



## 12 nights Best of Ireland & Scotland Tour

Area	Nights	Accommodations
Dublin	2	The Brooks Hotel
Kilkenny	1	Pembroke Hotel Kilkenny
Kerry	2	Windway House B&B
Kildare	1	Cellbridge Manor Hotel
Edinburgh	2	Bonham Hotel Edinburgh
Inverness	2	Glen Mhor Hotel & apartments
Stirling	2	The Golden Lion

Please note that the accommodation is suggested only, and we are not holding availability. If you would like to confirm, we will be delighted to check these or similar hotels for your clients.



## SUGGESTED ITINERARY

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE THAT ITINERARIES ARE NOT A CONFIRMATION OF SERVICES – PLEASE SEE LISTING UNDER THE PACKAGE PRICE FOR EXACT DETAILS OF INCLUDED SERVICES\*\***

### DAY 1 - DUBLIN



Dublin is a lively cosmopolitan city brimming with culture. You could spend your time strolling the streets soaking up the atmosphere, relaxing in its cafes and bars or you could check out its myriad historical, literary and cultural delights. See the best of Dublin City in one day with your **24 Hour Sightseeing tour ticket** - it allows you to

hop on and hop off as often as you like and visit attractions all around the city. Hop onboard at any of the 30+ designated bus stops, and enjoy the freedom to explore Europe's friendliest city. Time spent in Dublin would not be complete without a visit to **Trinity College**. Founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st, it is one of the oldest universities in the British Isles, and the very oldest in Ireland.

*Dublin for 1 night*

### DAY 2 – DUBLIN



Come and explore Ireland's top visitor attraction, providing an unforgettable welcome and a magical journey deep into the heart of the world famous Guinness brand and company. **The Guinness Storehouse** is located in the heart of the Guinness Brewery at St James's Gate,

Dublin. The experience starts standing at the bottom of the world's largest pint glass, which rises through the building. It's a dramatic story that begins over 250 years ago and ends in **The Gravity Bar** where visitors will receive a complimentary pint of Guinness while relaxing and enjoying spectacular views over Dublin. The lively and vibrant **Temple Bar District** - Dublin's Cultural Quarter, is well worth a visit. Best known for being Dublin's major nightlife center, Temple Bar comes alive after dark, with many pubs, restaurants and nightclubs to choose from.

*Dublin for 1 night*

## DAY 3 - DUBLIN TO KILKENNY

It is time to head to Kilkenny but make sure you stop at Powerscourt House and Gardens in Wicklow to see the third best gardens in the world. One mile long and lined by over 2,000 beech trees, even the avenue leading to the Powerscourt House echoes the magnificence of the whole estate. In addition the 47 acres of gardens are remarkable for their grandeur of scale, at the same time combining great delicacy and refinement of detail. The house was gutted by fire in 1974 but recently has been reborn as an exceptional tourist destination.



Explore one of the most serene and beautiful places of the country, "The Glen of Two Lakes". Glendalough ("The Glen of the Two Lakes"), is the site upon which St. Kevin founded a unique monastic settlement in the 6th century. Most of what remains of the settlement is in ruins but the Round Tower at Glendalough, built as a refuge from marauding Vikings, is over a 1000 years old and is remarkably well preserved. The site itself is set next to two clear water lakes beneath the sheer cliffs of a deep glacial valley. It is one of the



most serene and beautiful places in all Ireland and it is easy to see why the monks picked it for a place of prayer and contemplation. Arrive in Kilkenny or the Marble City as it is known, is one of Ireland's oldest towns, and proud of it. Its array of ancient buildings is unrivalled. It is renowned for

being a vibrant cultural center, devoted to the musical and visual arts. Its two most impressive landmarks are Kilkenny Castle, founded in 1172 and privately owned until 1967, and St. Canice's Cathedral.

*Co Kilkenny for 1 night.*



## DAY 4 – KILKENNY TO KERRY

Today you drive through the Midlands to Kerry and enroute you can visit one



of the most visited sites in Ireland - The **Rock of Cashel** (Carraig Phádraig), more formally St. Patrick's Rock, is also known as Cashel of the Kings. The Rock is a spectacular group of medieval buildings set on a rocky outcrop of limestone, looming above the town of Cashel, County Tipperary. There

is a 12th Century round tower, High Cross and Romanesque Chapel, 13th century Gothic cathedral, 15th century castle and the Hall of the Vicars. Arrive in **Killarney** - the town lies on the edge of the astoundingly beautiful Killarney National Park, with its three magnificent lakes and the spectacular MacGillycuddy Reeks mountain range. The park is also home to **Muckross House and Gardens**. Killarney is a wonderful base for all manner of activities including angling and water sports, golf, riding, orienteering, hiking, cycling, and canoeing. The town itself is quite small but full of charm - this you will soon see as you walk down the brick footpaths and pass curious old-style shop fronts.

