Oberlin Alumni Association

In the Wake of the Vikings
Scotland • Norway • Denmark
Scottish Highlands • Norway’s Southern Archipelago • Hebridean Islands • Orkney Islands • Shetland Islands
A voyage aboard the Exclusively Chartered Small Ship Five-Star M.S. Le Boréal
June 8 to 16, 2016

escorted by Nicholas Jones
Oberlin Professor of English
Dear Oberlin Travelers:

Across the length and breadth of Scotland and Norway lies an unsurpassed richness of archaeological heritage left from the age of the Vikings and before, where ancient stone monuments and castles present an enigmatic and imposing face to the world. Explore this fascinating land of ruins and castles, Viking and Celtic clans, old-world villages and the spectacular natural features of misty isles, wild glens, lochs and moors. Hear the Gaelic language, still spoken in the Scottish Highlands, where the history of the people who lived here for centuries emanates from the heather-covered hillside. Experience these remote gems on a journey along the splendid coastlines of Scotland, Norway and Denmark. We will be joined by Oberlin College Professor of English Nicholas Jones who will enhance our journey with lectures and literary reflections.

Our specially designed itinerary follows the stepping stones of Nordic and Scottish civilizations during the best time of year, when the weather is mild and the days are long. The exclusively chartered, Five-Star small ship M.S. LE BOREAL, featuring only 110 deluxe Suites and Staterooms and providing all the luxury and sophistication of a fine hotel, is the ideal vessel to navigate the course of this unique itinerary.

Cruise from Glasgow to Copenhagen and visit two UNESCO World Heritage sites, several seldom-visited islands of the North Atlantic and the natural wonders of Scandinavia. Travel aboard The Jacobite steam train, “one of the great railway journeys of the world.” Tour the iconic 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle outside Kyle of Lochalsh, admire the natural beauty of the Shetland Islands with their remarkable links to the distant past, and learn more about Viking history on the tradition-steeped Orkney Islands. Traverse the ancient shipping lanes of the Vikings as you cross the North Sea to historic Bergen; and en route to Copenhagen, admire picturesque settlements dotting the lovely Norwegian coastline and its scenic archipelago.

Join us for this exceptional small ship voyage of a lifetime—a great travel value with all meals, excursions and accommodations included. This popular program has sold out quickly in the past, so I encourage you to book now while space and Early Booking Savings are available.

Warm regards,

M. Danielle Young
Executive Director
Oberlin Alumni Association

Nick Jones teaches courses in Shakespeare, Seventeenth-Century Poetry, and British Romantic Literature. He has been Associate Dean of Oberlin’s College of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Comparative Literature Program, through which he pioneered connections among the College of Arts and Sciences, the Conservatory of Music, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Nick enjoys helping students and adults find interdisciplinary connections, whether teaching in the classroom or in settings such as Oberlin’s Kulas Recital Hall, Cleveland’s Hanna Theater, the British Museum, or Stonehenge. Recently he taught continuing education courses for the national program Books@Work (on Girl with a Pearl Earring, by Tracy Chevalier OC ’84) and for Kendal at Oberlin (on the odes of John Keats). His publications include a book on the first American preachers and essays on Milton, Herbert, and Shakespeare; he is currently completing a translation of the Italian madrigal poems of Giovanni Battista Guarini. Nick regularly reviews music performances in the Cleveland area for clevelandclassical.com. He is also president of the board of the Oberlin Heritage Center.
During the ephemeral Viking Age, which prevailed almost 300 years between the eighth and 11th centuries, the Men of the North were cast as fierce barbarians who plundered their way across the known world. Viking depictions of Thor’s hammer and Odin’s ravens, symbols of their pagan gods, helped propagate, through oral traditions, their mythos as fearsome invaders in the world’s imagination for over a millennium. Yet hints of their legacy found in runic inscriptions offer a splendid pageant of history and show them as practical opportunists and traders with a heavy cultural emphasis on poetry, artistry and technology. Vikings were extraordinary mariners, setting their longships out to crisscross half the world, vastly extending its known boundaries, and founding new colonies as far west as North America, as far south as North Africa and as far east as the Caspian Sea. They created a network of merchants and trade that linked directly to the Hanseatic League in Bergen, which contributed greatly to the development of the 15th-century economy on the Shetland and Orkney Islands. The Vikings’ many-sided achievements impressed themselves upon the non-Scandinavian world, and the complexity and nuances of their culture await your discovery across these remote, verdant, storied lands.

