

# AUTUMN IN Maritime canada & New England

A JOURNEY FROM MONTREAL TO BOSTON DISCOVERING The St Lawrence River & Nova Scotia Aboard the Exploris One

 $2^{\text{ND}}$  TO  $15^{\text{TH}}$  OCTOBER 2024

NOBLE CALEDONIA



We are delighted to have chartered the Exploris One for this fascinating journey from Montreal to Boston which offers a combination of sophisticated cities and towns with the great Canadian outdoors. Travelling with a maximum of just 120 fellow passengers, we will witness some stunning scenery, encounter marine-life including the many species of whales in the Saguenay Fjord, discover the region's unique cultural history, learn about Canada's rich colonial past and enjoy the interesting blend of cultures for which Eastern Canada is famous. Added to this we have the advantage of travelling in autumn and with good fortune hope to witness the seasonal change in foliage and the magnificent colours of Fall. There will be a choice of included excursions on offer in many ports of call as well as ample time to relax on board whilst cruising through some stunning scenery and hopefully spotting some of the astounding marine life of the region.

Our journey begins with a two night hotel stay in the vibrant city of Montreal with its unique style before we discover the city of Quebec with its old-world charm and French joie de vivre. Once we have embarked the Exporis One, our voyage begins with time spent in Saguenay Fjord National Park from where we continue northwards to the scenic St Lawrence River. With its rich ecosystem, this mighty river is home to many seabirds, seals and no fewer than 13 whale species have been identified in its waters including humpbacks, belugas and blue whales. As we venture further into maritime Canada other scenic highlights of our voyage will include the wild landscapes and birdlife of the Gaspé Peninsula and charming Prince Edward Island.

Leaving Maritime Canada, a relaxing day of cruising is to be enjoyed before we reach the shores of the United States of America and the city of Portland, Maine which is home to a wealth of architectural treasures and immortalised by Longfellow in My Lost Youth. To conclude our journey we have an overnight stay in Boston with time to enjoy what is surely America's most beautiful and historic city.





#### The Itinerary

Day 1 London to Montreal, Canada. Fly by scheduled flight. Arrive this evening and transfer to a central hotel for our two night stay.

Day 2 Montreal. After a morning at leisure we will meet in the early afternoon for a tour of this culturally diverse city. See Old Montreal's rich architectural and historical legacy, visit the Notre-Dame Basilica and stop at the Mont-Royal for a panoramic view of the city. Meet this evening for dinner.

Day 3 Montreal to Quebec. After breakfast in the hotel we will drive to Quebec. Quebec City is the only walled community in North America and is deeply engaged in preserving its history and its unique place in Canada. We will see the Plains of Abraham at the point where the battle between the invading English forces and the defenders took place as they stormed the upper city and captured the town. Then onward to pretty Place Royale in the lower town, which in 1759 was bombarded from across the river, as fire ships were dispatched towards the port. After lunch in the city we will transfer to the Exploris One for embarkation. Sail this evening.

Day 4 Saguenay. Spend the morning cruising the picturesque Saguenay River which is nestled beneath towering cliffs and enveloped in pine. The mouth of the river, where the Saint Lawrence River meets the outflow of the Saguenay River, is one of the most exciting whale watching sites in the world. Between May and October, up to 13 species of cetaceans make their way upriver from the Atlantic Ocean and then become temporary residents in the salty rich waters of the Saint Lawrence. At the tip of a majestic fjord, lies the charming city of Saguenay. With a decidedly French atmosphere and a touch of the Old World, we will visit the district of Chicoutimi and learn about the area's cultural, historic and natural history. Discover the importance of the fjord as a natural trading route for the First Nations people of the area before France established its first fur trading post in the 1600s. We also learn how the early 20th century brought exploitation of the river with logging and development of the pulp and paper industries. Alternatively those feeling active may wish to visit the Parc National du Saguenay. At the Interpretation Centre learn about the creation and characteristics of the fjord before taking a walk along the Meandres des Falaises trail.

