



# IRELAND & SCOTLAND

HANDCRAFTED GUIDED & CUSTOM VACATIONS

Your Celtic Story Starts Here



# Céad Míle

## One Hundred Thousand Welcomes



### On the cover

#### GIANT'S CAUSEWAY

Chief among the many wonders of the Antrim Coast are the famous basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway. Whether a creation of legendary giant Finn MacCool or the result of volcanic activity, what's certain is this iconic landmark blends natural beauty and a great story, encapsulating everything that makes Brendan Vacations so special.

St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin



# Fáilte



““

I firmly believe there is something magical that happens when you visit our shores, something that stirs deep within the soul to create an immediate sense of belonging among the warmth of the Celtic people. So, when we say *Céad Míle Fáilte*, every one of those one hundred thousand welcomes has genuine meaning.

These special places are like no other and after 40 years of nurturing deep friendships within our travel community, my gifted team and I remain committed to bringing you authentic, dynamic Celtic vacations. We offer a heartfelt promise to take you personally and put your sense of wonder and wellbeing at the heart of everything that we do.

For 2025, we've handcrafted more exciting trips and selected the finest accommodations and exclusive activities to enrich your visit. We're excited to launch our refined portfolio of Guided Vacations, offering premium experiences with more opportunities to slow down and immerse deeply into the treasures these adventures hold.

I truly believe there comes a time when a trip to these magical lands, where tears are met with laughter, fairies with faith and dreams with hope simply cannot be put off another day.

*Bi Curamách,*

*Catherine Reilly*

CATHERINE REILLY | MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRENDAN VACATIONS



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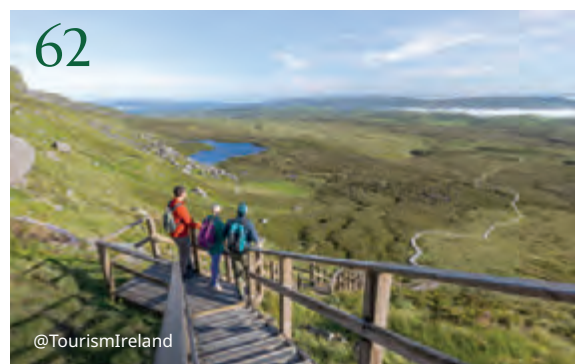
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# Why Brendan?

No one knows Ireland & Scotland like we do

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Industry innovators and fun-loving vacation planners. Trusted partners and passionate locals. We're many things, but at our core, we're a group that recognizes the privilege and responsibility of living and working where we do. We take immense pride in showcasing Ireland & Scotland the way they were meant to be shown, to you, our welcome guests.

## The Celtic Experts

Our dedicated team of destination experts have over 55 years of experience in personally delivering handcrafted, immersive vacations that combine people, places and culture. Ireland & Scotland is all we do. As we like to say, we are 'anything in a kilt' and your personal connection to our Celtic homelands.

## Travel any way you want, any time

With 5 dynamic travel styles to choose from and a vast array of hand-selected activities and accommodations waiting to be experienced year-round, all that's left is to pack your bags. Whether you're a couple looking for a romantic retreat, a family looking for an authentic shared adventure or a solo explorer wanting to veer off the beaten path, we're ready to roll out the green carpet and make your Celtic travel dreams a reality.

## Taking you personally

Our mantra. A promise to care for your travel needs and desires with a generosity of spirit that reflects the great traditions of the Celtic people. Our experienced, deeply passionate team of Local Hosts and Specialists, Travel Directors, Private Chauffeurs and Experts behind-the-scenes are invested in making your Celtic story one you'll want to revisit time and time again.





“”

Behind our blue door on Dublin's Merrion Square, our hearts beat with an unrivalled passion for crafting perfect Celtic travel experiences. We thrive on weaving magic into every itinerary, ensuring each journey becomes a treasured memory for our guests.

Our dedication drives us to constantly explore and work together with Local Specialists, Hosts and Chauffeurs to further deepen our expertise. We stay ahead of the curve, embracing new improvements and uncovering unique gems that elevate our offerings.

Every member of our team brings unique talents, and together we are united by a shared fervor for travel and a deep pride in showcasing our homelands. Nothing delights us more than knowing we've helped create extraordinary Brendan stories, connecting our guests' adventures with our own.

THE BRENDAN TEAM, DUBLIN





# Styles to suit all your travel needs

Whether you want to travel carefree with everything pre-planned or if customizing your vacation is more your preference, each of our travel styles promises a unique experience.

## ESCORTED

### Guided Vacations

- Defined departures throughout the year.
- Select the itinerary that suits from our exciting range of new trips for 2025.
- Daily activities pre-planned and ready to go.
- Travel Director on hand throughout providing fascinating insights and answering questions.

## SEMI-CUSTOMIZABLE

### Rail Vacations

- Any day departures.
- Modify number of nights in sample itineraries.
- Visit select locations with no rail connections with a Private Driver.
- Use Catherine's Collection to select your accommodations and experiences.
- Local Hosts in select cities, providing insights, recommendations and answering questions.

## FULLY-CUSTOMIZABLE

### Private Chauffeur, Lux Self-Drive & Self-Drive Vacations

- Any day departures.
- Create your own itinerary or adjust details of sample itineraries to suit your interests.
- Use Catherine's Collection to select your accommodations and experiences.

For more  
information on  
how to start your  
Celtic story, scan  
the QR code.





# Something For Everyone

## Taking your travel experience personally

Open-hearted, open-minded and deeply hospitable, these are grand locations for every type of traveler. We have experiences to perfectly fit your needs and desires. No matter who your travel companions are or what style you choose to travel on, we'll connect you with passionate locals, reserve stays in amazing accommodations and book unforgettable experiences to create meaningful, lasting memories.



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.



Fireside Hot Toddys, Glenmorangie House

## Perfect pairings

Every couple has their own story to tell, full of excitement and passion, with twists and turns in the road and a sprinkle of magic that makes it uniquely personal... just like a romantic trip with us. With incredible castle stays, cozy retreats, fine dining and boundless outdoor experiences to share in, couples vacations and our homelands are truly the perfect match.





Family exploration, Cliffs at Slieve League | ©TourismIreland

## Family focused

When your family travels with us, you become part of the Brendan family, where everyone is very welcome. Bring your heritage to meet ours and expect trips filled with activities, experiences and grand stays to compliment every generation.

## On your own, never alone

Solo travel is made simple with options to suit every style. Join a Guided Vacation for the comfort and camaraderie of like-minded travelers. Opt for a Private Chauffeur to balance friendship with flexibility or explore independently by car or train. Whatever your preference, our Celtic Experts are always available to support you.

## Group getaways

For friends, social groups and everything in between, travel is a great way to unify the relationships in your life. Whatever your interests are, we'll take care of the details so you can focus on sharing in the fun.



Girls trip, Cliffs of Moher

“”

Our family trip went above and beyond what we imagined. Our Private Chauffeur met all our needs and expectations. He knew the best ways to get where we were going and was even able to take us to our family heritage town, which was incredibly special. At the end of the trip, we felt like he was part of our family.

O'MALLEY FAMILY | MAY 2024



# Fall

(SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER)

Unhurried days bring stunning fall foliage, a harvest of delicious seasonal cuisine to indulge in and festivals full of tradition. Experience Halloween where it was born or spend Thanksgiving with a bounty of local fare.

## Reasons to Travel in Every Season

Magical year-round experiences

From the long, sunny days of summer bustling with vibrant cheer to the dawning of the 'cozy season', where fires burn brighter and laughter rings louder, there is magic to be found whenever you visit. Yes, most days have all types of weather (these are islands after all) but at least in summer the rain gets warmer... it's part of our charm.



## Spring

(MARCH TO MAY)

Bright blooming landscapes and milder weather wake up the Celtic Isles just in time to celebrate St. Patrick's Day and welcome more outdoor activities.

## Summer

(JUNE TO AUGUST)

The warmest and longest of days provide a multitude of outdoor experience options, dining adventures and a host of festivals to immerse in.



St. Patrick's Day, Cork | ©TourismIreland

## Celebrate your special occasion

It's only fitting to recognize your own major moments with equally unforgettable travel. Graduations and birthdays, achievements and reunions, anniversaries, proposals and so much more. We can arrange everything from romantic afternoon teas and relaxing spa days to family fun activities and outdoor adventures. If you've got tickets to a concert or sporting event, we'll sort out all the details so you can relax and focus on commemorating your trip.



“”

On our trip to Ireland, I arranged to propose with the aid of a hawk at Dromoland Castle. My (now) wife was so focused on the hawk soaring through the trees and landing on her glove she didn't even notice the ring dangling below until the falconer nudged her to look at what it was carrying. It was such a great moment for the both of us. Her face was priceless, her expression and tears of joy said a thousand words. It was truly special and only possible with the help of Brendan.

ANTHONY | HAPPILY MARRIED



Dromoland Castle

## Winter

(DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY)

The sparkle of winter is alive with festive atmosphere. The scent of rich, seasonal foods intoxicate the air and Christmas markets begin to bustle. This is together time and whether you spend it warming up in cozy pubs and connecting with locals or indulging in a stay at a legendary castle, the season is filled with magic.



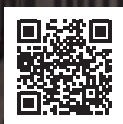
For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.



# Ancestry Travel

## Reconnect with your roots

One of the most popular motivations for our guests to visit is their past. Building the bridge to your personal history is an immensely important journey and we're here to take you personally every step of the way. Through heritage experiences, genealogy sessions or visiting ancestral locations, we can help you discover how your Celtic story was written.



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.

EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum | ©TourismIreland

## Celtic curiosity

Want to touch the surface of your history or simply want to know more about the Irish people? Take a tour at EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum in Dublin. This award-winning, fully interactive experience contextualizes the impact of the Irish people's emigration across the world through music, education, legends, culture, sport and more.

## In-depth research

Walk through Irish history at EPIC with a personal tour, followed by a 60-minute private consultation with an expert Genealogist at the Irish Family History Centre (just upstairs). Utilizing their extensive databases of records and files, your hunt through history can be as deep as you wish, picking out the names, people and places that form your story.



## Highland heritage

Cap a self-guided tour of the Culloden Battlefields with a private Genealogist consultation at the visitor center. Spend 40 minutes tracing your story in Scotland through records that date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. You can also find a fashionable link to your Scottish roots, by finding your clan tartan or tweed in Hawick, in Scotland's South.

## Legacy locations

If you know where your Celtic roots lie, we have a choice of travel styles to get you there and through Catherine's Collection, a range of personally vetted activities and stays in every region. Our expertise gives you the freedom to explore the locations connected to your heritage.



The Irish Family History Centre



“”

The stories and heirlooms passed down through generations shape and enrich your family history. Genealogy helps to support the storytelling and shows how the records see it. Our team of experts can help uncover details from your past that can deepen your understanding of your Irish family history. enrich a family. There's power in a name and that's where it all starts.

DAVID CLEARY | DIRECTOR OF SALES, EPIC

### EPIC Advice

The more research done prior to your trip by a Genealogist means the more details they are able to share, which in turn allows our Celtic Experts to craft your perfect trip.

Gather all the information you can, look for any documentation, make copies or scan to digital files to share.

If possible, speak to older family members and record stories.

Start creating a family archive that you can reference during your trip.





For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.

# History & Culture

## Legend and tradition meet modern living

Throughout centuries of triumphs, troubles and tipping points, our homelands are wrapped in a richly woven tapestry of heritage, history and legends. Linking our past to our present is the beating heart of what we do. Meet amazing people ready to share their stories, passions and pride and visit places frozen in time, preserved through care and ready for insightful exploration.



## Cultural connections

From the great halls of kings long past, and the thatched roof cottages where Gaelic is still spoken, to modern cities where traditional music and dance break out in pubs and spill out to the streets, our rich culture is alive in every corner of our homelands. We'll bring you the best of it through unique encounters with Local Specialists, enigmatic artisans, producers, pioneers and other custodians of our culture to give you the most authentic Celtic experiences.



House of Waterford Crystal | ©TourismIreland



Mark Rodgers | Local Specialist, Antrim Coast | ©TourismIreland

## Historical humor

If there's two things Ireland & Scotland have in abundance, it's historical sites and a hearty sense of hilarity. 'Castles and *craic*' if you will. Here, it's almost a certainty at birth to possess the 'gift of the gab'. The uncanny ability to tell a great tale, present facts and details in engaging ways and put the 'story' in history. This skill is what sets our storytellers apart and no matter where you visit, or who you meet, they'll have you hanging on every anecdote and likely, howling with laughter.



“”

Our country has one of the best histories in the world and you feel it as you walk around. It's happening and changing all the time and when we see it come alive through the eyes of our guests, it truly becomes a joy for us, as much as it is for them.

PAT LIDDY | LOCAL SPECIALIST, DUBLIN



# Food & Drink

## Sip and savor the best of Celtic flavors

Follow your appetite as you partake in a variety of dishes and drinks ranging from the eclectic and refined to the comforting and hearty. Celtic cuisine is built on the foundation of using fresh, local and seasonal flavors, often produced using traditional methods passed down through generations. Tastings, tours and fine dining. Behind-the-scenes access and cooking classes, our menu of food and drink experiences will tantalize your tastebuds.



Guinness Storehouse

### Sumptuous sips

Whether you're eager to sip the perfect pint or the finest dram, there are numerous opportunities to raise your glass (and your spirits) across the Celtic Isles. Discover the art of cocktail mixing at Johnnie Walker Princes Street in Edinburgh, learn about the cultural significance and traditions behind distillation in Dublin's Liberties neighborhood or immerse in the brewing processes at the Guinness Storehouse. From the drinkers and delighters to the designated drivers and sober curious, there's a tippie for everyone. *Sláinte!*



A Journey of Flavor - Johnnie Walker Princes Street



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.



## Diverse dining

Each day of a Brendan Vacation brings new ways to savor the dynamic range of culinary offerings. Indulge in inspired, elevated fare at Michelin-starred restaurants such as Terre at Castlemartyr. Treat yourself to a luxury afternoon tea experience with a view in Belfast's Grand Central Hotel. Follow Sheena on a gastronomic galivant through Galway. Join Tracey at her Northern Ireland farmhouse and learn to bake traditional goods or simply pop into a local pub for some classic full-bodied fare. There's true diversity in Celtic cuisine and it's all here ready to be served.

Oysters, Dromoland Castle | ©TourismIreland



Traditional breadmaking with Tracey Jeffery



“”

A few years years ago I hosted a couple on my tour and we had the best *craic*. The following year they came back with their siblings, the next year with their children and then the year after that they added their cousins. We would laugh about how the group kept getting bigger every year, until finally we reached over a hundred people when they decided to celebrate their daughter's wedding in Galway (which I was delighted to get an invite to). It's been so lovely to have that friendship blossom into a family and to think that it all started over a bite to eat just shows the power food has in making lasting connections.

SHEENA DIGNAM | LOCAL SPECIALIST, GALWAY



# Outdoors & Nature

## Breathe in the bountiful beauty

From the wonderful wilds of Scotland to the coastal charms of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way, our homelands provide an incredible array of beautiful backdrops in which to embark upon grand outdoor adventures. No matter if you prefer 2 feet or 4 wheels, horse-drawn or pedal powered, we have the experiences for you. If you want to meet sheep and sheepdogs, say hello to a hairy coo, fire arrows or fly falcons, we have you covered.



“”

If you're after adventures of all kinds, be they active or otherwise, this is the place to come. There are so many things to do, not only in the Kingdom of Kerry and Killarney National Park, but in so many iconic locations. There's bucket loads of activities coast to coast with opportunities to connect with nature, see amazing open spaces and make some memories along the way.

MAURICE WHELAN | LOCAL SPECIALIST, KILLARNEY

Avondale Treetop Experience, Co. Wicklow | ©TourismIreland



## Active adventures

Take to the waters, hills and heather-clad highlands on energetic expeditions. Hike forested trails, mountains and moonscapes with professional guides. Cycle along glorious greenways, try your hand at Gaelic Games, kayak on the shores of the Wild Atlantic Way or walk in the footsteps of giants on the Antrim Coast. There is an abundance of natural wonders to explore and few better ways to embrace them than through active exploration.



Walk the Mourne's with Local Specialist Peter Rafferty | ©TourismIreland



Hawk Walk, Ashford Castle

## Unique encounters

To be adventurous is to embrace the new and there's something to suit everyone in our great outdoors. Take aim with archery and axe throwing at 'Winterfell.' Join a jarvey for a jovial horse-drawn jaunt through Killarney's National Park. Cruise on mysterious waters. Watch sheepdogs in action at Dunfin Farm, red deer roam at Rothiemurchus and eagles soar on an off road Scottish safari.



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.



# Golfing Getaways

Your gateway to iconic fairways

There's no better place to enjoy the great game of golf than in the lands where it was born. Ireland & Scotland boast some of the most prestigious courses in the world. Often the home to major tournaments, they're renowned for their lush greens and centuries-old traditions. We handcraft personalized itineraries to suit your golfing needs, handling every detail from transportation and accommodation to tee times and off-the-course activities. All you need to remember is to pack an extra pair of pants, in case you get a hole in one!



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.

## Every club in the bag

While your scores are (hopefully) under par, our access to world-class golf clubs is most certainly not. We can arrange rounds at courses steeped in tradition and bursting with sensational scenery. Explore the largest concentration of Championship links courses anywhere in the world along Scotland's Golf Coast. Drive directly out into the Atlantic at the picturesque Old Head Kinsale. Play a unique 9-hole course in two directions at Connemara Isles. Put your swing to the test on Antrim Coast links at Royal Portrush or tread the hallowed greens of the home of golf itself, St Andrews. We have every club you've heard of in our bag, plus some other hidden gems too.



Old Course, St Andrews





Royal Portrush, Antrim Coast | ©TourismIreland



Women's Irish Open, Dromoland Castle

## Stay & play

Practice your swing from right outside your room when you stay in majestic accommodations with their own courses. Combine golfing greatness with lavish luxury at Dromoland and Ashford Castles or elevate your game at The K Club, playing on courses designed by the great Arnold Palmer himself. Time your stay to watch professional tournaments or enjoy on site access to driving ranges, pro shops and PGA professionals ready to help develop your game, right in time for afternoon tea.


## The 19<sup>th</sup> hole

Golf is a game of traditions. One of our favorites is the fabled 19<sup>th</sup> hole. They say golf can be the best way to ruin a good walk... so if your round was more bogey than birdie, enjoying a different type of round (or two) at a course-adjacent lounge or local pub to end your day is always a good idea.



The K Club, Kildare





## Beyond the Bridge with Mark Rodgers

### ANTRIM COAST

Join *seanchaí* Mark Rodgers' storytelling journey along a stretch of land that has been connected to his family for generations. Cross the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge 100ft above the Atlantic surf and get an illuminating insight in the fishing history, culture and legends of this awe-inspiring place.

©TourismIreland

# WE MAKE TRAVEL MATTER®

## OVER A DECADE OF POSITIVE IMPACT

We know you have a lot of options when it comes to your travels. When you take a trip with Brendan Vacations, not only are you choosing a trusted travel provider that takes care of every detail, you're also contributing to tangible, positive and lasting impacts on the people you connect with, the planet you walk on and the wildlife and nature you encounter.



For more information on how we MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® and to view our impact report, scan the QR code.



©TourismIreland

## Galway Food Tour

### GALWAY

Discover how delicious flavors are tied to local history and culture as you get a taste of this thriving culinary scene in locally owned and supplied shops, markets, restaurants and pubs.





Look out for this logo throughout the brochure for these experiences.

## Enriching experiences

Available across all our travel styles, MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experiences are more than environmentally conscious activities, they are illuminating, culturally vivid experiences that connect you deeply with Celtic ways of life and allow you to meet the truly passionate people behind them. Carefully selected, these experiences meet qualifying criteria set by the United Nations, which allows you to make rewarding, year-round memories and know your visit will make a difference.



For more information on how to start your Celtic story, scan the QR code.



### Dundreggan Rewilding Centre

#### INVERNESS AREA

Just a short journey from the shores of legendary Loch Ness, join a rewilding expert and learn about reforestation initiatives and efforts to restore native animal populations such as the red squirrel, lynx and beaver.



“”

I founded my business with a mission to encourage people to explore the stunning natural beauty of Ireland. While we offer transportation services, our goal is to get you out of the van and immersed in the Wild Atlantic Way as quickly as possible, experiencing it in the way it's meant to be enjoyed.

OLLIE GLEESON | LOCAL SPECIALIST, SHANNON REGION



# Guided Vacations

Escorted explorations to ignite the wonder of travel

Our handcrafted Guided Vacations take away the stress of planning and allow you to unwind and enjoy Ireland & Scotland carefree. In 2025, we're elevating the Guided experience, bringing you new levels of comfort and exclusivity, upgraded accommodations and transportation, incredible dining experiences and astonishing activities, all designed to connect you with the very best of Celtic culture at every turn.



A wonderful greeting, Ashford Castle



Jaunting Car, Killarney

## Define your Celtic story

Options to help you pick the right Guided Vacation to suit your style.

**GROUP SIZE** | We offer Classic Group size at a maximum of 40 guests as standard and Small Group size on select departures at a maximum of 24 guests.

**PACE** | Trips are marked as leisurely, balanced or active pace, allowing you to identify what level of activity you're comfortable with.

**RELAXED STARTS** | On some days, we allow extra free time in a location before heading out for the next day of discovery.



## Expert guidance

A dedicated Travel Director is on hand throughout your trip, armed with fascinating insights and local secrets, allowing you to explore like a true insider.

## Top-rated highlights

We connect you with our history, culture and traditions through exclusive activities (often with VIP access) chosen for how they enrich your experiences and the lives of the locals you'll encounter.

## Authentic dining

We seek the finest purveyors of classic fare and select highly-rated restaurants that feature fresh, local and seasonal cuisine. In select locations, enjoy Dine-Around experiences, with a choice of restaurants to suit your culinary cravings.

## Brendan choice

We provide options on different ways to experience select locations, giving you the freedom to write your Celtic story as you see fit. No matter what you choose, our experts will ensure your experience is second-to-none.



“”

The joy in being a Travel Director is proudly showing off our corner of the world to our guests. Our role is to interpret the places we visit and the landscapes in between. We love to share the who, why, where and when behind every place we go and add a local twist for good measure.

BARBARA LONG | TRAVEL DIRECTOR, IRELAND

Explore our exciting new portfolio of Guided Vacations, each one handcrafted to provide authentic Celtic experiences.

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Britain & Ireland Explorer	15 Days	44
Romantic Britain & Ireland	20 Days	46
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For dates, pricing and more information on what's included on our new Guided Vacations, scan the QR code.

### GUIDED VACATIONS KEY

<b>B</b> Breakfast	<b>①</b> Overnight
<b>L</b> Lunch	<b>○</b> Visited Location
<b>D</b> Dinner	<b>—</b> Route
<b>RS</b> Relaxed Start	<b>- - - -</b> Day Trip Route
<b>●</b> Start Location	<b>++++</b> Rail Route
<b>●</b> End Location	<b>⚓</b> Ferry / Cruise



Local Specialist, Edinburgh Castle



# Focus on Ireland

Immerse yourself in the Emerald Isle on this dedicated 1-week guided tour of Ireland. Marvel at the towering Cliffs of Moher, explore Cork's Georgian architecture and enjoy a visit to Trinity College and the Book of Kells. The once kissed, never forgotten Stone of Eloquence at Blarney Castle enthralls visitors, while historic Galway delights the imagination.

7 DAYS | 10 MEALS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Begin your afternoon exploration on an orientation of Dublin with a Local Expert. Pass St. Patrick's Cathedral and Christchurch Cathedral. See the 9th century Book of Kells and walk the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College. Enjoy a warm and friendly dinner with drinks and the opportunity to mingle and get to know your fellow travelers over the course of the evening. **(D) Hotel: Clayton Burlington Road**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | TO GALWAY, CITY OF TRIBES

Leave Dublin and set off through the delightful landscapes of the Emerald Isle. Cross Ireland's longest river, the river Shannon, to reach historic Galway, the City of the Tribes, at the mouth of the Corrib River. Easily one of Ireland's most fun and lively cities, the streets are lined with buskers, the region is known for its famous oysters and the pubs are full of Irish charm. Join your Travel Director to see the Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before setting off for his discovery of America. Also see the pre-medieval Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy. **(B,RS) Hotel: Harbour Hotel**

## DAY 3 | CLIFFS OF MOHER, ADARE & KILLARNEY

Take the scenic route through the mysterious rocky limestone landscape of the Burren, with its underground caverns, streams and rare flora. Stop at the Exhibition Center, situated next to the 700ft Cliffs of Moher with breathtaking views of the Clare Coast. Continue past the city of Limerick, stop in quaint Adare and take a relaxed village walk to see its thatched-roof cottages. In the evening, stay in the center of the action in lively Killarney. Gateway to the famous Ring of Kerry, Killarney has been welcoming travelers, who appreciate the spectacular scenery of woodlands and lakes, for over 250 years. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa**





Lively Galway



TRIP CODE: B906

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



19<sup>th</sup> Green Farm-to-table experience

## Top-rated Experiences

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone.

**COBH** | Visit the Queenstown Story to retrace Irish emigration from the famine of 1845 to the ocean liner era of the 1950s.



**19<sup>TH</sup> GREEN FARM-TO-TABLE EXPERIENCE** | Meet John and Freda and enjoy a delicious meal made from local, fresh ingredients sourced from within a 5-mile radius of their charming guest house. (Day 4)

## Authentic Dining

**DUBLIN** | Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, an opportunity to get to know each other over a meal.

**CORK** | Join in the *craic* over dinner with fabulous local flavors in a city famed for its food.

## Brendan Choice

**KILLARNEY** | Explore the scenery of Killarney National Park on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys, or by joining a Local Expert for a gentle hike. (Day 4)

### DAY 4 | RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Explore Killarney with Brendan Choice. Choose to join a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, admire incredible scenery on a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and National Park. Take an excursion around the magnificent Ring of Kerry with stunning views of mountains and sea. Pass through the small towns of Killorglin, where the famous Puck Fair takes place, and Cahersiveen, birthplace of the great patriot, Daniel O'Connell. Follow the narrow road as it winds along the cliffs to the fishing town of Waterville. Continue through delightful villages like Sneem and cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to Moll's Gap to admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Join a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** during a Farm-to-Table dinner. Enjoy some Irish home cooking at the family-run kitchen of chef John Sheehan. Join John and his wife, Freda, for drinks and a personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world and help preserve this intangible cultural heritage. Then, settle down for a night of great food and drink in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere. **(B,RS,D)**

### DAY 5 | COBH & BLARNEY CASTLE ON THE WAY TO CORK

Drive to the historic port town of Cobh, which was the last port of call for the Titanic. Walk through the Queenstown Story exhibition at the Heritage Center, which recounts the era of Irish emigration and the life of this once great passenger port. Continue to visit the 15<sup>th</sup> century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence that's once kissed, is never forgotten! Then Continue on to Cork along the spacious Grand Parade and South Mall and see the City Hall and fine Georgian houses en route to your hotel. In the evening, raise your glass at a lively dinner. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Maldron South Mall Cork**

### DAY 6 | KILKENNY & DUBLIN

Drive through prime farmland to the medieval city of Kilkenny, with its majestic castle and river walk. Browse the medieval mile showcasing the hub of Ireland's arts and crafts scene along its narrow lanes. Then, return to Dublin and your hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure to further explore if you wish. **(B) Hotel: Clayton Burlington Road**

### DAY 7 | DEPART DUBLIN

Your memorable trip comes to an end. **(B)**

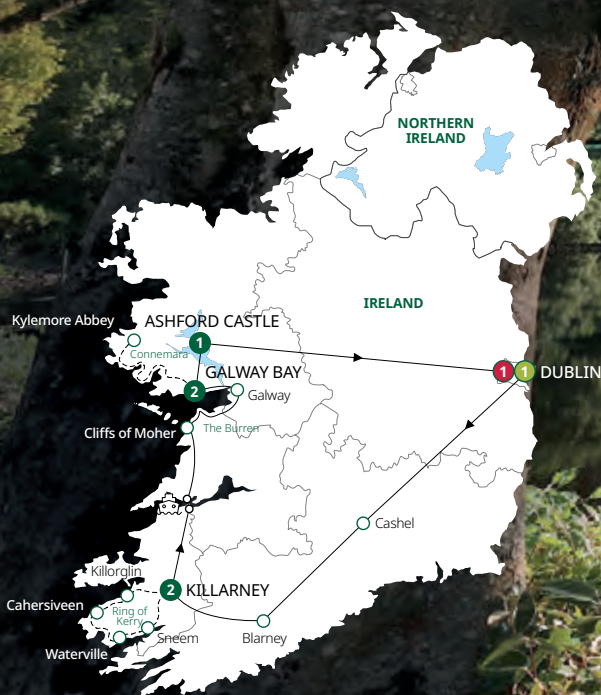
**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 10:30.



# Irish Elegance

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime tour of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way from Galway to Killarney. In Dublin, explore Trinity College and enjoy access to the Book of Kells. Discover County Mayo and picturesque Cong before a sumptuous Ashford Castle dinner. Marvel at the Cliffs of Moher and soak in the beauty of County Clare on this unforgettable 8-day journey.

8 DAYS | 11 MEALS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN | APR-SEP | LEISURELY



## DAY 1 | IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Start your exploration of Dublin with an orientation tour with a Local Expert that brings to life Dublin's architectural treasures and history, stretching back more than 1,000 years. Travel along the River Liffey, see Custom House, Guinness Storehouse, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. See the 9<sup>th</sup> century Book of Kells and enjoy a walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College. Back at your hotel, join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner and the opportunity to mingle and get to know your fellow travelers over a pleasant evening. (D) **Hotel: Clayton Burlington Road**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | CASHEL & BLARNEY, HEADING FOR KILLARNEY

Depart Dublin, and pass the famous Curragh Racecourse and green meadows where many of the finest Irish racehorses are bred. Driving south, stop to see the spectacular Rock of Cashel, crowned with medieval buildings that dominate the flat countryside for miles around. Then on to explore Blarney with Brendan Choice. Choose to visit Blarney Castle and kiss the magical stone to ensure a lifetime of eloquence. Alternatively, meet a senior gardener for a tour of Blarney Gardens. Head to Killarney, where you may fancy a 'pint of porter.' This town on the lakes is famous for its lively pubs so in the evening why not join in the *craic*? (B,D) **Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa**

## DAY 3 | RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

In the morning, marvel at spectacular mountain and sea views as you travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as the Ring of Kerry. Meet John for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** as you visit his family-run seaweed farm to learn about sustainable farming practices that protect the wild Irish Atlantic coasts. (B,RS) **Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa**

## DAY 4 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & ON TO GALWAY

Cross the Shannon Estuary by ferry and enter Co. Clare. Stop at the Exhibition Center and enjoy a walk along the Cliffs of Moher, raised approximately 700ft above the pounding Atlantic waves. Then travel north across the Burren, a suddenly stark and barren landscape, scarred with interesting limestone creases. Journey to Galway, the City of Tribes, and visit the last Cathedral built in Ireland. Take in the scenery from your hotel which is spectacularly set on the Wild Atlantic Way. (B,D) **Hotel: Connemara Coast**





Kylemore Abbey | ©TourismIreland



TRIP CODE: B907

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Deluxe Coastal Seaweed Experience

## Top-rated Experiences

**KYLEMORE ABBEY** | Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey is a sight to behold. See its striking Victorian Walled Garden and turreted Church.



