



Scotland

Ireland



SCOTLAND / IRELAND TRIP PROGRAM

Day 1: Welcome to Scotland

Upon arrival at Glasgow Airport, meet your guide and board your modern motor-coach and continue to Glasgow.

ADDITION: Airport transfer included from Glasgow or Edinburgh Airport to Glasgow city center.

Upon arrival enjoy a **panoramic city tour of Glasgow**

Discover Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, with a panoramic city tour. From the magnificent St Mungo Cathedral to the People's Palace and Glasgow Green, explore Glasgow rich past as a religious centre and one of the most important industrial cities in Britain. The Victorian architecture of the centre offer a striking contrast to the extensive parks of the West End. Among those, Kelvingrove offers a haven of peace in the city, with amazing views on Glasgow University's striking buildings and the Kelvingrove Museum. It is not hard to imagine why Glasgow is home to Scotland's most celebrated architect: Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

ADDITIONAL VISIT: Visit **Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery**

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is one of Scotland's most popular museums. With 22 themed, state-of-the-art galleries displaying an astonishing 8000 objects, the extensive collections are wide-ranging and internationally significant. Do not miss Salvador Dali's "Christ on the Cross". The RBS Exhibition Gallery and the community exhibition space both have a running program of temporary exhibitions and displays. Please note that some temporary exhibitions are subject to an entry fee.

As the group cannot check in until 15h00 this is a very good attraction to include before.

Check in to your hotel. ****May not be possible until 15h00***

This evening enjoy a welcome dinner at your hotel

Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Glasgow or area.

Day 2: Glasgow to Inverness

This morning depart Glasgow and journey to the Inverness area.

En-route travel along **Loch Lomond** and journey through **Glencoe**

Glencoe really does merit the description 'spectacular'. The best approach is from the south on the A82, one of the major routes through the Highlands. The road climbs over the bleak expanse of Rannoch Moor and drops down between the steep scree-strewn sides of Glencoe. Awesome mountains such as Buachaille Etive Mor and the Three Sisters loom on either side, with riverine scenery at the bottom of the glen. The name Glencoe means 'Valley of Weeping', and has a melancholy air thanks to it being the site of the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692. This was carried out by a regular regiment of the British army, under the command of Captain Robert Campbell of Glenlyon. The chief of the MacDonalads of Glencoe had been slow to swear allegiance to William

of Orange and the massacre was part of a wider government policy designed to bring pro-Jacobite clans to heel.

Stop at **Spean Bridge Woollen Mill**

ALTERNATIVE TO SPEAN BRIDGE: Visit the **Clansman Centre**

The clansman centre is one of the most unique attractions in Fort Augustus. Here you will get a real glimpse into what life was like in 18th century Scotland. Besides a shop, which specializes in Celtic and locally produced crafts and includes a Scottish armoury, step inside the recreated interior of a Highland turf house, where an authentically dressed clansman brings the past back to life. This unique looking character explains how families ate, lived and survived here in days of old. He will take you through the clan system and local culture, demonstrates the Highland dress (all the mysteries of kilt, plaid and tartan) and teaches you the art of killing or maiming, using ancient weapons. Far from a history lesson, this is an entertaining, interactive and informative experience.

****A supplement of EUR 9.00 per person applies for the option. Spean Bridge is a shopping stop but the Clansman Centre gives an insight into Clan and Highland life.***

Then enjoy a **cruise on Loch Ness**

Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Inverness or area.

Day 3: Inverness to Edinburgh

This morning depart Inverness and journey to Edinburgh.

En-route visit **Blair Athol Distillery**

Established in 1798, Blair Athol Distillery is one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland. Blair Athol Distillery stands at the gateway to the Scottish Highlands in the picturesque town of Pitlochry, and produces a 12 Year Old Single Malt Whisky with mellow deep-toned aromas, a strong fruity flavour and a smooth finish. You can see the distillers utilising the most valuable of local resources, the crystal clear waters of the Allt Dour. After absorbing a few secrets of the distillers' art on a leisurely conducted tour, you can mull over the distinctive character of the finished article as you sip your complimentary dram.

Continue to **St Andrews for a panoramic tour and time at leisure.**

Then continue on to Edinburgh.

This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at Taylor's Spirit of Scotland** or similar

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area.