U.S.
Wednesday, June 8
Depart the U.S.

Glasgow, Scotland
Thursday, June 9
Arrive in Glasgow, a dynamic Scottish city where the indelible mark of Viking conquest still permeates the art and culture. Transfer to the M.S. Le Boréal and depart to the dulcet sounds of a traditional bagpiper.

Scottish Highlands/Oban/Fort William/The Jacobite Steam Train (Hogwarts™ Express)/Mallaig
Friday, June 10
Enjoy a full day’s journey through the lush, resplendent beauty of the legendary Scottish Highlands. From Oban, travel through the heart of the Highlands and see the picturesque Pass of Brander, Loch Awe with views of the striking Kilchurn Castle and Rannoch Moor, one of the last remaining wildernesses in Europe. Enjoy the splendor of majestic Glencoe, most of which is owned and preserved by the National Trust for Scotland, and continue along the verdant shores of Loch Linnhe. After lunch in Fort William, board The Jacobite steam train—immortalized as the Hogwarts™ Express in the Harry Potter film series—for “one of the great railway journeys of the world” through awe-inspiring natural landscapes. Begin your train journey in the shadow of Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in the British Isles, and ride past Loch and River Morar to Mallaig near Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe. Along the way, stop at Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied Jacobite Highlanders against King George II in 1745. This evening, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception. The ship will overnight in Mallaig.

Cover: Overlooking Loch Leathan and the Sound of Raasay, the Old Man of Storr is the most recognizable of Skye’s otherworldly rock pinnacles, remnants of ancient landslides. Photo this page: Eilean Donan Castle has been rebuilt at least four times over the course of Scotland’s feudal history.
Isle of Skye/Kyle of Lochalsh

Saturday, June 11
Cruise the coastline of ethereal Isle of Skye, home to some of Scotland’s most phenomenal geography, and where the mist, shafts of sunlight and vivid rainbows congregate in a dazzling array of colors that seem to make the glens greener and the sea bluer. Visit Armadale Castle’s spectacular 17th-century gardens and learn about the powerful reign of Clan Donald, Lords of the Isles until 1493. Then, cross the Skye Bridge to Kyle of Lochalsh to visit the 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle, named for a sixth-century Irish saint and one of the most iconic castles in the world.

This evening, Nick Card, the director and head archaeologist at the Ness of Brodgar archaeological site, will provide insights about this impressive ancient compound.

Kirkwall, Orkney Islands

Sunday, June 12
Seven hundred years before the pharaohs built Giza’s pyramids and Neolithic man raised Stonehenge, ancient inhabitants of this archipelago employed technological prowess centuries ahead of its time to erect Ness of Brodgar. Today, this mysterious compound rivals the scale of the fifth-century B.C. Athenian Acropolis, though it was constructed nearly three millennia earlier. Walk around the stone monoliths of the Ring of Brodgar, which were raised more than 3500 years ago to chart the seasons.

See the ceremonial Stones of Stenness en route to visit the settlement of Skara Brae. Archaeologists suggest these sites, along with the Ness of Brodgar, were inhabited by an early Orcadian culture known for decorative arts and sophisticated craftsmanship. Pilgrims and traders carried the Orcadian innovations to the mainland and beyond—making Orkney more than just a remote scatter of islands but rather a hub of Neolithic civilization.

Thousands of years later, the Vikings established the port town of Kirkwall on Orkney’s main island, leaving behind the towering 12th-century St. Magnus Cathedral, known as the “Light of the North.” Enjoy time at leisure to explore Kirkwall.

Hear the evocative melodies of a traditional Scottish bagpiper as you reboard the ship.

