Vassar Travel Program
Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family and Friends

Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords

A voyage aboard the Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
Five-Star LE BORÉAL

May 17 to 25, 2018

Vassar Hosts:
Molly Shanley
Margaret Stiles Halleck Professor of Political Science emerita

Fred Chromey
Matthew Vassar, Jr., Professor of Astronomy emeritus
Dear Vassar Travelers:

We hope you will join us, fellow alumnae/i and friends to experience the breathtaking natural beauty and fascinating cultural sites of Norway, Scotland, and the islands that have served as stepping stones linking Nordic and Celtic civilizations. We begin our travels in the vibrant town of Bergen, Norway. Its rows of colorful, gabled houses on the historic Bryggen waterfront remind us of the city’s past as a center of Hanseatic League trade and hence a crucial part of European economic life in the early modern period. We end in Glasgow, Scotland, where some will return to the U.S. while others begin a post-cruise tour of Glasgow and Edinburgh. In between, we explore the rich archaeological heritage of the age of the Vikings on the Orkney and Shetland Islands, the Isle of Skye where we may hear Gaelic spoken.

On this trip we have opportunities to visit up to five UNESCO World Heritage sites. Our way to these ancient sites, historic buildings and towns takes us through seascapes and landscapes of spectacular beauty. Our group will experience two specially arranged rail journeys—along Norway’s spectacular mountain landscape on the Flåm Railway and through the Scottish Highlands aboard the Jacobite steam train (which some will recognize as Harry Potter’s Hogwarts™ Express). We are most fortunate to make this journey during a wonderful time of year, when the weather is mild and the days are long.

We travel in ease and comfort to all these places aboard the Five-Star ship LE BORÉAL. A small ship, which features only 110 Suites and Staterooms, LE BORÉAL can sail into smaller ports inaccessible to larger vessels and offers the luxury and service of a fine hotel. Talks presented by distinguished lecturers in the onboard theater and at various archaeological and historical sites will enrich our understanding of the history and culture of the places we visit. And we will be able to discuss these and our own experiences and observations together as we sail between ports of call.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to be the faculty hosts for this exceptional voyage sponsored by the Vassar Travel Program. This popular travel program sells out quickly, so book now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available. We look forward to seeing you on board.

Sincerely,

Molly Shanley and Fred Chromey

Molly Shanley is the Margaret Stiles Halleck Professor of Political Science emerita at Vassar College. She has taught courses and published extensively in political theory and women’s history, and served as Director of Vassar’s Learning and Teaching Center. Since retiring, Molly has led a women’s writing group and taught a pre-college course at the local Dutchess County Jail. She received her B.A. from Wellesley College and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Harvard. Molly delights in singing in Cappella Festiva, a community chorus, and enjoys backpacking.

Fred Chromey is the Matthew Vassar, Jr., Professor of Astronomy emeritus at Vassar College. He received his B.A. from St. Joseph’s College and Ph.D. from Harvard, and taught briefly at Brooklyn College. The author of the text To Measure the Sky: An Introduction to Observational Astronomy as well as numerous research articles, Fred directed the College Observatory from 1990 until 2016. He presently is involved in establishing a Lifetime Learning Institute at Vassar. He enjoys gardening, photography, carpentry and backpacking.
During the enigmatic 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. They came from Norway to settle in Scotland around A.D. 800—in Jarlshof on the Shetland Islands and in the Hebrides, where over 100 villages still are known by their originally settled Norse names, solidifying the enduring historic link between Norway’s Vikings and Scotland’s clans. Some of Scotland’s best-known clans, like Clan Donald and Clan MacLeod, came from Norse ancestry, and the unique dialects still spoken today on the Orkney and Shetland Islands were influenced by their status as earldoms of Norway until 1468. The complexity, nuance and rich history of these two distinct yet deeply intertwined cultures await your discovery across these remote, verdant and storied lands.

U.S.
Thursday, May 17
Depart the U.S.