Day 5 Baie Comeau. From our berth in Baie Comeau we will head to the heart of the Manicouagan-Uapishka Reserve and the Glacier Exploration Station where we take a journey through geological time to observe the evolution of the planet during the last Ice Age. Watch the high-tech multimedia 'Garden of Glaciers' show, which uses special effects to demonstrate how, 20,000 years ago, most of the Northern Hemisphere was covered by a thick layer of ice and understand the impact that it had on the North Shore of the St Lawrence River when it melted some 10,000 years ago. Continue to the Seashell Valley, an exceptional geological site and the only one of its kind worldwide which illustrates how this land emerged from the ancient sea. Seashell Valley is classified an Exceptional Geological Site by Natural Resources Canada. After lunch on board we have some free time to explore Baie Comeau's Old Town including Place La Salle, a quaint commercial area full of historical buildings, speciality food shops, souvenir stores and art galleries.

Day 6 Gaspé & Percé. Arriving into Gaspé in the late morning an afternoon excursion takes us to Percé. The stunning drive will pass rugged cliffs and sweeping bays with some of the most extraordinary panoramas in Eastern Canada - the Bay of Gaspé, the cliffs of Forillon National Park, the Barachois de Malbaie (sand bar) and the unique precipices along the coast in Percé. Later we will take a cruise in the Parc National de l'Île-Bonaventureet-du-Rocher-Percé, which takes us to both sides of the famous Percé Rock, and then out to see the largest gannet colony in the world where thousands of birds nest on the cliffs of Bonaventure Island - an unforgettable experience. Naturalists consider Bonaventure's colony of 120,000 Northern Gannets to be the most important and accessible colony of its kind in the world. After time to see the artisans and artists of Percé we return to our ship.

a morning at sea we arrive on Prince Edward Island, Canada's smallest and most charming province. From our berth in Summerside we drive along the North Shore to Cavendish Bay, Prince Edward Island National Park, and the farmstead that inspired L.M. Montgomery's Anne of Green Gables. Here we

Day 7 Prince Edward Island. After

can view the house as well as other settings from the book, including the Haunted Woods, Lover's Lane and Balsam Hollow. Enjoy free time strolling along the shores of the bay or through the charming town centre before we return to the ship for dinner.

#### Day 8 Strait of Canso. This

morning we will navigate through the Strait of Canso. This strait is located in the province of Nova Scotia and divides the Nova Scotia peninsula from Cape Breton Island. It is a long thin channel approximately 16 and a half miles long and averaging almost two miles wide (0.62 miles at its narrowest). The strait connects the Chedabucto Bay on the Atlantic Ocean to St George's Bay on the Northumberland Strait, a sub-basin of the Gulf of Saint Lawrence. The strait is crossed by the Canso Causeway which opened in 1955 for the vehicular and rail traffic. Enjoy a leisurely afternoon sailing.

Day 9 Halifax, Nova Scotia. The capital of Nova Scotia and the largest city in Canada's Atlantic Provinces, Halifax was once Great Britain's major military bastion in



North America. The beautifully restored waterfront buildings of Halifax's Historic Properties recall the city's centuries-old maritime heritage. We will visit the picturesque Citadel, which was constructed in 1856 as an eightpointed-star defence structure to defend Halifax from invading forces. It is populated by the 87th Highlander Regiment, who regularly perform re-enactments inside the square. The Halifax Museum of the Atlantic offers an exceptional glimpse into Nova Scotia's maritime heritage, with an emphasis on small craft and the massive allied World War II convoys assembled in the inner Halifax harbour. On our way out of town, we drive past the Fairlawn Cemetery and hear the compelling story of how 100 of the RMS Titanic victims were recovered and buried in this city. We will then continue along the craggy shoreline to Peggy's Cove, one of the loveliest maritime villages in Nova Scotia. Located in St Margaret's Bay, this active coastal village retains the character and flavour of an active residential community, with a vibrant fishing fleet, charming multicoloured homes and the iconic Peggy's Cove lighthouse. Lunch will be taken in one of the local restaurants after which there will be ample time to stroll through the community, explore the rocks surrounding the lighthouse and shop for typical Nova Scotia souvenirs in the local stores.

