



## Tailored-made Holiday in Scotland & Ireland for Ollami

Our ref IWFI132887

Area	Nights	Accommodations
Edinburgh	1	Brooks Hotel
Loch Lomond area	2	Loch Long Hotel
Glencoe area	1	Glencoe Inn
Fort William	1	Stronchreggan View Guesthouse
Skye	2	Toravaig House Hotel
Pitlochry	1	Scotlands Spa Hotel
Dublin	1	Clayton Hotel Burlington Road
Clare	1	The Inn at Dromoland
Connemara	2	Carna Bay hotel
Mayo	2	Westport Coast Hotel
Kildare	1	Celbridge Manor Hotel

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.

### 7 June / Day 1/ Edinburgh

Edinburgh knows how to welcome travellers with grace and charm. She also knows how to kick up her heels and enjoy a nice shot of Scotch whisky after a festival. The hill that Edinburgh Castle stands upon



has been Scotland's remarkable silent witness since the Bronze Age. Today her streets are filled with cutting-edge galleries and museums, tributes to the love of literature and music, fine cuisine, quirky shops, theatre, and an extravagance of festivals. Four ancient streets, called the Royal Mile, are the main thoroughfare. Running through medieval Edinburgh with her 66 alleys, tumbling shops, cobblestones, and tight homes the Royal Mile takes you to New Town. Visit the iconic **Edinburgh**

**Castle**, which is located at the top of the Royal Mile, at the west end of Edinburgh's Old Town. From its lofty position on Castle Rock, the castle dominates the Edinburgh skyline, and is impossible to miss!

#### Hiking suggestions:

**Holyrood Park and Arthur Seat (5km).** Holyrood Park is a short walk from Edinburgh's Royal Mile in the heart of the city. It is a 640 acre Royal Park adjacent to Holyrood Palace. The park's highest point is Arthur's Seat, an ancient volcano, and sits 251m above sea level giving excellent view of the city; it is also the site of a large and well-preserved fort. This is one of four hill forts dating from around 2000 years ago. With its diverse range of flora and geology, it is also site of Special Scientific Interest. Allow at least 1.5-2h for hiking.

#### **Overnight in Edinburgh.**

## **8 June / Day 2 / Stirling - Loch Lomond & The Trossachs**

Today collect your car and drive toward Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park via Stirling. Perched ominously on a rocky crag above the town, today you will visit imposing **Stirling Castle**. It is a truly magnificent structure, and 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' is 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 you will have the opportunity to do likewise! Highlights include The Great Hall, Chapel Royal, Regimental Museum of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, The Great Kitchens and Tapestry Studio. Free guided tours are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and bring the castle's rich and colorful past to life in vivid detail.

Arrival at Arrochar at Loch Long Hotel. Perched on the banks of Loch Long and overlooked by the Arrochar Alps, The Loch Long Hotel is the perfect choice for travellers seeking to experience the best of Argyll and the west coast. The Loch Long Hotel is situated directly across from some of Scotland's greatest Munros and Argyll's biggest attractions. **The Cobbler, The Glen Loin Loop, Beinn Narnain and Beinn Ime** are all within a short stroll from the hotel. The hotel is also situated directly on the path for the Loch Lomond & Cowal Way. Bike packing and cycling enthusiasts will as be pleased to learn that the Wild About Argyll Bike packing trail runs directly past the Loch Long Hotel.

***Overnight in Arrochar.***

## **9 June / Day 3 / Loch Lomond & The Trossachs**

*Hiking suggestions:*

**The Cobbler(11km)** also known as Ben Arthur - has the most distinctive outline of any mountain in the Southern Highlands and makes a fantastic shorter hillwalk. Extremely popular, the path on the way up has been improved in recent years and once past the initial zig zags



makes a pleasant ascent. This route explores both main peaks of the Cobbler before descending on a rugged path between the two. Alternatively the route can be made easier by returning the same way.

**Glen Loin Loop (18km)**- This straightforward but long circuit runs through the glens and carries to the north of Arrochar. It offers fine views throughout of the peaks of the Arrochar Alps.

**Beinn Narnain or Beinn Ime (14km)** - The compact group of mountains known as the Arrochar Alps are renowned for their steep, rugged and rocky nature. However, the highest peak - Beinn Ime - has a simple slope when approached from this direction. Beinn Narnain has a much rougher and rockier character. The views - especially of the nearby Cobbler - are excellent.

***Overnight in Arrochar.***

## **10 June / Day 4 / Glencoe**

**Glencoe** is perhaps Scotland's most famous and most scenic glen. Glencoe is also arguably Scotland's most historic glen, and it was recently voted as Scotland's most romantic glen. Glencoe is not only a holiday centre for hillwalking and mountaineering, it is also an ideal base from which to explore the Highlands of Scotland. The road through Glen Coe takes you through the heart of an ancient volcano.



