

Small Ship Adventure Co.

Specialising in Small Ship Cruising Worldwide



BALTIC ODYSSEY

**SCOTLAND, GERMANY, DENMARK,
POLAND, LITHUANIA, SWEDEN,
LATVIA, ESTONIA, RUSSIA**

Aboard the Clipper Odyssey

July 4 – 18, 2012

ITINERARY

Wednesday & Thursday, July 4 & 5, 2012

/Edinburgh, Scotland

Depart on your independent overnight flight to Edinburgh. Transfer to our hotel and gather the evening of the 5th for a welcome dinner and briefing.

Friday, July 6

Edinburgh / Leith / Embark Clipper Odyssey

After breakfast a city tour highlights sights along Edinburgh's most famous avenue, the Royal Mile, including Holyrood Palace, stunning St. Giles Cathedral, and Edinburgh Castle. After lunch we transfer to the port of Leith to embark the Clipper Odyssey.

Saturday, July 7

At Sea

As we transit the North Sea our team of lecturers prepares us for the exciting cultural and historical encounters ahead.

Sunday, July 8**Sylt Island, Germany**

The beautiful, windswept island of Sylt is the northernmost point of Germany. The inviting sandy beaches are known for their “wandering dunes,” and the vast tidal flats that are feeding and resting grounds for migratory birds. After lunch on shore go for an optional bicycle tour from the village of Kampen, or enjoy free time to explore Westerland, the charming capital of Sylt.

Monday, July 9**Kiel Canal Transit**

Early this morning we begin our transit of the historic 61-mile-long Kiel Canal and sail from the North Sea into the Baltic. Kaiser Wilhelm I set the first foundation stone in place on June 3, 1887, in Brunsbüttel and the final stone was laid by Kaiser Wilhelm II on June 21, 1895, in Holtenau. Today the Kiel Canal is one of the busiest man-made waterways in the world.

Tuesday, July 10**Ronne, Bornholm Island, Denmark**

After breakfast we step ashore on serene Bornholm Island, endowed with sugar-white sand beaches, dramatic cliffs, thick forests, and heather-clad hills. Visit the ruins of Hammershus Castle, Scandinavia’s largest medieval fortress; the unique, round 12th-century churches, Osterlars and Nylars; and the charming half-timbered fishing hamlet of Gudhjem. We also visit art studios renowned for their glass blowing and pottery.

Wednesday, July 11**Gdansk, Poland**

Today we enjoy a full-day tour of this city whose history spans nearly 1,000 years. We stop at the Solidarity Monument, in front of the Gdansk shipyard, then view the exhibition, Roads to Freedom, a fascinating audio-visual portrayal of those important, world-changing events. We enjoy a walking tour through lively Old Town with its magnificent collection of Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque buildings and monuments. We pass through the Golden Gate and walk down Long Street to the 15th-century Palace of Artus, where Neptune’s Fountain commemorates Gdansk’s Hanseatic past. We also visit medieval St. Mary’s Church, the world’s largest brick church. After lunch there is time at leisure for further exploration.

Thursday, July 12**Klaipeda, Lithuania**

Our day begins with a drive to the amber center of Palanga. A stroll through the Botanical Park with its 500 varieties of trees and bushes, takes us to the Amber Museum, housed in a 19th-century neo-Renaissance-style mansion. Afterward we drive to the Old Town for a walking tour. From beautiful Theatre Square we explore the narrow streets that meander between the charming half-timbered houses and shops.

Friday, July 13**Visby, Gotland Island, Sweden**

This morning we arrive at Gotland Island, the largest island in the Baltic. Its splendid city of Visby, a World Heritage Site, is famous for its intact medieval architecture, especially the 44 guard towers built as part of the city walls in the 11th and 12th centuries. We drive to Almedalen, a green oasis in the city center, then walk past lovely medieval granaries and the city's oldest building, the Powder Tower. We visit the Botanical Garden, known for its exotic plant collection and take a ride up to a splendid panoramic viewpoint of the city and its spires. We continue our tour on foot along charming cobblestone streets, to visit the impressive St. Mary's Cathedral and the Gotland Museum with its excellent medieval collections.

Saturday, July 14**Riga, Latvia**

Our day in Latvia showcases the riches of this 800-year-old Hanseatic river port. Our walking tour takes us to multiple landmarks, including the Blackheads House, one of the oldest buildings in Riga; St. Peter's Church, a superb Gothic masterpiece; the 15th-century Three Brothers merchant houses; and St. Jacob and St. John churches. We also visit the 13th-century Dome Cathedral, whose organ concerts are legendary. We continue our exploration by motorcoach, driving past lovely parks along the City Canal lined with the stunning Art Nouveau architecture built in 1899 during the Jugendstil movement. There is free time this afternoon to explore Riga on your own.

Sunday, July 15**Tallinn, Estonia**

Today we set out for old town Tallinn, a visual feast of soaring spires, towers, and turrets. After a renaissance in restoration and reconstruction; Tallinn proudly proclaims itself the finest preserved city in the Baltic. In the upper Old Town we visit Palace Square and the magnificent cupola-crowned Alexander Nevsky Cathedral. In the lower Old Town we visit the Town Hall Square, once a medieval marketplace; one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe, founded in 1422; and stroll along St. Catherine's Passage in the Latin Quarter. We also visit Kadriorg Palace and Park, built by Peter the Great as a summer residence.

Monday & Tuesday, July 16 & 17**St. Petersburg, Russia**

We arrive in splendid St. Petersburg in the early afternoon and enjoy two days of exploration. Highlights of our visit include St. Isaac's Cathedral and the Winter Palace which houses Catherine the Great's incomparable Hermitage Museum. Enjoy an advanced entry and special guided tour which includes the Gold Room—a dazzling display of jewelry, as well as the famous Scythian and Greek gold. Drive across the Neva River to the burial place of the tsars, Peter and Paul Cathedral, its 18th-century spire dominates the skyline. We visit the spectacular Church of Resurrection, and drive along Russia's most famous street, the Nevsky Prospect, lined with magnificent palaces, churches, and theaters. A scenic drive takes us to the magnificent palace and gardens of Peterhof, a grand summertime residence built by Peter the Great.

Wednesday, July 18

Disembark Clipper Odyssey

After breakfast disembark and transfer to the airport for your independent flight homeward.