Day 4: Edinburgh

This morning enjoy a **panoramic tour of Edinburgh**

Edinburgh is one of the world's finest capital cities, because of its cultural diversity and impressive history. The medieval streets run through the whole city telling their own story about the 1000 year old traditions and myths of Edinburgh. Throughout your city tour you will get to know different parts of this city, such as the Royal Mile, the Princes Street Gardens, the Calton Hill and many more. Here you will also have a fantastic view of the city and Leith – the port of the city and many more.

Visit **Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbound with its wonderful story.

Spend the balance of the day at leisure.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh or area.

Day 5: Edinburgh to Dublin

This morning depart Edinburgh and journey to Belfast with a ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast.

Enjoy lunch onboard the ferry.

On arrival visit **Titanic Belfast**

Located in the heart of Belfast, the Titanic Belfast recreates the story of the world's most famous ship in an iconic, six floor building right beside the historic site of the original ship's construction. Opened in April 2012 to coincide with the centenary of its launch, the self-guided journey begins on entering the building's giant atrium, where the visitor is surrounded by the four 'ship's hull' shaped wings which house the Titanic Experience. As you journey through the nine large galleries of the interactive exhibition, you will uncover the true story of the Titanic, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900's, through her construction and launch, to her famous maiden voyage and subsequent place in history.

Continue to Dublin.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

Day 6: Dublin

This morning enjoy a **panoramic tour of Dublin**

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin City. Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers great striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more

sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colourful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by the students of Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found

Visit **Christchurch Cathedral**

Situated in the heart of the city, Christ Church Cathedral is Dublin's oldest working structure, and has welcomed pilgrims and visitors for almost 1,000 years. A working cathedral, Christ Church is renowned for its magnificent architecture and fascinating history. Admire the stunning stained glass and unique floor tiles of the cathedral nave. Learn the secrets of Strongbow's tomb and uncover the amazing story of the heart of St. Laurence O'Toole, Dublin's patron saint. Explore the Medieval Crypt, the largest in Ireland, and visit the Treasures of Christ Church exhibition featuring priceless silver and Ireland's first copy of Magna Carta. Take a guided tour, climb up the medieval staircase to the Belfry and ring the famous Christ Church bells. Before departing, visit the Foxy Friar gift shop and browse the wide variety of beautiful gifts and crafts exclusive to Christ Church Cathedral.

ALTERNATIVE TO CHRISTCHURCH: Visit Epic The Museum of Irish Emigration

EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum is a state-of-the-art interactive experience located in the beautiful vaults of the 1820 Custom House Quarter building in Dublin's Docklands, the original departure point for so many of Ireland's emigrants. It will inspire and guide you on a journey to discover the stories of Irish emigration around the world, from early times to the modern day. Over the centuries, some 10 million people have left the island of Ireland. At EPIC you can step through 20 themed galleries to find out why people left, see how they influenced the world they found, and experience the connection between their descendants and Ireland today. Immerse yourself in the stories of some of the most remarkable tales of sacrifice, endurance, adventure, and discovery the world has ever known. EPIC brings these amazing stories to life in a unique and spectacular way.

****A supplement of EUR 13.50 per person applies for this option. For an interactive experience that appeals to the US market.***

Spend some time at leisure.

This evening enjoy a **canal cruise dinner with an Irish balladeer**

The MV Cadhla, a replica of a 1922 Guinness brewery canal barge offers a new elegant and authentic cruise experience along a beautiful stretch of the Dublin's Grand Canal. Retrace the history of the world's most famous Stout and its association with Dublin and the Grand Canal. The cruise brings the visitor through 200 year old canal locks and under cut stone bridges

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin or area.

This morning depart Dublin and journey to Killarney.

****Optional: Tea and scones at a local farm is optional as we recommend only one stop on the long journey from Dublin to Killarney. Blarney Castle needs at least 2 hours 30 minutes and can be included as a lunch stop too.***

Visit **Blarney Castle and Woollen Mills**

Attracting visitors from all over the world, Blarney Castle is situated in Blarney village, 8 km from Cork city. An ancient stronghold of the McCarthy's, Lords of Muskerry, it is one of Ireland's oldest and most historic castles, and one of the strongest fortresses in Munster. Built in 1446, Blarney Castle is famous for its Blarney stone, the Stone of Eloquence, which is traditionally believed to have the power to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who kiss it. Many legends tell the story of the Stone, but why not kiss it and find out the truth behind the legend. The Castle gardens covering 60 acres of land are under constant change and over the past few years, a water garden, fern garden and poison garden have been developed and are all open to visitors.

Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Killarney or area.

Day 8: Ring of Kerry

This morning enjoy a **jaunting car ride in Killarney National Park**

Killarney National Park became Ireland's first National Park in 1932 when the Muckross Estate was presented to the Nation by Senator Arthur Vincent the owner of Muckross house. Situated in South-west Ireland, close to the most westerly point in Europe, the National Park covers over 10,000 hectares of mountain, moorland, woodland, waterways, parks and gardens. A major geological boundary occurs within the Park, and this, in combination with the climatic influence of the Gulf Stream and the wide range of altitudes in the Park, gives rise to an unusual and varied ecology. Step aboard a jaunting car and discover areas of the National Park that you might not otherwise visit. Relax aboard a jaunting car as your Jarvey (driver) takes you through the magnificent scenery of Killarney National Park.

Then enjoy touring the **Ring of Kerry**

The Ring of Kerry (166km) is the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. The astonishing beauty of this large peninsula, Iveragh, comes from the great diversity of its scenery, which offers incessant contrasts. En route around the Ring, take in spectacular scenery - mountains, peat bogs, lakes and magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean as one travels along the coast road. Leaving Killarney pass through Killorglin, famous for its Puck Fair, then to Glenbeigh where the cliff road affords panoramic views of the Dingle Peninsula and Dingle Bay. Continuing to Cahirciveen, you'll pass the birthplace of our National hero, Daniel O'Connell. Next, continue on through peat bogs to the town of Waterville. Continue to Sneem Village, famous for its brightly coloured houses. The road then continues through the mountains to Molls Gap and Ladies View with superb views of the famous Lakes of Killarney. Molls' Gap is a spectacular photographic viewing point on the famous Ring of Kerry Tour. The visitor is presented with a magnificent view of Black Valley. Close by is the famous Ladies View viewing point with gives a

different perspective of this magnificent countryside, with the 3 Lakes of Killarney all surrounded by the Kerry Mountains. Ladies View received its name from Queen Victoria, who was so impressed with the view that she insisted that her ladies-in-waiting should also visit here.

Enjoy lunch at a local pub/restaurant.

Visit the **Skellig Experience**

The Skellig Experience is a heritage centre dedicated to life on the Skellig islands and was developed by Cork Kerry Tourism in 1992 to make the four treasures of the off shore Skellig Islands more easily understood by all. The Skellig Islands are found 12km off the coast of Kerry. The larger island, Skellig Michael, an UNESCO World Heritage site, was a monastic site occupied from the 6th until the 12th century. The second Island is renowned as a bird sanctuary and houses a colony of 20,000 pairs of breeding gannets, the second largest breeding colony in the world. The exhibition building is a purpose built visitor centre designed to be rugged in feeling and finishes, to reflect the experience which will be undertaken by visitors. The use of concrete vaults with grass topping is designed to echo the wild quality of the south west of Ireland and to blend in with the surrounding hills.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Killarney or area.

Day 9: Killarney to Clare

This morning depart Killarney and journey to County Clare.

En-route take the **Shannon Car Ferry** north.

Visit the **Cliffs of Moher**

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of 'Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views That Rival The Grand Canyon'. Atlantic Edge is the exciting new interpretive centre at the Cliffs of Moher and is built into the natural landscape. The centre is a huge domed cave that contains images, exhibits, displays & experiences exploring different elements of the mighty Cliffs of Moher: Ocean, Rock, Nature and Man. The visitor centre has a restaurant, shop facilities and ample coach and car parking. A spectacular upgraded 13 km of scenic coastal pathway along the Cliffs of Moher links Doolin to Hags Head.

This evening enjoy **dinner and entertainment at Bunratty Castle** or similar

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Clare or area.

Day 10: Clare to Dublin

This morning depart Clare and journey to Dublin.

En-route enjoy a **walking tour of Galway**

Visit **Clonmacnoise**

Continue to Dublin and spend the balance of the day at leisure.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Clare or area.

Day 11: Farewell

This morning transfer to Dublin Airport for your journey home.