Bergen, Norway
Friday, May 18
Arrive in Bergen, founded on an old Viking settlement in 1070 and the Norwegian capital during the 12th and 13th centuries. Transfer to the Five-Star LE BORÉAL.

Cruising the Norwegian Fjords/Flåm Railway
Saturday, May 19
Norway’s fjords and islands offer some of Europe’s most phenomenal coastal scenery, where sea mist, shafts of sunlight and vivid rainbows congregate in a dazzling array of colors that seem to make the landscape greener and the fjords bluer. Be on deck early this morning while cruising the majestic Sognefjord and UNESCO World Heritage-designated Nærøyfjord (time and weather permitting), passing traditional farmsteads and villages flanked by soaring mountains.

Later this morning, board the Flåm Railway, named one of the world’s most scenic train rides by the readers of Travel + Leisure magazine. This masterpiece of Norwegian engineering—the steepest standard-gauge railway track in Europe with an impressive elevation difference of 2835 feet—opened to the public in 1940 and travels 13 dramatic miles through 20 tunnels to the mountaintop train stop of Myrdal. Enjoy stunning views of snowcapped mountains, cascading waterfalls—including the awe-inspiring Kjøfossen—and picturesque hamlets along this alpine branch of the world-renowned Bergen Line.

Attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception on board the ship this evening.

Bergen
Sunday, May 20
The city of Bergen 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 that proudly displays its characteristically colorful wooden houses.

Cover photo: Admire traditional farms and villages flanked by soaring mountains as you cruise the Sognefjord, Norway’s longest and deepest fjord.

Photo this page: The Jacobite steam train travels over the 21-arch Glenfinnan Viaduct as it passes Loch Shiel in the breathtaking Scottish Highlands.
See Trolldhaugen, 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.

**Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

**Monday, May 21**

This morning, the director and head archaeologist of the Ness of Brodgar site will introduce and provide insights about this impressive ancient compound that lies outside of Kirkwall.

Nearly 1000 years before the pharaohs built Giza’s pyramids and over 500 years before Neolithic man raised Stonehenge, ancient inhabitants of this archipelago employed technological prowess centuries ahead of their time to erect Ness of Brodgar, a mysterious compound rivaling the scale of the Athenian Acropolis.

Nearby, walk around the stone monoliths of the Ring of Brodgar, which were raised more than 4000 years ago to chart the seasons.

See the ceremonial Stones of Stenness en route to the UNESCO World Heritage-designated 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.

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.”

Hear the classically haunting sounds of a traditional Scottish bagpiper as you reboard the ship. This evening, listen as a Scottish storyteller weaves the traditional tales that have been handed down by word of mouth for generations in these remote isles.

**Lerwick, Shetland Islands**

**Tuesday, May 22**

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.

The chromatic wooden buildings of Bergen’s Bryggen (the old wharf), a UNESCO World Heritage site, harken back to the city’s historical role as one of northern Europe’s oldest trading ports.
Admire nature’s endlessly changing colors and textures, and listen for the clamor of gannets and puffins crowding the dramatic sheer rock cliffs.

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.

**Portree, Isle of Skye/Kyle of Lochalsh**

**Wednesday, May 23**

Cruise the coastline of ethereal Isle of Skye, home to some of Scotland’s most phenomenal geography. Visit Dunvegan Castle, the seat of the powerful Clan MacLeod since 1270 and built atop a rocky promontory overlooking the sea. Tour its richly appointed public rooms and view the castle’s lush gardens, ablaze with azaleas and rhododendrons.

From the port village of Kyle of Lochalsh travel across a starkly beautiful landscape of rolling green moors 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.

**Scottish Highlands/Oban/Fort William/The Jacobite Steam Train/Mallaig**

**Thursday, May 24**

Enjoy a full day’s journey experiencing the rich, resplendent beauty of the legendary Scottish Highlands. This morning, board The Jacobite steam train for one of the great railway journeys in the world through awe-inspiring natural landscapes.