**DELUXE COASTAL SEAWEED EXPERIENCE** | Embark on a guided foraging walk to learn about the versatility of seaweed and how the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic coast is protected. (Day 3)

## Authentic Dining

**DUBLIN** | Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, an opportunity to get to know each other over a meal.

**ASHFORD CASTLE** | Dine on delicious farm-to-table fare in a stylish setting at the iconic George V Dining Room.

## Brendan Choice

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone, or explore the gardens of the Blarney Castle estate which is brought to life on a guided tour with a senior gardener. (Day 2)

### DAY 5 | CAPTIVATING CONNEMARA

Embark on a superb exploration of the Connemara National Park and see a wonderland of rivers, lakes and silent hills. Visit the magnificent, turreted Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey. **(B,RS)**

### DAY 6 | MAJESTIC ASHFORD CASTLE

Sitting on the edge of Lough Corrib and nestled on the border of County Galway and County Mayo, is the delightful Cong. You may recognise much of the town as it was used as the location in the 1952 film, 'The Quiet Man.' With free time to explore this quintessential Irish village, see the statue of the lead characters played by John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara, and the ruins of the Medieval Cong Abbey. Then a short drive down the road leads you to Ashford Castle, the highlight of your travels. As you arrive a lone piper escorts you over the drawbridge. Your exquisite hotel provides a romantic backdrop in superior surroundings, offering both relaxation and comfort. There are many opportunities to explore the vast estate, pamper yourself at the spa, or get to know the hawks and woodland surroundings at the hotel's falconry school. Dining at Ashford Castle ranks among the finest culinary experiences in the world. Creative cooking, locally sourced ingredients and an innovative menu awaits. Gentlemen, a jacket is required. **(B,RS,D)** Hotel: **Ashford Castle**

### DAY 7 | MAJESTIC ASHFORD CASTLE

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast in the morning and perhaps a stroll on the estate? Then cross the heartlands to Dublin where the rest of the day is free for independent activities and maybe some last minute shopping. **(B,RS)** Hotel: **Riu Plaza The Gresham**

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. Departure transfers arrive at Dublin airport. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 10:30.



# Enchanting Ireland

Delve into Ireland on this 8-day guided tour of the Emerald Isle. Dine inside Dublin's Irish Emigration Museum, indulge your curiosities at Kylemore Abbey and stand atop the towering Cliffs of Moher. Also, visit the iconic Blarney Castle and Kilkenny Castle to get up close and personal with Ireland's rich heritage and history.

8 DAYS | 11 MEALS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN | APR-OCT | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | HELLO DUBLIN

The Emerald Isle has lured the most curious of travelers for centuries and its dynamic capital is a modern multi-cultural city that embraces its past and exudes an enduring sense of fun. Your Local Expert reveals the best of the city on a guided tour past the Georgian Squares and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Delicious cuisine and history merge this evening over drinks and canapes at EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum where you'll discover the stories of Irish emigrants who became scientists, politicians, poets, artists and even outlaws all over the world. **Hotel: Camden Court**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | EXPERIENCE IRISH HISTORY & ON TO SLIGO

The beauty of an Irish country house springs to life at Strokestown Park House and Gardens. After soaking in its beauty, go from grand homes to history visiting the onsite Irish Famine Museum to delve into the stories of the 1840s famine. Learn the history behind the Irish Potato Famine, the most catastrophic event in Ireland and one of the worst famines in history. View rare 19<sup>th</sup>-century photographs, witness accounts, sketches, newspapers and maps before continuing to Sligo. In the evening, consider an optional cruise on the River Shannon and admire the rolling countryside of the Emerald Isle? **(B,D) Hotel: Sligo Park**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO WESTPORT & GALWAY

The seaside town of Westport on Ireland's west coast will charm any traveler. Your Local Expert leads you on a walk to learn about the town's heritage from its settlement 5,000 years ago to today. Continue to indulge your curiosity at Kylemore Abbey, a treasure trove of picture-perfect scenery and the oldest of the Irish Benedictine Abbeys. You could enhance your day with an Optional Experience, a Galway Walking Tour featuring the Lynch Memorial Window, Church of St. Nicholas, Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy. You'll love hearing intriguing stories of this bustling medieval port followed by a traditional Irish pub dinner. **(B) Hotel: Connemara Coast**

## DAY 4 | ICONIC CLIFFS OF MOHER & ONWARDS TO KILLARNEY

Embark on an up close and personal encounter with Ireland's nature at the towering Cliffs of Moher. Perched at 700ft, take in views of the Clare Coast and the pounding Atlantic. Gain insights into the cliffs' geology and history before crossing the Shannon Estuary by ferry from Killimer to Tarbet. Head to Killarney where you'll relive the highlights of the day over a Dine-Around evening of local cuisine. You also have your pick of Optional Experiences including a Celtic Steps performance or a Gaelic Roots show of song and dance. **(B,D) Hotel: Great Southern**





Westport | ©TourismIreland



TRIP CODE: BRED

**4.7** **feefo**  
★★★★★ GUEST REVIEW RATING



Deluxe Coastal Seaweed Experience

## Top-rated Experiences

**DUBLIN** | Embark on an interactive discovery of the 70 million people who claim Irish ancestry at EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum.

**KYLEMORE ABBEY** | Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey is a sight to behold. See its striking Victorian Walled Garden and turreted Church.



**DELUXE COASTAL SEAWEED EXPERIENCE** | Embark on a guided foraging walk to learn about the versatility of seaweed and how the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic coast is protected. (Day 5)

## Authentic Dining

**KILLARNEY** | Choose from a fine selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around evening.

**DUBLIN** | Cross the River Liffey and venture to a local restaurant to toast the culmination of your travels over dinner. *Sláinte*.

## Brendan Choice

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone, or explore the gardens of the Blarney Castle estate which is brought to life on a guided tour with a senior gardener. (Day 6)

### DAY 5 | A DAY ON THE RING OF KERRY

Famous for its 'forty shades of green,' the Irish nature at the Ring of Kerry has inspired writers and poets for centuries. Drink in the beauty of the coastal drive lined with beaches, colorful seaside villages and views of the Atlantic Ocean. On an insightful **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, meet John, a seaweed advocate and educator for a seaweed foraging walk. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | VENTURE TO BLARNEY & MEDIEVAL KILKENNY

With Brendan Choice, choose to explore one of the icons of Ireland, Blarney Castle. See the Witch's Kitchen, Wishing Steps gardens and of course, the infamous stone that's said to bestow the 'gift of the gab' upon whoever kisses it. Or, don't miss your chance to amble the 1,500-acre grounds including the raised board walk, surrounded by water loving plants and waterfalls. The Carnivorous Courtyard features plants that with colorful, fluid-filled leaves while the Fern Garden features trees brought from the other side of the world that are survivors of the Jurassic period. **(B,D) Hotel: Kilkenny**

### DAY 7 | RETURN TO LIVELY DUBLIN

12<sup>th</sup>-century Kilkenny Castle is full of curiosities dating back to when it was the principal seat of the butlers, earls, marquesses and dukes of Ormond. On your exploration of its vast parkland, learn how the castle was remodelled in the Victorian style and restored and updated several times before being formally taken over by the Irish State in 1969. Return to Dublin and finish your incredible tour with a memorable dinner at a traditional Irish pub. **(B,D) Hotel: Camden Court**

### DAY 8 | FAREWELL IRELAND

It's time to close the chapter on an unforgettable tour of the Emerald Isle as we bid our newfound friends and Travel Director a fond farewell. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00.



# Scenic Ireland

Ireland's scenery will captivate any curious traveler. Stand atop the Cliffs of Moher, admire the 40 shades of green on the Ring of Kerry, and enjoy a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Seatrails Coastal Walk inspired by William Butler Yeats. Savor local delicacies on a Westport foodie tour and uncover history at Blarney Castle and Kilkenny Castle, enriching your Irish journey.

10 DAYS | 14 MEALS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN | MAY-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO DUBLIN

With soul-stirring landscapes of rugged cliffs and rolling hills, the Emerald Isle has lured the most curious of travelers for centuries. Get your bearings and discover Dublin's past and present on an insightful orientation tour with your Local Expert past the Georgian Squares and St. Patrick's Cathedral. After an afternoon celebrating the icons of Dublin, embrace its fine cuisine over dinner. **(D) Hotel: Riu Plaza The Gresham**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | DUBLIN & KILKENNY

Learn the story behind the name at the Guinness Storehouse where you'll sip your way through a history that started with the founder, Arthur Guinness, signing a 9,000 year lease on the St. James's Gate Brewery in Dublin. After an enlightening morning, arrive in the medieval city of Kilkenny, with its majestic castle and river walk. Browse the medieval mile showcasing the hub of Ireland's arts and crafts scene along its narrow lanes on an orientation. Visit Kilkenny Castle, founded after the Norman conquest of Ireland and rebuilt, extended and adapted over 800 years. **(B) Hotel: Kilkenny**

## DAY 3 | BLARNEY & KILLARNEY

Steeped in centuries of Irish folklore and legend, Blarney Castle is famous for its enchanting grounds and the legendary Blarney Stone. See why visitors from around the world come to kiss the stone, believed to bestow the 'gift of the gab' on your visit. Next, head to Killarney, gateway to the famous Ring of Kerry, that has been welcoming travelers who appreciate the spectacular scenery of woodlands and lakes, for over 250 years. Enjoy an orientation with your Travel Director and relive the highlights of the day over a Dine-Around evening of local cuisine. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Killarney Oaks**

## DAY 4 | KILLARNEY

This morning, take in Killarney with Brendan Choice. Choose to join a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, admire incredible scenery on a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore and past the grounds of the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Ross Castle. Famous for its 'forty shades of green,' the Ring of Kerry has inspired writers and poets for centuries. Drink in the beauty of the coastal drive lined with beaches, colorful seaside villages and views of the Atlantic Ocean. **(B,D)**

## DAY 5 | KILLARNEY TO GALWAY

All aboard the Ferry from Tarbert to Killmer bringing you to an up close and personal encounter with the towering Cliffs of Moher. Take in views of the Clare Coast and the pounding Atlantic, where puffins find sanctuary in its nooks and crannies. Gain insights into the cliffs' geology and history before driving through the rocky landscape of the Burren to Galway Bay. Upon arriving in Galway, your Travel Director will lead an orientation tour to help you get acquainted with the city. In the afternoon, you can join a Galway Walking Tour to visit notable sights such as the Lynch Memorial, Church of St. Nicholas, Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy. End your day with a delightful dinner at a local restaurant featuring live music. **(B,D) Hotel: Clayton Galway**





TRIP CODE: BIBIRE

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



## Top-rated Experiences

**DUBLIN** | See Dublin's elegant Georgian squares, O'Connell Street and the Custom House with a Local Expert.

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone.



**SEATRAILS COASTAL WALK** | Amble along a coastal promenade with your Local Expert. Learn about Sligo's connection to the sea, its shipping history and about the Yeats family. (Day 8)

## Authentic Dining

**DUBLIN** | Cross the River Liffey and venture to a local restaurant with your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, embracing the opportunity to get to know each other over a meal and toast your unforgettable travels. *Sláinte*.

**WESTPORT** | Embark on a food exploration of the town, meeting the locals and savoring the local delicacies.

## Brendan Choice

**KILLARNEY** | Explore the scenery of Killarney National Park on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys, or by joining a Local Expert for a gentle hike. (Day 4)



Ross Castle, Killarney | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 6 | GALWAY FREE DAY

The cultural center and the festival capital of Ireland, Galway hosts 122 festivals per year. One might say the city's artistic side is reflected in actor Peter O'Toole, who has a strong connection with Galway. O'Toole claimed that he was born in Galway before being taken to England as a baby and built a house outside Clifden in the county. You'll feel Galway's fun, bohemian vibe come to life over your free day at leisure to discover this bustling port city. You could join an Optional Experience to the iconic Aran Islands, a must-see of scenic Ireland. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | GALWAY TO SLIGO

The seaside town of Westport will charm any traveler. Your Local Expert leads you on a culinary walk for a tasting of the local favorites and to learn about the town's heritage from its settlement 5,000 years ago to today. The town is famous for its sustainability and Westport House, a heritage home museum celebrating 300 years of Irish heritage, a quaint stone bridge, Rockfleet Castle and Burrishoole Abbey tied to the 16<sup>th</sup>-century pirate queen Grace O' Malley. Meaning 'abounding in shells,' the town of Sligo will enchant the most curious of travelers. An orientation tour introduces you to the charms of the town. Later, perhaps join an Optional Experience along the scenic shores of Sligo Bay. **(B) Hotel: Sligo Park**

### DAY 8 | SLIGO

Embark on an insightful **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** to Rosses Point, a small maritime village near the intriguing town of Sligo under the guidance of a Local Expert and maritime archaeologist. With the afternoon free in Sligo, take the opportunity for an in-depth look at one of the historic houses, museums or the Yeats memorial building, a gathering space for literary culture and the arts in the heart of Sligo. Its permanent exhibition and contemporary exhibitions give you local insights into this land that was an inspiration for Yeats. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | SLIGO TO DUBLIN

Depart Sligo this morning to conclude your scenic Ireland tour in Dublin. Your journey finishes with a memorable dinner. **(B,D) Hotel: Camden Court**

### DAY 10 | DEPART DUBLIN

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 10:30.



# Ashford Castle & Ireland's Icons

Get up close and personal with the icons of Ireland on this 10-day guided tour. Bask in Connemara's wild beauty, stand atop the 700ft Cliffs of Moher and marvel at the Ring of Kerry's 40 shades of green. Enjoy a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at Powerscourt Gardens, then enjoy a luxurious stay at Ashford Castle, former home of the Guinness family.

10 DAYS | 15 MEALS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN | MAY-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | HELLO DUBLIN

Kick off our journey along the walled gardens and rambling walks of Powerscourt Gardens on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This evening, join your fellow travelers for dinner. (D) Hotel: Camden Court

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | DISCOVER DIVERSE DUBLIN

Join a Local Specialist to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. Admire the Georgian Squares and stroll along the cobbled courtyard of Trinity College and see the Book of Kells. (B)

## DAY 3 | ADMIRE COUNTY KILKENNY & ON TO CORK

Embark on an excursion to get up close and personal with Ireland's thoroughbred industry at the Irish National Stud. Next up is Cork, a fusion of castles, gardens and foodie haven that will enchant curious travelers. Your Travel Director orients you to the sights, sounds and flavors of the circa-18th-century English Market lined with local cheeses, fresh seafood and handmade chocolate, then on to Cork City Gaol, a museum offering insight into Cork's history. Cork is also home to the biggest jazz festival in Ireland and with the evening at leisure, take in the city's musical culture by joining an Optional Experience of Irish entertainment with local musicians including a hearty pub dinner. (B) Hotel: The Kingsley

## DAY 4 | JOURNEY TO BLARNEY & ON TO KILLARNEY

Today's Brendan Choice gets you up close and personal to one of the icons of Ireland, Blarney Castle. See the Witch's Kitchen, Wishing Steps gardens and the infamous stone said to bestow the 'gift of the gab' upon whoever kisses it. Alternatively, go beyond the castle and don't miss the chance to amble the 1,500-acre grounds. After your visit, head west to Killarney ushering you into the beauty of the Ring of Kerry. Tonight's Dine-Around evening invites you to enjoy your pick of Irish specialties. Finish your day with an Optional Experience of traditional Irish song, music, and dance. (B,D) Hotel: Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa

## DAY 5 | A DAY ON THE RING OF KERRY

Join a Local Expert for a scenic guided walk at Torc Waterfall then circle the scenic Ring of Kerry. (B,D)

## DAY 6 | ONWARDS TO THE CLIFFS OF MOHER & GALWAY

Begin the day with a ferry crossing before arriving at the towering Cliffs of Moher. Perched at 700ft, take in views of the Clare Coast and the pounding Atlantic, where colonies of puffins make their homes. The area is home to Guillemot and Razorbills, Peregrine Falcon, Kittiwake and Fulmar as well as endangered bird species including Choughs. Full of fascinating insights, make your way through the rocky landscape of the Burren to Galway. (B,D) Hotel: Radisson Red





Ashford Castle



TRIP CODE: BRAC

**4.9** **feefo**  
★★★★★ GUEST REVIEW RATING



Powerscourt Gardens | ©TourismIreland

## Top-rated Experiences

**CLIFFS OF MOHER** | Visit the Exhibition Center and look out over the Wild Atlantic Way from these majestic cliffs that rise over 700ft. Gain insights from your Travel Director into the cliffs' geology, history and the species that find sanctuary in its nooks and crannies.

**KYLEMORE ABBEY** | Neo-Gothic Kylemore Abbey is a sight to behold. See its Victorian Walled Garden and turreted Church.



**POWERSCOURT GARDENS** | Stroll through 47 acres of manicured formal gardens and terraces of the Powerscourt Estate in County Wicklow, passing striking statues, lakes and secret hollows. (Day 1)

## Authentic Dining

**KILLARNEY** | Choose from a fine selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around evening.

**ASHFORD CASTLE** | Dine on delicious farm-to-table fare in a stylish setting at the iconic George V Dining Room.

## Brendan Choice

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone, or explore the gardens of the Blarney Castle estate which is brought to life on a guided tour with a senior gardener. (Day 4)

## Ashford Castle

The magnificent former home to the Guinness family is now an award-winning hotel boasting antique furniture, sumptuous suites and glorious grounds. Ashford Castle is proud to adhere to important sustainability measures, and is the first hotel in Ireland to achieve the GREENMark Plastic Smart Standard Award.

### DAY 7 | GALWAY

The cultural center and the festival capital of Ireland, Galway hosts 122 festivals per year. One might say the city's artistic side is reflected in actor Peter O'Toole, who has a strong connection with Galway. O'Toole claimed that he was born in Galway before being taken to England as a baby and built a house outside Clifden in the county. You'll feel Galway's fun, bohemian vibe come to life over an orientation tour. Your Travel Director introduces you to the sights including Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy. With the rest of the day at leisure, continue to explore this bustling port city on your own or join an optional Galway Waking Tour with pub dinner. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | KYLEMORE ABBEY & ASHFORD CASTLE

Full of curiosities, Kylemore Abbey is a treasure trove of picture-perfect scenery and a storied past as the oldest of the Irish Benedictine Abbeys. Discover more on a Lough Corrib Cruise, where you'll explore one of County Galway's natural jewels and learn about its historical significance. Conclude another grand day arriving at five-star, award-winning, Ashford Castle where a lone piper escorts you over the drawbridge. Your exquisite hotel provides a romantic backdrop in superior surroundings, offering both relaxation and comfort you've come to enjoy on your Ireland tour. Feel history come alive with past owners including Benjamin Lee Guinness, Lord and Lady Ardilaun and hotelier Noel Huggard who transformed the estate into a hotel in 1939. In addition, celebrities such as John Lennon and Brad Pitt and even royal patrons including King George V have luxuriated at Ashford Castle. **(B,D) Hotel: Ashford Castle**

### DAY 9 | RETURN TO LIVELY DUBLIN

Time for a last-minute stroll on the Ashford Estate. Perhaps take in more of the splendid scenery by joining a leisurely walk with the resident Irish wolfhounds. Afterwards, cross the Hidden Heartlands, a beautifully unspoiled part of Ireland where life moves at its own pace. Return to the capital where the remainder of the day is free. Dinner awaits tonight, where you'll raise a glass and toast with your new friends. **(B,D) Hotel: Camden Court**

### DAY 10 | JOURNEY HOME

As the curtain falls on a memorable journey with new friends, we say a fond *slán go fóill* to Dublin and the Emerald Isle. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 07:00, 09:00 and 11:00.



# Country Roads of Ireland

Let the luck of the Irish be with you on this 12-day guided tour across Ireland. Start in Dublin, where you get up close to the Book of Kells. Visit the majestic Kilkenny Castle, see the mystical Ring of Kerry peninsula, and step onto Giant's Causeway stunning basalt columns carved onto the coast by volcanic lava.

12 DAYS | 16 MEALS | DUBLIN TO BELFAST / DUBLIN | MAY-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO DUBLIN

Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, with the opportunity to mingle and get to know your fellow travelers over a meal with wine. (D)

**Hotel:** Clayton Burlington Road

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 18:00.

## DAY 2 | IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

Become acquainted with Dublin's elegant squares during an orientation of the city. Discover Custom House, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Enjoy entrance to the 9th-century Book of Kells and a walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College. (B,RS)

## DAY 3 | A JOURNEY FROM DUBLIN TO CORK

Visit one of the country's main racehorse breeding centers, meet an equine professional and explore the 100-year-old Japanese Gardens. Travel to the medieval city of Kilkenny to visit the majestic Kilkenny Castle. With a Local Expert, learn how the castle was built in 1195 after the Norman Conquest of Ireland and admire its beautifully restored Victorian era rooms. Continue through Cahir and see its 13th-century castle. In Cork, your Travel Director shows you around the university city, with its vibrant waterfront and grand Georgian parades. (B) **Hotel:** The Kingsley

## DAY 4 | ACROSS THE MOUNTAINS TO KILLARNEY

Travel to Blarney Castle and kiss the stone to ensure a lifetime of eloquence, then venture across the majestic Derrynasaggart Mountains to the lively town of Killarney. Join John and Freda, your hosts at the 19th Green Guesthouse and savor the delicious flavors of fresh local cuisine on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Gather together at a Farm-to-Table dinner, using responsibly sourced ingredients from the local community, and gain personal insight into classic Irish recipes that are loved throughout the world. (B,RS,D)

**Hotel:** Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa

## DAY 5 | RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Explore Killarney with Brendan Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore through the National Park. Then explore the magnificent Ring of Kerry, where mountains, valleys, lakes and sea blend into a landscape that is breathtaking beyond words. Journey past lush lakelands and around towering cliffs as you appreciate sweeping sea views. (B,RS)

## DAY 6 | AROUND THE DINGLE PENINSULA

Continue driving and enjoy the views of wide skies, peaceful towns and coastal scenery of the Dingle Peninsula, the setting for the film Ryan's Daughter. Drive to dramatic Sleat Head at the peninsula's far end, before journeying back to reach your hotel. (B,RS)

**Hotel:** Falls Hotel & Spa





TRIP CODE: B909

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Giant's Causeway | ©TourismIreland

## Top-rated Experiences



**19<sup>TH</sup> GREEN FARM-TO-TABLE EXPERIENCE** | Meet John and Freda and enjoy a delicious meal made from local, fresh ingredients sourced from within a 5-mile radius of their charming guest house. (Day 4)



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY** | Join a Local Expert and experience the sights, sounds and kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway. Delve into legend and learn how your visit helps conserve this iconic landmark. (Day 10)

## Authentic Dining

**DUBLIN** | Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, an opportunity to get to know each other over a meal.

**BALLYGALLY** | The warm feeling resulting from the confluence of music, drink, good food, laughter, and conversation, enjoy some *craic* at dinner.

## Brendan Choice

**KILLARNEY** | Explore the scenery of Killarney National Park on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys, or by joining a Local Expert for a gentle hike. (Day 5)

### DAY 7 | THE CLIFFS OF MOHER & GALWAY

Journey to the Visitor Center at the 700ft Cliffs of Moher. Enjoy breathtaking views of the Clare Coast before a delightful drive through the strange, rocky landscape of the Burren to Galway. On arrival, see the Lynch Memorial and Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before his voyages to America. See the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Connemara Coast (Sea View Rooms)**

### DAY 8 | FREE DAY GALWAY OR ARAN ISLANDS

Spend a day at leisure to relax and enjoy Galway. Perhaps join an Optional Experience to the Aran Islands? A genuine highlight of the Wild Atlantic Way. With their cliffs and spectacular coastal views, the islands are a true Irish experience. **(B,RS)**

### DAY 9 | DERRY-LONDONDERRY

Cross into Northern Ireland, bound for the ancient walled city of Derry-Londonderry. On arrival, one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan, will fascinate you as he takes you inside the city walls. **(B,D) Hotel: Maldron Hotel Derry-Londonderry**

### DAY 10 | WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS

Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. Continue to your hotel overlooking Ballygally Bay and enjoy a finale dinner, where old-fashioned hospitality blends with good food and wine. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Ballygally Castle**

### DAY 11 | THE ANTRIM COAST TO BELFAST

Follow the Antrim Coast, past the huge Norman castle at Carrickfergus, to arrive in Belfast. Meet your Local Expert for a passionate city tour including views of the City Hall, Queen's University, the Parliament Building at Stormont and murals in different locations indicating political sentiments of local residents. **(B,RS) Hotel: Titanic Hotel**

### DAY 12 | DEPART BELFAST OR DUBLIN

Your trip has come to an end. Transfer available to Belfast's airports or to Dublin Airport. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at Belfast George Best City Airport and Belfast International Airport at 08:00.

Slea Head, Dingle Peninsula



# Scenic Scotland

Scotland's diverse landscapes will leave you spellbound. Appreciate its natural beauty on a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience at Dundreggan Rewilding Center alongside a conservation expert. Enjoy morning tea at Ardgowan House with Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart. Delve into Scottish royal history at Stirling Castle and Edinburgh Castle, enriching your journey through this captivating country.

8 DAYS | 12 MEALS | GLASGOW TO EDINBURGH | MAY-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO GLASGOW

Glasgow, the undisputed capital of Scottish culture, offers endless opportunities for the curious traveler. As Scotland's largest city, Glasgow boasts more than 20 museums and art galleries that may tempt you upon arrival. After you meet your Travel Director and fellow travelers, celebrate your first night of your tour over dinner. **(D) Hotel: Voco Grand Central**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:00, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 14:00.

## DAY 2 | GLASGOW FULL DAY

Embark on a City Tour Orientation drive with your Travel Director who reveals Glasgow's grand public buildings including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral. The morning continues with a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at Ardgowan House where Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart welcomes you to his family castle set on a 10,000-acre coastal estate. Not only do you get to dine with a Baronet, but your host even gets involved with the food preparation. Work up an appetite walking amid the beech trees while learning about the Shaw Stewart family. Then return to the castle for a sumptuous afternoon tea of finger sandwiches made with locally sourced ingredients, freshly baked scones, cream, jam and cakes. **(B,L)**

## DAY 3 | TRAVEL TO OBAN

Discover centuries old history at Stirling Castle. This majestic structure rises above the River Forth and is a symbol of Scottish national pride, once home to Scottish royals including Mary, Queen of Scots. Explore its halls, chapels and bedrooms, see the famous 'Stirling Heads' and admire the poignant Wallace Monument and battlefield of Stirling Bridge from its 16<sup>th</sup>-century walls. After a morning exploring the lives of royals, arrive in scenic Scotland's Loch Lomond for an Optional Cruise and lunch on the 'Queen of Scottish Lochs' according to historian and novelist Sir Walter Scott. The evening finds you in the resort town and seafood capital of Scotland, Oban, where you can opt to sample the local fare over a seafood dinner. **(B) Hotel: Isle of Glencoe Hotel & Leisure Centre / Ballachulish Hotel**

## DAY 4 | OBAN

Scenic Scotland conjures up images of green highlands and wind-whipped seas. Encounter them for yourself today on a ferry from Oban to Craignure, the main ferry port on the Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute. Afterwards, make your way to the Isle of Iona for a visit to Iona Abbey. Your curiosity will be piqued on this tiny island that has been a vibrant center of Christian worship. It's even rumored that the Book of Kells was made at Iona Abbey. Before returning to Oban, view Rèilig Odhrain, the final resting place of many Scottish kings. **(B,D)**





TRIP CODE: BIBSCO

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.

## Top-rated Experiences

**STIRLING CASTLE** | Delve into the insights of Stirling Castle, one of the largest and most important castles in Scotland.

**ISLE OF MULL** | Travel to the Isles of Mull and Iona, visiting Reilig Odhrain, the sacred burial ground of 48 Scottish Kings.

**EDINBURGH** | Visit Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish Crown Jewels, Mons Meg and other artifacts with your Local Expert.



**ARDGOWAN HOUSE** | Join Sir Ludovic for a private tour of his family home, Ardgowan Estate, learn about preservation initiatives and savor a traditional Scottish tea made from local ingredients. (Day 2)



**DUNDREGGAN REWILDING CENTER** | Learn about the reintroduction of native tree and animal species such as the lynx, red squirrel and beaver to this region of Scotland's Caledonian Forest. (Day 5)

## Authentic Dining

**GLASGOW** | Immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of Glasgow's city center as you indulge in a carefully curated selection of local flavors and traditional delights.

**EDINBURGH** | Enjoy a dinner of modern Scottish cuisine in the heart of Edinburgh.

## Brendan Choice

**SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS** | Learn the fascinating process of Scottish whisky production at a local distillery and malting facility, complete with a wee dram, or soak up the scenery and hear intriguing tales of Nessie during a cruise on one of Scotland's most famous lakes. (Day 5)

## Alternatives

**SCENIC SCOTLAND - WOMEN ONLY** | On this women-only version of Scenic Scotland, join your fellow travelers and female Travel Director for an incredible 8-day adventure from Glasgow to Edinburgh. Meet the Piper to the Lord Provost of Edinburgh since 2006 and Julie Hill, the only woman ever to have won the International Sheepdog Championship. Commemorate your trip by making your own Scottish handbag. This small group women-only tour has been specially created for women, by women. For more details scan the QR code.



Glasgow Cathedral | ©VisitScotland/KennyLam

### DAY 5 | TO THE HIGHLAND CAPITAL OF INVERNESS

Take your Scotland tour to a deeper level with a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** in Dundreggan, home to a pristine and fragile ecosystem, at Dundreggan Rewilding Center. Meet a conservation expert to learn about the ecology of the Highlands and the connection between nature and regenerating the Gaelic cultural heritage. After an illuminating morning, the afternoon finds you tailoring your time with Brendan Choice. Choose between a relaxing Loch Ness Cruise or a tour of Glen Ord Distillery. **(B,D)**  
**Hotel: Pentahotel Inverness**

### DAY 6 | BLAIR CASTLE & EDINBURGH

Full of curiosities, Blair Castle is a treasure trove of history and fine 18<sup>th</sup>-century interiors. Join an Optional Experience to learn how it has been home to the Atholl family for over seven centuries with a history of both turbulent and peaceful times. Even the gardens surrounding Blair Castle, featuring a 9-acre walled garden, wooded grove, and extensive deer park, will have you reflecting on the castle's past. Continue to Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city, where you could opt to experience the best of Scottish tradition at Ghillie Dhu Georgian hall for Scottish dining and live music. **(B)** **Hotel: Virgin Hotel Edinburgh**

### DAY 7 | EDINBURGH CASTLE & ORIENTATION

Edinburgh offers endless possibilities for the curious traveler. Discover the sights and insights of the city with your Local Expert as you travel along Princes Street to see the ornate Scott Memorial, the neoclassical Georgian facades of New Town and the official Scottish residence of the King, the palace of Holyroodhouse, in the Old Town. Your Local Expert then guides you inside the walls of Edinburgh Castle for the sights and insights into the lives of the royals. With the afternoon free, you are at leisure to continue exploring as you wish. Stroll past the charming buildings on the Edinburgh Mile or join an Optional Experience of Royal Edinburgh with a Local Expert who brings its ancient stories to life. In the evening, join your fellow travelers for dinner of delicious local cuisine and wine. **(B,D)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART EDINBURGH

It's time to close the chapter on a memorable Scotland tour as we bid our newfound friends and Travel Director a fond farewell. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 07:00 and 09:00.