Day 10 At Sea. Spend the day at sea as we cross to New England.

Day 11 Portland, USA. Arrive this morning at the port of Portland in Maine. The Old Port waterfront combines active fishing wharves with warehouses converted into charming boutiques and cafes, shops and museums. Drive through the elegant Victorian Mansion district, past the boyhood home of American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and many of the former Sea Captain's homes. Then drive out to see Casco Bay and the famous Portland Head light that guards the channel and access to this port. This afternoon we take the ride to Kennebunkport. Kennebunkport's Lower Village and Dock Square are located close to the ocean and the Kennebunkport River. Since the early 1600s this community has been a shipbuilding mecca, with locally constructed five-masted schooners sliding into the Atlantic to eventually work in every corner of the globe. The New England community has long been the summer residence of those seeking to relax in this New England maritime atmosphere. We will have free time to discover this picturesque community, after which we will tour past the architecturally significant homes of Kennebunk.

#### Day 12 Gloucester to Boston.

Disembark this morning in Gloucester and drive to Lexington Green where, in 1775, Paul Revere rode to warn the Minutemen of the approaching British troops. Next we journey to Concord and the Old North Bridge to see where the British were confronted by the Minutemen in the first full battle of the Revolution. Continue on to the college town of Cambridge, home to two of North America's most prestigious universities, Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After a pleasant stroll around Harvard Yard we will have lunch before transferring to our hotel in Boston. The remainder of the day and evening are free to explore at your own pace.

Day 13 Boston to London. After breakfast in the hotel we explore

Boston's iconic institutions and roam its lively districts with a guided city tour. Among the famous landmarks, see the Boston Common, the Trinity Church, the Old State House and the historic Boston North End with some free time to explore the Faneuil Hall Market Place. After lunch we will transfer to the airport for our scheduled flight to London.

Day 14 London. Arrive this morning.

#### PRICES PER PERSON Based on double occupancy

#### **SPECIAL OFFER** – SAVE £300 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Deck	Suite Category	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
3	Ocean Stateroom	£8295	£7995
4	Deluxe Stateroom	£8795	£8495
5	Balcony Stateroom	£9495	£9195
5	Discovery Suite	£9995	£9695
7	Navigator Suite	£10595	£10295
7	Grand Suite	£11795	£11495
7	Owner's Suite	£12295	£11995
3	Ocean Stateroom for sole use	£10795	£10495
4	Superior Stateroom for sole use	£11295	£10995

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Montreal with breakfast • Dinner on Day 2 • Overnight hotel accommodation in Boston with breakfast • Nine nights aboard the Exploris One on a full board basis • House wine, beer & soft drinks with lunch and dinner • Noble Caledonia onboard team including Guest Speaker • Shore excursions • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes. Not Included: Travel insurance, Canada & USA visas.

## EXPLORIS ONE



Currently known as the Silver Explorer and owned by Silversea Cruises, Exploris One will begin her new life with the French company Exploris Expeditions in 2023. Having been associated with the vessel for many years, we know her to be ideal for small ship cruising and for our exclusive charter, we will be accommodating just 120 guests on board. The vessel's shallow draft will allow us to navigate in areas that larger ships would not be able to access and whilst cruising, the vessel benefits from spacious deck areas from where you can watch for passing wildlife and admire the beautiful scenery. The atmosphere on board is relaxed and informal with the focus on the wonders of the destination you are visiting, which combined with the comfortable surroundings, excellent service, superb cuisine and expert onboard team make for the perfect small ship experience.