*Co Kerry for 1 night.*

## DAY 5 – RING OF KERRY

The Ring of Kerry is one of Ireland's most scenic touring routes. At 179 km long, it circles the awe-inspiring Iveragh Peninsula. You'll feel as if you have moved into nature's mystic arena, and truly you have, as you pass between soft mountains, through forest glades, around bogs, rivers, lakes and pristine beaches. The road between the **magnificent MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountains** presents secret passes and valleys dotted along the fabled shores



**of Dingle and Kenmare Bays**. Ireland's natural beauty sings throughout the Ring of Kerry. You may wish to explore several charming villages along the route, including Glenbeigh, Waterville, and Sneem. Stroll and talk to people—this is what makes your travel experience unique. Follow the drive to Killarney by way of the **Ladies View** and the legendary **Lakes of Killarney**.

*Co Kerry for 1 night*

## DAY 6 – ADARE TO CELBRIDGE

Today Travel through Ireland by venturing North along the Wild Atlantic Way and stop at the Adare Heritage Village in County Limerick, regarded as Ireland's prettiest village. Visit Bunratty Castle - the most complete and authentic medieval fortress in Ireland. Built in 1425 it was restored in 1954 to its former medieval splendour and now contains mainly 15th and 16th century furnishings, tapestries, and works of art which capture the mood of those times. We invite you to wander through the castle and marvel at the finest collection of medieval furniture in the country, which brings to life a vital part of our Medieval past. Arrive in Celbridge for overnight.



*Co Kildare for 1 night*

## DAY 7 – WELCOME TO SCOTLAND

Your Scottish adventure begins as soon as your Dublin flight touches ground in **Edinburgh**. Join sightseeing city tour and discover the stories, secrets and sights of the city. Places you discover - Princes Street - Travel along this street and learn about the Scott Monument and the **Princes Street Gardens**. Grassmarket - This area offers fantastic views of the castle, stories of ancient



crimes, and many old-fashioned drinking spots. The Old Town - Listen to the tales of ancient Edinburgh in the oldest part of the city. The New Town - This part of the city has stunning architecture, and also the historic home to some of the country's finest

writers and inventors. **Holyrood Palace** - Venture past the beautiful palace situated at the bottom of Arthur's Seat. Walk the royal mile in the old town to see the crown jewels in Edinburgh Castle. **Edinburgh castle** sits on a high, rocky hill with a narrow ridge running east above the Old Town of Edinburgh. There has been a fortification of some kind here for thousands of years. The

castle has existed through layers of time and history, and it is indeed magnificent. Edinburgh Castle has highlighted the city's skyline for 800 years, is a national symbol, and it is Scotland's most popular site to visit.

*Edinburgh for 1 night.*

## DAY 8 - EDINBURGH

Continue discovering the city - it is time to visit the official residence in Scotland of Her Majesty The Queen, **The Palace of Holyrood House**. This beautiful palace sits at the bottom of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, sheltered by **Arthur's Seat**. The Palace of Holyrood House is located in the heart of the City of Edinburgh. The famous Royal Mile connects Edinburgh Castle at its western end and Holyrood to the east.

Holyrood has many strong ties in Scottish history, and is well-known for being the home of Mary Queen of Scots. Visitors can view the stunning Royal Apartments, which show the different tastes of each monarch with



fine plasterwork ceilings and decadent furnishings. It is now time for an introduction to the world of whisky, time for **The Scotch Whisky Experience**, a five star visitor attraction at the top of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, where they have been inspiring visitors to Edinburgh about the joys of Scotch whisky for over 30 years.

*Edinburgh for 1 night.*

## DAY 9 – EDINBURGH TO INVERNESS

Head north of the capital towards the very heart of Scotland with few stops enroute. When Queen Victoria fell in love with the Highlands of Scotland, Pitlochry was a quiet village surrounded by the pine-covered hills of the Central Highlands. It became famous when she named it one of the finest resorts in Europe, and visitors began arriving to discover the magic of the Highlands. This vibrant town in the wooded valley of the River Tummel runs along a main street that's lined with shops and eating places. Just north of Pitlochry town you will find **Blair Castle**. The only man in Europe still allowed to have a private army is the Duke of Atholl, who resides at Blair Castle! The sight of his magnificent, white castle on the main road north will stop you in your tracks. The oldest part



of the castle was built in 1269. During the Jacobite campaigns, it was designed anew, and the turrets were added. A brilliant stroke of genius. The ancient seat



of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to the Atholl Highlanders, Blair Castle stands proudly against the magnificent backdrop of Highland Perthshire. Your journey will continue via Scotland's biggest national park - **The Cairngorms**. This country is heaven for walkers, skiers, rock climbers

& nature lovers. A number of species of rare birds are attracted to the thriving, unusual alpine flora. Rock-climbers and skiers particularly love the challenge of the Cairngorms. Its craggy sides attract climbers from around the world—they practice at the Cairngorms before trips to the Himalayas! Arrive in the capital of the Highlands.