Follow the Glen Coe Geotrail to find out more about how glaciers and fiery explosions carved out the glen's rugged mountain peaks. Glen Coe is one of the most beautiful and other-worldly places in Scotland. It's even featured in films such as James Bond's *Skyfall* and several *Harry Potter* movies.

*Hiking suggestions:*

**Glencoe Lochan Trail (3km)** - A gem of a walk following waymarked trails through ornamental woodland at the foot of Glen Coe. The

picturesque and serene lochan and its wooded shores contrasts with the wild and dramatic mountains of the glen which are seen across it.

**Ballachulish Slate Quarries and Loch Leven, Ballachulish (2km)** - This is really a combination of two very short and easy but contrasting walks. The first is a visit to the old Ballachulish slate quarries which supplied most of Scotland with slates for generations; after this look at industrial heritage the second part of the walk is a delightfully scenic stroll around the peninsula behind the Isles of Glencoe Hotel.

***Overnight in Glencoe.***

## **11 June / Day 5 / Fort William**

Today you will be heading to Fort William. Located in Lochaber in the West Highlands, the town is often described as the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK' and is a popular base for week-end breaks and holidays. Fort William is most famous as being at the base of the highest peak of them all, mighty Ben



Nevis. The town is also the gateway to Glen Nevis, one of the most picturesque of all glens. This leads not just along the foot of the Ben itself but past the stunning ridges of the Mamores and through the dramatic Nevis Gorge to Steall Falls - surely one of the most dramatic destinations for a shorter walk in all Scotland.

*Hiking suggestions:*

**Glen Nevis and Polldubh Falls (13km)** - This route follows the river through the beautiful middle stretches of Glen Nevis from the visitor centre to the Lower Falls at Polldubh. The return is through forestry with more views down the glen. The route between the footbridge at the YHA and the falls is informal and usually quiet compared to other walks in the glen.



**Neptune's Staircase & the Canal (5km)** - This easy-going walk follows the banks of the Caledonian Canal - built by Thomas Telford. The route takes in the entrance to the canal from the sea at Loch Linnhe, as well as the famous Neptune's Staircase - a spectacular flight of lochs.

***Overnight in Fort William.***

**12 June / Day 6 / Glenfinnan – Skye**

On your way to Skye discover **Glenfinnan**! This small beautiful village has sat comfortably among the hills of Glen Finnan for centuries. Glenfinnan attracts many thousands of visitors from around the world to experience the stunning scenery. The filming of the second and third Harry Potter books, Harry Potter and the Chambers of Secrets and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban took place in this area with the Hogwarts Express calling at Glenfinnan! but also the special atmosphere. Another must-see is the Glenfinnan Monument and Visitor Centre, which commemorates the Jacobite clansmen who fought and gave their lives in support of Charles Edward Stuart, often



called "Bonnie Prince Charlie". Board the ferry from Mallaig to Armadale and arrive on the Isle of Skye. "Cloud Island" is the name Norse settlers gave to the **Isle of Skye**. It is fitting. A 50-mile-long banquet of velvet moors, jagged mountains, shimmering lochs and towering sea cliffs produce stunning scenery, as you will admire in this Isle of Skye tour. If the weather turns, there are plenty of castles, crafting museums, and cozy pubs and restaurants to please anyone. Along with Edinburgh and Loch Ness, Skye is one of the places in Scotland that people enjoy visiting the most. **Talisker** is the oldest working distillery on the Isle of Skye, set on the shores of Loch Harport in the village of Carbost. During your Isle of Skye tour and the visit of the distillery you will see their 5 copper pot stills and the traditional worm tubs that make the Talisker whisky so unique, you can take a look at the casks in the warehouse where the Angel's Share is lost to evaporation during maturation.



***Overnight in Skye.***

### 13 June / Day 7 / Skye

The Isle of Skye is a walkers' paradise. From family walks on the spectacular coastline to dramatic scrambles in the Cuillin mountains, the most challenging in Britain, the island provides fantastic walking for everyone. The Black Cuillin are the most spectacular and challenging mountains in Britain. These are peaks of which dreams are made - and nightmares! Many of their summits require scrambling or even rock-climbing to reach. There are several shorter walks that enable less experienced walkers to experience something of their drama.

#### *Hiking suggestions:*

**The Old Man of Storr (5km)** - This deservedly very popular walk climbs up for a close look at the massive pinnacle of the Old Man of Storr - one of Scotland's most iconic places. The Old Man is in fact just one element in an array of fantastic rock features, and the views out over the Sound of Raasay and to the mainland are stunning.



**Neist Point (3km)** - the most westerly headland on Skye - is an iconic destination, with stunning cliff scenery, a fine lighthouse, an outlook to the Outer Hebrides, and the chance to watch for minke whales in the summer months.

