathedral, France; High street, Saint Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands; Arch of Yellow Viburnum flowers, Bodnant Garden, Wales; Front cover: Honfleur Harbor, France by Johannes Valkama. Back cover: L'Abbaye-aux-Hommes, Caen, France (top); *Sea Cloud Spirit* (bottom).

Celtic Classics: The English Channel & the Irish Sea

Aboard *Sea Cloud Spirit*

June 9–18, 2023

Departure

Friday, June 9

Depart for London on an overnight flight.

London, United Kingdom / Portsmouth / Embark *Sea Cloud Spirit*

Saturday, June 10

Arrive this morning at Heathrow Airport, and transfer to *Sea Cloud Spirit*, which will be docked in Portsmouth. Gather for a welcome and safety briefing, and savor dinner on board as you sail across the English Channel to France. L, D

Honfleur, France / Caen / Bayeux

Sunday, June 11

From the port of Honfleur, visit historic Caen, whose Norman treasures have survived the centuries. Continue to Bayeux and the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy. Then, visit the 11th-century cathedral and the *Bayeux Tapestry*, an embroidered depiction of the Norman Conquest and one of the most renowned works of art to survive from the Middle Ages. Stop at Malcolm Forbes's 17th-century Château de Balleroy to visit the Musée des Ballons, which houses Forbes's collection of hot-air balloons, and sip cocktails while enjoying views of its surrounding gardens. Return to the ship and sail west in the early evening for the Channel Islands. B, L, D



Château de Balleroy, Bayeux, France



Slapton Sands, Dartmouth, U.K.

Saint Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands

Monday, June 12

Following our arrival at the island of Guernsey this morning, travel by ferry to the tiny island of Sark, a place nearly forgotten by time. Since there is no motor traffic here, the island's 500 residents travel by horse-drawn cart or on foot. Enjoy the extraordinary vistas of this scenic area, and linger in the walled garden at La Seigneurie, where semi-tropical plants thrive in an unusual natural environment warmed by the Gulf Stream. Alternatively, visit the charming town of Guernsey, where you will tour the home of Victor Hugo. Set sail across the English Channel at midday. Gather for the captain's welcome dinner and reception this evening. B, L, R, D

Dartmouth, United Kingdom

Tuesday, June 13

Stand on deck this morning for our passage along the exquisite River Dart. *Sea Cloud Spirit* moors off the small town of Dartmouth, an important port during the Norman era, steeped in nautical tradition. Go ashore for a guided walk through the Elizabethan streets, and drive along winding country lanes to Slapton Sands, where American forces trained in great secrecy before the D-Day landings. Today, it is home to the Britannia Royal Naval College. Enjoy the afternoon at sea as *Sea Cloud Spirit* heads to the Scilly Islands. B, L, D

Tresco, Isles of Scilly

Wednesday, June 14

In the morning, *Sea Cloud Spirit* will thread a course through the submerged landscape of the Isles of Scilly. The ship will anchor off the island of Tresco, one of England's truly special

places. Explore the glorious Abbey Garden, set amid the ruins of a 10th-century Benedictine monastery and renowned for their lush subtropical plants. With a mild winter climate, high walls, and hedges, the garden hosts plants from all around the world. Pass Land's End before sundown on a northerly passage to the Irish Sea. B, L, D

Day at Sea

Thursday, June 15

Spend a day at sea, attending lectures, and enjoying the amenities of *Sea Cloud Spirit* as we head to Wales. B, L, D

Holyhead, Wales

Friday, June 16

From the port of Holyhead on the Isle of Anglesey, travel overland to Lord Aberconway's home and gardens at Bodnant Garden, which is considered one of the most extraordinary Edwardian naturalistic gardens in the world. 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. Return to *Sea Cloud Spirit*, and set sail during lunch on board. B, L, D

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Saturday, June 17

On a walking tour of Belfast, admire its rich Victorian and Edwardian architecture, and see the city's famous peace walls and vivid murals. Or opt for a visit to the impressive Titanic Museum. Continue to Ballywalter Park, a spectacular 19th-century mansion. See the conservatory, with its opulent cast-iron dome, and the formal Victorian gardens. After lunch, tour the house and the surrounding landscapes with the owners. Return to Belfast, and set sail in the late afternoon. This evening, join the captain for a farewell dinner. B, L, D