# Country Roads of Scotland

Admire Glasgow's Georgian architecture and set sail for the breathtaking Isle of Skye. Visit Orkney's 1,000-year-old Norse town of Kirkwall and the Ring of Brodgar. In Wick, enjoy a wee dram of whisky at Old Pulteney Distillery or visit the Heritage Museum. Explore the cobbled charms of St Andrews and on select departures, experience The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

9 DAYS | 14 MEALS | EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Join your Travel Director for dinner at a local restaurant. On select departures, during your time in Edinburgh you will also attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a colorful mix of pipes, drums, dance and display, set against the floodlit backdrop of Edinburgh Castle. **(D)**

**Hotel:** Malmaison Hotel Edinburgh

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 09:00, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 16:30.

## DAY 2 | EDINBURGH, THE CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. In the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the King. Drive along Princes Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18<sup>th</sup>-century New Town with its neoclassical Georgian facades. Venture up the Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle, home of Mons Meg and Scotland's Crown Jewels. The rest of the day is at leisure, so why not visit the art treasures in the National Gallery? **(B)**

## DAY 3 | ST ANDREWS & THE HIGHLAND CAPITAL OF INVERNESS

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife and journey to St Andrews, passing the famous Old Course at the home of golf since its creation in the 15<sup>th</sup>-century. Enjoy free time to explore. Perhaps stroll to West Sands Beach where the famous scene from Chariots of Fire was filmed? Alternatively, wander to St Andrews University where the love story of Kate Middleton meeting her Prince Charming began. Continue via Blair Atholl and pass the Grampian Mountains on the way to the sparkling Spey Valley. Stop at Atholl Palace and Gardens for a delicious cream tea. Originally opened in Victorian times, the hotel retains many traditional features. **(B,D)**

**Hotel:** Kingsmills

## DAY 4 | CULLODEN, LOCH NESS & ON TO THURSO

Keep your eyes peeled for the Loch Ness monster this morning during a scenic drive along the legendary lake. See the Culloden Battlefields in the morning, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was crushed in 1746 then visit the Culloden Visitor Center. Next, with Brendan Choice, discover the fishing port of Wick. Choose to visit the Old Pulteney Distillery to taste a wee dram of its award-winning whiskies. Alternatively, join a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** with a visit to the highly rated Wick Heritage Museum and hear about the past of this once thriving fishing community. **(B,D)**

**Hotel:** The Pentland

## DAY 5 | A DAY IN THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

Start the day by boarding the ferry to the beautiful Orkney Islands where the countryside is breathtakingly majestic and the tranquillity supports a quieter pace of life. Here the hardy locals say they live 'below the wind and above the water.' Your Travel Director accompanies you as you visit the 5000-year-old village of Skara Brae, the old Norse Town of Kirkwall, the mysterious Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and the small chapel built by Italian prisoners during World War II. **(B,D)**





TRIP CODE: B905

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Glencoe Conservation Talk

## Top-rated Experiences

**EDINBURGH** | Visit Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish Crown Jewels, Mons Meg and other artifacts with your Local Expert.

**INVERNESS** | At the Culloden Visitor Center, discover why the Battle of Culloden changed the Highland way of life forever.

**ISLE OF SKYE** | See the dramatic Cuillin Hills and stay in pretty Broadford.



**WICK HERITAGE MUSEUM** | Delve into Wick's proud fishing history at the Wick Heritage Museum. Learn about how the organization contributes to the sustainability of their community. (Day 4)



**GLENCOE CONSERVATION TALK** | Join a Ranger in the Glencoe valley to learn about the rich biodiversity of wildlife including insects, invertebrates and mammals, such as otter and fallow deer. (Day 7)

## Authentic Dining

**EDINBURGH** | Enjoy a relaxing dinner at a local restaurant and get to know your fellow travelers.

**PITLOCHRY** | Built as a Victorian Baronial retreat, Atholl Palace is over 130 years old. You are welcomed into its banqueting room for a traditional afternoon tea accompanied by sandwiches, scones, Scottish shortbread and traditional tablet.

## Brendan Choice

**WICK** | Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Wick Heritage Museum, or share a wee dram with a master distiller as you appreciate the distinctive flavors of a selection of whiskies. (Day 4)



Ring of Brodgar, Orkney Islands

### DAY 6 | OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

Travel through stunning landscapes along the northern coast with its white sandy beaches, and further inland to misty valleys and glens, lochs and rushing waters. Then it's 'Over the Sea to Skye,' the largest and most beautiful island of the Inner Hebrides. On the way to Broadford, hear romantic tales of how young Flora MacDonald helped rescue Bonnie Prince Charlie and see the dramatic Cuillin Hills. **(B,D) Hotel: The Dunollie**

### DAY 7 | THROUGH THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS TO GLENCOE

Take in this wild and beautiful landscape before crossing to the Kyle of Lochalsh. Stop for a photo at remote Eilean Donan Castle, which under a clear sky offers a perfect reflection in its loch. Move on to the WWII Commando Memorial where there is a fine view of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. Enjoy spectacular scenery en route to the Valley of Glencoe. Join a ranger for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, learn about the protection of this rare ecosystem and the important work reintroducing lost indigenous species to its flora and fauna. In the evening, enjoy market-fresh Scottish ingredients and wine, as you get together with your newfound friends for a sumptuous dinner. Don't be surprised if, by the end of the evening, you're 'Toasting to the Lassies' or singing 'Auld Lang Syne'. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Ballachulish**

### DAY 8 | ALONG THE BONNIE BANKS OF LOCH LOMOND TO GLASGOW

Spend time around peaceful Loch Lomond or the 'Queen of Scottish Lochs', according to Sir Walter Scott. Perhaps experience the beauty and tranquility of the loch with an optional cruise before continuing to Glasgow? An orientation drive through the city will show you the grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral. Then the rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. **(B,RS)**

**Hotel: Radisson Blu**

### DAY 9 | DEPART GLASGOW

Today, bid farewell to your journey along the country roads of Scotland as you transfer to the airport. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 06:30 and 09:00.

**Note:** Select departures include tickets to the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Best of Ireland & Scotland

Discover Northern Ireland, Ireland and Scotland on this 14-day guided tour. In Dublin, visit Trinity College and the ancient Book of Kells. Experience Gaelic history with high tea at Ardgowan Estate, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse and cruise Loch Ness. Enjoy whisky tasting in the Highlands and tour Edinburgh's Royal Mile. An unforgettable journey through rich heritage and stunning landscapes.

14 DAYS | 20 MEALS | DUBLIN TO EDINBURGH | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO DUBLIN

Relax at your hotel before joining your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, a great opportunity to get to know your fellow travelers. (D)

**Hotel: Clayton Charlemont**

**Transfers:** Depart the airport at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00.

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director at 18:00.

## DAY 2 | IN DUBLIN'S FAIR CITY

You Local Expert takes you past the Custom House to see the Guinness Storehouse, Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Walk through the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College and gain an insight into its history. Enjoy entry into its famed library and the 9<sup>th</sup>-century Book of Kells exhibition. (B)

## DAY 3 | KILDARE & CORK

Witness life behind the scenes of the National Stud Farm, where many legendary racehorses are bred. Then see the finest Japanese gardens in Europe, where the gardens portray the symbolism of life and trace the journey of a soul, designed by master horticulturists, Tassa and Minoru Eida. Travel along Grand Parade to see Cork's City Hall and Opera House. (B) **Hotel: Maldron South Mall/The Kingsley**

## DAY 4 | BLARNEY CASTLE & KILLARNEY

Visit the partially ruined 15<sup>th</sup>-century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence that's once kissed, never forgotten. Afterwards head to Killarney. (B,RS,D) **Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa**

## DAY 5 | RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Explore Killarney with Brendan Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert along the lake shore through the National Park. Tour the superb seascapes, towering cliffs and spectacular mountains of the Ring of Kerry. Follow the narrow road as it winds through delightful villages like Sneem and admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View. Return mid-afternoon for time at leisure. (B,RS)

## DAY 6 | THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Begin the day with a short ferry ride across the Shannon estuary. Enjoy magnificent views of the Clare coast, as you journey to the Visitors' Center at the 700ft Cliffs of Moher. Join your Travel Director in Galway to see the infamous Lynch Memorial and the Church of St. Nicholas. Continue on to your hotel, located at the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way. (B) **Hotel: Connemara Coast**

## DAY 7 | GLORIOUS GALWAY TO SLIGO BAY

Tour the wild Connemara region, a scenic wonderland of rivers, lakes and silent hills. Drive along the scenic shores of Sligo Bay. (B,RS,D) **Hotel: Clayton Sligo**

## DAY 8 | WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS

Cross into Northern Ireland to visit Derry-Londonderry and experience sightseeing with one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan. Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. Continue along the Antrim coast road to your hotel. (B,D) **Hotel: Ballygally Castle**





TRIP CODE: B935

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Ardgowan House

## Top-rated Experiences

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone.

**LOCH NESS** | Soak up the scenery and hear intriguing tales of Nessie during a cruise on one of Scotland's most famous lakes.

**INVERNESS** | At the Culloden Visitor Center, discover why the Battle of Culloden changed the Highland way of life forever.



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY** | Join a Local Expert and experience the sights, sounds and kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway. Delve into legend and learn how your visit helps conserve this iconic landmark. (Day 8)



**ARDGOWAN HOUSE** | Join Sir Ludovic for a private tour of his family home, Ardgowan Estate, learn about preservation initiatives and savor a traditional Scottish tea made from local ingredients. (Day 9)

## Authentic Dining

**DUBLIN** | Join your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner, an opportunity to get to know each other over a meal.

## Brendan Choice

**KILLARNEY** | Explore the scenery of Killarney National Park on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys, or by joining a Local Expert for a gentle hike. (Day 5)



Irish National Stud, Kildare

### DAY 9 | HIGH TEA AT ARDGOWAN ESTATE

Set sail across the Irish Sea this morning, heading for the land of the brave. Arrive at the Ardgowan Estate, where Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart welcomes you to his family castle, set on a 10,000-acre coastal estate. Explore the history of the area and learn the Shaw Stewart family's conservation efforts to protect the land on this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, followed by delightful traditional Scottish tea and scones. Continue to Glasgow to see the city's grand public buildings. **(B,RS) Hotel: Radisson Blu**

### DAY 10 | GLENCOE & LOCH NESS

A scenic drive takes you along the banks of Loch Lomond and the dramatic landscape of Glencoe, before reaching The Great Glen. Experience a journey of discovery on a Loch Ness cruise. Soak up the scenery and intriguing tales of Nessie. **(B,D) Hotel: Kingsmills**

### DAY 11 | A HIGHLANDS EXPERIENCE

Enjoy an orientation of Inverness, before driving out to the Culloden Moor Visitor Center, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was finally defeated. Savor a wee dram during a visit to a local distillery, as you delve into the fascinating world of the single malt. **(B,RS,D)**

### DAY 12 | ST ANDREWS & EDINBURGH

A scenic drive takes you through the Grampian Mountains passing Blair Castle. Cross the Tay to visit St Andrews and see the famous Old Course at the home of golf since its creation in the 15<sup>th</sup>-century, before enjoying free time to explore. Continue to Edinburgh. In the evening, select departures will attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. **(B) Hotel: Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa**

### DAY 13 | SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. Drive along Princes Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18<sup>th</sup>-century New Town with its neoclassical Georgian facades. In the Old Town, see the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the King. Venture up the Royal Mile to visit Edinburgh Castle, home of Mons Meg and Scotland's Crown Jewels, the Honours of Scotland. Join your friends for a dinner of modern Scottish cuisine. **(B,D)**

### DAY 14 | FAREWELL EDINBURGH

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast with transfers arriving to Edinburgh airport. **(B)**

**Transfers:** Arrive at the airport at 06:15 and 08:00.

**Note:** Select departures include tickets to the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Britain & Ireland Explorer

Experience the rich heritage of Britain & Ireland on this 15-day guided tour. Visit Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon, journey through historic York and the scenic Lake District. See Durham Cathedral, visit the healing waters of the Roman Baths and discover Scotland's Edinburgh Castle. Enjoy a pint at Dublin's Guinness Storehouse and explore the epicenter of thoroughbred horse breeding at Kildare's National Stud Farm.

15 DAYS | 21 MEALS | LONDON TO LONDON | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO LONDON

Welcome to the English capital. After checking into your hotel, the afternoon is free to enjoy a city that is famous for its pomp and pageantry.

**Hotel: The Clermont Victoria**

## DAY 2 | STRATFORD-UPON-AVON & MEDIEVAL YORK

Journey to Stratford to visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Continue on to York, where you'll see the Shambles and York Minster before joining your Travel Director for a warm and friendly dinner. **(B,D) Hotel: Hilton York**

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director for an early morning departure.

## DAYS 3-4 | SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Stop in Durham to see the castle and Romanesque cathedral. Then view part of Hadrian's Wall, Britain's most renowned Roman monument. Head to the elegant Scottish capital, Edinburgh. Journey down the Royal Mile to see the Palace of Holyroodhouse before crossing over to New Town. Walk with your Local Expert inside Edinburgh Castle and see the Scottish Crown Jewels and Mons Meg. The afternoon is free to shop on Princes Street or visit one of the historical museums or artistic galleries that fill this city. In the evening, select departures will enjoy the spectacle of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

**(B,RS) Hotel: Leonardo Royal**

## DAY 5 | ST ANDREWS & INVERNESS

Cross the Firth of Forth into Fife to arrive at St Andrews. Continue via Blair Atholl and past the Grampian Mountains to the sparkling Spey Valley and on to Inverness. **(B,D) Hotel: Pentahotel Inverness/AC by Marriott**

## DAY 6 | LOCH NESS & GLENCOE

In the morning, travel along Loch Ness and hear tales of the famous Nessie. Continue past Glencoe to reach the bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond. Admire the incredible scenery as you cruise what is arguably one of Scotland's most beautiful lochs, while enjoying a light lunch. **(B,L,D)**

**Hotel: Castle Green**

## DAY 7 | THE ENGLISH LAKES TO LIVERPOOL

In the morning, discover the beauty of the Lake District. Continue to your hotel in Liverpool. **(B,RS) Hotel: Maldron Liverpool**

## DAYS 8-9 | NORTH WALES & OVER TO DUBLIN

Step back into Roman times in Chester, where you see the city's ancient encircling walls and remarkable 13<sup>th</sup>-century black and white Rows. Continue through Wales, passing the massive Conwy Castle before crossing over to the Isle of Anglesey. From the port of Holyhead, set sail for Dublin. Head to the Guinness Storehouse and enjoy a tasting of Ireland's world famous drink. With your Local Expert see the famous O'Connell Street, the Custom House and Dublin Castle.

**Hotel: Riu Plaza The Gresham/Trinity City**





TRIP CODE: B904

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Brookfield Farm

## Top-rated Experiences

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON** | Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare and learn about the life of arguably history's most famous writer.



**BROOKFIELD FARM** | Join farmer and beekeeper Ailbhe Gerrard at her Tipperary farm and learn about sustainable processes behind artisan food, delicious wildflower honey and beeswax candles. (Day 10)



**ROMAN BATHS** | Visit the incredibly well-preserved Roman Baths. Discover 2000 years of history and learn how this hub of culture is pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. (Day 14)

## Authentic Dining

**YORK** | Enjoy a Welcome Dinner and the chance to get to know your fellow travelers.

**LOCH LOMOND** | Savor a light lunch while you admire the woodlands and incredible scenery during a cruise of one of Scotland's most beautiful lochs.

## Brendan Choice

**KILLARNEY** | Explore the scenery of Killarney National Park on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys, or by joining a Local Expert for a gentle hike. (Day 11)

**BLARNEY** | Take your turn to kiss the Blarney Stone, the famous stone of eloquence sourced from 330-million-year-old limestone, or explore the gardens of the Blarney Castle estate which is brought to life on a guided tour with a senior gardener. (Day 12)



House of Waterford Crystal | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 10-11 | KILLARNEY & THE RING OF KERRY

Travel to Ireland's premier thoroughbred horse breeding region for a fascinating, behind-the-scenes visit of the National Stud with an equine professional. Visit the Japanese Gardens. Cross the rolling pastures that encircle Tipperary to Brookfield Farm and join a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Meet Ailbhe Gerrard, a passionate farmer and beekeeper, who shares her secrets to crafting the most delicious and sustainable honey of the island. Indulge in a delicious Farm-to-Table lunch. Continue to Killarney, where your Dine-Around evening offers authentic and intimate dining with your friends, from a hand-picked selection of fine local restaurants. Explore Killarney with Brendan Choice. Choose a memorable ride on a horse-drawn jaunting car ride with the local jarveys. Alternatively, join a gentle hike with a Local Expert through the National Park. **Hotel: The Gleneagle**

### DAY 12 | BLARNEY CASTLE & WATERFORD

Explore Blarney with Brendan Choice. Choose to climb up the ramparts and see the famous Stone of Eloquence. Alternatively, visit the lush gardens of the estate with a senior gardener. Travel to the historic walled city of Waterford for a guided visit of the world-famous House of Waterford Crystal and see artisans at work. After miles of fun and fascinating sights, spirits will be high during dinner. Toast to your newfound friends, *Sí dínte*. **(B,D) Hotel: Granville**

### DAY 13 | ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO CARDIFF

From the port of Rosslare, board your ferry to cross the Irish Sea. A pleasant drive takes you to the Welsh capital of Cardiff, famous for its imposing castle and the brilliant Principality Stadium. **(B) Hotel: Clayton Cardiff**

### DAY 14 | ROMAN BATHS & STONEHENGE

Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. Continue across Salisbury Plain to visit the ancient site of Stonehenge. Return to London where you are at leisure for the rest of the day. **(B) Hotel: The Clermont Victoria**

### DAY 15 | HOMEWARD BOUND

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. **(B)**

**Note:** Select departures include tickets to the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Romantic Britain & Ireland

Indulge in England, Scotland and Ireland's romantic heritage on this 20-day guided tour, where you'll explore the stunning Lake District, York's Viking history and Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon. Marvel at the Cliffs of Moher, savor a Sunday roast in Killarney and journey through the Ring of Kerry. End with a tour of Blarney Castle and the House of Waterford Crystal.

20 DAYS | 27 MEALS | LONDON TO LONDON | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO LONDON

Welcome to the English capital. After checking into your hotel, the afternoon is free to enjoy the city. **Hotel: The Clermont Victoria**

## DAY 2 | OXFORD & STRATFORD

Meet your Travel Director before departing for Oxford. Later, visit Shakespeare's Birthplace. Tonight, enjoy dinner at a local pub. **(B,D) Hotel: Mercure Shakespeare**

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director for an early morning departure.

## DAY 3 | LINCOLN & MEDIEVAL YORK

Travel through the heart of 'Robin Hood Country' on your way to visit Lincoln. Continue to York and saunter along the Shambles to reach the York Minster. **(B,D) Hotel: Hilton York**

## DAY 4 | THE ENGLISH LAKES TO EDINBURGH

Stop in Wordsworth's village of Grasmere to see the poet's grave. **(B) Hotel: Virgin Hotel**

## DAY 5 | SCOTLAND'S CAPITAL OF CULTURE

Join your Local Expert to visit Edinburgh Castle and see the Palace of Holyroodhouse. In the evening, select departures will attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. **(B)**

## DAY 6 | ST ANDREWS & INVERNESS

See the world's oldest golf course as you arrive in St Andrews and perhaps wander to St Andrews University, where Prince William met his princess when they were students. Stop at Atholl Palace and Gardens for a delicious cream tea. Originally opened in Victorian times, the hotel retains many of its traditional features. **(B,D) Hotel: Kingsmills**

## DAY 7 | ACROSS THE SEA TO SKYE

Enjoy a journey of discovery on a Loch Ness cruise. Continue across the sea to Skye. **(B,D) Hotel: The Dunollie**

## DAY 8 | LOCH LOMOND & GLASGOW

Return to the mainland and drive to the World War II Commando Memorial, shadowed by Ben Nevis. Continue through Fort William and Loch Lomond, en route to Glasgow. **(B) Hotel: Radisson Blu**

## DAY 9 | ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO BELFAST

Meet your Local Expert for a passionate city tour of Belfast. **(B) Hotel: Titanic Belfast**

## DAY 10 | DUBLIN CITY SIGHTSEEING

Journey to Dublin to meet your Local Expert and see O'Connell Street, Dublin Castle and St. Patrick's Cathedral. **(B,RS) Hotel: Riu Plaza The Gresham**

## DAY 11 | A PINT OF THE 'BLACK STUFF'

Head to the Guinness Storehouse and enjoy a tasting of Ireland's world-famous drink. **(B)**





TRIP CODE: B908

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Roman Baths

## Top-rated Experiences

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON** | Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and learn about the life of arguably history's most famous writer.

**DUBLIN** | See Dublin's elegant Georgian squares, O'Connell Street and the Custom House with a Local Expert.

**STONEHENGE** | Walk around the strange and awe-inspiring megaliths that have reputedly stood for 5,000 years.



**DELUXE COASTAL SEAWEED EXPERIENCE** | Embark on a guided foraging walk to learn about the versatility of seaweed and how the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic coast is protected. (Day 14)



**ROMAN BATHS** | Visit the incredibly well-preserved Roman Baths. Discover 2000 years of history and learn how this hub of culture is pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. (Day 17)

## Authentic Dining

**KILLARNEY** | Choose from a fine selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around evening.

**TORQUAY** | Blend a little wine with great cuisine and good company for a rousing dinner.

## Brendan Choice

**PLYMOUTH** | Set sail on a relaxing cruise from Plymouth harbor, where the pilgrims left over 400 years ago, or learn about the history of stone circles and indigenous traditions from your knowledgeable Local Expert on a scenic exploration. (Day 18)



Loch Ness Cruise

### DAY 12 | GALWAY & THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Cross the limestone landscape of the Burren to see the Cliffs of Moher. **(B) Hotel: The George Limerick**

### DAY 13 | THE DINGLE PENINSULA

See the 12<sup>th</sup>-century St. Mary's Cathedral, King John's Castle and the Treaty Stone before setting off to Tralee. For dinner you are treated to a traditional Sunday roast, with all the trimmings. **(B,RS,D) Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa**

### DAY 14 | RING OF KERRY EXPERIENCE

Meet John for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** as you visit his family-run seaweed farm on the Ring of Kerry. Learn about sustainable farming practices that protect the wild Irish Atlantic coasts. **(B,RS,D)**

### DAY 15 | BLARNEY CASTLE & WATERFORD

Visit Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence. Join a guided visit of the House of Waterford Crystal and meet an artisan. **(B,D) Hotel: Granville**

### DAY 16 | ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO CARDIFF

See Cardiff Castle and the impressive Principality Stadium. **(B) Hotel: Clayton Cardiff**

### DAY 17 | BATH & GLASTONBURY

Visit the Roman Baths for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, learning how this hub of culture is pioneering educational investments to benefit the community. Continue to Glastonbury and see the abbey. **(B) Hotel: The Imperial Torquay (Sea View Rooms)**

### DAY 18 | THE CORNISH COAST

Explore Dartmoor with Brendan Choice. Choose to join a scenic exploration of Dartmoor National Park. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing cruise of Plymouth harbor. At dinner this evening, enjoy a fine selection of local dishes. **(B,D)**

### DAY 19 | SALISBURY PLAIN & STONEHENGE

Visit the mysterious megaliths of Stonehenge. **(B) Hotel: The Clermont Victoria**

### DAY 20 | HOMEWARD BOUND

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. **(B)**

**Note:** Select departures include tickets to the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Britain & Ireland Discovery

Take an immersive journey that offers a blend of legend, history and tradition and brings the heritage of Britain & Ireland to life. Your itinerary includes hearing the story of Nessie on a Loch Ness cruise, visiting the Orkney Islands' ancient Skara Brae village, marveling at the prehistoric monoliths of Stonehenge and experiencing Kilkenny Castle.

24 DAYS | 35 MEALS | LONDON TO LONDON | APR-SEP | BALANCED



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO LONDON

Welcome to the English capital. After checking into your hotel, the afternoon is free to enjoy the city. **Hotel: Thistle Marble Arch**

## DAY 2 | LONDON TO STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Stop in Oxford, then travel through the Cotswolds. In Stratford-upon-Avon, visit Shakespeare's birthplace. Tonight, dine at a local restaurant. **(B,D)**

**Hotel: Swan's Nest**

**Welcome:** Meet your Travel Director for an early morning departure.

## DAY 3 | MEDIEVAL YORK

Head to the historic city of York. Inside the ancient city walls, see the York Minster, the largest medieval church in northern Europe. **(B,RS,D)** **Hotel: Hilton York**

## DAY 4-5 | THE LAKE DISTRICT & EDINBURGH

Travel to the picturesque Lake District. In Edinburgh, join a Local Expert to explore Princes Street, the New Town, the Palace of Holyroodhouse and Edinburgh Castle. In the evening, select departures will attend the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. **Hotel: Edinburgh Marriott Holyrood**

## DAY 6 | FIFE & ABERDEEN

Make your way to St Andrews, the birthplace of golf. Enjoy free time to explore. Test your senses on a visit to a local Whisky Distillery before continuing to our hotel in Aberdeen. **(B,D)** **Hotel: Ardoe House Hotel & Spa**

## DAY 7-8 | WICK & THE ORKNEY ISLANDS

Visit the Culloden Visitor Center then set sail on a Loch Ness Cruise. From Wick, visit John O'Groats and board the ferry to the beautiful Orkney Islands. **Hotel: The Norseman**

## DAY 9 | OVER THE SEA TO SKYE

Cross to the magical Isle of Skye, the largest and most beautiful island of the Inner Hebrides. **(B,D)** **Hotel: The Dunollie**

## DAY 10 | LOCH LOMOND TO GLASGOW

Stop at Loch Lomond before traveling to Glasgow. **(B,RS)** **Hotel: Radisson Blu**

## DAY 11 | WALK IN THE GIANT'S STEPS ON THE WAY TO DERRY-LONDONDERRY

Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for an unforgettable **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. **(B,D)** **Hotel: Da Vinci's Hotel**

## DAY 12 | BELLEEK & SLIGO BAY

Meet Ronan, one of the nation's great storytellers in Derry-Londonderry. Meet artisans at Belleek Pottery and Visitor Center. **(B,D)** **Hotel: Clayton Sligo**

## DAY 13 | GALWAY & LIMERICK

Experience the rugged landscape of Connemara, a wonderland of rivers and lakes. In Galway, see St. Nicholas Cathedral. **(B)** **Hotel: The George**





TRIP CODE: B959

For dates, prices and to learn more about this trip scan the QR code.



Giant's Causeway

## Top-rated Experiences



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY** | Join a Local Expert and experience the sights, sounds and kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway. Delve into legend and learn how your visit helps conserve this iconic landmark. (Day 11)



**ROMAN BATHS** | Visit the incredibly well-preserved Roman Baths. Discover 2000 years of history and learn how this hub of culture is pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. (Day 22)

## Authentic Dining

**KILLARNEY** | Choose from a fine selection of local restaurants on your Dine-Around evening.

**PLYMOUTH** | Celebrate the culmination of your travels in style with delicious wine and local cuisine.

## Brendan Choice

**PLYMOUTH** | Set sail on a relaxing cruise from Plymouth harbor, where the pilgrims left over 400 years ago, or learn about the history of stone circles and indigenous traditions from your knowledgeable Local Expert on a scenic exploration. (Day 22)



Hairy Coo, Isle of Skye

### DAY 14-15 | ADARE TO KILLARNEY

Travel via the thatched village of Adare to Killarney. The next morning, enjoy a trip around the Ring of Kerry, one of the world's greatest scenic journeys. For your Dine-Around evening choose from a hand-picked selection of local restaurants.

**Hotel: Great Southern/Aghadoe Heights Hotel & Spa**

### DAY 16 | BLARNEY CASTLE & CORK

Cross the rugged Derrynasaggart Mountains as you head for Blarney to visit the ruined 15<sup>th</sup>-century castle, home to the famous the Stone of Eloquence. Continue on to Cork for a city tour before checking into your hotel. **(B) Hotel: Maldron South Mall**

### DAY 17-18 | KILKENNY & DUBLIN

Visit Kilkenny Castle with a Local Expert and learn about its rich history on a guided tour. Head to the Guinness Storehouse for a tasting. A Local Expert shows you Dublin's elegant Georgian squares and O'Connell Street. **Hotel: Trinity City**

### DAY 19 | ACROSS THE IRISH SEA TO LIVERPOOL

Cross the Irish Sea for a stop in Wales at Conwy Castle. Return to England and stop in Liverpool for an orientation of the city. Consider an Optional Experience tour featuring the history of The Beatles. **(B,D) Hotel: Maldron Liverpool**

### DAY 20 | THE WELSH MARCHES TO CARDIFF

Continue through the countryside to the Welsh capital and see the Principality Stadium and Cardiff Castle. **(B,RS) Hotel: Clayton Cardiff**

### DAY 21-22 | BATH, SOMERSET & PLYMOUTH

Visit the well-preserved Roman Baths on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, learning how this site is pioneering new educational investments to benefit the community. Explore Dartmoor with Brendan Choice. Choose to join a walk and scenic exploration in Dartmoor. Alternatively, enjoy a relaxing cruise on Plymouth harbor, where 400 years ago the pilgrim ship, Mayflower, set sail for America. Back in Plymouth enjoy a Celebration Dinner with your Travel Director and newfound friends. **Hotel: Copthorne Hotel/Crowne Plaza**

### DAY 23 | ANCIENT STONEHENGE TO LONDON

Visit the prehistoric Stonehenge. Return to your hotel in London for a final evening at leisure. **(B) Hotel: Thistle Marble Arch**

### DAY 24 | HOMEWARD BOUND

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast. **(B)**

**Note:** Select departures include tickets to the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.





Dromoland Castle

# Private Chauffeur Vacations

The epitome of taking you personally

Blending expert navigation, relaxation and luxury travel, our fully-customizable Private Chauffeur Vacations are known for their excellence on and off the road. Relax in the comfort of a premium Wi-Fi enabled private car and enjoy exclusive access to incredible experiences and stays at elevated accommodations throughout your journey. This is the ideal way to travel in flexible independent luxury, while checking everything off your must-see list.