#### Your Suite/Stateroom

Accommodation on board is arranged over four decks. All suites and staterooms are spacious ranging in size from 16 to 67 square metres and each affords considerable comfort with en-suite bathroom and outside views. All suites and staterooms feature individually controlled air-conditioning, desk with stationery, a fully stocked mini bar and satellite television on which the lectures are relayed live should you wish to listen from the comfort of your cabin. A security safe, hairdryer, direct dial telephone, Wi-Fi access, bathrobes and luxury bath products are also provided. The beds in each suite offer exceptionally comfortable mattresses and can be configured as double or twin. Guests in the suites have the additional benefit of premium Wi-Fi access and an espresso machine.

#### Suite/Stateroom Categories

- Ocean & Superior Staterooms measure 16 to 18 square metres and feature a picture window.
- Deluxe Staterooms measure 18 square metres and feature a large picture window.
- Balcony Staterooms measure 19 or 20 square metres and feature a French balcony.
- **Discovery Suites** measure 39 square metres including a sitting area and two French balconies.
- Navigator Suites measure 37 square metres and include a private balcony.
- Grand Suites measure 57 square metres including a private balcony, a living room with sitting area and a walk-in wardrobe.
- **Owner's Suites** measure 67 square metres including a private balcony, a living room with sitting area and a walk-in wardrobe.



#### Your Space

Aboard Exploris One, the atmosphere is akin to travelling on board a private yacht. The public areas include the Main Lounge which is spacious with comfortable seating and features piano music in the evenings and the smaller Observation Lounge, the perfect venue to relax with a good book, recount your experiences with fellow travellers or simply enjoy a pre-dinner drink watching the everchanging scenery through the picture windows. There is also a large Lecture Theatre on Deck 6 where daily briefings, lectures and recaps from your onboard team will take place. Other facilities include an open seating restaurant on deck 4, two Jacuzzis on Deck 5, an outdoor Grill area, a shop, a hair salon, wellness centre including sauna and a fitness centre. There is also a Library with a collection of hardcover books, magazines, reference materials and newspapers. There is a doctor on board and lifts that serve all decks excluding the Panorama Deck.

#### Your Dining

The cuisine on board is worthy of the finest restaurants where discreet, attentive service is standard. The Restaurant is elegant yet casual with no formal evenings and no assigned tables allowing you the freedom to dine with whom and when you please. The Restaurant features large windows and offers contemporary, international cuisine with menus featuring local specialities. In addition there is the convenience of the outdoor Grill for lunch and dinner (weather permitting) where you may prefer lighter fare for lunch, and in the evening seafood and grilled prime cuts are grilled tableside. Wine, soft drinks and tea and coffee are included with meals.

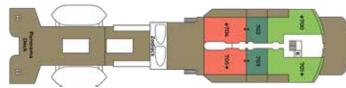
#### Your Life On Board

The atmosphere on board is warm and convivial and more akin to a private yacht or country hotel in which you can learn more about wonderful destinations you are visiting in the company of just 120 fellow, like-minded passengers There is a high ratio of crew to passengers and after a day ashore you will return to the comfort and peace of a wellrun and exceedingly comfortable ship. Talks and informative port briefings by the onboard team and of course good food, all contribute to make any voyage aboard the Exploris One a memorable and joyful experience.

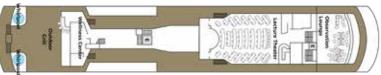


#### EXPLORIS ONE DECK PLAN

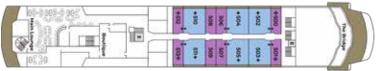
#### DECK 7



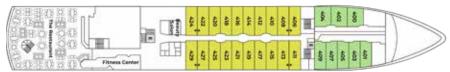
DECK 6



#### DECK 5



#### DECK 4



#### DECK 3



**Please note:** the vessel is due to undergo a refurbishment in 2023 and therefore, upon embarkation, may look different to the images shown. Once the refurbishment is complete the updated images will be available to view online.



### NOBLE CALEDONIA

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All special offers are subject to availability. Our current booking conditions apply to all reservations and are available on request. Cover image: Portland Head Lighthouse, Maine, USA.