**Talisker Bay (3km)** - A very easy walk to an enchanting sandy bay. Magical on a fine evening.

**Portree Forest and bay (5km)** - A lovely mixed walk starting from the Aros Centre on the outskirts of Portree and including a steep walk through forestry and then open views over Portree bay followed by a walk along the salt marsh next to the water. Good opportunities for bird watching on this pleasant circuit.

#### *Overnight in Skye.*

### 14 June / Day 8 / Pitlochry

**Pitlochry** is located in the very heart of Scotland. Cairngorms National Park is very close by to the north, and Edinburgh less than 1.5 hours to the south via the A9 road. 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.

While in Pitlochry why not pay a visit to one of the oldest working distilleries in Scotland? Set in open moorland south of the town, in the foothills of the Grampian

mountains, **Blair Athol Distillery's** ancient source of water – the Allt Dour – flows through the grounds from the slopes of Ben Vrackie, contributing to the whisky's, mellow quality and smooth finish. After enjoying a leisurely conducted tour, you can mull over the distinctive character of the finished article as you sip your dram of Blair Athol 12 Year Old.



***Overnight at Pitlochry*****15 June / Day 9 / Dublin**

Return to Edinburgh Airport 2 hours prior to your flight's scheduled departure to Dublin. On arrival, your private airport transfer will collect you from the airport and bring you to your hotel.

***Overnight in Dublin*****16 June / Day 10 / Dublin**

Dublin is a lively cosmopolitan city brimming with culture. While on this Dublin tour, 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 Dublin 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.

***Overnight in Dublin*****17 June / Day 11 / Rock of Cashel – Limerick**

Today you drive through the Midlands to Limerick and enroute you will 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.

Time to continue your journey south with a stop at **Bunratty Castle** – the most complete and authentic castle in Ireland. The site on which Bunratty Castle stands was in origin a Viking trading camp in 970. The present structure is the last of four castles to be built on the site. Don't miss to stop by for a pint of stout at Dirty Nellies, just next to the castle.

***Overnight in Clare.*****18 June / Day 12 / Cliffs of Moher – Galway – Connemara**



You will have an early morning start to catch the spectacular **Cliffs of Moher**— which fall 200m steeply into the wild Atlantic ocean and stretch for almost 10km, forming part of the **edge of Western Europe**, this landscape really is a "must see" on a visit to Ireland.



Pass through the **Burren** - without dispute, one of the most unique - and strangest - landscapes in Europe. The Burren is bounded by the Atlantic on the west and rocked by Galway Bay to the north, it is a multi-layered landscape where rare and delicate plants have adapted in order to thrive and flourish between harsh crevices.

Continue towards Galway - the cultural heart of Ireland. This charming city is brimming with heritage, culture and folklore. Weaving through the side streets browsing the hand crafted wares on offer, you'll be in awe of the rich architecture and medieval nuances. Friendly faces greet you around every corner and a magical spirit lingers in the air.

### ***Overnight in Connemara.***

## **19 June / Day 13 / Connemara**

Continue your Ireland tour and spend a full day touring the unspoilt area of **Connemara**. This area is one of the few remaining in Ireland where the native tongue (Gaeilge) is still fluently spoken as a first language. While on your Connemara tour, stop off in the fishing village of Roundstone, where currachs, old style featherweight rowing boats are still in everyday use. Clifden, Connemara's capital is well worth a visit and the scenic Sky Road drive just outside town should not be missed. From here, continue the Connemara tour and travel north to see the exquisite neo-gothic **Kylemore Abbey**, nestled in a lush forest on the edge of Kylemore Lake and enjoy the stunning scenery of the **Killary Harbour**. However long you spend in Connemara you will be constantly enchanted by the ever changing scenery of mountains and valleys, lakes and beaches and bays.



### ***Hiking suggestions:***

**Dogs Bay and Gurteen (Errisbeg) Peninsula (6 km)** A two to four-hour coastal walk on the spectacular Gurteen/Gorteen peninsula near Roundstone and Ballyconneeley which is a Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way. Features several spectacular beaches with fine sands and dunes, extensive flora (including rare machair, vibrant lichens, along with seasonal heathers, sea holly, primroses and sea pinks), interesting rocks (granites, gabro), and wonderful sea/mountain views. Distance is ~6km with very little climbing. Terrain is mostly grassy and sandy, with some rocks.

**Clifden Glen** An easy to moderate two to four-hour hike convenient to Clifden town. The landscape includes native oak woodland, river and open mountainside, with panoramic views of the 12 Bens and Roundstone Bog. Terrain includes rough trails, open hillside, sheep track. This walk is very flexible in terms of distance and difficulty and can be customised to suit your requirements.