## Best in their business

Far more than just expert drivers, our Private Chauffeurs are skilled storytellers and savvy locals, making them the ideal partner for your journey. Joining our team requires warmth, impeccable service, attentive listening and unparalleled local knowledge. Not only does each Private Chauffeur know the best way to get you to every destination, they can also provide restaurant recommendations and suggestions for spontaneous adventures.

“”

When you travel with a Private Chauffeur, you're traveling with the experts. We've been doing this for over a quarter of a century and everything we do with Brendan is very personal. We're very passionate about how we love our homelands, how we show our homelands and what we can do to give you the finest experience possible.

PAT KEOGH | PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR, IRELAND

Explore a selection of sample Private Chauffeur Vacation itineraries, each one fully-customizable to meet your interests and requirements.

Ireland's Cities, Landscapes & Castles	7 Days	52
Ireland Family Adventure	8 Days	54
Legendary Castle Stays	9 Days	56
<b>NEW</b> Ireland Active Adventure	10 Days	58
Tastes & Thrills of Ireland	10 Days	60
Romantic Ireland	13 Days	62
Bonnie Scotland	7 Days	64
Spirit of Scotland	10 Days	66
Scottish & Irish Highlights	13 Days	68



For pricing and more information on ways to customize these trips, or to explore more sample Private Chauffeur itineraries, scan the QR code.

### PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR VACATIONS KEY

<b>B</b> Breakfast	<b>1</b> Overnight	Ferry / Cruise
<b>L</b> Lunch	Visited Location	Flight
<b>D</b> Dinner	Route	Hotel
Start Location	Day Trip Route	Manor / Estate
End Location	Rail Route	Castle



Donagh Keogh | Private Chauffeur, Ireland



# Irish Cities, Landscapes & Castles

Ireland's ancient heritage, breathtaking landscapes and colorful city life are at the forefront in this immersive journey of striking contrasts. Discover the vibrancy of Dublin, the ancient history of Glendalough and modern ingenuity at the Skellig Six18 distillery, then cap it all off with a stay at stunning Dromoland Castle.

7 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN, GEORGIAN SQUARES & A PRICELESS BOOK

Welcome to Dublin, the starting point for your grand adventure through Ireland! Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel by your Private Chauffeur. This afternoon, your voyage of discovery begins when you join a Local Specialist who will proudly share the riches of Ireland's capital city on your own private walking tour. See Dublin's Georgian squares with their brightly colored doors and walk the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College to see the ornate 8<sup>th</sup>-century Book of Kells.

## DAY 2 | VALLEY OF THE TWO LAKES & FARMHOUSE BAKING

Travel into Co. Wicklow and visit the 'valley of the two lakes'. A hotbed for hikers and walkers alike, Glendalough is rich in history and scenery, with a restorative sense of tranquillity. Visit Monastic sites including historic churches, high crosses and round towers that date back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century. Be sure to find St. Kevin's cross as legend holds that those who can wrap their arms around it will receive their wish. Perhaps the luck of the Irish will be on your side? Afterwards, visit Ballyknocken House & Farm for a hands-on cookery school experience and tasty slice of Irish culinary history. Relish in your new skill of making griddle bread, cutting the warm, steaming bread open, layering it with Irish smoked salmon and flavored crème fraîche, knowing it is just perfect because of the guidance of a local expert. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO WATERFORD

Travel to historical Waterford, taking in the colorful terrace houses, cafés and bars that overlook the quayside of this former Viking settlement. Join a Local Specialist for a tour of the House of Waterford Crystal, watching the master craftsmen as they create delicate works of art. Next, enjoy a grand arrival through the entrance of Mount Congreve House, then join an expert gardener for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Take a gentle stroll following the terrace path past the rolling west lawn, taking in horticultural highlights such as the delicately leafed Acer Tamukeyama and the vibrant pink-green tinged Pseudowintera 'Marjorie Congreve', named after Mr. Ambrose Congreve's wife. Finally, no visit to Mount Congreve would be complete without a visit to the Walled Gardens, where fruit and vegetables have been grown to support the estate over centuries. Later, enjoy a night in the intimate Cliff House Hotel with dinner in their Michelin star restaurant for a quaint and cozy evening. **(B,D)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 6 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners, Recommended accommodations (6 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Mount Congreve

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | The Ring of Kerry, Falconry and Fine-Dining at Dromoland Castle.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking Tour of Dublin, Farmhouse baking at Ballyknocken and a Tour of the House of Waterford Crystal.

**VISIT** | Trinity College & the Book of Kells, Glendalough, Blarney Castle, Skellig Six18 Distillery and the Cliffs of Moher.



**MOUNT CONGREVE GUIDED WALK** | Gain insight into Mount Congreve's commitment to creating a sustainable garden environment and how they are integrating year-round environmental practices. (Day 3)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN

The Merrion Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | KILLARNEY

Aghadoe Heights Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 3 | ARDMORE

Cliff House Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 6 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

Dromoland Castle  
★★★★★

## Alternatives

**MAJESTIC IRELAND** | Embark on a discovery of the highlights and iconic sights that make Ireland so majestic, capped by memorable stays at both Ashford & Dromoland Castles.



### DAY 4 | CLIFF WALK, MAGICAL GARDENS & ARRIVE IN KILLARNEY

Start your day with a stunning walk along the Ardmore Cliff. Next, visit Blarney Castle, home to the magical stone that gives the gift of eloquence in exchange for an upside-down kiss. Stroll through the castle's grounds and gardens, arboretums and waterways and if you dare, enter the Poison Garden – just don't touch the plants! Afterwards, continue to the charming town of Killarney. (B)

### DAY 5 | RING OF KERRY, LAND & SEASCAPES

Admire the breathtaking scenery, rugged landscapes and crashing seas along the famous Ring of Kerry. Delight in traditional Irish life as you stop in quaint villages through this unspoiled land that has inspired artists and poets for centuries. Take in the beautiful views of the Skellig Coastline, before stepping inside the home of Skellig Six18. Learn about the botanical ingredients that grow in the natural woodlands, hedgerows and along the shoreline that are foraged and carefully chosen to create their artisan pot-distilled gin. Learn about traditional Irish Whiskey production methods and hear about the distillery's ambitious plans to build a state-of-the-art-whiskey distillery plant. See the bespoke copper gin still and savor the taste of the Atlantic Coast with a gin and whiskey tasting experience. Afterwards, return to Killarney where the rest of your day is free. (B)

### DAY 6 | HIGH CLIFFS & STUNNING DROMOLAND CASTLE

Experience the Cliffs of Moher, a natural masterpiece set against the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean and part of The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Burren Geopark. Afterwards, its on to bask in the royal glow of Dromoland Castle, one of the most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland. Participate in the ancient art of Falconry as you stroll through this stunning estate. This evening, enjoy fine dining at Dromoland Castle's flagship restaurant, the Earl of Thomond, celebrated in culinary circles for its panache, elegance, innovation and attention to detail that highlights Irish produce. (B,D)

### DAY 7 | DEPART SHANNON

Enjoy a leisurely Dromoland breakfast and some time on the estate before being transferred to Shannon Airport where your vacation ends. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. (B)

Falconry, Dromoland Castle



PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Ireland Family Adventure

Make meaningful, uplifting and lifelong memories as you connect with your loved ones and locals alike on a trip that captures the imagination of all the family. Indulge in unique afternoon tea and take a walk with magnificent birds of prey during your stay at the magical Ashford Castle.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN IN TIME FOR TEA

Welcome to Dublin. Join a Vintage Tea Tour for a truly unique experience. Afternoon tea is a cherished ritual dating back to the 1840s, but this is afternoon tea the Irish way. Board a vintage bus in the historic Temple Bar area and take in the sights of the city while enjoying a range of delicious delicacies against the soundtrack of 1950s Jazz and stories from your host.

## DAY 2 | JOURNEY TO KILKENNY

Leaving Dublin, visit Airfield Estate, a haven for families, gardening enthusiasts, animal lovers, foodies and peace-seekers. There's something for everyone to discover here as you explore the sunken or walled gardens, the tea garden, the stables café, the orchard and bee garden, the hen & calf houses, the vintage car garage or the fairy fort, farmyard and milking parlour. After, enjoy a wonderful Heritage Experience, taking in artefacts and stories about the estate's founders, Letitia and Naomi Overend. Later, journey on to historic Kilkenny. (B)

## DAY 3 | KILKENNY CATS, BLARNEY & KILLARNEY

Join a Local Specialist and discover the magic of this Medieval city. Why are Kilkenny people called cats? All will be revealed. Next, journey to Blarney Castle and kiss the famous Blarney Stone to receive the 'gift of gab' before exploring the mystical grounds, gardens and rock close. End your day in Killarney, renowned for its lively pubs and open, cheerful atmosphere that's full of what the Irish call *craic*! (B)

## DAY 4 | RING OF KERRY & TRADITIONAL FARMS

Wind around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. Take in views of mountains, valleys, lakes and sea as you travel through this unspoiled land that has inspired artists and poets for centuries. Along the way, your chauffeur will take you through some of the little towns to dive even deeper into this magical destination. Later, visit Muckross Farm for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Enjoy three working farms, a small farm with an animal petting area, a carpenter's workshop and blacksmith's forge. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 7 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Muckross Traditional Farms | ©TourismIreland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Vintage Tea Tour, The Ring of Kerry, a Cliffs of Moher Cruise and Irish Wolfhounds & Falconry at Ashford Castle.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Kilkenny City Walking Tour.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and Blarney Castle.



**MUCKROSS TRADITIONAL FARMS** | Meet working carpenters, thatchers, blacksmiths, shepherds & sheepdogs and learn about their role in sustaining traditional farming methods and cultures. (Day 4)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1 & 7 | DUBLIN**

Brooks Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | KILLARNEY**

Great Southern  
★★★★

**DAY 2 | KILKENNY**

Lyrath Estate  
★★★★

**DAY 5-6 | CONG, CO. MAYO**

Ashford Castle  
★★★★★

Family time with Ashford Castle's resident Wolfhounds

### DAY 5 | CRUISE A FAMOUS CRAGGY CLIFF FACE & ARRIVE AT ASHFORD CASTLE

Heading north, stop at the spectacular Cliffs of Moher. See this natural phenomenon from a different perspective, gazing up at the sheer, craggy cliff face rising 700ft above you as you cruise along the 5 mile shoreline. Back on dry land, continue to the majestic Ashford Castle, a place full of stories waiting to be told. Set alongside the glistening waters of Lough Corrib, Ashford dates back to 1228 and became the home of the Guinness family in the mid 1800's. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | ASHFORD CASTLE

After a luxuriant breakfast, wander the grounds as you wish or perhaps indulge in the ancient art of falconry and discover the fascinating story behind this tradition while being enthralled by the resident birds of prey. If its culinary indulgence you'd prefer, reserve your place for Afternoon Tea or dine in the Dungeon. Now that you've joined the ranks of guests that have included Princes and Presidents, it's your turn to live like royalty as leisurely or as active as you please. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | FAREWELL TO ASHFORD, BACK TO DUBLIN & EPIC

Before leaving Ashford's magnificent estate, make time to say hello to the castle's famous wolfhounds. Travel back to Dublin and visit EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum for a unique blend of learning, engagement and fun for all the family. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

It's time to say *slán abhaile* to these magical lands and head for home with your cherished memories. **(B)**



# Legendary Castle Stays

The ultimate experience in immersive, high-end travel in Ireland. Experience royal treatment on a trip featuring stays at two of Ireland's 5-star castles, Ashford Castle and Dromoland Castle. One contemporary, one classic, both offer legendary hospitality, traditional comforts within their walls and a variety of elegant escapes within their grounds.

9 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN, COBBLE STONES & EPIC MUSEUM

Welcome to Dublin, the starting point for your grand adventure through the Emerald Isle. On arrival, meet your Private Chauffeur and be whisked away to your hotel. This afternoon, a Local Specialist will personally escort you to see the riches of Ireland's capital city on your own private walking tour. Experience all the highlights and uncover hidden gems of this ancient, yet modern city.

## DAY 2 | STROKESTOWN PARK & ASHFORD CASTLE

Journey into Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and visit Strokestown Park House. This Georgian Palladian mansion is preserved with its original furnishings and fabrics and its beautiful 6-acre walled gardens have been restored to their original splendor. Hear the stories of this unique historic property on a guided tour that is like walking through the pages of a novel. Afterwards, continue to Cong and prepare for a royal adventure as you enter the grand stone gates of the remarkable 800 year-old Ashford Castle. Your luxurious bed for the next three nights will be in one of the castles Deluxe Rooms (subject to availability.) (B)

## DAY 3 | ASHFORD CASTLE ESTATE ACTIVITIES

Welcome to your first full day of life in a castle. After a luxuriant breakfast, you're free to wander the grounds as you wish, perhaps using your Brendan provided Ashford Castle Estate Credit to participate in a falconry hawk walk or a spa treatment. If its a culinary indulgence you'd prefer, reserve your place for Afternoon Tea or dine in the Dungeon Bar. Now that you've joined the ranks of guests that have included Princes and Presidents, it's your turn to live like royalty as leisurely or as active as you please. (B)

## DAY 4 | CONNEMARA, KYLEMORE ABBEY & GEORGE V DINING

Another day at Ashford means another opportunity to explore the woods, meet the castle's wolfhounds, do more activities or sample more dining options. Alternatively, perhaps visit the nearby village of Cong or if the mood strikes, opt to take this day to travel through Connemara, a culturally rich, Irish-speaking region full of golden beaches, rocky mountains and breathtaking views. Visit the Gothic-inspired Kylemore Abbey, a former castle-turned-abbey perched alongside a lake with winding wooded paths and classic walled gardens that boasts a love story like no other. This evening, return to Ashford Castle and don your finery to dine like lords and ladies at the castle's elegant George V Restaurant. (B,D)

## DAY 5 | GALWAY CITY & DROMOLAND CASTLE

Travel to Galway. The 'City of the Tribes' is a fun city that's full of character. Walk its cobblestone streets, step into colorful shops and join in the music and laughter that makes Galway so memorable. Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** on a fabulous culinary walking tour of Galway with a Local Specialist. Sample a variety of flavors by artisan producers, restaurants and markets stands from cheese and whiskey to strawberry tarts. Afterwards, it's onwards to bask in the royal glow of Dromoland Castle, one of Ireland's most luxurious castle hotels. Your grand bed for the next three nights will be in one of the castles Deluxe Rooms (subject to availability.) (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 8 Breakfasts, 2 Dinners, Castle Estate Credits, Recommended accommodations (8 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Galway Food Tour | ©Tourismireland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Estate Activities at Ashford & Dromoland Castles.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking Tour of Dublin and an Exploration of The Burren.

**VISIT** | Strokestown Park House, Connemara, Kylemore Abbey, the Cliffs of Moher, the Irish National Stud and the Guinness Storehouse.



**GALWAY FOOD TOUR** | Explore Galway's thriving food scene. Meet artisan producers and support local business as you sample local sustainable produce from the city's diverse range of culinary curiosities. (Day 5)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1 & 8 | DUBLIN**



The Merrion Hotel  
★★★★★

**DAY 5-7 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS**



Dromoland Castle  
★★★★★

**DAY 2-4 | CONG, CO. MAYO**



Ashford Castle  
★★★★★



Ashford Castle

### DAY 6 | DROMOLAND CASTLE ESTATE ACTIVITIES

Welcome to Dromoland Castle, an immaculately placed 450-acre estate that has welcomed guests since the 16th century. The ancient baronial structures give way to luxuriant hotel wings housing an inspired chicly modern stay, abounding with the comforts of traditional Irish hospitality. There's much to do and explore in this elegant setting. You could try some of the castle's outdoor activities such as woodland trekking, horseback riding and archery, or settle in for some delicious lunch in The Gallery beside a crackling fire, courtesy of your Dromoland Castle Estate credit. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | CLIFFS OF MOHER, THE BURREN & EARL OF THOMOND DINING

Enjoy another day relaxing at Dromoland Castle or if you wish, adventure out for the day with your Private Chauffeur. Travel to the Cliffs of Moher and walk the walled pathways atop the cliffs that rise 700ft above the pounding Atlantic waves while taking in some of the most stunning and iconic views in Ireland. Afterwards, visit the 'rocky place', Ireland's limestone paradise known as The Burren. Meet a charming Local Specialist who will encourage you to stop and drink in the environment's rare ecosystem of furrows, cliffs, caves and archaeological sites. This evening, you'll enjoy fine dining at Dromoland Castle's flagship restaurant, the Earl of Thomond, celebrated in culinary circles for its panache, elegance, innovation and attention to detail that highlights local Irish produce. **(B,D)**

### DAY 8 | IRISH NATIONAL STUD & GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

Say farewell to the acres of Dromoland and visit The Irish National Stud in Tully, Co. Kildare. The only professional stud farm open to the public is the beating heart of Ireland's horse industry. Enjoy this place of outstanding natural beauty that is home to magnificent horses and elegant, serene gardens. Continue to Dublin and visit the Guinness Storehouse. Part museum, part towering pub, the storehouse takes visitors through the history, legend and evolution of the famous Irish drink. Learn the art of the perfect pull, then enjoy a 360° view of Dublin at the top floor Gravity Bar and relax with a pint of the famed 'Black Stuff.' **(B)**

### DAY 9 | DEPART DUBLIN

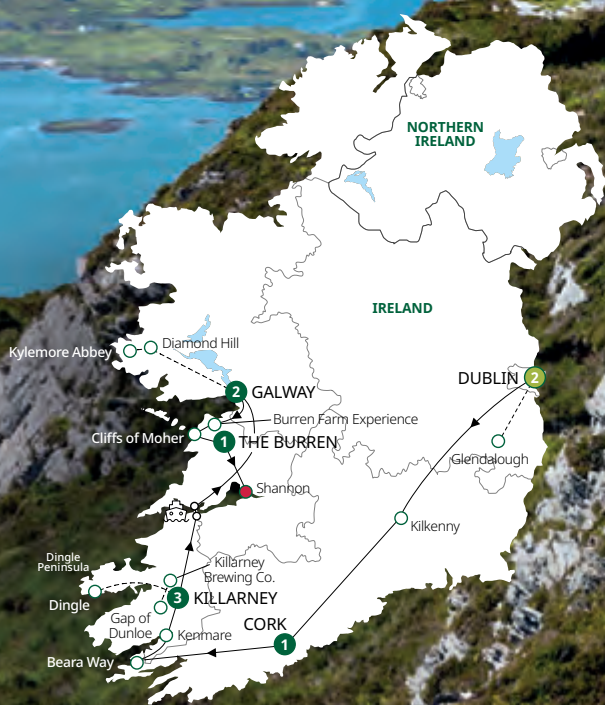
Today, you depart our fair island. Your Private Chauffeur will transfer you to Dublin Airport, where it is time to bid farewell to the delightful Emerald Isle. *Slán go fóill* - goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**



# Ireland Active Adventure

The combination of spectacular natural landscapes, rugged coastlines, majestic mountains and lush green countryside makes Ireland a paradise for an active vacation. This trip blends hikes, bikes, boats and outdoor experiences with cultural immersions, historical richness, warm hospitality and delicious cuisine. From Spinc Ridge to the Dingle Peninsula, Diamond Hill to the Gap of Dunloe, adventure is around every corner.

10 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! You will be met at the airport by your Private Chauffeur and transferred to your hotel. Get to know Dublin on a private guided walking tour through the heart of the city's history. End in the historic Liberties, the truest taste of real Dublin and enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Teeling Whiskey Distillery. Teeling plays an important part in reviving the traditional style of Dublin whiskey distillation by being the first to open its door in the city in 125 years. Experience history in real-time as you come to understand the inner workings of an operational distillery.

## DAY 2 | GLENDALOUGH, LAKES & HIKING

Known as 'the valley of the two lakes,' Glendalough is a true escape from the rush and pull of Dublin. A hotbed for hikers and walkers alike, Glendalough is rich in history and scenery, with a restorative sense of tranquility. Embark on a vigorous hike to The Spinc ridge, watching as the Wicklow Uplands open out around you as you climb. At the peak, you will be rewarded with breathtaking views of the spectacular Glendalough Valley and be able to visit Monastic sites including historic churches, high crosses and round towers dating back to the 6th century. Be sure to check out the Visitor Centre too with its guided tours, exhibition and illuminating audio-visual shows. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILKENNY & ON TO CORK

Kilkenny is a city that dates back more than 1,500 years and is brought to life on a Private Walking Tour with a Local Specialist. Enjoy a blend of comedy, history, magic and irreverent Irish humour with the stories of buildings like Rothe House, The Butter Slip, Graces Castle and Alice Kytellers' House (Kilkenny's famous witch). End your walk with a guided visit to Kilkenny Castle, an impressive structure that began life as a Norman fortress and houses a picture gallery that includes portraits by Van Dyck and Lely. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | BEARA PENINSULA HIKE & KENMARE

The Beara Way is a popular choice for hikers who want to experience the natural beauty of Ireland and immerse themselves in the local culture. Enjoy a half-day hike through stunning landscapes with views of rugged coastline, rolling green hills, mountains, valleys and pristine lakes. Stop in the small town of Kenmare known for its gourmet food, breathtaking scenery and wonderful choice of small galleries & shops before heading to Killarney. **(B)**

## DAY 5 | BOATING, BIKING & BREWING

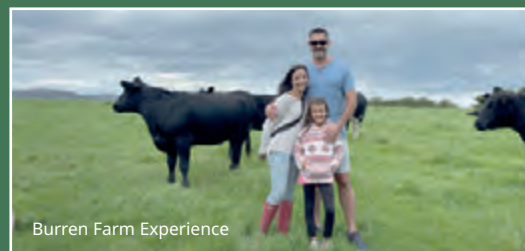
Begin your journey around scenic Killarney at Ross Castle. Board a traditional open boat and sail through the Three Lakes of Killarney to Lord Brandon's Cottage where you can enjoy a light snack. Afterwards, cycle through the Gap of Dunloe, a spectacular glaciated valley to the renowned Kate Kearney's Cottage. Meet your Chauffeur and travel a short distance to visit the Killarney Brewing Company where your local guides are true Killarney characters. Gain insight from their in-depth knowledge of the beer brewing process and passion for Killarney history before enjoying more storytelling over a beer tasting. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, Walking Guides, 9 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (9 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Burren Farm Experience

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Hikes in Glendalough, the Beara Peninsula, Dingle and Connemara.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | Private Walking tours of Dublin & Kilkenny, Biking in Killarney National Park and a Walking Tour of The Burren.

**VISIT** | Glendalough Visitor Centre, Kilkenny Castle, Kenmare, Killarney Brewing Company, Dingle Peninsula, Kylemore Abbey and the Cliffs of Moher.



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 1)



**GALWAY FOOD TOUR** | Explore Galway's thriving food scene. Meet artisan producers and support local business as you sample local sustainable produce from the city's diverse range of culinary curiosities. (Day 7)



**BURREN FARM EXPERIENCE** | Join a 5<sup>th</sup>-generation farmer and learn how conservation is at the forefront of their approach to farming in one of Europe's most distinctive UNESCO designated landscapes. (Day 9)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN



The Davenport  
★★★★

### DAY 7-8 | GALWAY



G Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 3 | CORK



Hayfield Manor  
★★★★★

### DAY 9 | THE BURREN



Armada Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 4-6 | KILLARNEY



Cahernane House Hotel  
★★★★★



Diamond Hill, Connemara National Park | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 6 | DINGLE HIKE & PENINSULA DRIVE

Join a Local Specialist for a breathtaking half-day hike on the Dingle Peninsula from the Dunbeg promontory fort to Sleah Head. Afterwards, drive on to the market town and fishing port of Dingle for some free time. Thrusting out into the Atlantic, the Dingle Peninsula, claims Ireland's most westerly point. Enjoy a tour taking in the majestic hills of green and purple that soar over vast unspoiled valleys and the glittering mountain streams which tumble down to lakes. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO GALWAY

Travel to Galway, a coastal town on the west of Ireland where locals and tourists mix to make unforgettable memories. As with any great city, an impressive repertoire of gourmet food and drink is at the center of its appeal and the Galway Food Tour brings it to the fore. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, meet artisanal producers, sample produce from around the globe and try drinks and tastings from different eateries, all while enjoying Galway's standout sense of calm and frivolity. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | CONNEMARA, DIAMOND HILL & KYLEMORE ABBEY

Diamond Hill is a magnificent trail in Connemara National Park that rewards climbers with with magnificent views over the Twelve Bens. It gets its name from its diamond-like shape and the quartzite stone that glistens in the sun (much like a diamond) on a sunny day. After taking in the breathtaking views, visit Kylemore Abbey. Built in the late 1800s by a man inspired by his love for his wife and his hopes for his beloved Ireland, the estate boasted 'all the innovations of the modern age'. Today, Kylemore Abbey is owned by the Benedictine Community who have been in residence here since 1920. Later, return to Galway. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | EXPLORE THE BURREN

Step into the quiet, otherworldly region of The Burren and traverse the connected limestone pavement on a leisurely hike across one of the most distinctive landscapes in Europe in the company of an enigmatic Local Specialist. Afterwards, embark on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Burren Farm Experience. Enjoy lunch, followed by a tour with fifth-generation Burren farmer, Cathal. Enjoy informative commentary as you explore the privately owned 500-acre farm in the Burren National Park. Later, visit the natural masterpiece that is the Cliffs of Moher, towering against the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. **(B)**

### DAY 10 | DEPART SHANNON

Your Private Chauffeur will take you to Shannon Airport where your vacation ends. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**



# Tastes & Thrills of Ireland

Connoisseur experiences, distillery secrets, local harvests, city-centric food tours and iconic outdoor adventures dot the landscape of this trip. Journey through mountains, greenways and archipelagos and enliven your palate with everything from foraged seaweed to Michelin Star dining. Incredible locations, delicious foods and friendly locals are the perfect recipe to create an unforgettable trip and a lasting connection to Ireland.

10 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! Dublin is the starting place for your grand adventure. Visit Trinity College and see the famous Book of Kells, a hand-illuminated manuscript of the Gospels. Afterwards, explore Ireland's authentic pub culture and sample the best pints of Guinness from the most iconic & traditional Irish pubs in Dublin's fair city, Sláinte!

## DAY 2 | POWERSCOURT ESTATE & DISTILLERY

Venture out to Dublin's doorstep and visit one of the world's great gardens at Powerscourt. A pioneer in sustainability, nature-centered initiatives, experiences and communications, this is a place where nature thrives and is protected for the enjoyment of everyone. Stunning in every season, there are many hidden treasures to uncover here, from the ornate Italian gardens to the formal walks of Rose and Kitchen Gardens. Afterwards, head over to the Powerscourt Distillery & Visitor Centre for a brief introduction to the history of Irish whiskey. Learn, taste and savor their award-winning Fercullen Whiskey in the relaxing lounge. (B,D)

## DAY 3 | WATERFORD GREENWAY

The Waterford Greenway is a route on a former railway track used for cycling and hiking. The amazing trail features bridges, viaducts and tunnels. Starting from Waterford, pick up your bikes and take in as much of the route you are comfortable with, stopping along the way for refreshments, photos and to chat to the locals. This afternoon, relax in the splendor of Castlemartyr and reward your activities by dining in the Michelin star restaurant, Terre. (B,D)

## DAY 4 | CORK, BLARNEY & ON TO KILLARNEY

Cork is a vibrant city full of local charm, delicious artisan food, history and culture. Gain a deeper insight into the city and its proud people on a Cork City Ramble with a Local Specialist. Afterwards, visit Blarney Castle, kiss the famous Blarney Stone to gain the 'gift of the gab' and wander through the beautiful gardens. Continue to the charming town of Killarney and enjoy culinary excellence and the finest locally-sourced seasonal produce while dining at Herbert Restaurant, Cahernane. (B,D)

## DAY 5 | RING OF KERRY & SEAWEED FORAGING

Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. Stop in Caherdaniel Village for a seaweed-themed **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Learn how to forage, find and sustainably harvest these super-foods, then feast on a range of tasty sea veggies. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 3 Dinners, Recommended accommodations (9 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Deluxe Coastal Seaweed Experience

## Recommended Highlights

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Perfect Pint Tour in Dublin, a Whiskey Experience at Powerscourt Distillery and a Private Adventure with a Gardener at Blarney Castle.

**VISIT** | Trinity College & the Book of Kells, the Cliffs of Moher, Clonmacnoise and Athlone.



### DELUXE COASTAL SEAWEED EXPERIENCE |

Embark on a guided foraging walk to learn about the versatility of seaweed and how the fragile ecosystem of the wild Atlantic coast is protected. (Day 5)



**BURREN FARM EXPERIENCE** | Join a 5<sup>th</sup>-generation farmer and learn how conservation is at the forefront of their approach to farming in one of Europe's most distinctive UNESCO designated landscapes. (Day 6)



**GALWAY FOOD TOUR** | Explore Galway's thriving food scene with a charismatic Local Specialist. Meet artisan producers and sample local sustainable produce from the city's diverse range of culinary curiosities. (Day 7)



### CONNEMARA ARCHIPELAGO EXPERIENCE |

Immerse yourself in Gaelic culture and tradition. Enjoy a craft workshop, a local seafood lunch and a coastal walk to a deserted private island. (Day 8)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1 & 9 | DUBLIN



The Davenport  
★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | KILLARNEY



Cahernane House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 2 | WATERFORD



Faithlegg House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 6-8 | GALWAY



The Hardiman  
★★★★

### DAY 3 | CORK



Castlemartyr  
★★★★★

Durrow Tunnel, Waterford Greenway | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 6 | CLIFFS OF MOHER, THE BURREN & ON TO GALWAY

Visit the Cliffs of Moher. Rising up to 700ft above the pounding Atlantic, these breathtaking cliffs are undoubtedly one of the most stunning views in Ireland. Next, its on to the limestone paradise known as The Burren for another **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Meet locals, Bronagh and Cathal, 5<sup>th</sup>-generation farmers who work passionately in this unique area of conservation. Get to know the family, explore the farm and enjoy a rustic picnic. Later, head to Galway. (B,L)

### DAY 7 | GALWAY'S TASTY TREATS

Enjoy a delectable **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** on a fabulous culinary walking tour of Galway with a Local Specialist. Meet artisan producers and sample everything from cheese to strawberry tarts. (B)

### DAY 8 | SECRETS OF CONNEMARA

Embark on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** exploring the Connemara Archipelago. Stop at the Seaweed Centre in Lettermullen and learn about the traditions and culture around this natural resource. Afterwards, partake in a traditional craft workshop, enjoy a traditional seafood lunch, then take a coastal walk to the deserted private island of Crappagh. Marvel at commanding views of the Atlantic Ocean and the Aran Islands while listening to enigmatic stories from your local guide. (B,L)

### DAY 9 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

After a leisurely breakfast, venture into the Hidden Heartlands to visit the ancient Clonmacnoise Monastic Site that dates back to 545AD. Afterwards, stop in Athlone for a pint at Sean's Bar, the oldest pub in Ireland before returning to Dublin, where the rest of your day is at leisure. (B)

### DAY 10 | DEPART DUBLIN

You are transferred to the airport for your return flight home. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. (B)



# Romantic Ireland

Be enchanted by the Emerald Isle. Connect in quaint villages and be mesmerized by the allure of our homelands as you journey to places where diverse history meets modern magic. Bring the ones you love the most, embrace where you are and who you're with, bond with the locals and share together the beauty of Ireland.