*Inverness for 1 night.*

## DAY 10 - SPEYSIDE, THE WHISKY TRIANGLE

Speyside is a name that is associated with the area between the towns of Elgin, Keith and Grantown, in the northeast of Scotland. The area is just about one hour drive east of the city of Inverness. Speyside is a gentle area that feels more dreamlike than parts of everyday life. Signposts often read like a well-stocked bar! Whisky, a word derived from the Gaelic 'uisce beatha', means "water of life". It has been distilled here, legally and otherwise, for more than 600 years. Whether the Scots took it to Ireland, or the Irish brought it with them to Scotland in the 6th or 7th century, isn't clear. There are eight distilleries, mostly founded in the early 18th century, linked by the signposted Malt Whisky Trail. Glen Grant, Cardhu, Strathisla, Glenlivet, Benromach, Dallas Dhu, Glen Moray, and Glenfiddich. Each offers guided tours and whisky tastings, and opening times and admission fees vary. But come to Speyside even if whisky is not on your agenda. This area is romantic and the River Spey is gorgeous.



Culloden Battlefield is located just 15 minutes from Inverness in the north of Scotland. Since the 1630s Britain had suffered political and religious upheaval.



Civil war was a constant fear as Scotland, Ireland and England struggled to find a way to live and prosper together. The 1745 Jacobite Rebellion against the British Government, led by the exiled Prince Charles Edward Stuart ('Bonnie Prince Charlie')

had had some success. However at 1.00pm on 16 April 1746, the Culloden Battle began.

*Inverness for 1 night.*

## **DAY 11 – LOCH NESS, THE TROSSACHS AND STIRLING**

Today is time to soak up the beautiful scenery at **Loch Ness** and attempt to detect the infamous monster. Loch Ness holds more water than all the lakes and reservoirs in the U.K. put together. Is it any wonder that a monster would choose to live there? She still attracts scientific interest, so keep your camera ready! Loch Ness is almost 1,000 feet deep and, on most days, has unusually black water, owing to the high peat content of the surrounding soil. This is an immensely atmospheric loch that is surrounded by everything you could hope for: mountains, castles, abbey ruins, and several enchanting villages. Loch Ness is worth every ounce of its fame. Continue your journey south **towards Loch Lomond and The Trossachs**. Encompassing



approx 720 square miles, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs became Scotland's first National Park in 2002. Originally made famous by the novels of Sir Walter Scott in the early 1800s, The Trossachs has been enjoyed as the 'Highlands in Miniature' by tourists ever since. For two centuries, people have come here to walk, climb, cycle and sail, to breathe fresh clean air and drink in the spectacular views. Arrive in Stirling - the town is a taste of both the Lowlands and the Highlands. It is packed with castles and tales of people who are larger than life, and it is blessed with awe-inspiring, natural beauty.

*Stirling for 1 night*



## DAY 12 - STIRLING

**Stirling Castle** sits high on a rocky crag above the town. It is a magnificent castle and is one of the finest examples of Renaissance architecture in Scotland. Stirling occupied a key position in Scotland's battle for independence. Seven battlefields can be seen from the castle, and the 220-foot Wallace Monument at Abbey Craig recalls William Wallace's (the Scottish Hero on which the movie 'Braveheart' was based) defeat of the British in 1297 at **Stirling Bridge**. For generations Scotland's royalty gathered at Stirling Castle to revel in its



impressive buildings, superb sculptures, fine craftsmanship and beautiful gardens. Today Visitors can do the same. Highlights include The Great Hall, Chapel Royal, Regimental Museum of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, The Great Kitchens and Tapestry Studio. Guided tours of the castle

help bring its rich and colourful past to life in vivid detail. The Wallace Monument is located just north of Stirling City. **William Wallace** (1270 – 1305) was a powerful man with bright eyes. Standing more than six and a half feet tall, he was a veritable giant in a time when most men were five-feet-tall! Wallace spent his childhood near Stirling under the supervision of his uncle, a priest. When King Edward I, known as Edward "Longshanks," came to the throne of England in 1272, a reign of tyranny and terror began to subdue the Scots and cement English rule. Life had changed, and when Wallace came of age, he fought. The 220-ft National Wallace Monument commemorates the great man and his valiant fight for Scotland's independence.

*Stirling for 1 night.*

## DAY 13 – DEPARTURE

Return to Edinburgh Airport 2 hours prior to your flight's scheduled departure. This will allow ample time to check in for your flight home. Spend a full day at Wicklow Mountain

Dates	PRICE PER PERSON
<i>July 2020</i>	<b>Starting from €1847 per person in Double/Twin room</b>

#### **SERVICES INCLUDED IN QUOTE**

- 12 nights accommodation at the hotels suggested above or similar, rooms with private bath/shower
- 12 full Irish Breakfasts at your hotels
- Car rental (Ireland) for 5 days of car category C ( WV Golf manual or similar)
- Car rental (Scotland) for 5 days of car category C ( WV Golf manual or similar)
  
- Visits included in the price:
  - Dublin HOHO bus
  - Guinness Storehouse
  - Edinburgh City Tour
  - Edinburgh Castle
  
- Service charges and taxes at current rates

#### **NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE**

- Beverages
- Any other services not stated in the above

**All services are subject to availability at time of definite booking  
Above rates are not valid during special events, bank holidays**

**Rates are calculated at current rate of VAT; rates are subject to change with  
future VAT increase.**