Lerwick, Shetland Islands

Monday, June 13
Dock in Lerwick and explore the majestic Shetland Islands, declared a Global Geopark by UNESCO for their geologically diverse
landscapes and seascapes carved and shaped by ice. Admire nature’s endlessly changing colors and textures, and listen for the clamor of gannets and puffins crowding the dramatic sheer rock cliffs. Though remote, these islands have a unique 6000-year-old culture, where Scotland meets Scandinavia at this North Atlantic crossroads and legacies linger in the fascinating archaeology, dialect and traditional music. From Lerwick, the capital of Shetland, journey to the island’s southernmost point, scanning the verdant landscape for Shetland’s famous ponies grazing on the rolling, grass-covered knolls. Visit Jarlshof, a pending UNESCO World Heritage site and an extraordinary settlement revealing 5000 years of human history, including late Neolithic stone houses, a Bronze Age village, an Iron Age broch and wheelhouse, Norse longhouses, a medieval farmstead and a 16th-century laird’s house.

Bergen, Norway/ Norway’s Southern Archipelago
Tuesday, June 14
The city of Bergen was founded on an old Viking settlement in 1070 and has a proud history as an important part of the Hanseatic League’s trading empire from the 14th to mid-16th centuries. Enjoy a walking tour of Bergen’s Bryggen (the old wharf), a UNESCO World Heritage site, which still flaunts its characteristically colorful wooden houses. See Troldhaugen, the summer home of Edvard Grieg, Norway’s most famous composer, and walk the grounds of his estate. Then, visit the reconstructed Fantoft Stavkirke, a traditional 12th-century wooden stave church, named for its post and lintel construction. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Bergen.

Early this evening, be on deck while we cruise pristine cobalt blue waters through Norway’s picturesque southern archipelago, once plied by Viking longships and dotted with verdant islands, quaint villages and traditional Norwegian farms.

Cruising the North Sea
Wednesday, June 15
Spend the day at leisure cruising the North Sea and enjoying a series of lectures. This evening, attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception.

Copenhagen, Denmark/U.S.
Thursday, June 16
Arrive in Denmark, long considered the spiritual and historic home of the Vikings and from whence sailed their intrepid predecessors—the Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Disembark in Copenhagen and continue on the Post-Cruise Option to further explore the rich heritage of the Danish capital. Or, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.
FIVE-STAR M.S. LE BORÉAL

Small Ship, State-of-the-Art Design
The highly acclaimed, exclusively chartered M.S. LE BORÉAL, launched in 2010, represents the newest generation of Five-Star small ships, featuring only 110 Suites and Staterooms and distinctive French sophistication.

Spacious 100% Ocean-View Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each air-conditioned, deluxe Stateroom and Suite (200 to 484 square feet) features a private bathroom with shower, luxurious Five-Star hotel amenities and minibar with complimentary beverages. Most accommodations have two twin beds that convert to one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, safe, full-length closet, writing desk/dressing table, plush robes and slippers.

Chic and Casual Dining
International and regional cuisine is served in the stylish, spacious La Licorne dining room in single, unassigned seatings; alfresco in the casual La Boussole Restaurant; or from 24-hour room service. Continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are served throughout the cruise.

Spacious Public Areas/World-Class Service and Facilities
In keeping with the low passenger density relative to the ship’s size, the public areas are spacious and inviting and can accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy views from the Panoramic Lounge, nightly entertainment in the Main Lounge and lectures, cultural performances and film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. There is a library, Internet suite, Sun Deck, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range of fitness equipment and two elevators. The infirmary is staffed with a doctor and nurse. The highly trained international crew provides personable and attentive service.

Respect for the Environment
The state-of-the-art propulsion system and custom-built stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage. By design, the ship is energy efficient and environmentally protective of marine ecosystems and has been awarded the prestigious “Clean Ship” rating, an extreme rarity among ocean-cruising vessels. The ship has two tenders.
Included Features

On board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Small Ship M.S. Le Boreal

- Seven-night voyage from Glasgow, Scotland, to Copenhagen, Denmark, featuring port calls at Oban for The Jacobite steam train through the Scottish Highlands to Mallaig, Armadale, Isle of Skye, Kyle of Lochalsh, Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, and Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Scotland; cruising Norway’s southern archipelago and Bergen.

- Spacious, Five-Star, 100% ocean-view Suite or Stateroom accommodations, each with a private bathroom.

- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

- All meals—continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and four-course dinner—throughout the cruise, featuring fine international and regional cuisine, served at single, unassigned seatings.

- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages served throughout the cruise.

- Full-day excursion through the Scottish Highlands featuring a specially arranged trip aboard The Jacobite steam train (Hogwarts™ Express), “one of the great railway journeys of the world,” including lunch.

- Scenic excursion to visit Armadale Castle and its spectacular gardens on the Isle of Skye.

- Tour of iconic 13th-century Eilean Donan Castle, arguably the most widely recognized castle in the world.

- Traditional Scottish entertainment featuring storytelling and bagpiping.

- Scenic excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Orkney Islands’ Neolithic Ring of Brodgar and 5000-year-old Skara Brae.

- Exclusive, specially arranged lecture by Nick Card, the director and head archaeologist at the Ness of Brodgar archaeological site.

- Visit to medieval Kirkwall, featuring a tour of the impressive Viking-built St. Magnus Cathedral.

- Excursion to the 5000-year-old prehistoric site of Jarlsfjord on Scotland’s remote Shetland Islands.

- Visit to Bryggen, Bergen’s historic waterfront, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a specially arranged tour of Troldhaugen, the home of composer Edvard Grieg.

- Cruise along the natural wonders of Norway’s west coast and archipelago.

Enhanced Travel Services

- Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

- All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.

- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.

- Hospitality desk aboard the ship.

- The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.

- Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.

- Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.

- Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Edinburgh • Glasgow
Pre-Cruise Option
Explore two of Scotland’s great cities and their histories of feuding clans, medieval knaves and royal and religious intrigue. In Edinburgh, discover the historic Old Town, Royal Mile and iconic Edinburgh Castle and visit the Museum of Scotland for a glimpse of the nation’s formative years from the Bronze Age to Roman and Viking invasions. During a panoramic tour of Glasgow, walk through George Square, visit the St. Mungo Museum and see the Tolbooth of Glasgow, Scotland’s most remarkable 17th-century building. Admire the extensive collection of art and antiquities during a visit to the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Accommodations for two nights are in the Five-Star WALDORF ASTORIA EDINBURGH - THE CALEDONIAN, located in Edinburgh’s neoclassical New Town.

Copenhagen Post-Cruise Option
Scandinavia’s most cosmopolitan city and the capital of Denmark is an inviting and exuberant showcase of culture rooted in Viking ancestry, historical architecture and Hans Christian Andersen stories. See Amalienborg Palace and Tivoli Gardens and cruise the 400-year-old canals past Christiansborg Palace, the King’s Palace and gardens. In the nearby town of Roskilde visit its ancient cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and explore the Vikings’ life at sea in the fascinating Viking Ship Museum. Accommodations for two nights are in the centrally located, deluxe COPENHAGEN MARRIOTT HOTEL.

The Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Standing guard over Scotland’s historic capital, Edinburgh Castle served as a royal residence from the ninth to 16th centuries.

The Vikings’ legacy and the maritime character of a traditional Hanseatic city are showcased along Copenhagen’s Nyhavn waterfront.
Send to: Oberlin Alumni Association Ward Alumni Center 65 E. College St., Suite 4 Oberlin, OH 44074-1681
For information, phone: Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or Oberlin Alumni Association at 440-775-8692.

Send to::

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Class Year

Title Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport) Class Year

Street Mailing Address (no P.O. Box number please)

City State ZIP Code

Telephone: (Home) (Mobile)

Email Address (Business)

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) Tour No. 126-06/08/16-226

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Edinburgh Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per person Copenhagen Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit.

Make checks payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.

I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:

Visa MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by March 4, 2016.

Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:

1st Choice ______ 2nd Choice ______

Double occupancy (two twin beds).

Double occupancy (one queen bed).

Single accommodations.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Edinburgh • Glasgow Pre-Cruise Option

Double at $960 per person.

Single at $1325 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Copenhagen Post-Cruise Option

Double at $935 per person.

Single at $1389 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We want you to book my/our air from

Glasgow, Scotland, with return from Copenhagen, Denmark, at additional cost to be advised. 

Class: 1 Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip (including PrePost Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($50 PrePost Program(s) per person) administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $500 ($200 PrePost Program(s) per person); from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

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BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled solely and finally by binding arbitration. Travel and currencies arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existing. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.