13 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN, COBBLE STONES & EPIC MUSEUM

Welcome to Dublin! This afternoon, meet a Local Specialist for a private walking tour to experience all the highlights of this ancient, yet modern city. Enjoy a visit to Trinity College and see the Book of Kells. Later visit EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and journey through centuries of rich history and perhaps discover some hidden gems about your own ancestry.

## DAY 2 | JOURNEY TO CASHEL & THE PALACE

Stop in Ballykilkavan for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Meet the family that have been farming here for 13 generations and learn how they turned to brewing and are using their award-winning barley to sustain their family business for future generations. Later, relax at the decadent Cashel Palace, dining in The Bishop's Buttery, located in the atmospheric cellar of the main house. Soak up the history of this intimate dining space while savoring Michelin Star flavors from fresh ingredients sourced from the aptly named 'Golden Vale' pastures that surround you. **(B,D)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILLARNEY

The Midleton Distillery Experience brings the stories of Jameson's rich heritage and ongoing innovations to life. Tour the distillery and learn about the field-to-glass process before enjoying a premium tasting experience with a local whiskey expert. Continue to Killarney and savor some local treats in one of the pubs, cafés and restaurants or stroll along the lakes right on your doorstep. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | RING OF KERRY, QUIANT VILLAGES & NATIONAL PARK

Admire breathtaking scenery along the famous Ring of Kerry. Fall in love with this charming coastal setting as you view quaint villages, high cliffs and lush greenery. Afterwards, explore Killarney's National Park on a walk with a Local Specialist. **(B)**

## DAY 5 | ON TO ENNIS & THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Experience the Cliffs of Moher rising 700ft above the pounding Atlantic. Next, its on to the 'rocky place', Ireland's limestone paradise known as The Burren. Meet a charming Local Specialist who will help you drink in the environment and its amazing ecosystem full of cliffs, caves and archaeological sites. Afterwards, continue to Ennis. **(B)**

## DAY 6 | CITY OF TRIBES & MAGNIFICENT ASHFORD CASTLE

Travel to Galway, a fun city that's full of character and where the locals will for sure tell you it's one of the brightest and most intriguing jewels in our emerald crown. Walk its cobblestone streets, see its colorful shop façades and join in the music and laughter. Continue to Cong and prepare for a royal adventure when you enter the grand stone gates of the remarkable 800 year-old Ashford Castle. **(B)**

## DAY 7 | ASHFORD ESTATE ACTIVITIES

After a luxuriant breakfast, meet the castle's famous dogs, go horse riding, fishing or perhaps indulge in the ancient art of falconry to discover the fascinating story behind this tradition while being enthralled by the resident birds of prey. If it's a culinary indulgence you'd prefer, reserve your place for Afternoon Tea or dine in the Dungeon. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 12 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (12 nights) and experiences as mentioned.

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Blessingbourne Estate and the Stairway to Heaven.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking Tour of Dublin, the Middleton Distillery Experience, a Walk in Killarney's National Park, an Exploration of the Burren and a Belfast City Tour.

**VISIT** | Trinity College & the Book of Kells, EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum, the Cliffs of Moher and Titanic Belfast.



**BALLYKILCAVAN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR** | Meet the owner of Ballykilkavan Farm & Brewery and experience the passion behind his sustainable journey and the story behind the beer you taste. (Day 2)



**THE SHED DISTILLERY** | Explore the first distillery in the area in over 100 years. See the copper stills and enjoy samples of the innovative Gunpowder Irish Gin, born from the curious mind of PJ Rigney. (Day 8)



**BEYOND THE BRIDGE** | Cross the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge and hear stories of families who lived and worked on the Antrim coastline and get an insight into the conservation work being done in the area. (Day 10)



**TRADITIONAL BREAD MAKING** | Join Tracey Jeffery and bake traditional breads made from locally-sourced ingredients. The best part? You get to take home the recipes to impress your friends with. (Day 12)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1 | DUBLIN**



The Fitzwilliam Hotel  
★★★★★

**DAY 6-7 | CONG, CO. MAYO**



Ashford Castle  
★★★★★

**DAY 2 | CASHEL**



Cashel Palace  
★★★★★

**DAY 8-9 | FERMANAGH**



Lough Erne Resort  
★★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | KILLARNEY**



The Europe Hotel & Resort  
★★★★★

**DAY 10-11 | BELFAST**



Grand Central  
★★★★★

**DAY 5 | ENNIS**



Old Ground Hotel  
★★★★★

**DAY 12 | DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP**



Carton House  
★★★★★

## Extras

**ONE-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your night in Ennis to a stay in Dromoland Castle. See pages 124-125 for more details.

### DAY 8 | JOURNEY NORTH

Leaving the majesty of Ashford behind, venture to heart of rural Ireland, stopping at the inner sanctum of The Shed Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Witness the slow hand-distillation of premier Grand Cru Irish Whiskey and Drumshanbo Gunpowder Irish Gin, surrounded by the authentic distillery aromas. Afterwards, continue to Fermanagh's Lakelands. (B)

### DAY 9 | ELEGANT ESTATES & HEAVENLY HIKES

Visit the historic 550-acre Blessingbourne Estate, where owners Colleen and Nicholas Lowry welcome guests to this beautiful retreat nestled in the heart of woodlands, lakes and wildlife. This afternoon, why not explore the Cuilcagh Boardwalk Trail, otherwise known as The Stairway to Heaven. Traverse over 10km of tracks, boardwalk and staircase through expanses of blanket bog, where the steep climbs to the viewing platforms are rewarded with breathtaking views of the surrounding lowlands. (B)

### DAY 10 | GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, BEYOND THE BRIDGE & ON TO BELFAST

See the legendary basalt columns placed against the backdrop of the Antrim Coast as you tread in the footsteps of Finn MacCool at the Giant's Causeway. Afterwards, join a Local Specialist for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Walk the cliff paths, listening to stories from your guide, then experience the adrenaline rush as you cross the famous Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge, suspended 100ft above sea level to the tiny island of the same name. The fisherman's cottage here has remained unchanged since the last fishermen left decades ago, leaving an open fire and secret tales behind. Later, continue to Belfast. (B)

### DAY 11 | LIVING HISTORY, TITANIC & GAME OF THRONES

Meet a Local Specialist for a city tour of Northern Ireland's capital before heading to the impressive Titanic Belfast. Learn about this legend's infamous history on the very shores where she got her start. If you're a Game of Thrones enthusiast, you're in the perfect spot to indulge your set-jetting passions. (B)

### DAY 12 | BREAD BAKING & RETURN TO DUBLIN

Join Tracey in her farmhouse kitchen for some memorable traditional bread making and local food tasting. The best part of this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**? You get to take a copy of the recipes to impress your friends with back home. Journey back towards Dublin, stopping at its doorstep for an overnight stay at the stunning Carton House. (B)

### DAY 13 | DEPART DUBLIN

You are transferred to Dublin airport for your return flight home. (B)

Temple Bar, Dublin



PRIVATE CHAUFFEUR

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Bonnie Scotland

Perfect for first time visits or for a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. From breathtaking scenery that speaks to the soul to irresistible cities steeped in culture, you'll embrace it all. So have a wee dram, a bite or two of haggis & neeps and fall in love with our beloved bonnie Scotland.

7 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Welcome to Scotland! You will be met at the airport by your Private Chauffeur and transferred to your hotel. Get to know Edinburgh and its secrets on a private walking tour with a Local Specialist. Explore Edinburgh Castle, perched high atop a dormant volcano, see the Scottish Crown Jewels, Mons Meg, the Great Hall and much more. (B)

## DAY 2 | STIRLING, THE MAGICAL KELPIES & THE FALKIRK WHEEL

It's time for some man-made wonders and a feat of engineering. First up, standing at 100ft tall and weighing more than 300 tons each, meet the magical Kelpies built as a tribute to Scotland's horse-powered past. Continue to see the unique Falkirk Wheel, the world's first and only rotating boat lift that can carry eight boats at a time in a single trip. Next, head to Stirling Castle, the former home of Mary Queen of Scots. Here, you'll watch as costumed performers bring its history to life before taking in the Stirling Heads and enjoying a stroll through the gardens. (B)

## DAY 3 | HIGHLAND CHARMS & CHOCOLATE

As you head to the Highlands, stop at the award-winning Highland Chocolatier for a unique **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. The guided Chocolate Tasting Flight is an unforgettable gastronomic experience that takes you on a journey through some of the finest couverture chocolates in the world, offering unique insights into the world of the Master Chocolatier. This evening, immerse yourself in Scottish estate life and enjoy the elegance, grandeur and charms of the Old Manse of Blair, your tranquil home for the night. (B)

## DAY 4 | JOURNEY TO THE HIGHLANDS

Make an unforgettable start to your day on an exclusive, tailored 4x4 Safari with a private (kilted) local Safari Ranger. Watch out for the majestic red deer, the famous grouse and the soaring golden eagle as you travel through forests, mountains and moors on private hill tracks. Afterwards, journey to the capital of the Highlands, Inverness, making time to drop by Gellions Bar, the oldest pub in the city. (B,L)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 6 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, Recommended accommodations (6 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Iain Burnett, The Highland Chocolatier

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Private 4x4 Highland Safari, a photo stop at Eilean Donan Castle, the Ferry from the Isle of Skye to the mainland and a journey on the Jacobite Steam Train.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking tour of Edinburgh.

**VISIT** | Edinburgh Castle, The Kelpies, Falkirk Wheel, Stirling Castle, Urquhart Castle, Talisker Distillery and Armadale Castle Gardens & Museum of the Isles.



**IAIN BURNETT, HIGHLAND CHOCOLATIER** | Gain insight into responsible cacao farming and fine chocolate production then indulge in delicious chocolate treats made with local ingredients. (Day 3)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | EDINBURGH



The Caledonian Edinburgh

★★★★★

### DAY 5 | ISLE OF SKYE



Toravaig House Hotel

★★★★★

### DAY 3 | PITLOCHRY



Old Manse of Blair

★★★★★

### DAY 6 | LOCH LOMOND



Cameron House

★★★★★

### DAY 4 | INVERNESS



Ness Walk Hotel

★★★★★

## Extras

**GLASGOW EXTENSION** | Extend your trip by a few days and explore vibrant, bustling Glasgow, Scotland's largest city.

### DAY 7 | DEPART GLASGOW

Your Private Chauffeur will take you to the airport, where it's time to bid farewell to Scotland, as your vacation ends. *Slán abhaile*, we hope to see you again soon. **(B)**

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



Jacobite Steam Train over Glenfinnan Viaduct

### DAY 5 | LAKES, MONSTERS, SCOTCH & STARS

Head to Loch Ness, where you'll see the ruins of Urquhart Castle and perhaps spot the famous monster. Continue through rolling Highland scenery to Loch Alsh. Stop for a photo of the majestic Eilean Donan Castle, then cross the Skye Bridge to the Isle of Skye. Head to Talisker Whisky Distillery to learn the secrets of making the 'water of life'. This evening, be sure to step out and look at the star-filled sky. This remote area boasts some of the darkest night skies in Europe, allowing star gazers of all interests to be mesmerized by the twinkling canopy above. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | CASTLES, CLANS, THE HOGWARTS EXPRESS & LOCH LOMOND

Take time to visit Armadale Castle Gardens & Museum of the Isles. Explore the extensive gardens before taking the ferry to Mallaig. This afternoon, it's 'all aboard!' for a journey on the Jacobite Steam Train – considered one of the greatest rail trips in the world. As you travel through the stunning countryside, watch for the Glenfinnan Viaduct, well known to Harry Potter fans familiar with the 'Hogwarts Express'. Disembark in Fort William, then continue through Glencoe, across Rob Roy country to Trossachs National Park and sparkling Loch Lomond. **(B)**



# Spirit of Scotland

Scotland has a passionate whisky scene and produces a huge variety of whiskies, each with their own unique flavor. As you travel round, we're sure there's one just right for your palate, but you might need to taste a few before you find it! Sip, saunter and savor on this trip that takes in the sights and connects you with the true soul of Scotland.

10 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO EDINBURGH



## DAY 1 | A WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Welcome to Scotland! Enjoy a private walking tour of Edinburgh with a Local Specialist. Take in the main sights of the city, including a visit to Edinburgh Castle. Later, embark on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** through a journey of flavors at The Johnnie Walker Experience on Princes Street. Explore the secrets behind the country's most popular whisky across eight dramatic floors. This is whisky like you've never experienced it before.

## DAY 2 | JOURNEY TO INVERNESS

Heading to the Highlands, stop at Glamis Castle, home of the Earl of Strathmore. The castle was the setting for Shakespeare's Macbeth and is reputed to be one of the most haunted places in the British Isles. Next, enjoy a unique and sweet **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the award-winning Highland Chocolatier. (B)

## DAY 3 | SPEYSIDE WHISKY REGION & TASTINGS

Spend a full day exploring Speyside, Scotland's most famous whisky region to sample spirits and learn about the crafting this delicious concoction. Visit Benromach Distillery, then Glenmorangie Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** to learn how the distillery is restoring long lost oyster reefs to the Firth. Stop at Cardhu Distillery, home to the famous Johnnie Walker Black Label whisky then visit Speyside Cooperage for a guided tour that is a true delight for whisky fans. Journey through the lifecycle of the cask in a 4D cinematic presentation and see cooper craftspeople at work from the viewing gallery. (B)

## DAY 4 | LOCH NESS & THE ISLE OF SKYE

Travel along the banks of Loch Ness. Stop at Eilean Donan Castle, this stunning 13<sup>th</sup>-century Castle is situated at a point where three lochs meet. Take in the majestic surrounding scenery before crossing the land bridge to the Isle of Skye. (B)

## DAY 5 | CRUISE TO RONA HARBOR

Join a Local Specialist for a leisurely cruise to stunning Rona Harbor, taking in views of the iconic Old Man of Storr and Cullin Mountains while watching out for dolphins and Rona's resident seal colony along the way. Once you arrive at the harbor, enjoy a hearty seafood lunch in truly special surroundings before going ashore to explore the island. (B,L)

## DAY 6 | FERRY, STEAM TRAIN & INVERLOCHY CASTLE

Take the ferry to Mallaig, a remote and relaxing location famous for its fishing port. From here, take in the glorious scenery on a grand exploration of lush greenery as you travel to Fort William aboard the Jacobite Steam Train, considered one of the greatest rail trips in the world. Watch for the Glenfinnan Viaduct, well known to Harry Potter fans familiar with the 'Hogwarts Express'. Disembark in Fort William and continue to the magnificent Inverloch Castle where you'll enjoy a unique dining experience. (B,D)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 9 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (9 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Glenmorangie Distillery

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Cruises to Rona Harbour & on Loch Lomond and a journey on the Jacobite Steam Train.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking tour of Edinburgh, a Tour of Glengoyne Distillery and a Field-to-Fork experience at Wilson's Farm & Kitchen.

**VISIT** | Edinburgh Castle, Glamis Castle, Cardhu Distillery, Speyside Cooperage, Eilean Donan Castle, Abbotsford House and Lochcarron Mills.



**JOHNNIE WALKER - JOURNEY OF FLAVOR** | Enjoy a mix of Scottish traditions, culture and flavors, paired with sensory expressions at the Edinburgh home of the most recognizable name in Scottish Whisky. (Day 1)



**IAIN BURNETT, HIGHLAND CHOCOLATIER** | Gain insight into responsible cacao farming and fine chocolate production then indulge in delicious chocolate treats made with local ingredients. (Day 2)



**GLENMORANGIE DISTILLERY** | Glenmorangie partners with conservation projects, purifies distillation by-products and works with suppliers to minimize packaging and transportation waste. (Day 3)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1 | EDINBURGH



The Caledonian Edinburgh  
★★★★★

### DAY 6 | FORT WILLIAM



Inverlochy Castle  
★★★★★

### DAY 2-3 | INVERNESS



Kingsmill Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 7 | LOCH LOMOND



Loch Lomond Arms Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | ISLE OF SKYE



Skeabost Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 8-9 | PEEBLES



Cringletie House Hotel  
★★★★



Speyside Cooperage

### DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO LOCH LOMOND

Travel through the valley of Glencoe to the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park. Relax on board your cruise of the Loch and enjoy live commentary with insights into the history and geology of this part of Loch Lomond. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | LOCH LOMOND & SCOTLAND'S SOUTH

Visit Glengoyne Distillery and follow the journey their famed whisky makes, through mashtun and washbacks to the wan-necks of their copper stills. Afterwards, visit historic Abbotsford House, the extraordinary home of 19<sup>th</sup>-century novelist Sir Walter Scott. An obsessive collector of books, artefacts, weaponry and more, much of Scott's collection can still be seen, along with his most-cherished possession, the house itself. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | SCOTLAND'S SOUTH

Visit Wilson's Farm & Kitchen and join farmer Robert for a tour of the farm by trailer and on foot to discuss how they grow food. The exact content of the tour will be seasonally dependent but you will certainly meet some of the animals and see plenty of wildlife whilst enjoying spectacular views. Afterwards, enjoy a delicious, home-cooked, two-course lunch in the stables featuring farm grown produce and other seasonal, locally grown food. Later, visit the Lochcarron Mill. The story of weaving in Lochcarron started in 1938, where local wool was used in the making of tweeds, white blankets and rugs on handlooms. Since these humble beginnings, Lochcarron has gone on to become the world's leading manufacturer of tartan. Add a Kilt to your wardrobe and never worry again about what to wear to that special event. **(B,L)**

### DAY 10 | DEPART EDINBURGH

Your Private Chauffeur will take you to the airport, where it's time to bid farewell to Scotland as your vacation ends. **(B)**

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Scottish & Irish Highlights

Separated at our narrowest point by only twelve miles, it is the Celtic links between our homelands that are even closer. Whether you say Whisky or Whiskey, we're both at one with our toast *sláinte*, meaning your good health, so there's no need to choose. Pack your kilt, wear your green, have a wee dram and listen for bagpipes as you combine the best from both these Celtic cousins.

13 DAYS | GLASGOW TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | A WELCOME TO GLASGOW & BONNIE LOCH LOMOND

Welcome to Scotland! Your Private Chauffeur will start by taking you on an exploration of iconic sights on an orientation tour of Glasgow city. Next, visit Stirling Castle, sitting atop a beautiful hill and offering views of ancient architecture. Afterwards, continue to your hotel on the banks of Loch Lomond.

## DAY 2 | JOURNEY TO INVERNESS

Near Fort William, make a stop at the memorial that honors the British Commando Forces. Continue to Loch Ness for a truly unforgettable cruise experience. Learn about this famous freshwater lake and its mysterious monster, Nessie. (B)

## DAY 3 | CULLODEN BATTLEFIELDS & BONNIE PRINCE CHARLIE

Meet your Local Specialist this morning for a private walking tour around charming Inverness. Later, visit the battlefields of Culloden. This site is where the Jacobite cause, under Bonnie Prince Charlie's leadership was crushed in 1746. For Outlander fans, hear about Jamie and Claire's concerns about this particular battle. (B)

## DAY 4 | DUKES & EARLS, WHISKY & ARRIVE EDINBURGH

Discover the fascinating stories of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl as you visit Blair Castle. Stop in picturesque Pitlochry on the shores of the River Tummel, where you may wish to tour the Blair Athol Distillery on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** for a taste of this Scottish spirit. Continue to the 'home of golf' historic St Andrews, before returning to Edinburgh. (B)

## DAY 5 | EXPLORE EVERYTHING EDINBURGH

Start the day with a visit to mighty Edinburgh Castle. Dominating the city's skyline, this ancient stronghold is home to Mons Meg, the Stone of Destiny and the Honours of Scotland. Take in more of the highlights of the Scottish capital as you continue to Holyrood Palace. This afternoon, bring your appetite and enjoy a walking food tour of Edinburgh with a Local Specialist. (B)

## DAY 6 | FAREWELL EDINBURGH, FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Bid your Scottish chauffeur a fond farewell, then hop on over to see our Celtic cousin as you fly to Ireland. Meet your Irish chauffeur and begin your adventure on the Emerald Isle with a visit to the award-winning EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum. (B)

## DAY 7 | TRINITY COLLEGE & A PINT OF BLACK

Spend the morning discovering the highlights of Dublin. At Trinity College, cross the cobbled courtyard to see the ornate Book of Kells, a hand-illuminated manuscript of the Gospels. Stop at St. Patrick's Cathedral before visiting the Guinness Storehouse, where you will see how Guinness is brewed. Enjoy immersive installations, get a 360° view of Dublin and sample a pint of the famous and tasty 'Black Stuff.' This evening, extend your knowledge of Dublin's fair city by joining a Literary Pub Crawl. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Private Vehicle & Chauffeur, 12 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (12 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Kinsale Foraging Tour

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Cruise on Loch Ness, a Literary Pub Crawl in Dublin, The Ring of Kerry and a Jaunting Car ride through Killarney National Park.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking tour of Inverness, a Walking Food Tour of Edinburgh, an insiders' view of Blarney Castle and a breathtaking Hike on the Dingle Peninsula.

**VISIT** | Stirling Castle, The Commando Memorial, Culloden Battlefields, Blair Castle, Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum, Trinity College, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Guinness Storehouse, Powerscourt Estate, Muckross House and the Flying Boat Museum at Foynes.



**BLAIR ATHOL DISTILLERY** | Recycling pot ale syrup and using discarded materials to create wildlife boxes, it's no wonder this famous ivy-clad distillery has received gold certification from Green Tourism. (Day 4)



**KINSALE FORAGING TOUR** | Local Specialist Suzanne incorporates local insight and some Irish language into her foraging tours, keeping the tradition of foraging alive in the local community. (Day 9)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1 | LOCH LOMOND

Loch Lomond Arms Hotel ★★★★★

### DAY 8 | CORK

Hayfield Manor ★★★★★

### DAY 2-3 | INVERNESS

Rocpool Reserve ★★★★★

### DAY 9-10 | KILLARNEY

Killarney Royal ★★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | EDINBURGH

The Caledonian ★★★★★

### DAY 11 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

Dromoland Castle ★★★★★

### DAY 6-7 | DUBLIN

The Westbury ★★★★★

### DAY 12 | DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Cliff at Lyons ★★★★★

Powerscourt Estate | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 8 | JOURNEY TO CORK

Stop to visit Powerscourt Estate's glorious formal gardens. The superb blend of sweeping terraces, fine statuary, ornamental lakes, rambling walks and walled gardens are a magnificent sight to behold. Next, continue south to the Viking town of Waterford, now world renowned for its exquisite crystal that craftsmen have perfected over the centuries. Finally, travel to Cork for your overnight stay at magnificent Hayfield Manor (B)

### DAY 9 | KINSALE & KILLARNEY

Head to the seaside town of Kinsale, known as Ireland's gourmet capital and meet a Local Specialist for a foraging tour. This **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** will highlight how the first settlers on the island of Ireland foraged local ingredients to eat as well use for clothing and building. Continue to Killarney, renowned for its lively pubs and cheerful atmosphere. The 'town on the lakes' is full of what the Irish call *craic*, so stop in and say hello to our friendly locals. (B)

### DAY 10 | A DAY ON THE RING OF KERRY OR THE DINGLE PENINSULA

Your day in Ireland's remarkable Southwest corner brings a choice of activities, equally filled with spectacular scenery and memories to last a lifetime. Choose to wind your way around the astonishing Ring of Kerry, enjoying a jaunting car (horse-drawn carriage) ride through Killarney National Park and a visit to the marvellous 19<sup>th</sup>-century Victorian Muckross House along the way. Alternatively, choose to take in the majestic hills, unspoiled valleys and glittering mountainstreams of the Dingle Peninsula. Join a Local Specialist for a breathtaking hike, visit Mulcahy Pottery and see the market town of Dingle. (B)

### DAY 11 | FLYING BOATS & DROMOLAND CASTLE

Heading north, visit the unique Foynes Flying Boat Museum. Foynes is also the birthplace of Irish coffee, so sample the warming beverage before continuing to one of the most famous baronial castles in Ireland, Dromoland Castle. What better way to end your Irish adventure than living like royalty! (B)

### DAY 12 | JOURNEY TO DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Enjoy a leisurely Dromoland breakfast and some time on the estate before heading to Dublin's Doorstep and memorable last night on the Celtic Isles. (B)

### DAY 13 | DEPART DUBLIN

Your chauffeur will transfer you to Dublin Airport, where it is time to bid farewell to the delightful Emerald Isle. Safe travels! (B)

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



# Lux Self-Drive Vacations

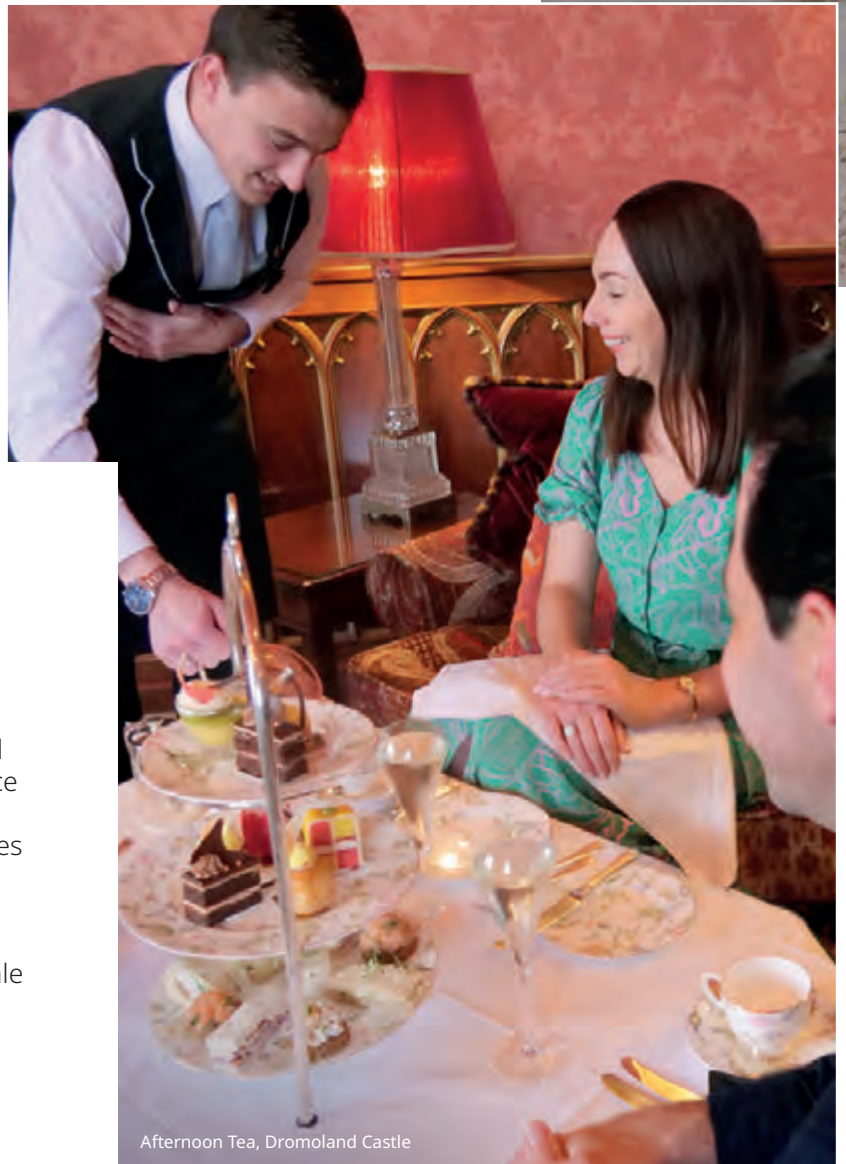
## Refined independent navigation

There's a famous Celtic saying, 'may the road rise up to meet you' and on Lux Self-Drive trips, the winding Irish roads rise to meet you with privacy and luxury. Stay at high-class accommodations, connect with expert locals and embrace the freedom of exploring in a premium car. Between stops, enjoy elevated experiences from connoisseur tours and private tastings to exclusive outdoor activities. This is exceptional, fully-customizable travel at your own pace.

“”

Our trip was magical. We loved driving through the scenic countryside at our own pace. Brendan Vacations planned a fun, varied itinerary for us, and all the accommodations were top of the line. Having personal guides and hosts made us feel less like tourists and more like friends visiting from out of town.

JESSICA | MAY 2024

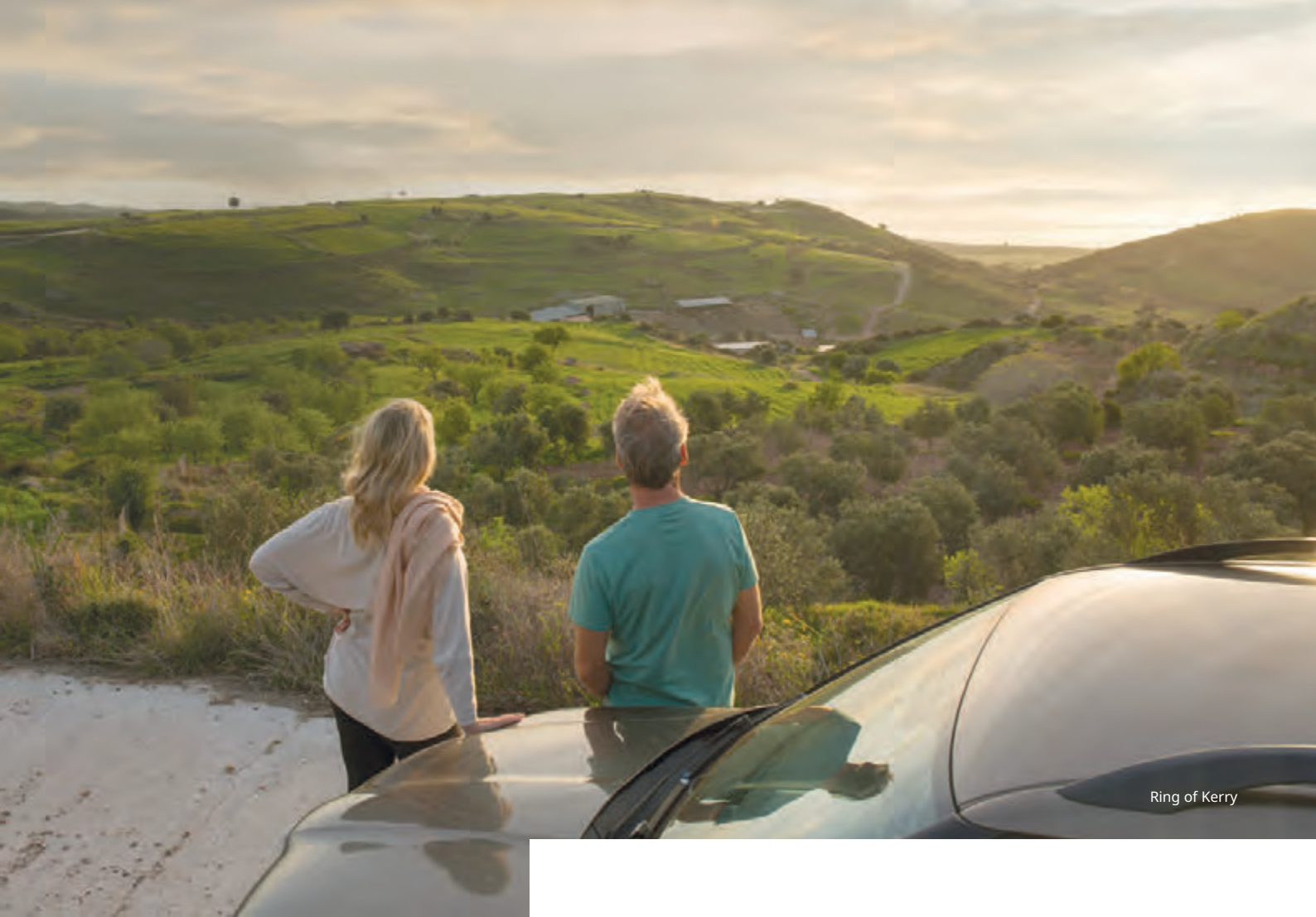


Afternoon Tea, Dromoland Castle

## The emerald treatment

Move over diamond and platinum...on these shores it's all about emerald. When you travel on a Lux Self-Drive Vacation, expect luxury, high-touch service with added local charm and famed Celtic hospitality you can only experience in Ireland. It starts with our Celtic Experts helping you plan your perfect trip and continues when you meet a Local Host in your arrival city to help you kick-start your journey in style. As you venture down your chosen roads, you'll be greeted with warm welcomes at your upscale accommodations and selected experiences. Whether you're after a tee-time or some time for (afternoon) tea, we make sure your trip is infused with excellence at every step.