Immortalized as the Hogwarts™ Express in the Harry Potter film series, this vintage locomotive with its classic British Railway cars travels from Mallaig near Loch Nevis, the deepest seawater loch in Europe, past River and Loch Morar to the traditional port town of Fort William. Along the way, pause at the bucolic village of Glenfinnan, where Bonnie Prince Charlie rallied Jacobite Highlanders against King George II in 1745.

After lunch, travel along the picturesque, castle-dotted shores of Loch Linnhe to the splendor of majestic Glencoe—Scotland’s most scenic glen, much of which is owned and preserved by the National Trust for Scotland.

Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

**Glasgow/U.S.**

**Friday, May 25**

Disembark in Glasgow, a dynamic city where the indelible mark of Viking conquest still permeates the culture, and continue on the Glasgow and Edinburgh Post-Cruise Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S.

Enjoy a phenomenal journey through the verdant, mountainous fjordlands of Norway aboard the Flåm Railway, first proposed in 1871.
FIVE-STAR, SMALL SHIP
MS LE BORÉAL

Small Ship, State-of-the-Art Design
The exclusively chartered LE BORÉAL launched the newest generation of Five-Star small ships, featuring only 110 Suites and Staterooms, distinctive French sophistication and complimentary onboard Wi-Fi.

Elegantly Appointed Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each 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 have two twin beds that convert into one queen bed. Enjoy accommodation amenities including individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, 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. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are available throughout the cruise. Continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Wine is served with lunch and dinner.

Spacious Public Areas/
World-Class Service and Facilities
In keeping with the low passenger density, the public areas are spacious and inviting, and they can accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy views from the Panoramic Lounge; nightly entertainment in the Main Lounge; and lectures, cultural performances or film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. There is a library, Internet salon, Sun Deck, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range of fitness equipment, two elevators and an infirmary staffed with a doctor and a nurse. The highly trained and personable, English-speaking, international crew provides 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” designation due to its advanced eco-friendly features, a rarity among ocean-cruising vessels. The ship has two tenders.
Included Features
On board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star, small ship LE BORÉAL
◆ Seven-night voyage from Bergen, Norway, to Glasgow, Scotland, featuring a cruise of Norway’s fjords and port calls at Flåm for the Flåm Railway, Norway; Kirkwall, Orkney Islands; Lerwick, Shetland Islands; Portree, Isle of Skye; Kyle of Lochalsh; and Mallaig for The Jacobite steam train through the Scottish Highlands, Scotland.
◆ Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom, each with a private bathroom.
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are available throughout the cruise.
◆ All meals—early continental breakfast, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and four-course dinner—throughout the cruise, featuring fine international and regional cuisine, served at single, unassigned seatings.
◆ Wine is served with lunch and dinner.
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the ship.
◆ Spectacular cruise through the picturesque Sognefjord, Norway’s longest fjord, and UNESCO World Heritage-designated Nærøyfjord (time and weather permitting).
◆ Round-trip train ride with stunning views on the Flåm Railway, one of the world’s most scenic train rides.
◆ 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.
◆ Exclusive, specially arranged lecture by the director and head archaeologist of the Ness of Brodgar archaeological site.
◆ Scenic excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the Orkney Islands’ Neolithic Ring of Brodgar and 5000-year-old Skara Brae.
◆ Visit to St. Magnus Cathedral in medieval Kirkwall.
◆ Traditional Scottish storytelling and the distinctive melodies of Scotland’s iconic bagpipe.
◆ Excursion to the 5000-year-old prehistoric site of Jarlshof on Scotland’s remote Shetland Islands.
◆ Full-day excursion into the Scottish Highlands, with lunch, featuring a specially arranged trip aboard The Jacobite steam train, one of the great railway journeys in the world.
◆ Scenic excursion to visit Dunvegan 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.

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.
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
◆ 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.
Standing guard over Scotland’s historic capital, Edinburgh Castle served as a royal residence from the ninth to 16th centuries.