Dublin, Ireland / Disembark / Return

Sunday, June 18

Disembark *Sea Cloud Spirit*, and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Cruise Rates

Cabin Numbers	Decks	Double Rates	Single Rates
206 to 211, 216, 218, 223	Cabin Deck	\$10,999	\$16,499
Superior Cabin. 172 to 204 sq. ft.; two single beds; spacious bathroom equipped with sink, shower and WC			
212, 214, 215, 217, 220, 222, 224 to 243	Cabin Deck	\$12,999	\$19,499
Deluxe Cabins. 215 sq. ft.; two single beds; bathroom equipped with sink, shower and WC			
401 to 406, 408	Lido Deck	\$14,999	Inquire
Deluxe Cabins. 172 to 215 sq. ft.; two single beds; bathroom equipped with sink, shower and WC			
306 to 311, 314 & 315, 320 to 333	Verandah Deck	\$17,999	Inquire
Junior Suites. 280 to 323 sq. ft. including balcony; spacious bathroom equipped with sink, shower and WC			
316 to 318	Verandah Deck	\$22,999	Inquire
Suites. 388 to 420 sq. ft. including balcony; two single beds; walk-in closet; spacious bathroom with bathtub			

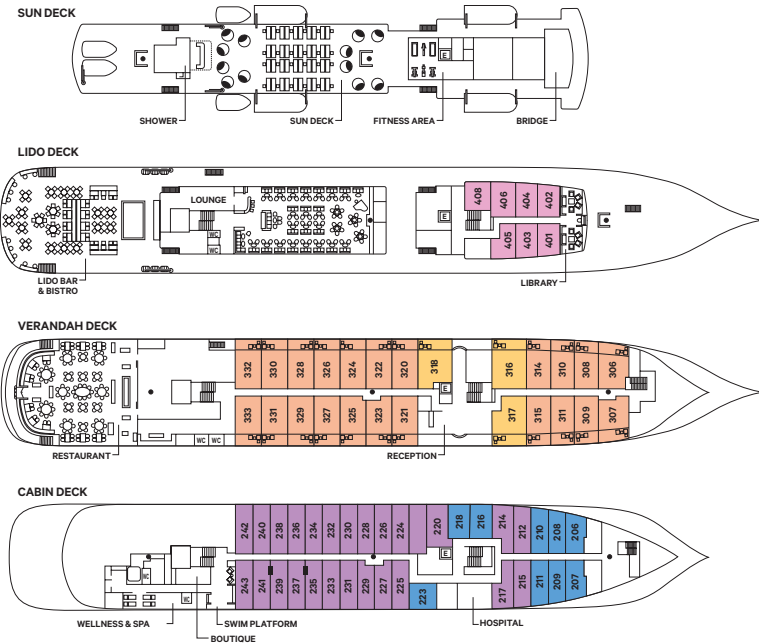
Rates Include

- Eight nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sea Cloud Spirit*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine during lunches and dinner
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visits
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rates

International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; shipboard gratuities, personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Sea Cloud Spirit



Junior Suite, *Sea Cloud Spirit*

In the autumn of 2021, the *Sea Cloud* family that brought us the iconic original *Sea Cloud* and the magnificent *Sea Cloud II* welcomed a new sister: the elegant, enchanting *Sea Cloud Spirit*. With its classic yacht atmosphere, this tall ship sets new standards in maritime luxury and includes hand-rigged sails and wonderful modern amenities unique in the *Sea Cloud* family, including select cabins with panoramic windows that open and an elevator connecting the decks, the first of its kind on a sailing ship. *Sea Cloud Spirit* is equipped with 69 outside cabins, 25 of them with balconies, comfortably carrying up to 136 guests. Enjoy its impressive and spacious wellness area with three treatment rooms, a Finnish sauna, a steam bath, and a hair salon.

Celtic Classics: June 9–18, 2023

Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: met@arrangementsabroad.com; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Sea Cloud Spirit cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a cabin with _____

Form of Payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org



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The Metropolitan
Museum of Art

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