Ring of Kerry

Explore a selection of sample Lux Self-Drive Vacation itineraries, each fully-customizable to meet your needs and interests.

Ireland's Scenic Peninsulas	8 Days	72
Ireland's Northern Dream	10 Days	74
Irish Roads to Cuisine & Culture	10 Days	76



For pricing and more information on ways to customize these trips, or to explore more sample Lux Self-Drive itineraries, scan the QR code.

#### LUX SELF-DRIVE VACATIONS KEY

<b>B</b> Breakfast	<b>1</b> Overnight	Ferry / Cruise
<b>L</b> Lunch	Visited Location	Flight
<b>D</b> Dinner	Golf Course	Hotel
Start Location	Route	Manor / Estate
End Location	Day Trip Route	Castle

## Above par alternatives

Ireland is a dream destination for golfers and we can arrange rounds on some of its leading courses. Swap out daily activities from sample itineraries or let our Celtic Experts help you plan all your fairway days in advance. We take care of all the details from your transportation to your tee times, so pack a pair of golf shoes and give the 'drive' in Lux Self-Drive new meaning.



Portstewart Golf Club, Antrim Coast



# Ireland's Scenic Peninsulas

Sweeping countryside views and rugged coastal landscapes are your breathtaking backdrop along one of the ultimate road-trips in the world, The Wild Atlantic Way. Your Local Host will get you started, your accommodations will delight and the locals waiting to share their stories and passion for their place and craft along the way will have you itching to return and explore the rest of the 2500km coastal drive north (see pages 74-75.)

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Dublin! Upon arrival you will be transferred privately to your hotel where you'll be greeted warmly by your Local Host, ready to answer questions and provide local tips and recommendations. Later, visit 14 Henrietta St. to experience over 300 years of city life in the walls of a single address. From its grand Georgian beginnings to the tenement dwellings of later years, the building's hidden history is revealed.

## DAY 2 | TASTES OF DUBLIN

This morning, meet an enigmatic Local Specialist for a 'Delicious Dublin' food tour. Bring your appetite and enjoy the best of the city's diverse culinary scene as you indulge in everything from ice cream to Irish stew. Later, enjoy a 60 minute masterclass in the art of making whiskey cocktails at the Jameson Distillery. Learn about exciting new methods, drink like the locals and discover how this ancient spirit has changed with the times. (B)

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO CORK

The first stop on your driving adventure is Glendalough. The 'Valley of the Two Lakes' is famous for its early monastic ruins and scenic setting. Be sure to find St. Kevin's cross as legend holds that those who can wrap their arms around it will receive their wish. Continue on to Waterford and its colorful terrace houses, cafés and bars overlooking the quayside. Join a Local Specialist for a private tour watching the master craftsmen at the House of Waterford Crystal as they create delicate works of art. Continue to Cork via the Copper Coast drive and witness Co. Waterford's spectacular coastline. (B)

## DAY 4 | CORK CITY & MAGICAL GARDENS

More commonly known in Ireland as 'The People's Republic', Cork is a vibrant, inviting city that is full of local charm, delicious artisan food, history and culture. Gain a deeper insight into this exquisite city and its proud people on a Cork City ramble with a Local Specialist. One of the most historically interesting urban walks in Ireland, learn about the waterways that run beneath the city streets, the Huguenot Quarter, the city's bustling markets, museums and characters. Later, visit Blarney Castle, kiss the famous Blarney Stone to gain the 'gift of the gab', then join a Gardener for a private adventure through the beautiful gardens. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Hertz® Prestige Car Rental, Local Host in arrival city, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Kinsale Mead Company

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Whiskey Masterclass at The Jameson Distillery in Dublin, a Cliffs of Moher Cruise and Falconry & Fine Dining at Dromoland Castle.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | The 'Delicious Dublin' Food Tour, a Private Tour of the House of Waterford Crystal, Walking Tours of Cork & Kinsale and a Private Adventure with a Gardener at Blarney Castle.

**VISIT** | 14 Henrietta St. and Glendalough.



**KINSALE MEAD CO. TOUR & TASTING** | Delve into the drink of Celtic Kings. Learn about traditional processes and sample award-winning meads and the local raw honey from which the drink is made. (Day 5)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN

Dylan Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 5-6 | KENMARE

Sheen Falls Lodge  
★★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | CORK

Hayfield Manor  
★★★★★

### DAY 6 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS

Dromoland Castle  
★★★★★

## Golf

Instead of the day's itinerary, play a round of golf at some of the most iconic courses in the Celtic Isles (other courses available).

**DAY 2** | Portmarnock **DAY 6** | Co. Kerry **DAY 7** | Lahinch

### DAY 5 | KINSALE, SHEEP'S HEAD & ON TO KENMARE

Join a Local Specialist for a walking tour of the historic port and fishing town of Kinsale. Visit the Kinsale Mead Co. for a unique insight into mead, the world's oldest alcoholic drink and its most-important ingredient, honey on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Afterwards, embark on two more of Ireland's top scenic drives en route to the charming town of Kenmare. First, the Sheep's Head Peninsula that forms a small but unmissable part of the Wild Atlantic Way and then the breathtaking Beara Peninsula, that boasts wild scenery, stunning loughs and fantastic coastal views. (B)

### DAY 6 | THE RING OF KERRY

Probably the best known of Ireland's drives is the Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. Admire rugged landscapes and crashing seas and delight in traditional Irish life as you stop in quaint villages along the way. Be mesmerized by this unspoiled land that has inspired artists and poets for centuries. Returning to Kenmare, enjoy the many dining and shopping options in this elegant small town. (B)

### DAY 7 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & ON TO DROMOLAND

Another day discovering the wonders of Ireland's awe-inspiring coastal route, the Wild Atlantic Way. Experience the Cliffs of Moher from the Atlantic Ocean on a breathtaking cruise along the 5-mile shoreline and gaze up at the sheer, craggy cliff faces that rise 700ft above you. Afterwards, bask in the royal glow of Dromoland Castle, one of the most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland. Participate in the ancient art of Falconry as you stroll through this stunning estate before enjoying an evening of fine dining at Dromoland Castle's flagship restaurant, the Earl of Thomond, celebrated in culinary circles for its panache, elegance, innovation and attention to detail that highlights Irish produce. (B,D)

### DAY 8 | DEPART SHANNON

Enjoy a leisurely Dromoland breakfast and make your way to nearby Shannon airport for your trip home with the promise to return and complete the journey north next time! *Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat - may the road rise to meet you.* (B)

Beara Peninsula | ©TourismIreland



LUX SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Ireland's Northern Dream

Get exhilarated by the open roads along some of the best scenic drives in the world including the Causeway Coastal Route in Northern Ireland and the famous Wild Atlantic Way. Take in iconic vistas and enjoy decadent stays in amazing properties on this trip that is remarkable at every turn.

10 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Dublin. Upon arrival you will be transferred privately to your hotel. Meet your Local Host, who will settle you in, answer any questions and share local tips and recommendations. Later, meet a Local Specialist for a private walking tour. Enjoy a visit to EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and journey through centuries of rich history and perhaps discover some hidden gems about your own ancestry.

## DAY 2 | EXPERIENCE GAELIC GAMES

Make your way to Glasnevin for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, immersing in the cultural phenomenon that is Gaelic Games. Have fun while taking part and learn that these are more than just the national sports of our island, they are a living expression of our ancient Gaelic culture. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO BELFAST

Take the stunning coastal drive by Carlingford Lough in the Mountains of Mourne. Before making your way to Belfast, enjoy a hands-on experience in Finnebrogue Woods learning all about bushcraft and wilderness survival from expert Rob. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | TITANIC BELFAST

This morning, meet a Local Specialist for a city tour of Belfast before visiting the impressive Titanic Belfast. Learn about this legend's fateful journey from her creation to her eventual tragedy on the very shores where she got her start. If you're a Game of Thrones enthusiast, you're in the perfect spot to indulge your set-jetting passion. **(B)**

## DAY 5 | CAUSEWAY COASTAL DRIVE

Visit Dunfin Farm for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Learn about the relationships between shepherds, dogs and sheep during a sheepdog demonstration that includes an opportunity to try herding the sheep yourself to gain an appreciation of how easy the dog makes it look. Afterwards, partake in seasonal activities including a sheep shearing demonstration (April-September) or feeding baby lambs (Springtime). Trace the coastal route via the Glens of Antrim to the Causeway Coast. Tread in the footsteps of giants on another **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Giant's Causeway. Join a Local Specialist who will share their passion for this special place where Finn MacCool was said to have forged his path to Scotland millions of years ago. Afterwards, make your way to Derry-Londonderry. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Hertz® Prestige Car Rental, Local Host in arrival city, 9 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (9 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Dunfin Farm

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Bushcrafting at Finnebrogue Woods, a Cliffs of Moher Cruise and The Burren Perfumery.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking Tour in Dublin, a Belfast City Tour and Walking Tours in Westport and The Burren.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum, Titanic Belfast and the Cliffs at Slieve League.



**EXPERIENCE GAELIC GAMES** | 100% owned by locals and run by volunteers, 'EGG' is focused on preserving Gaelic culture through the medium of indigenous sports and fostering community engagement. (Day 2)



**DUNFIN FARM SHEEP EXPERIENCE** | This family farm uses traditional practices that are incorporated throughout their farming practices, conserving nature, culture and farm life heritage. (Day 5)



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY WITH MARK RODGERS** | Join a *seanchaí* (Irish storyteller) to explore the kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway, hearing illuminating tales of its history, people, culture and legends. (Day 5)



**DERRY-LONDONDERRY WALKING TOUR** | Get to know Derry-Londonderry from the point of view of an enigmatic local, delving into its fascinating past on this educational and fun walking tour. (Day 6)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN



The Davenport  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | DONEGAL



Lough Eske Castle  
★★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | BELFAST



Culloden Estate & Spa  
★★★★★

### DAY 7-8 | WESTPORT



Knockranny House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 5 | DERRY-LONDONDERRY



Bishop's Gate Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 9 | THE BURREN



Gregan's Castle Hotel  
★★★★

## Golf

Instead of the day's itinerary, play a round of golf at some of the most iconic courses in the Celtic Isles (other courses available).

**DAY 2** | Portmarnock **DAY 5** | Portstewart

### DAY 6 | WALLS OF DERRY-LONDONDERRY, SLIEVE LEAGUE & ON TO DONEGAL

Stretch your legs along Derry-Londonderry's 17<sup>th</sup>-century walls on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Join a Local Specialist who will reveal the city's history and status as a vibrant cultural center. Next, take in the epic coastlines en route to the highest cliffs in Europe at Slieve League. Marvel at the astonishing views before continuing to Donegal. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO WESTPORT

Stop at the beautiful Mullaghmore Head, a surfer's haven with monster waves reaching up to 30 feet. Journey to Sligo, known as Yeats country as the Nobel Laureate W.B. Yeats is buried here. In Westport, meet your Local Specialist for an intimate walking tour of this Georgian town, where stone bridges link the tree-lined promenade on the banks of the Carrowbeg River. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | MAGICAL ACHILL ISLAND

Enjoy the scenic drive as you head to the Corraun Peninsula, enjoying coastal and wild cliff views as you travel north to Achill sound and on to magical Achill itself. From the deserted village, famine graves and unusual headstones to tales of Grace O'Malley, famous movie locations, food trucks serving incredible fish & chips and one of the world's most beautiful beaches at Keem, every moment on Achill is a treat. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE BURREN

Today brings another chance to discover the wonders of the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's famous and awe-inspiring coastal route. Experience the Cliffs of Moher from a unique perspective on a breathtaking cruise. Gaze up at the sheer, craggy cliff faces rising 700ft above you as you sail along 5 miles of Atlantic coast shoreline. Continue to The Burren Perfumery and see how a young family are making perfumes and cosmetics inspired by the landscape around them. Dine this evening at the enchanting Gregan's Castle Hotel. **(B,D)**

### DAY 10 | DEPART SHANNON

Make your way to Shannon airport, for your trip home. *Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* - may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**

Mullaghmore Head, Wild Atlantic Way | ©TourismIreland



# Irish Roads to Cuisine & Culture

Take an unforgettable road trip from Ireland's ancient east to its Gaelic-speaking west, finding flavors and highlighting heritage at every stop. Get a unique view of the Cliffs of Moher, bake bread in Ballyknocken and embark on an adventure on the Aran Islands.

10 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Dublin, a modern multi-cultural city that embraces its past and exudes an enduring sense of fun. Upon arrival you will be transferred privately to your city center hotel and meet your Local Host, a proud local who will settle you in with the warmest of welcomes, answer questions and provide local tips and recommendations. Later, join a Local Specialist who will proudly share the riches of Ireland's capital city on a private walking tour. See Dublin's Georgian squares with their brightly colored doors and walk the cobbled courtyards of Trinity College.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

This morning, meet your Local Specialist for a Delicious Dublin Food Tour. Bring your appetite and enjoy the best of the city's diverse culinary scene as you indulge in everything from ice cream to Irish stew. Later, enjoy a visit to EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and journey through centuries of rich history and perhaps discover some hidden gems about your own ancestry. (B)

## DAY 3 | GRIDDLE BREAD MAKING & KILKENNY

After picking up your luxury car this morning, head southeast and stop off at Ballyknocken for a hands-on cookery school experience. Make your own griddle bread and experience the thrill of cutting the warm bread open, breathing in the intoxicating steam and then layering it with Irish smoked salmon and flavored crème fraîche, knowing it's just perfect because of the guidance of a Local Specialist. Relish your new skill and this tasty slice of Irish culinary history before journeying to Kilkenny. (B)

## DAY 4 | KILKENNY CATS, BLARNEY & KILLARNEY

Join a Local Specialist and discover the magic of this Medieval city. Why are Kilkenny people called cats? All will be revealed. Next, journey to Blarney Castle and kiss the famous Blarney Stone to receive the 'gift of gab'. Stroll through the castle's grounds and gardens, arboretums and waterways on your private adventure with an expert Gardener. If you dare, enter the Poison Garden, just don't touch the plants! Afterwards, continue to the charming town of Killarney. (B)

## DAY 5 | RING OF KERRY & DISTILLERY DISCOVERY

Admire the breathtaking scenery, rugged landscapes and crashing seas that have inspired artists and poets for centuries along the famous Ring of Kerry. Delight in traditional Irish life as you stop in quaint villages and take in beautiful views of the Skellig Coastline, before stepping inside the home of Skellig Six18. Learn about the botanical ingredients that grow in the natural woodlands, hedgerows and along the shoreline that are foraged and carefully chosen to create their artisan pot-distilled gin. Learn about traditional Irish Whiskey production methods and the distillery's ambitious plans to build a state-of-the-art-whiskey distillery plant. See the bespoke copper Gin still and savor the taste of the Atlantic Coast with a memorable gin and whiskey tasting experience. Later, return to Killarney, where the rest of your day is free. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Hertz® Prestige Car Rental, Local Host in arrival city, 9 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, Recommended accommodations (9 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



The Burren Smokehouse

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Cookery Class at Ballyknocken and a 4x4 Adventure on the Aran Islands.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | Walking Tours in Dublin & Kilkenny, a Food Tour in Dublin and a Private Adventure with a Gardener at Blarney Castle.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum, Skellig Six18 Distillery and Strokestown Park House.



**CLIFFS OF MOHER HIKE** | Join Local Specialist Ollie for a leisurely hike from the village of Doolin to the Cliffs of Moher, learning about your trail's impact on the local community, economy and environment. (Day 6)



**BURREN SMOKEHOUSE VIP EXPERIENCE** | Learn how fishing and aqua culture are foundational parts of life on the Atlantic. Tour the facility then enjoy samples of the sublime salmon and other local delicacies. (Day 7)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN

The Davenport  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | THE BURREN

Gregan's Castle Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3 | KILKENNY

Butler House  
★★★★

### DAY 7-8 | GALWAY

Glenlo Abbey Hotel  
★★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | KILLARNEY

Great Southern  
★★★★

### DAY 9 | DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Carton House  
★★★★★

## Golf

Instead of the day's itinerary, play a round of golf at some of the most iconic courses in the Celtic Isles (other courses available).

**DAY 2** | Portmarnock **DAY 6** | Co. Kerry **DAY 7** | Lahinch

The Wormhole, Poll na Bpéist, Aran Islands | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 6 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE BURREN

This morning, make your way to the Cliffs of Moher for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Join Local Specialist Ollie for a breathtaking, leisurely 3-4 hour hike along a cliff route that is missed by over 97% of visitors. Hear local stories and enjoy plenty of opportunities to stop for photos along the way on this not-to-be-missed adventure that allows you to appreciate stunning views of Doolin, the Aran Islands and the Cliffs of Moher like few have before. Afterwards, continue to The Burren and your hotel for the night, Gregan's Castle Hotel. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | FLAVORS OF THE BURREN & ON TO GALWAY

Visit the Burren Smokehouse and meet Birgitta Hedin for an exclusive **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** taking in the Kiln, smoker and salt and oak shavings. After, cross the road to the Roadside Tavern Gastropub and meet owner, Peter Curtin for a private beer tasting followed by a smoked salmon lunch platter, whiskey tasting and traditional Irish music session. End your experience with a visit to the Micro-Brewery before traveling to Galway. The 'City of the Tribes', is a fun city that's full of character where the locals will for sure tell you it's one of the brightest and most intriguing jewels in our emerald crown. **(B,L)**

### DAY 8 | AN ADVENTURE ON THE ARAN ISLANDS

Make your way along the Connemara coast and board the ferry to the Aran Islands. Epitomizing the rugged beauty of the Wild Atlantic Way, these Isles offer a call-back to an ancient Ireland. Age-old historical sites dot the landscape and the locals here routinely speak Irish Gaelic, a special part of Irish culture. Experience the iconic landscape in a bespoke 4x4 vehicle and learn about the culture, history and traditions of the local people. Enjoy a guided walk to *Poll na Bpéist*, otherwise known as the The Wormhole and famous as a Red Bull cliff-diving venue then visit the 3,000 year-old stone fort of *Dún Aonghasa* standing 320ft above the Atlantic Ocean. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | STROKESTOWN PARK & DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Journey into Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and visit Strokestown Park House. This Georgian Palladian mansion is preserved with its original furnishings and its beautiful 6-acre walled gardens have been restored to their original splendor. Hear the stories of this unique property on a guided tour that is like walking through the pages of a novel. Journey back towards Dublin, stopping at its doorstep for a stay at the stunning Carton House. **(B)**

### DAY 10 | DEPART DUBLIN

Make your way to Dublin airport ready for your trip home. *Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* - may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**



“”

We loved Ireland! The people, the food, all the beautiful scenery and all the places we stayed were wonderful. Driving from city to city was easy. Lots to do and see and we will definitely travel there again.

LISA | MAY 2024



Co. Donegal, Wild Atlantic Way | ©TourismIreland

# Self-Drive Vacations

## Free-spirited Celtic road trips

Get behind the wheel for fully-customizable Ireland & Scotland driving adventures. Enjoy the freedom of exploration on some of the world's most incredible scenic drives, safe in the knowledge that our experts are here in the (proverbial) passenger seat. We're ready to help you map out your itinerary, pre-book your choice of accommodations, connect you with locals and arrange experiences that suit your style. So grab your keys, hit the road and start your Celtic story.





Driving the Copper Coast, Co. Waterford

Explore a selection of sample Self-Drive Vacation itineraries, each fully-customizable to meet your needs and interests.

Irish Encounter	6 Days	80
Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way	8 Days	82
Ireland Coast to Coast	8 Days	84
Northern Discovery	8 Days	86
Ireland's Hidden Gems	13 Days	88
Scottish Icons	6 Days	90
Scotland Explorer	9 Days	92
Scotland & Ireland Discovery	13 Days	94



For pricing and more information on ways to customize these trips, or to explore more sample Self-Drive itineraries, scan the QR code.

## Every Route is the Scenic Route

The Celtic Isles are enriched with many world-renowned scenic drives, from the Causeway Coastal Route in Northern Ireland to Scotland's Borders Historic Route, but perhaps there are none more spectacular than Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way. Signposted from Kinsale in Co. Cork all the way up to the Inishowen Peninsula in Co. Donegal, it is one of the longest and most dynamic coastal drives in the world. Weave your way around The Ring of Kerry, marvel at rugged Connemara, see the sky fall into the ocean at Slieve League and if the luck of the Irish is on your side, catch the Northern Lights off Malin Head. Whether you see part, or all of the 1600 mile route, incredible experiences can be found at every turn.

### SELF-DRIVE VACATIONS KEY

<b>B</b> Breakfast	<b>L</b> Lunch	<b>D</b> Dinner	<span style="color: green;">●</span> Start Location	<span style="color: red;">●</span> End Location
<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">1</span> Overnight	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">○</span> Visited Location	— Route	----- Day Trip Route	Ferry / Cruise
Flight	Hotel	Manor / Estate	Castle	Bed & Breakfast / Guest House



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Irish Encounter

Get to know the history, flavors and fun of Ireland from the towering Cliffs of Moher to the charming Ring of Kerry and beauty of Killarney National Park. Engage with local storytellers to forge a deep connection with the Emerald Isle and its inhabitants on this unforgettable adventure.

6 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! You will be met in the arrivals hall by your private driver and transferred to your hotel. A Hop-On, Hop-Off tour is a great introduction to the Irish capital. With more than 20 stops along the route you can take in the historic sights and modern marvels as you embark on a journey of discovery where there's something for everyone (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | DYNAMIC DUBLIN & GAELIC GAMES

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour pass is still valid for today to continue your exploration of Ireland's vibrant capital. Later, head to Glasnevin for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** taking part in the cultural phenomenon that is Gaelic Games. More than the national sports of our island, they are a living expression of our ancient Gaelic culture. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILLARNEY

Drive south and stop at Blarney Castle, where you can exchange an upside-down kiss to its magical stone for the 'gift of the gab' before enjoying a walk through the gardens surrounding this iconic spot. Continue to lively Killarney, known for its many pubs and open, cheerful atmosphere. Take a Jaunt in Killarney's National Park with a local Jarvey, who will regale you with local stories and folklore. **(B)**





Blarney Castle



## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® Car Rental, 5 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (5 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Experience Gaelic Games

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour, Blarney Castle, a Jaunting Car through Killarney National Park and the Ring of Kerry on a Day Tour.

**VISIT** | The Cliffs of Moher.



**EXPERIENCE GAEILIC GAMES** | 100% owned by locals and run by volunteers, 'EGG' is focused on preserving Gaelic culture through the medium of indigenous sports and fostering community engagement. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN



Buswells Hotel  
★★★

### DAY 5 | SHANNON REGION



The George Limerick  
★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | KILLARNEY



Loch Lein Country House  
B&B

## Extras

**ONE-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your night in the Shannon Region to a stay in the historic, luxurious and legendary Dromoland Castle. See pages 124-125 for more details.

### DAY 4 | EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF THE RING OF KERRY

Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry and admire the breathtaking scenery of rugged landscapes and crashing seas on an unforgettable day tour. Alternatively, perhaps opt for a hike through Killarney National Park with a Local Specialist. **(B)**

### DAY 5 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE SHANNON REGION

Experience the Cliffs of Moher rising 700ft above the pounding Atlantic. These breathtaking bluffs are undoubtedly one of the most stunning views in Ireland. Afterwards, drive through Ireland's 'rocky place', the limestone paradise known as the Burren en route to your hotel in the Shannon Region. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | DEPART SHANNON

Bid Farewell to Ireland as you make your way to Shannon Airport, where your trip ends. Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat – may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way

Along the jagged edges of counties Clare, Donegal and Galway, the land falls away to the waves and the Wild Atlantic Way really begins to work its magic. Alive with literature, music, stories and surf, its flora, fauna and sheer size have inspired everyone from WB Yeats to John Lennon.

8 DAYS | SHANNON TO SHANNON / DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO IRELAND & GALWAY

What better way to start your adventure along the Wild Atlantic Way than by taking in the Cliffs of Moher, a natural masterpiece set against the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean and part of The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Burren Geopark. Travel along the coastal road through Co. Clare taking in Lahinch and the UNESCO Global Geopark of The Burren before reaching Galway. The 'City of Tribes' is the perfect place for getting a taste of our culture as it's known for its amazing cafés and bars with a thriving traditional music, song and dance scene.

## DAY 2 | AN ADVENTURE ON THE ARAN ISLANDS

Today, park the car and join a tour to the Aran Islands. Epitomizing the rugged beauty of the Wild Atlantic Way, these Isles offer a call-back to an ancient Ireland. Age-old historical sites dot the landscape and the locals here routinely speak Irish Gaelic, a special part of Irish heritage and culture. Experience a truly brilliant day out with a mix of activities to choose from. Bask in the stunning scenery, visit golden beaches or take in archaeological antiquities. (B)

## DAY 3 | TASTY TREATS & CONNEMARA

Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** on a fabulous culinary walking tour of Galway with a Local Specialist, meet artisan producers and sample everything from cheese to strawberry tarts. Later, venture into the wild lands of Connemara National Park. Home to some of Ireland's most breathtaking scenery, take in views of shimmering lakes, sparkling brooks, wild woodlands and majestic mountains as you travel through The Twelve Bens en route to your overnight stay in one of this region's historic properties. (B)

## DAY 4 | JOURNEY TO WESTPORT

Continue traveling north along the Wild Atlantic Way to charming Westport in Co. Mayo. Filled with wild nature and ancient heritage, the town overlooks Clew Bay and is affectionately known as the 'Secret Riviera' of the Wild Atlantic Way. Join a friendly Local Specialist and enjoy a leisurely walking tour of this pretty town. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® Car Rental, 7 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | The Cliffs of Moher, an excursion to the Aran Islands and Cycling the Great Western Greenway.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour of Westport.

**VISIT** | Slieve League Cliffs.



**GALWAY FOOD TOUR** | Explore Galway's thriving food scene with a charismatic Local Specialist. Meet artisan producers and sample local sustainable produce from the city's diverse range of culinary curiosities. (Day 3)



**THE SHED DISTILLERY** | Explore the first distillery in the area in over 100 years. See the copper stills and enjoy samples of the innovative Gunpowder Irish Gin, born from the curious mind of PJ Rigney. (Day 7)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | GALWAY

The House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | DONEGAL

Mill Park Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3 | CONNEMARA

Abbeygleng Castle  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

Hodson Bay Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | WESTPORT

Westport Plaza Hotel  
★★★★

## Extras

**EXTEND YOUR STAY OPTIONS** | Enjoy another day exploring all Co. Donegal has to offer (Day 6) or extend your stay at the end of your trip in the area of your chosen departure airport. Get a taste of Dynamic Dublin, or if departing via Shannon, why not spend a night in luxury at the incredible Dromoland Castle?

The Cliffs at Slieve League | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 5 | CYCLE THE GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

Enjoy a day exploring one of the longest off-road walking and cycling trails in Ireland, the Great Western Greenway. Originally the old Westport to Achill railway line, the stunning views and unique landscapes throughout this 42km trail make it the perfect active adventure to enjoy at your own pace. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | JOURNEY TO DONEGAL

Continue to Donegal, a thriving city boasting wild landscapes and isolated white sandy beaches. Voted one of the coolest places to visit by Lonely Planet, Donegal is also home to some of the world's highest cliffs at Slieve League, whose bluffs tower above the ocean and offer panoramic views of both the mountains and coast. With so much to see and do, why not add an extra day to your trip here? Slow down the pace, experience the Glengesh Pass and this dramatic coastal region at its best. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | IRELAND'S HIDDEN HEARTLANDS

Journey through deepest rural Ireland, stopping in tiny Drumshanbo to visit The Shed Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Situated at the edge of Lough Allen, its the first distillery in the area for over 100 years. See the Medieval copper pots and sample their signature whiskey and speciality Gunpowder Gin. Continue into the country's heartbeat and explore the tracks, trails and waterside towns along Ireland's longest river, the Shannon en route to the Medieval town of Athlone. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART SHANNON OR DUBLIN

The beauty of staying in the Hidden Heartlands is that you have a choice to depart from Shannon or Dublin. Journey times are the same, so why not opt to stay another day in one of these locations before heading home? **(B)**



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Ireland Coast to Coast

The term 'get lost' rarely has positive connotations, but with Ireland's magical blend of vibrant scenery and fascinating history waiting to be experienced, we encourage you to do just that. Lose yourself in the charms of Killarney, the power of the Cliffs of Moher and in the splendor of Dromoland Castle.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! After settling in to your Dublin hotel, a great introduction to the city is a Hop-On, Hop-Off tour. See Georgian architecture, get a look at some amazing modern art and taste some of the city's famous whiskey. With more than 20 stops along the route, there's surely something for everyone (entrance fees are not included).