### **Killary Harbour/Fjord Famine Walk**

A three to four-hour hike along the shore of Ireland's only Fjord. Features dramatic coastal landscape, with the Fjord, the dramatic Mweelrea mountain, bog land and stunning views, passing the Killary Sheep Farm (working dogs and turf cutting). The terrain includes small road, rocky trail (Famine Relief Road) and boggy track. The distance is about 6km with about 140m of climbing (assuming a drop off and pick up). Requires a reasonable level of fitness and walking boots (preferably waterproof) with good ankle support, along with water and outdoor clothing (also preferably waterproof).

*Overnight in Connemara.*

### **20 June / Day 14 / Mayo**

Today continue your journey north towards county **Mayo**. Right at the heart of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, Mayo embraces the Atlantic Ocean with many of the county's unforgettable landmarks dotted along its coastline – spiritual Croagh Patrick, sumptuous Clew Bay and Achill's majestic cliffs. The Great

Western Greenway, connecting **Westport** to Achill Island, offers an award-winning family-friendly biking trail with stunning scenery, historic villages, ancient ruined abbeys, arts & crafts. **Achill Island** and the Curraun Peninsula offer a hillwalking paradise. Unlike many other popular walking destinations in the west of Ireland, where access to the land is becoming increasingly restricted, most of the countryside on Achill is in common ownership which means that it is freely open and accessible for hillwalking.



*Hiking suggestions:*

**Westport Greenway (3km)** - The Westport Slí na Sláinte is a 2.5km linear route which links Westport's two urban centres. The two centres comprise of: The Historic Town Core, which is the main commercial centre, and contains the main civic spaces of the Octagon, the Clock and the canalised Carrowbeg river. The Quay Area, was once a thriving commercial port and has enjoyed recent rejuvenation, as a major tourism base. Historically the two centres have been linked by the railway line which allowed goods to be transported from the Quay to the town's railway station and beyond. The disused railway line, now known as the Westport Greenway offers users traffic free walking and cycling and a gentle gradient not greater than 1.6% as well as impressive vista of Croagh Patrick and



Clew Bay. The route can be used in both directions and can be accessed from the Quay or from the old cattle pass located at Altamont Street near the town centre.

**Achill Island Walk – Keem Bay (7km)** - A circular walk taking in the cliffs of Keem Bay, one of the most spectacular valleys in Ireland. Features of interest include the Watch House at Moyteoge Head, Bunowna booley village and the ruins of Captain Charles Boycott's estate.

**Overnight in Mayo.**

## Mayo

**21 June / Day 15 / Mayo**

*Hiking suggestions:*

**Great Western Greenway (44km – 3 sections)** - The World Class Great Western Greenway (Westport - Achill) is a 43.5km mainly traffic free cycling and walking facility which primarily follows the line of the famous Great Western Midlands Railway, which closed in 1937. Its development has been made possible by agreement of local landowners who have allowed permissive access to users to pass through their lands.



This route offers gentle gradients and some of the most idyllic scenery in the west of Ireland. The route forms part of the National Cycle Network and it is the longest off road cycling experience in the Country.

**Overnight in Mayo.**

**22 June / Day 16 / Midlands - Kildare**

Next on the Ireland tour travel back to Dublin through the midlands with a stop at **Clonmacnoise** monastic site. This sixth century monastic site, located on the banks of the River Shannon is home to three high crosses, a cathedral, seven churches and two round towers. The strategic location of the monastery at a crossroads between the major east-west land route through the bogs of central Ireland and the River Shannon helped it become a major centre of religion, learning, craftsmanship and trade by the 9th century.



Immerse yourself in over 250 years of Irish whiskey making at **Kilbeggan Distillery**, the heart of Kilbeggan town for two centuries. See the 19th century water wheel that's still in use and the steam engine, which is still fired up on special occasions. You'll enjoy a visit

to the old warehouses and even get to meet the onsite distillers. But no trip to a distillery is complete without a wee drop.

**Overnight in Kildare**

**23 June / Day 17 / Departure**

Time to drop off your car at airport and board the flight back home.

**SERVICES INCLUDED IN QUOTE**

- 16 nights at the properties suggested above or similar, Double rooms for Single use each night with private bath/shower
- 16 breakfasts
- Car rental for 8 days in Scotland (cat B, Vauxhall corsa or similar – manual)
- Visit to Edinburgh Castle
- Visit to Stirling Castle
- Visit to Blair Athol Distillery
- Transfer from Dublin Airport to Hotel on day 9
- Visit to Rock of Cashel
- Visit to Bunratty Castle
- Car rental for 7 days in Ireland ( cat B, Opel corsa or similar – manual)
- Visit to Cliffs of Moher
- Visit to Clonmacnoise
- Visit to Kilbeggan Distillery

**NOT INCLUDED IN PACKAGE PRICE**

- Beverages
- Airfare
- Any other services or entrance fees not stated in the above
- Train tickets