Scotland’s Cultural Capitals

Glasgow • Edinburgh

Explore two of Scotland’s great cities and their histories of fascinating clans, medieval knights and royal and religious intrigue on this enchanting Post-Cruise Option. During a tour of Glasgow, visit the 12th-century Cathedral, the only surviving medieval church in mainland Scotland, and the captivating St. Mungo Museum. In Edinburgh, discover the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town and New Town and explore the renowned Museum of Scotland. Post-Cruise accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located, deluxe SHERATON GRAND HOTEL & SPA EDINBURGH.

Wonders of Norway • Copenhagen

Oslo • Stalheim • Fjordlands

By Bergen Railway and Coastal Ferry

Immerse yourself in majestic Norwegian landscapes and traditional Scandinavian culture on this unique and exclusive five-night Pre-Cruise Option. Enjoy an exclusively chartered cruise along idyllic canals of Copenhagen and see Christiansborg and Amalienborg Palaces and the “Little Mermaid” statue. In the nearby town of Roskilde, visit its 12th-century, Gothic-style cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and explore the fascinating Viking Ship Museum. Tour vibrant Oslo, where the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony is held in the stately City Hall, and walk through the unique Vigeland Sculpture Park. Ride through the stunning scenery of Europe’s highest mountain plateau on the Bergen Railway and experience the majesty of the Nærøy Fjordlands. Pre-Cruise accommodations are for four nights in comfortable hotels and one night aboard an award-winning SEAWAYS ferry from Copenhagen to Oslo.

The Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
LAND/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes*  
Per person, based on double occupancy  
Early Booking Tariff** through Oct. 16, 2017  
 Tariff** after Oct. 16, 2017  

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Suite</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony, tub/shower and sitting area with sofa. Deck 6, Le France (limited availability)</td>
<td>$9595</td>
<td>$10595</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite II</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 5, Le Normandie. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$10795</td>
<td>$11795</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite I</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms: tub/shower and shower, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table. Deck 6, Le France. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$11795</td>
<td>$12795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner’s Suite</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors onto two private balconies, one and a half bathrooms, separate tub and shower, sitting room with sofa, table and four chairs and dressing table. Deck 6, Le France. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$12795</td>
<td>$13795</td>
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Singles are available in category 6 at $12095* and in category 4 at $14095* on or before October 16, 2017. Add $1000 for reservations made after October 16, 2017.  

*Taxes are an additional $440 per person and are subject to change.  
‡Le Boreal has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.  

Scottish Isles and Norwegian Fjords Reservation Form  
Send to: Thomas P. Gohagan & Company  
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500  
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446  
(312) 609-1140  

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. 126-05/17/18-172  

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Norway • Copenhagen Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per person Glasgow • Edinburgh Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, you 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.  
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 February 9, 2018.  

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.  

Each Participant Must Sign:  
Signature  Date  Signature  Date  

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). Please make my/our reservation(s):  
Wonders of Norway • Copenhagen Pre-Cruise Option  
Double at $2565 per person.  
Single at $3525 per person.  
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.  
Glasgow • Edinburgh Post-Cruise Option  
Double at $985 per person.  
Single at $1385 per person.  
I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.  

I would like you to book my/our air from (fill in departure city) to Bergen, Norway, with return from Glasgow, Scotland, at additional cost to be advised.  
Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.  
I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.  

(225) 352-2500  

Please contact Gohagan & Company at (312) 609-1140 for more information or to make reservations.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including PrePost Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing to the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($10 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, $800 ($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 or deposit 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.

REGISTRATION: Full payment is due at the time of booking. Because our 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.

DISCOUNTED RESERVATIONS: Discounts apply only to those reservations received in the offices of Gohagan in writing, accompanied by the required deposit, by October 16, 2017. In the event a “discounted” reservation must be cancelled, no “replacement” reservation can be substituted at the discounted rate (a “replacement” reservation is a new reservation and can be substituted only at the full-fare tariff. Cancellation penalties may apply.)