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour pass is still valid for today to continue your exploration of Ireland's vibrant capital. Experience the highlights of Irish food and Dublin's food scene on a walking tour with a Local Specialist. Bring your appetite and indulge in everything from ice cream to Irish stew as you stop at some of the city's award-winning eateries and food shops and taste some delicious samples. Later, visit Teeling Whiskey Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** and see this state-of-the-art distillery in operation and admire the copper pot still. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILKENNY

Embark on a journey through Ireland's Ancient East and its 5,000 years of history. Stop in Ballykilcavan for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** and meet the family that have been farming here for 13 generations. Learn how they turned to brewing and use their award-winning barley to sustain their family business for future generations. Step out on Kilkenny's Medieval Mile and join a Local Specialist for a fascinating walking tour that will bring the streets, laneways and hidden gems of this walled city to life. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | CYCLE WATERFORD'S GREENWAY

Spend the day exploring Waterford's Greenway on two wheels. Leave the 'Viking City' and cycle at your own pace to the seaside town of Dungarven. As you travel along the off-road route that was once an old railway line, enjoy stops to take in views of the coast and the Comeragh Mountains, the perfect active adventure. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® Car Rental, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Ballykilcavan Farm & Brewery | ©TourismIreland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour, Cycling along Waterford's Greenway, a Jaunting Car through Killarney National Park, the Ring of Kerry on a Day Tour and a Cliffs of Moher Cruise.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour in Kilkenny and an Adventure in The Burren.

**VISIT** | Midleton Distillery Experience.



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 2)



**BALLYKILCAVAN HIGHLIGHTS TOUR** | Meet the owner of Ballykilcavan Farm & Brewery and experience the passion behind his sustainable journey and the story behind the beer you taste. (Day 3)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN



Hyatt Centric The Liberties  
★★★★

### DAY 5-6 | KILLARNEY



The Heights Hotel Killarney  
★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | KILKENNY



Newpark Hotel Kilkenny  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS



Dromoland Castle  
★★★★★

## Alternatives

### MOVIE MAGIC ON THE EMERALD ISLE

Keen set-jetter? This Self-Drive itinerary takes you to iconic filming locations across Ireland from Westeros to a galaxy far, far away.



Cliffs of Moher

### DAY 5 | JOURNEY TO KILLARNEY

Stop at the Midleton Distillery Experience, the heart of Ireland's cherished whiskey making tradition and a must-do on your grand journey. After a tour and tasting, continue to lively Killarney, known for its many pubs and an open, cheerful atmosphere. Take a jaunting car ride in Killarney's National Park with a local Jarvey (driver), who will regale you with local stories and folklore. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF THE RING OF KERRY

Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. Admire the breathtaking scenery of rugged landscapes and crashing seas on an unforgettable day tour. Alternatively, perhaps opt for a hike through Killarney National Park with a Local Specialist. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | CLIFFS OF MOHER CRUISE & DROMOLAND CASTLE

Experience the Cliffs of Moher from the Atlantic Ocean on a breathtaking cruise along the 5-mile shoreline. Gaze up at the sheer, craggy cliff faces that rise imposingly 700ft above you. Next, meet a charming Local Specialist who will help you to drink in the environment of The Burren and its amazing ecosystem full of cliffs, caves and archaeological sites. Afterwards, it's time to bask in the royal glow of Dromoland Castle, one of the most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland. This evening, enjoy fine dining at Dromoland Castle's flagship restaurant, the Earl of Thomond, celebrated in culinary circles for its panache, elegance, innovation and attention to detail that highlights Irish produce. **(B,D)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART SHANNON

Bid Farewell to Ireland as you make your way to Shannon Airport, where your vacation ends. Go *n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Northern Discovery

Buckle up and get ready for a Northern Ireland adventure from the limestone bluffs of the Antrim Coast to the legendary Giant's Causeway. With the sounds of sea crashing a few feet to the right, the salty taste from the sea on your lips and the wind whistling past your ears, absorbing this epic landscape from behind the wheel is a truly enlivening experience for the senses.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO THE EMERALD ISLE

Welcome to your Northern Ireland discovery. Pick up your car at Dublin Airport and head north to the Northern Ireland capital. Belfast is a diverse city that offers something for everyone. A great introduction to this city is a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE BRILLIANT BELFAST

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off pass is still valid today, allowing you to continue your discovery of this enigmatic city and its landmarks. Visit the Titanic Belfast, where the famous ship's life is revealed from her conception to ill-fated maiden voyage on the very shores where she got her start. Afterwards, perhaps explore the city's famous murals or even see some famous Game of Thrones filming locations. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | DARK HEDGES, WINTERFELL & BALLYGALLY CASTLE

Why not start your day by visiting Winterfell (otherwise known as Castle Ward) on the shores of Strangford Lough? A must for any Game of Thrones fan, here you can meet real-life 'Direwolves' and try your hand at archery and axe throwing. Afterwards, continue the Game of Thrones theme with a stop at the Dark Hedges, an iconic avenue of trees that was used as 'the Kingsroad' on the show. Next, head to Ballygally Castle, your home for the night, built on the side of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century castle on the tip of the Causeway Coastal Route. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | THE ANTRIM COAST, GIANTS & DERRY-LONDONDERRY

Prepare to be mesmerized by the beauty of the Antrim Coast. As you travel the winding Causeway Coastal Route, you'll soon see why it's such a highly-rated Irish road trip. Weave through the picturesque villages and stunning scenery of the Glens of Antrim to the ancient and legendary basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway. Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** on a leisurely walking tour with a Local Specialist, who will share their deep knowledge of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy more stunning seaside view as you continue your journey along the Antrim Coast to Derry-Londonderry, a vibrant city steeped in history and culture. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® Car Rental, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Mark Rodgers

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Belfast on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour, Archery & Axe Throwing at Winterfell, the Dark Hedges and a Traditional Dance Show in Dublin.

**VISIT** | Titanic Belfast and The Boatyard Distillery.



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY WITH MARK RODGERS** | Join a *seanchai* (Irish storyteller) to explore the kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway, hearing illuminating tales of its history, people, culture and legends. (Day 4)



**DERRY-LONDONDERRY WALKING TOUR** | Get to know Derry-Londonderry from the point of view of an enigmatic local, delving into its fascinating past on this educational and fun walking tour. (Day 5)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | BELFAST



Europa Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 5 | ENNISKILLEN



Manor House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3 | ANTRIM COAST



Ballygally Castle Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 6-7 | DUBLIN



Ashling Hotel Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 4 | DERRY-LONDONDERRY



Da Vinci's Hotel  
★★★★

## Alternatives

**HOME OF THRONES** | Game of Thrones enthusiast? Check out our Home of Thrones Self-Drive itinerary that takes you to even more iconic filming locations across Northern Ireland.



### DAY 5 | WALLS, MURALS & ON TO FERMANAGH

Join a Local Specialist for a walking tour along the 17<sup>th</sup>-century ramparts and through the winding streets of Derry-Londonderry. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, pass famous murals, medieval weaponry and learn about the recent and ancient history of this unique location, hearing tales of what it was like growing up here through the eyes of a local. Later, travel to Co. Fermanagh. A third of this region is covered by lakes and waterways so it's only natural to visit the Boatyard Distillery near Enniskillen, Fermanagh's largest town. See how the team produce the finest spirits using the highest quality botanicals and ingredients and enjoy a few sips along the way. (B)

### DAY 6 | HIGH KINGS & DUBLIN

As you travel south along the banks of picturesque Lough Erne back towards Dublin, why not stop at the ancient Hill of Tara and explore the site that was once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland. On arrival, drop off your car at the Hertz® downtown depot. (B)

### DAY 7 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

A Hop-On, Hop-Off tour is a great introduction to the Irish capital, with more than 20 stops along the route, you can take in historic sights and modern marvels as you embark on a journey of discovery (entrance fees not included). Later, enjoy an evening of live music and a meal at a traditional Irish dance show. (B,D)

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

Bid farewell to Ireland as you are transferred to Dublin Airport, where your vacation ends. Go *n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. (B)

The Dark Hedges | ©TourismIreland



# Ireland's Hidden Gems

From the idyllic towns, rural villages and lush landscapes you'll visit, the ancient trading paths, local pubs and buildings rich in history and heritage you'll see to all the friendly local people you'll meet, Ireland's hidden gems come in many forms and this trip is perfect for you to discover your own.

13 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Experience a warm welcome to Ireland as you're met in the arrivals hall by your Private Driver and transferred to your hotel. After settling in, a Hop-On, Hop-Off tour is a great introduction to the city. With more than 20 stops along the route, you can take in historic sights and modern marvels as you embark on a journey of discovery (entrance fees not included).

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour pass is still valid for today to continue your exploration of Ireland's vibrant capital. Later, enjoy a masterclass in the art of making whiskey cocktails at the Jameson Distillery Bow St. Learn about exciting new methods, drink like the locals and discover how this ancient spirit has changed with the times. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO CORK

Travel towards Co. Cork, stopping at Mount Congreve for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Head through the grand entrance and join an expert gardener for a leisurely walk and insight into the large collection of plants from around the world and the estate's commitment to creating a sustainable garden environment. Arriving in Cork, you'll quickly learn it has so much to offer, from its vibrant city center and surrounding coastal villages. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | A TASTE OF KINSALE & WEST CORK

In colorful Kinsale, get a unique insight into mead, the world's oldest alcoholic drink on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Kinsale Mead Company. Ireland's first meadery in almost 200 years uses a blend of ancient recipes and modern techniques with an emphasis on sustainability. Before you leave, drop by Kinsale's tribute to the firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11. Afterwards, journey through Skibbereen and Schull to Crookhaven, a small village on Ireland's most Southwestern tip to experience a bit of seaside hospitality and perhaps visit St. Brendan's church, founded in the 1700's. **(B)**

## DAY 5 | BANTRY BAY & DINGLE

Explore Bantry Bay and wonderful Kenmare village before making your way to the Irish-speaking Dingle Peninsula in Co. Kerry to discover its majestic hills, mountains and lakes. For an unforgettable driving experience, hug the coast and drive to Dingle via the incredible Beara Peninsula. **(B)**

## DAY 6 | DISCOVER DINGLE

Relish in the delights of a short boat cruise of Dingle Bay with an enlightening commentary from a local guide. Learn about the local maritime history as they alternate between facts and folklore, from tales about Lord Ventry and a lost fishing village to French queen Marie Antoinette and hidden passageways. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® Car Rental, 12 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (12 nights) and experiences as mentioned.

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour & Whiskey Cocktail Making at the Jameson Distillery in Dublin and a Black Cab Tour in Belfast.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour of Westport.

**VISIT** | Titanic Belfast and the Hill of Tara.



**MOUNT CONGREVE GUIDED WALK** | Gain insight into Mount Congreve's commitment to creating a sustainable garden environment and how they are integrating year-round environmental practices. (Day 3)



**KINSALE MEAD CO. TOUR & TASTING** | Delve into the drink of Celtic Kings. Learn about traditional processes and sample award-winning meads and the local raw honey from which the drink is made. (Day 4)



**TASTE THE ATLANTIC** | Immerse in the story of Irish salmon at the Burren Smokehouse. Follow its tale from Irish mythology to the evolution of modern aquaculture, then enjoy some samples of the sublime salmon. (Day 7)



**DERRY~LONDONDERRY WALKING TOUR** | Get to know Derry-Londonderry from the point of view of an enigmatic local, delving into its fascinating past on this educational and fun walking tour. (Day 9)



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY WITH MARK RODGERS** | Join a *seanchai* (Irish storyteller) to explore the kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway, hearing illuminating tales of its history, people, culture and legends. (Day 10)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN

The Mont  
★★★★

### DAY 8 | SLIGO

Sligo Park Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | CORK

Montenotte Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 9 | DERRY~LONDONDERRY

Everglades Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 5-6 | DINGLE

Dingle Skellig Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 10-11 | BELFAST

Titanic Hotel Belfast  
★★★★

### DAY 7 | GALWAY

The Hardiman  
★★★★

### DAY 12 | DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Dunboyne Castle Hotel  
★★★★

## Extras

**ONE-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your night in Galway to a stay at Ashford Castle. See pages 126-127 for more details.



Puffins, Beara Peninsula

### DAY 7 | JOURNEY VIA THE CLIFFS OF MOHER TO GALWAY

Stop at the Cliffs of Moher, witnessing the limestone monoliths that rise up to 700ft above the pounding Atlantic waves and stretch 5 miles along the coast. Travel through the other-worldly landscape of the Burren National Park and stop off at the Burren Smokehouse. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, taste the Atlantic and explore Ireland's salmon story, learning about ancient legends, traditional methods and contemporary aquaculture and nutrition before enjoying some samples and other local delicacies. Afterwards, continue to the thriving, cultural city of Galway. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | UNCOVER A HIDDEN RIVIERA EN ROUTE TO SLIGO

Travel to Westport, a cheerful town that overlooks the 365 islands (one for each day of the year, according to tradition) of Clew Bay. Explore the town on a walking tour with a Local Specialist. Continue to Sligo, home to one of the world's most important poets and Nobel Prize Laureate, W.B. Yeats. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | EXPLORE HISTORIC DERRY~LONDONDERRY

Meet a Local Specialist who will share captivating experiences of growing up in a city steeped in history and culture as you stroll along the streets and 17<sup>th</sup>-century walls on this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. **(B)**

### DAY 10 | ANTRIM COAST & ARRIVE IN BELFAST

At the Giant's Causeway, see the ancient and legendary basalt columns placed against the backdrop of the Antrim Coast on a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Meet a Local Specialist for a deep and personal insight that will take you beyond the famous Causeway and into the legend behind this natural beauty. Is this magical place the work of a giant or volcanic activity? That's for you to decide before making your way to Belfast. **(B)**

### DAY 11 | TITANIC & BRILLIANT BELFAST

Join a Black Cab Tour, a terrific way to take in the city's sights and hear about its living history. Next, visit the impressive Titanic Belfast and learn about her story in a fresh and insightful way, at the very place where this tragic legend got her start. **(B)**

### DAY 12 | MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS & DUBLIN'S DOORSTEP

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before traveling through the Mourne Mountains towards Dublin. Why not stop at the Hill of Tara, the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ireland en route? For your last night, stay in one of our historic properties on Dublin's Doorstep. **(B)**

### DAY 13 | DEPART DUBLIN

Make your way to Dublin airport for your flight home, *go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Scottish Icons

Set your own pace as you take in spell-binding landscapes, glistening lochs and majestic glens. Scotland has all the essential ingredients for the perfect road trip. Ever-changing scenery, amazing experiences to enjoy and friendly towns and villages to visit. Let your Scottish adventure begin!

6 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Welcome to Scotland. Upon arrival to Edinburgh airport, you will be met at the arrivals hall by your Private Driver and transferred to your hotel. Discover the Georgian period New Town, the Old Town and the Royal Mile on your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour. Journey through the cobblestone streets and courtyards and take in the main sights of this wonderful city. Your experience includes entrance fees to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and the Royal Yacht Britannia. There are more than 10 other stops along the route and a host of other famous sights to see.

## DAY 2 | ST ANDREWS & THE HIGHLANDS

Travel across the Firth of Forth to St Andrews and join a Local Specialist for a fascinating walking tour. View the celebrated ancient university and the 'home of golf', St Andrews Links Golf Club. Continue through the picturesque town of Pitlochry and the beautiful Cairngorms National Park to Inverness, the capital of the Highlands. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL ISLE OF SKYE

Why not leave the car for a day and discover the magic of the Isle of Skye? Take in some of its majestic scenery on this not-to-be-missed breathtaking day trip. See the Old Man of Storr, mysterious Faerie pools and the remarkable Quiraing before visiting Eilean Donan Castle, a stunning 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle dramatically located at the point where three lochs meet. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Enterprise Car Rental, 5 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (5 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Oban Distillery | ©VisitScotland/GraemeMacDonald

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Edinburgh on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour (including entrance to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace & Royal Yacht Britannia), the Isle of Skye and a Loch Ness Cruise.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour of St Andrews and a Street Art Walking Tour in Glasgow.

**VISIT** | Eilean Donan Castle.



**OBAN DISTILLERY** | One of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky. Run by only 7 people, the distillery is an integral part of the local community and uses recipes passed down for generations. (Day 4)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1 | EDINBURGH

Market Street Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 4 | OBAN AREA

Loch Melfort Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 2-3 | INVERNESS

Inverness Palace Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 5 | GLASGOW

The Address Glasgow  
★★★★

## Alternatives

**OUTLAND ADVENTURE** | If you're a fan of Outlander, check out our Outland Adventure Self-Drive itinerary that takes you to iconic filming locations from the hit show.



### DAY 4 | MONSTERS & MOUNTAINS

Travel along the banks of Loch Ness where you'll see ancient ruins and diverse scenery. Keep your eyes peeled on your Loch Ness cruise, who knows, you may spot the famous monster, Nessie! Continue through stunning Glencoe and the majestic backdrop of Ben Nevis, Reach Oban and enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Oban Distillery, one of Scotland's smallest whisky distilleries, known for its authenticity and heritage. **(B)**

### DAY 5 | JOURNEY TO GLASGOW

Travel to Glasgow, set on the River Clyde. Discover the city and its unique murals from a local perspective on a Glasgow Street Art Walking tour. As you stroll through the streets listening to your passionate Local Specialist, you'll soon see why Scotland's largest city is renowned for its culture, style and friendliness of its people. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | DEPART GLASGOW

Bid farewell to Scotland and make your way to Glasgow airport for your return flight home. **(B)**

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.

Quiraing, Isle of Skye | ©VisitScotland/KennyLam



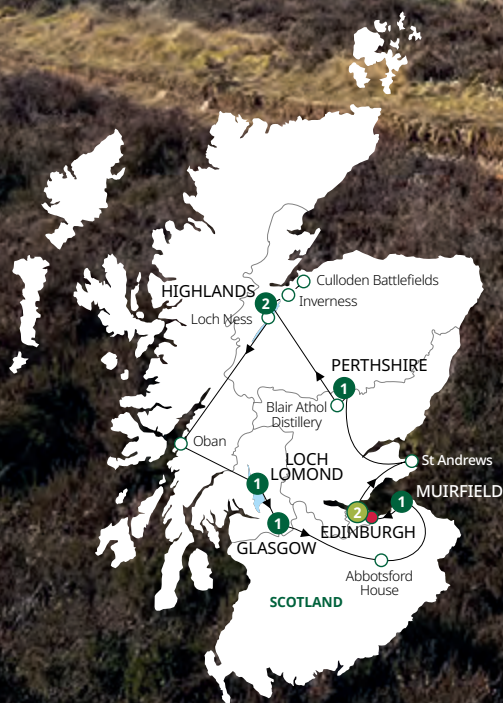
SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Scotland Explorer

As you weave through this dramatically stunning country, you can't but immerse yourself in history and culture. Marvel at big skies and mysterious lochs and experience untamed landscapes and truly breathtaking scenery. This trip offers the opportunity to see some of Scotland's most awesome sights all at your own pace.

9 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO EDINBURGH



## DAY 1 | A WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Welcome to Scotland! Your private driver will meet you in the arrivals hall and transfer you to your hotel. A Hop-On, Hop-Off tour is a great introduction to this UNESCO World Heritage city. Journey through cobblestone streets and courtyards as you lose yourself in its narrow lanes full of ancient heritage.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE EVERYTHING EDINBURGH

Enjoy a walking tour with a Local Specialist. Learn the 'Secrets of the Royal Mile' and skip the lines at Edinburgh Castle, a grand sight perched high atop a dormant volcano. See the Scottish Crown Jewels, Mons Meg, the Great Hall and so much more in the special company of your passionate Local Specialist. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO PERTSHIRE

Travel to St Andrews, the 'home of golf'. Explore this university town with a Local Specialist on a walking tour before continuing to beautiful Perthshire, famed for its dramatic mountains, glens, lochs and ancient castles. Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at Blair Athol Distillery. This icon of the Scottish Highlands is shrouded in ivy and its ancient source of water flows through the grounds down from the surrounding Grampian mountains, contributing to the whisky's unique flavour. Enjoy a guided distillery experience followed by a tutored tasting of three whiskies including a distillery exclusive bottling and a gift. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | 4x4 SAFARI & MAGICAL HIGHLANDS

This morning, continue your Scottish exploration at Highland Safaris. Climb aboard your 4x4 with your (kilted) Safari Ranger for an encounter with the natural beauty of the Highlands. Discover tracks, trails and stunning views before enjoying some shortbread and tea (or a dram of something stronger) among the astonishing scenery, great fun for all the family. Afterwards, head north through the wilds of Cairngorms National Park to your highland hotel near the mysterious Loch Ness. **(B)**

## DAY 5 | INVERNESS & THE CULLODEN BATTLEFIELDS

Explore Inverness and step back into a bloody period of Scotland's history at the battlefields of Culloden. This site is where the Jacobite cause, under Bonnie Prince Charlie's leadership, was crushed in 1746. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Enterprise Car Rental, 8 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Blair Athol Distillery

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Edinburgh on a Hop-On, Hop-Off, a 4x4 Safari in the Highlands, and Cruises on Loch Ness & Loch Lomond.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A 'Secrets of the Royal Mile' Walking Tour in Edinburgh, a Walking Tour of St Andrews and a Glasgow Food Tour.

**VISIT** | Edinburgh Castle, the Culloden Battlefields and Abbotsford House.



**BLAIR ATHOL DISTILLERY** | Recycling pot ale syrup and using discarded materials to create wildlife boxes, it's no wonder this famous ivy-clad distillery has received gold certification from Green Tourism. (Day 4)



**OBAN DISTILLERY** | One of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky. Run by only 7 people, the distillery is an integral part of the local community and uses recipes passed down for generations. (Day 6)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | EDINBURGH

Market Street Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | LOCH LOMOND

Loch Lomond Arms Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3 | PERTHSHIRE

Fisher's Hotel  
★★★

### DAY 7 | GLASGOW

Dakota Glasgow  
★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | HIGHLANDS

The Lovat  
★★★★

### DAY 8 | MUIRFIELD

Carberry Tower Mansion House  
★★★★

4x4 Highland Safari

### DAY 6 | LOCHS & LEGENDS

Cruise along the banks of Loch Ness, where you'll see ancient ruins, stunning scenery and may even spot the famous monster! Enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at Oban Distillery, one of Scotland's smallest whisky distilleries, known for its authenticity and heritage. Make your way to Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, this magical location is home to snow-capped mountains, lush greenery and some of Scotland's most incredible scenery. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | LOCH LOMOND & GLASGOW

Take a cruise on the shimmering waters of Loch Lomond before making your way to Glasgow. Scotland's largest city is renowned for its culture and style. Enjoy a Glaswegian Food Tour with a Local Specialist. Interact with the locals, visit independent restaurants, shops and bars and enjoy a generous mix of food and drink tastings. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | SCOTLAND'S SOUTH

Travel to the extraordinary home of Sir Walter Scott, Abbotsford House and learn about the adventures of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century novelist and the lasting impacts he made on modern Scottish culture. Afterwards, continue to Muirfield for a night of country house luxury. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | DEPART EDINBURGH

Make your way to Edinburgh airport for your return flight home. **(B)**

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.



SELF-DRIVE

FULLY CUSTOMIZABLE

# Scotland & Ireland Discovery

Walk cobblestone streets in Edinburgh, marvel at bold Highland beauty and delve into mystery at Loch Ness. Experience the magic of Dublin, travel through time along Ireland's Ancient East and fall for the charms of The Ring of Kerry on this incredible Ireland & Scotland journey, where every route is the scenic route.

13 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Experience a warm welcome to Scotland as you're met in the arrivals hall by your Private Driver and transferred to your hotel. Discover the Georgian period New Town, the Old Town and the Royal Mile on your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour. Journey through the cobblestone streets and courtyards and take in the main sights of this wonderful city. Your experience includes entrance fees to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace and the Royal Yacht Britannia. There are more than 10 other stops along the route and a host of other famous sights to see.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE EVERYTHING EDINBURGH

Discover Edinburgh's food culture and as you join a Local Specialist for a walking tour, tasting locally-sourced food and tipples along the way. Afterwards, create your very own souvenir or gift to take home at an Islander Bag Making Workshop. Make your very own Harris Tweed bag, choosing color, cloth and straps as you wish. (B)

## DAY 3 | ST ANDREWS & INVERNESS

Travel across the Firth of Forth to the city of St Andrews and join a Local Specialist for a walking tour. View the celebrated ancient university and the 'home of golf', St Andrews Links Golf Club. Continue through the picturesque town of Pitlochry and the beautiful Cairngorms National Park to Inverness, capital of the Highlands. (B)

## DAY 4 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL ISLE OF SKYE

Leave the car for a day and discover the magic of the Isle of Skye. Take in some of its majestic scenery on this not-to-be-missed breathtaking day trip. See the Old Man of Storr, mysterious Faerie pools and the remarkable Quiraing before visiting Eilean Donan Castle, a stunning 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle dramatically located at the point where three lochs meet. (B)

## DAY 5 | MONSTERS & MOUNTAINS

See ancient ruins and diverse scenery as you travel along the banks of Loch Ness before keeping your eyes peeled for the famous monster on a Loch Ness Cruise. Afterwards, journey through stunning Glencoe and the majestic backdrop of Ben Nevis. Continue to Oban and enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Oban Distillery, one of Scotland's smallest whisky distilleries, known for its authenticity and heritage. (B)

## DAY 6 | GLORIOUS GLASGOW

Travel to Glasgow and discover the city's unique murals from a local perspective on a Glasgow Street Art Walking tour. As you stroll through the streets listening to your passionate Local Specialist, you'll soon see why Scotland's largest city is renowned for its culture, style and friendliness of its people. (B)

## DAY 7 | FAREWELL SCOTLAND, FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Make your way to Glasgow airport for your flight to Dublin. Upon arrival, your Private Driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. A Hop-On, Hop-Off tour is a great introduction to the Irish Capital. See Georgian architecture, amazing modern art and taste some of the city's famous whiskey. With more than 20 stops along the route, there's surely something for everyone (entrance fees are not included.) (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Arrival Airport Transfers, Hertz® / Enterprise Car Rental, 12 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (12 nights) and experiences as mentioned.

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Edinburgh on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour (including entrance to Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace & Royal Yacht Britannia), an Islander Bag Making Workshop, the Isle of Skye, a Loch Ness Cruise, Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour, a Jaunting Car through Killarney National Park, The Ring of Kerry on a Day Tour and a Cliffs of Moher Cruise.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | Walking Food Tours in Edinburgh & Dublin, Walking Tours of St Andrews and Cobh, a Street Art Walking Tour of Glasgow and an Adventure in the Burren.

**VISIT** | Eilean Donan Castle.



**OBAN DISTILLERY** | One of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky. Run by only 7 people, the distillery is an integral part of the local community and uses recipes passed down for generations. (Day 5)



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 8)



**MOUNT CONGREVE GUIDED WALK** | Gain insight into Mount Congreve's commitment to creating a sustainable garden environment and how they are integrating year-round environmental practices. (Day 9)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | EDINBURGH

Market Street Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 7-8 | DUBLIN

Hyatt Centric The Liberties  
★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | INVERNESS

Kingsmills Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 9 | WATERFORD

Faithlegg House Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 5 | OBAN AREA

Loch Melfort Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 10-11 | KILLARNEY

Randles Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 6 | GLASGOW

The Address Glasgow  
★★★★

### DAY 12 | SHANNON REGION

Old Ground Hotel  
★★★★

## Extras

**ONE-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your night in the Shannon Region to a stay in the historic, luxurious and legendary Dromoland Castle. See pages 124-125 for more details.

### DAY 8 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off tour pass is still valid for today to continue your exploration of Ireland's vibrant capital. Experience the highlights of Irish food and Dublin's food scene on a walking tour with a Local Specialist. Bring your appetite and indulge in everything from ice cream to Irish stew as you stop at some of the city's award-winning eateries and food shops. Later, visit Teeling Whiskey Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. See this state-of-the-art distillery in operation and get up close and personal with the copper pot still. **(B)**

### DAY 9 | JOURNEY TO WATERFORD

The Vikings knew a good thing when they saw Waterford, a sheltered bay, a strategic location on the river Suir and a good trading position all attracted the Norse raiders here to create Ireland's first city. Visit Mount Congreve, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Georgian estate and enjoy a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** during a guided gentle stroll through the formal gardens, home of one of the largest collection of plants in the world. **(B)**

### DAY 10 | JOURNEY TO COBH & KILLARNEY

Make your way to Cobh and join a Local Specialist to explore the maritime history of 'Queenstown', the last port of call for the Titanic. Continue to lively Killarney, known for its many pubs and open, cheerful atmosphere. Enjoy a Jaunting Car Experience in Killarney's National Park with a local Jarvey, who will regale you with local stories and folklore. **(B)**

### DAY 11 | EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF THE RING OF KERRY

Travel the road that winds around the beautiful Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry and admire the breathtaking scenery of rugged landscapes and crashing seas on an unforgettable day tour. Alternatively, perhaps opt for a hike through Killarney National Park with a Local Specialist. **(B)**

### DAY 12 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE SHANNON REGION

Experience the Cliffs of Moher from the Atlantic Ocean on a breathtaking cruise along the 5-mile shoreline. Gaze up at the sheer, craggy cliff faces that rise imposingly 700ft above you. Next meet a charming Local Specialist who will encourage you to stop and drink in the environment of The Burren and it's amazing ecosystem, full of cliffs, cave and archaeological sites. **(B)**

### DAY 13 | DEPART SHANNON

Bid Farewell to Ireland as you make your way to Shannon Airport, where your trip ends. *Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.

Skye Bridge, Isle of Skye



# Rail Vacations

See the heart of the Celtic Isles from a window seat

Rail Vacations are a fantastic blend of pre-planned independent train travel and local support. We'll help you select your must-see cities and favorite accommodations and experiences. When you arrive at your destination, an expert Local Host will greet you with a treasure trove of ideas on what to do, where to eat and what not-to-miss.



Scenic Rail Journey | ©TourismIreland

## Stay Connected

Not only do Rail Vacations connect you with knowledgeable Local Hosts, ready to share their passion, pride and recommendations for the incredible destinations they're lucky enough to call home, they also connect you with places where the tracks run out. Where there's no train available, we'll set you up with a Private Driver so you can experience more of our homeland's iconic sights and local charms, hassle-free.

“”

The rails run on time, are clean and comfortable and are a great way to see the countryside. The Brendan hosts were exceptional. Friendly and outgoing, it was great fun just to sit and talk with them, but they also bent over backwards to make everything run smoothly. They had all the info on costs and times and just how to do *everything*. Our experiences both collectively and singularly were fantastic, even the transfer drivers offered a lot of local insights! All in all, this was a fabulous trip. I wish we'd had a few more weeks!

GEORGE | IRELAND & SCOTLAND'S GEMS | MAY, 2024



# Relax on the Tracks

Our semi-customizable Rail Vacations allow you explore the Celtic Isles on pre-determined rail routes between major hubs (see map below). Train travel is easy in Ireland & Scotland, stations are very simple to navigate and picking up your included tickets is as simple entering a code in a machine. When you're on board, enjoy the comfort of your pre-booked seat and take in breathtaking scenery en route to your next exciting destination.



Carefree train travel, Dublin

Explore a selection of our Rail Vacation itineraries. The routes are set, but what you do, how long and where you stay in each destination can be adjusted to meet your needs and requirements.

<b>NEW</b>	Ireland's Local Charm & Ancient Culture	6 Days	98
	Ireland's Heart & Soul	7 Days	100
	Ireland's Sparkling Gems	8 Days	102
	Ireland's Sights & Sounds	8 Days	104
<b>NEW</b>	Ireland's South East Discovery	8 Days	106
	Ireland's Giants & Capital Cities	8 Days	108
	Scotland's Cities & Natural Landscapes	7 Days	110
	Ireland & Scotland's Gems	15 Days	112



For pricing and more information on ways to adjust these trips, or to explore more sample Rail Vacation itineraries, scan the QR code.



Dee Morgan | Local Host, Belfast

### RAIL VACATIONS KEY

<b>B</b>	Breakfast	<b>1</b>	Overnight		Ferry / Cruise
<b>L</b>	Lunch		Visited Location		Flight
<b>D</b>	Dinner	<b>++++</b>	Rail Route		Hotel
	Start Location		Private Driver Route		Manor / Estate
	End Location		Day Trip Route		Castle



# Ireland's Local Charm & Ancient Culture

Enjoy days absorbing the unspoilt landscapes of the Golden Vale and the breathtaking Ring of Kerry. Experience evenings filled with lively Celtic rhythm and iconic whiskey tastings. Take in vivid Georgian squares and hear local tales from a storytelling Jarvey. Every moment along the tracks of this delightful trip is bursting with Irish personality.

6 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel, where you'll be greeted by your Dublin Local Host. They will settle you in with the warmest of welcomes, answer any questions you may have about your trip, and share tips and recommendations on how to get the most out of the Irish Capital. Enjoy an included Hop-On, Hop-Off sightseeing tour of the city. It's a great introduction to all the city's highlights with more than 20 stops along the way (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Spend some more time exploring the city on a walking tour. See the Georgian squares with their brightly colored doors and discover the city's historic sights and modern marvels with a Local Specialist, who will proudly share the riches of the city. Afterwards, visit Teeling Whiskey Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. See this state-of-the-art distillery in operation and admire the copper pot still. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILLARNEY

Make your own way to the train station for the scenic ride to Killarney. Nothing quite beats the romance of traveling through Ireland's Golden Vale by train. Your Killarney Local Host will meet you at your hotel later today and give you all the information you need to make the best of this charming location. Take a jaunting car ride in Killarney's stunning National Park, enjoying insight into the area and stories from your local Jarvey. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 5 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (5 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Teeling Distillery | ©TourismIreland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Jaunting Car Ride through Killarney National Park and a Celtic Night in Dublin.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Private Walking Tour of Dublin and a Day Tour on the Ring of Kerry.



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1-2 & 5 | DUBLIN**



Ashling Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | KILLARNEY**



Killarney Towers  
★★★★

## Alternatives

**IRELAND FESTIVE ADVENTURE** | Take in the seasonal charms of Ireland on this Self-Drive itinerary that includes a 3-day Christmas experience at Killarney's storied Great Southern.



Horse-drawn Jaunting Car, Killarney National Park | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 4 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL RING OF KERRY

Head out for a day of scenic wonder on your included excursion around the scenic Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. This iconic stretch of rugged landscapes and crashing seas has been an inspiration for writers and poets for centuries. Enjoy the lilting commentary of your Local Specialist as you weave your way through idyllic towns and villages. **(B)**

### DAY 5 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

This morning, make your way to the train station for your journey back to Dublin. This evening, get ready for some exhilarating music, song and dance at a Celtic Nights show. Enjoy dinner, drinks and plenty of *craic* in the heart of Dublin. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | DEPART DUBLIN

Bid farewell to the Emerald Isle as you are transferred to the Dublin airport. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**



# Ireland's Heart & Soul

Armed with expert advice from your Local Hosts, you're ready to get the most from Ireland's heartlands. Uncover secrets in Ireland's central point (Athlone), overlooking Ireland's longest river (the Shannon), while sipping a pint in Ireland's oldest Pub (Sean's Bar), what could be better?

7 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to the Irish Capital! Upon arrival, you will be met and privately transferred to your hotel where you'll meet your Dublin Local Host, ready to offer insights into their beloved city and recommendations to meet your interests. Later visit EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and journey through centuries of rich history and perhaps discover some hidden gems about your own ancestry.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DUBLIN'S GEMS

Join a Local Specialist for a city walking tour. Discover hidden gems and hear anecdotes from present day all the way back to medieval times. Later, visit Teeling Whiskey Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. See this state-of-the-art distillery in operation and admire the copper pot still. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | ALL ABOARD TO ATHLONE

Make your own way to the train station for a scenic ride to Athlone in Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. Take in the city's Medieval Castle that dates back to 1210, before stopping at Sean's Bar, Ireland's oldest pub, for a chat and a tipple or two with the locals. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | JOURNEY TO WESTPORT

Head back to the train station and travel to Westport, a pretty town overlooking Clew Bay. Your Westport Local Host will meet you in the lobby of your hotel before showing you all the sights on a walking tour. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 6 Breakfasts, Private Driver (Day 6)  
Recommended accommodations (6 nights)  
and experiences as mentioned.



Teeling Distillery | ©TourismIreland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Cycling The Great Western Greenway.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | Walking Tours in Dublin and Westport.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum, Athlone Castle and the Cliffs of Moher



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN**



The Davenport  
★★★★

**DAY 4-5 | WESTPORT**



Castlecourt Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 2-3 | ATHLONE**



Sheraton Athlone  
★★★★

**DAY 6 | SHANNON REGION**



Limerick Strand Hotel  
★★★★

## Extras

**ONE-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your night in the Shannon Region to a stay in the historic, luxurious and legendary Dromoland Castle. See page 124-125 for more details.

### DAY 5 | CYCLE THE GREAT WESTERN GREENWAY

Discover the Wild Atlantic Way on two wheels. Cycle all or part way to Achill Island along one of the longest off-road cycling trails in Ireland, the Great Western Greenway and be awe-struck by some of the most incredible scenery in all of Ireland. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | CLIFFS OF MOHER & THE SHANNON REGION

This morning, you will be picked up by your Private Driver for your journey to the Shannon Region. Experience the Cliffs of Moher, a natural masterpiece set against the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean and part of The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Burren Geopark. Tonight, why not upgrade your stay with a night in region's luxurious Dromoland Castle? **(B)**

### DAY 7 | DEPART SHANNON

Bid farewell to Ireland as you are transferred to Shannon Airport where your vacation ends. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**

Traditional Music, Athlone | ©TourismIreland



# Ireland's Sparkling Gems

Hit the rails for a journey that highlights Ireland's natural beauty, ancient history, rich culture and many other gems. Your stories will be enriched by the connections you'll make, the pace of life you'll encounter and the locals you'll meet.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the warmest of welcomes from your Dublin Local Host. They will settle you in, answer any questions you may have and share local tips and recommendations. Enjoy a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour that's a great introduction to all the city's highlights with more than 20 stops along the way (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Enjoy a guided cycling tour of Dublin where your Local Specialist will show you a side of the city and culture that would be hard to find on your own. Explore Dublin's canals, the river Liffey, Georgian Dublin's grand 18<sup>th</sup>-century houses and parks and Norman Dublin's castles and cathedrals. Discover the culture of the city's writers, painters, poets and characters and places of revolution and war from its turbulent history. (B)

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO KILLARNEY

Make your way to the train station for the ride to Killarney. Nothing quite beats the romance of traveling through Ireland's Golden Vale by train. Your Killarney Local Host will meet you at your hotel later today and give you all the information you need to make the best of this charming location. (B)

## DAY 4 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL RING OF KERRY

Head out for your included excursion around the scenic Iveragh Peninsula, better known as The Ring of Kerry. This iconic stretch of rugged landscapes and crashing seas has been an inspiration for writers and poets for centuries. Enjoy the lilting commentary of your Local Specialist as you weave your way through idyllic towns and villages. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 7 Breakfasts, Private Driver (Day 5), Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Teeling Distillery | ©TourismIreland

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour, A 'Connemara in a Day' Excursion and a Celtic Night in Dublin.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Cycling Tour of Dublin City and a Ring of Kerry Excursion.

**VISIT** | The Cliffs of Moher.



**TEELING DISTILLERY** | From repurposing spent grain, regulating water consumption and growing ingredients in the roof garden, discover why this distillery is a pioneer of all things sustainability. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1-2 & 7 | DUBLIN**

Camden Court Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 5-6 | GALWAY**

The Hardiman  
★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | KILLARNEY**

Killarney Towers  
★★★★

## Extras

**TWO-NIGHT CASTLE UPGRADE** | Upgrade your stay in Galway with two nights at Ashford Castle. Stay in the Castle itself or The Lodge at Ashford Castle and enjoy exceptional dining options and unforgettable estate activities. See pages 126-127 for details.

### DAY 7 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

This morning, make your own way to Galway Train Station for your return journey to Dublin. Visit Teeling Whiskey Distillery for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. See this state-of-the-art distillery in operation and admire the copper pot still. This evening, get ready for some exhilarating music, song and dance at a Celtic Nights show. Enjoy dinner, drinks and plenty of *craic* in the heart of Dublin. (B)

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

Bid farewell to Ireland as you are transferred to Dublin Airport where your vacation ends. (B)

### DAY 5 | THE CLIFFS OF MOHER & ON TO GALWAY

This morning, your Private Driver will pick you up for your journey to Galway, stopping along the way at the iconic Cliffs of Moher. This natural masterpiece, set against the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean is part of The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Burren Geopark. Why not upgrade your stay in this area with a night or two at the luxurious Ashford Castle Estate? Choose to stay in the castle itself or take advantage of all the estate activities and overnight at the Lodge at Ashford Castle. (B)

### DAY 6 | EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF CONNEMARA

Join an included excursion to experience the stark beauty and hidden valleys of Connemara. Marvel at dramatic mountainous backdrops before stopping at Kylemore Abbey. This castle-like abbey is serenely located on the edge of Pollacapall Lough and boasts a 6-acre Victorian walled garden to explore (entrance fees to the abbey and gardens not included.) (B)

Torc Waterfall, Killarney National Park



# Ireland's Sights & Sounds

Combine the astonishing sights of The Ring of Kerry, the Golden Vale and Cliffs of Moher with the vibrant sounds of Dublin and Cork. Then add laughter, music, plenty of *craic* and lashings of welcoming Irish charm, you end up with a trip that will make a lasting, intimate connection with Ireland, its beauty and of course, its people.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO SHANNON



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to the Ireland! You will be met and privately transferred to your hotel, where you'll meet your Dublin Local Host, who will settle you in with the warmest of welcomes. Enjoy a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour that's a great introduction to all the city's highlights with more than 20 stops along the way (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | DYNAMIC DUBLIN & GAELIC GAMES

An enduring sight of Ireland awaits as you head to Glasnevin for a **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. Have fun while taking part in the cultural phenomenon that is Gaelic Games. Gain insight into the history of the games and their impact on the local community, discovering that they are more than the national sports of our island, they are a living expression of our ancient Gaelic culture. The remainder of your day is free to explore the dynamic Irish capital. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO CORK

Make your way to the train station. On board, embrace the opportunity to see the Emerald Isle from one of its best vantage points, as your rail journey winds its way to Ireland's 'Second City'. Your Cork Local Host will meet you at your hotel to give you all the information you need to get the best out of this charming part of our world. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | UNCORK CORK OR EXPLORE MARITIME COBH

Discover the history of the county of Cork on your walking tour with a Local Specialist. Get to know the city's charming characters, delicious artisan food and its unique history. Alternatively, take a day trip to Cobh to explore the maritime history of 'Queenstown', the last port of call of the Titanic. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Private Driver (Day 7), Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Experience Gaelic Games

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin on a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour of Cork and a Ring of Kerry Day Tour.

**VISIT** | EPIC - The Irish Emigration Museum and the Cliffs of Moher.



**EXPERIENCE GAELIC GAMES** | 100% owned by locals and run by volunteers, 'EGG' is focused on preserving Gaelic culture through the medium of indigenous sports and fostering community engagement. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN**

Ashling Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 5-6 | KILLARNEY**

Great Southern  
★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | CORK**

The Imperial Hotel  
★★★★

**DAY 7 | NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS**

Dromoland Castle  
★★★★★

## Extras

**TWO-NIGHT BELFAST EXTENSION** | Extend your stay to visit Belfast, Northern Ireland's vibrant capital city. Includes a round-trip standard rail ticket from Dublin to Belfast, two nights accommodation and sightseeing.

**TWO-NIGHT KILKENNY EXTENSION** | Extend your stay to visit the medieval city of Kilkenny. Includes a round-trip standard rail ticket from Dublin to Kilkenny, two nights accommodation and sightseeing.

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 5 | ALL ABOARD TO KILLARNEY

It's a quick train trip from Cork to Killarney, where your Killarney Local Host awaits with tips and suggestions for your stay in this diverse destination. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL RING OF KERRY

Head out for a day of scenic beauty on an included excursion around The Ring of Kerry. As you travel through the rugged landscapes, picturesque towns and villages, marvel at the sights while listening to the natural soundtrack of crashing seas and the special commentary from your Local Specialist. **(B)**

### DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO THE SHANNON REGION

This morning, you will be picked up by your Private Driver. Experience the incredible and iconic Cliffs of Moher, part of The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Burren Geopark. Later, add a fairytale chapter to your Celtic story and bask in the royal glow of Dromoland Castle, one of the most luxurious castle hotels in Ireland. This evening, enjoy fine dining in the flagship restaurant, the Earl of Thomond, celebrated in culinary circles for its panache, elegance, innovation and attention to detail that highlights local Irish produce. **(B,D)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART SHANNON

Enjoy a leisurely Dromoland breakfast before heading to Shannon airport for your trip home. **(B)**



RAIL VACATION

SEMI-CUSTOMIZABLE

NEW FOR 2025

# Ireland's South East Discovery

Immerse in a journey of history and culture that connects Ireland's dynamic capital with two cities that embody the spirit of this ancient region. Delve into Viking heritage in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city and walk the cobbled streets of medieval Kilkenny, absorbing its old-world charm, ancient buildings and impressive Castle.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland! Upon arrival, you will be privately transferred to your hotel to meet your Dublin Local Host. They'll settle you in with the warmest of welcomes, answer any questions and share local tips. Discover the best of the Irish capital on your included Hop-On, Hop-Off tour. There are more than 20 stops along the route and a host of famous sights to see, it's a great way to kick off your Emerald Isle exploration (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Your Hop-On, Hop-Off pass is still valid today for you to continue discovering Dublin. Make your way to EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and journey through centuries of rich history and perhaps discover some hidden gems about your own ancestry. (B)

## DAY 3 | ALL ABOARD TO WATERFORD

Make your way to the train station for your trip to Waterford in Ireland's Ancient East. Your Waterford Local Host will meet you at your hotel and give you all the information you need to make this a memorable stay. Your Freedom of Waterford Pass gives you access to the Viking Triangle on a guided walking tour and a deep dive into the local heritage of Ireland's oldest city from its ancient beginnings to the present day. (B)

## DAY 4 | WONDERFUL WATERFORD

The Waterford Greenway is a route on a former railway track used for cycling and hiking. Pick up your bikes from Waterford city and explore as much of the route you are comfortable with, taking in bridges, viaducts and tunnels and stopping along the way for refreshments and to chat to the locals. If you are not up for cycling, your Freedom Pass is still valid to continue exploring the 'Viking City'. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 7 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner, Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Kilkenny Guided City Boat Tour

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | A Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour of Dublin, Cycling the Waterford Greenway and a Celtic Night in Dublin.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour in Waterford and a Boat Tour and Walking Tour in Kilkenny.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and the best of Waterford with a Freedom of Waterford Pass.



**KILKENNY GUIDED CITY BOAT TOUR** | Hop aboard and join a local skipper to discover the local biodiversity of the River Nore and take in medieval Kilkenny Castle from a different perspective. (Day 5)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1-2 | DUBLIN



The Mont  
★★★★

### DAY 5-6 | KILKENNY



Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 3-4 | WATERFORD



Granville Hotel  
★★★★

### DAY 7 | DUBLIN



The Alex  
★★★★



The Dragon Slayer Sword, Waterford

### DAY 5 | ALL ABOARD TO KILKENNY

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before setting out to the train station for your short journey to Kilkenny. Meet your Kilkenny Local Host at your hotel who will get you all set up for your adventure in this historical city. Enjoy a Kilkenny Guided City Boat Tour along the Nore. Take in views of Kilkenny Castle and learn about local biodiversity while listening to informative commentary on this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the castle grounds, the city's wonderful array of pubs caf  s and restaurants or maybe a visit Kilkenny Design Centre, set up to support, promote and elevate Irish craft makers and designers. (B)

### DAY 6 | KILKENNY CURIOSITIES

Join a Local Specialist for a true Kilkenny experience. Enjoy a leisurely and informative Walking Tour, uncovering the secrets of this medieval wonderland as you meander through the picturesque streets, learn about Kilkenny Cats, Dame Alice Kyteler and so much more. (B)

### DAY 7 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

Take the train back to Dublin and enjoy time for sightseeing you missed first-time round or perhaps to indulge in a bit of shopping. This evening, toast your trip with an evening of song and dance at Celtic Nights at the Arlington. An evening of traditional live Irish entertainment paired with a delectable three-course feast. (B,D)

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

Bid farewell to Ireland as you are transferred to the airport. *Go n-ard  idh an b  thar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. (B)



# Ireland's Giant's & Capital Cities

Explore the capitals of both Ireland and Northern Ireland on this profoundly memorable trip. Delve into Dublin's literary giants, Joyce and Beckett, Belfast's striking shipbuilding giants, Samson and Goliath and best of them all, the Causeway's legendary giant, Finn MacCool.

8 DAYS | DUBLIN TO DUBLIN



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to Ireland and its dynamic capital. Upon arrival, you will be privately transferred to your hotel to meet your Dublin Local Host. They'll settle you in with the warmest of welcomes, answer any questions and share local tips. Explore the city on your included Hop-On, Hop-Off tour. There are more than 20 stops along the route and a host of famous sights to see (entrance fees are not included) making it the perfect introduction to the city.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE DYNAMIC DUBLIN

Today, your Hop-On, Hop-Off pass is valid for you to continue exploring Dublin's fair city. If you have Irish heritage (or think you might have), sit down with a local genealogist on your included visit to The Irish Family History Centre at EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO BELFAST

Make your own way to the train station for the journey north to the capital of Northern Ireland. Belfast has a famed ship building past, whose skyline is marked by the famous yellow cranes Samson and Goliath. Your Belfast Local Host will meet you at your hotel, answer any questions you have and help prepare you for your grand adventure through this amazing city. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | ENJOY BRILLIANT BELFAST

With more than 20 stops along your included Hop-On, Hop-Off tour route, you can experience the very best sights of this historic city including City Hall and the incredible Titanic Belfast (entrance fees are not included.) **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 7 Breakfasts, Private Driver (Days 5 & 7), Recommended accommodations (7 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Mark Rodgers

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin and Belfast on Hop-On, Hop-Off Tours.

**VISIT** | EPIC – The Irish Emigration Museum and Titanic Belfast.



**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY WITH MARK RODGERS** | Join a *seanchai* (Irish storyteller) to explore the kinetic energy of the Giant's Causeway, hearing illuminating tales of its history, people, culture and legends. (Day 5)



**DERRY~LONDONDERRY WALKING TOUR** | Get to know Derry~Londonderry from the point of view of an enigmatic local, delving into its fascinating past on this educational and fun walking tour. (Day 6)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1-2 & 7 | DUBLIN**



★★★★

**DAY 5-6 | DERRY~LONDONDERRY**



★★★★

**DAY 3-4 | BELFAST**



★★★★

## Extras

**TWO-NIGHT LOUGH ESKE CASTLE UPGRADE** | In place of Derry~Londonderry, upgrade your stay with a trip to Donegal and the luxurious five-star Lough Eske Castle. Located on a secluded lakeside estate, the castle's history dates back to the 1400s.

### DAY 7 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

This morning, your Private Driver will drop you off at Belfast train station for your journey back to Dublin. The remainder of your day is free to absorb the city's vibrant atmosphere or visit any attractions you missed first-time around. **(B)**

### DAY 8 | DEPART DUBLIN

Bid farewell to Ireland as you are transferred to Dublin airport. *Go n-ardóidh an bóthar chun bualadh leat* – may the road rise to meet you. **(B)**



Peace Bridge, Derry~Londonderry | ©TourismIreland

### DAY 5 | GIANTS & DERRY~LONDONDERRY

This morning, you will be picked up by your Private Driver to embark on your journey along the breathtaking Antrim Coast to Derry~Londonderry. Along the way, stop for an unforgettable **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** at the Giant's Causeway. Your Local Specialist will give you a rare insight into an area full of myth and scenic beauty and inform you how your visit helps the conservation of this incredible natural wonder. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | WALK THE WALLS & CROSS THE PEACE BRIDGE

Enjoy a walking tour of a city steeped in history and culture. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, stroll along the 17<sup>th</sup>-century city walls in the expert company of your Local Specialist, hearing about life in this city and gain personal insights from someone who knows it best. **(B)**



# Scotland's Cities & Natural Landscapes

Encounter spectacular scenery and cities steeped in culture and charisma on this memorable Scottish journey. Your Local Hosts will help you carefully map out your interests and ensure you can experience fascinating local insights at every stop. From regal Edinburgh and colorful Glasgow to the breathtaking highlands and the magical big skies of Skye, Scotland's icons are waiting.

7 DAYS | EDINBURGH TO GLASGOW



## DAY 1 | A WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

Welcome to Scotland! Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel, where you will meet your Edinburgh Local Host. They'll offer you the warmest of welcomes, answer questions, give recommendations and prepare you for your grand Scotland journey.

## DAY 2 | EXPLORE EVERYTHING EDINBURGH

Get to know the Scottish capital's hidden history on a Secrets of the Royal Mile walking tour. Visit Edinburgh's imposing hilltop castle and explore the Old Town's labyrinth of alleyways and staircases while your Local Specialist reveals fascinating true stories that will uncover another side of the city, and Scotland's past. Later, visit the Johnnie Walker Experience Princes Street. On this **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience** explore the secrets behind the country's most popular whisky across 8 dramatic floors. This is whisky like you've never experienced it before. **(B)**

## DAY 3 | JOURNEY TO INVERNESS

Make your way to the train station for the scenic ride north to Inverness at the heart of the Scottish Highlands. Your Inverness Local Host will meet you at your hotel later today to give you insights into this exciting location. **(B)**

## DAY 4 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL ISLE OF SKYE

Today, embark on an excursion to the windswept valleys and dramatic coastlines of the breathtaking Isle of Skye. As you take in the sights, history and stories of this beautiful region, stop at Eilean Donan Castle. This iconic location has been used in many blockbuster films over the years. The castle sits perfectly on an island where three glistening lochs convene making it truly the real-life version of the highland castle from your imagination. **(B)**





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 6 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (6 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Johnnie Walker - Journey of Flavor

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | An Excursion on the Isle of Skye.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | The Secrets of the Royal Mile Walking Tour in Edinburgh and a Glasgow Walking Tour.

**VISIT** | Eilean Donan Castle.



**JOHNNIE WALKER - JOURNEY OF FLAVOR** | Enjoy a mix of Scottish traditions, culture and flavors, paired with sensory expressions at the Edinburgh home of the most recognizable name in Scottish Whisky. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

**DAY 1 | EDINBURGH**



★★★★

**DAY 5-6 | GLASGOW**



★★★★

**DAY 2-3 | INVERNESS**



★★★★

## Extras

**TWO-NIGHT LOCH LOMOND EXTENSION** | Includes Private Driver transfers to and from Glasgow, 2 nights accommodation in the Loch Lomond Arms Hotel and a Loch Lomond Cruise.

### DAY 7 | DEPART GLASGOW

Bid farewell to Scotland as you are transferred to Glasgow Airport where your vacation ends. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**

**Note:** Guests can opt to leave from Edinburgh Airport for an additional cost.

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.

### DAY 5 | JOURNEY TO GLASGOW

Head to the train station to board your train bound for Scotland's largest city, renowned for its culture and style. Upon arrival, your Glasgow Local Host will fill you in on all that's good and not-to-be-missed while visiting their beloved city. **(B)**

### DAY 6 | EXPLORE GLASGOW LIKE A LOCAL

From grand Victorian architecture to contemporary street art and thriving Museum scene, Glasgow truly has something for everyone. There's no better way to experience the city than on an included walking tour with a Local Specialist. As you stroll the streets, hear stories of the city's rich history and culture, see famous landmarks such as St. Mungo's Cathedral and the People's Palace and encounter a few friendly *weegies* along the way. **(B)**

Fairie Glen, Isle of Skye | ©VisitScotland/KennyLam



# Ireland & Scotland's Gems

Combine and contrast iconic Celtic cities and much more on this adventure through Ireland & Scotland. Get a lesson in whiskey cocktail making, explore the magical Isle of Skye and uncover the secrets of Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Connect with locals, their stories and history throughout our homelands on a trip where excitement rolls in at every mile of the track.

15 DAYS | DUBLIN TO GLASGOW



## DAY 1 | FÁILTE TO DUBLIN

Welcome to the Irish capital! You will be met and privately transferred to your hotel, where you'll meet your Dublin Local Host, who will settle you in with the warmest of welcomes. Enjoy a Hop-On, Hop-Off Tour that's a great introduction to all the city's highlights with more than 20 stops along the way (entrance fees are not included.)

## DAY 2 | JOURNEY TO CORK

Make your way to the train station. On board, embrace the opportunity to see the Emerald Isle from its best vantage point as your rail journey winds its way to Ireland's Second City'. Your Cork Local Host will meet you at your hotel to give you all the information you need to get the best out of this charming part of our world. (B)

## DAY 3 | UNCORK CORK OR EXPLORE MARITIME COBH

Discover the history of the county of Cork on your walking tour with a Local Specialist. Get to know the city's charming characters, delicious artisan food and it's unique history. Alternatively, take a day trip to Cobh to explore the maritime history of 'Queenstown', the last port of call of the Titanic. (B)

## DAY 4 | ALL ABOARD TO KILLARNEY

It's a quick train trip from Cork to Ireland's adventure playground. Your Killarney Local Host awaits with tips for your stay in this scenic, charming and diverse destination. (B)

## DAY 5 | KILLARNEY NATIONAL PARK

Meet your Local Specialist and head out on a drive and hike through the beautiful Killarney National Park. Hear stories from your guide and learn about the hidden gems you encounter as you wander in the unspoilt countryside. (B)

## DAY 6 | RETURN TO DUBLIN

Make your way to the train station for your journey back to Dublin. Later, enjoy a masterclass in the art of making whiskey cocktails at the Jameson Distillery. Learn about exciting new methods, drink like the locals and discover how this ancient spirit has changed with the times. (B)

## DAY 7 | JOURNEY TO BELFAST

Make your own way to the train station for the journey north to Northern Ireland's capital city. Your Belfast Local Host will meet you at your hotel to help prepare you for your grand adventure through this amazing city. A great introduction to the city's highlights is a Hop-On, Hop-Off tour (entrance fees are not included.) (B)

## DAY 8 | ENJOY BRILLIANT BELFAST

With your Hop-On-Hop-Off pass is still valid today, continue your discovery of the city's living history and its landmarks. Stop at Titanic Belfast, where the famous ship's life is revealed from her conception and construction to the ill-fated maiden voyage on the very shores where she got her start. If you're a Game of Thrones enthusiast, you're in the perfect spot to indulge your set-jetting passion. (B)

## DAY 9 | FAREWELL IRELAND, WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

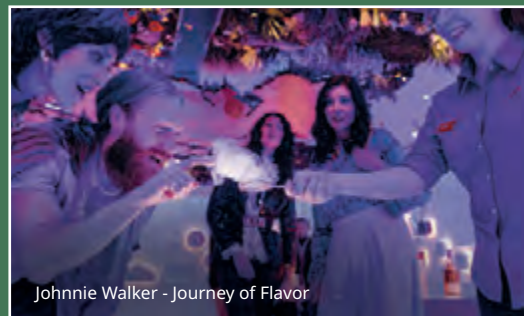
Bid farewell to Belfast as you are transferred to the airport for your short flight to the Scottish Capital. Upon arrival, you will be met and privately transferred to your hotel to meet your Edinburgh Local Host, ready with the warmest of welcomes and to impart lots of local expertise. This afternoon, get creative as you choose the color, cloth and straps of your very own Harris Tweed bag on an Islander Bag Workshop. (B)





## Trip Inclusions

Private Airport Transfers, Standard Rail Tickets, 14 Breakfasts, Recommended accommodations (14 nights) and experiences as mentioned.



Johnnie Walker - Journey of Flavor

## Recommended Highlights

**EXPERIENCE** | Dublin & Belfast Hop-On, Hop-Off Tours, Whiskey Cocktail Making at Jameson Bow Street, an Islander Bag Workshop and an Excursion on the Isle of Skye.

**JOIN LOCAL SPECIALISTS FOR** | A Walking Tour of Cork or Cobh, a Hike in Killarney National Park, the Secrets of the Royal Mile Walking Tour and a Walking Tour of Glasgow.

**VISIT** | Titanic Belfast and Eilean Donan Castle.



**JOHNNIE WALKER - JOURNEY OF FLAVOR** | Enjoy a mix of Scottish traditions, culture and flavors, paired with sensory expressions at the Edinburgh home of the most recognizable name in Scottish Whisky. (Day 2)

## Recommended Accommodations

### DAY 1 | DUBLIN



★★★★

### DAY 7-8 | BELFAST



★★★★

### DAY 2-3 | CORK



★★★★

### DAY 9-10 | EDINBURGH



★★★★

### DAY 4-5 | KILLARNEY



★★★★

### DAY 11-12 | INVERNESS



★★★★

### DAY 6 | DUBLIN



★★★★

### DAY 13-14 | GLASGOW



★★★★



Eilean Donan Castle | ©VisitScotland/AirborneLens

### DAY 10 | EXPLORE EVERYTHING EDINBURGH

Get to know Edinburgh's hidden history on a Secrets of the Royal Mile walking tour. Visit the city's imposing hilltop castle and explore the Old Town's labyrinth of alleyways and staircases while your Local Specialist reveals fascinating true stories that will uncover another side of the city and Scotland's past. Later, visit the Johnnie Walker Experience Princes Street. On this sensory **MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience**, explore the secrets behind the country's most popular whisky across 8 dramatic floors. This is whisky like you've never experienced it before. **(B)**

### DAY 11 | JOURNEY TO INVERNESS

Make your way to the train station for the scenic ride to the heart of the Scottish Highlands. Your Inverness Local Host will meet you at your hotel later today to give you insights into this exciting location. **(B)**

### DAY 12 | EXPERIENCE THE MAGICAL ISLE OF SKYE

Today, embark on an excursion to the wind-swept valleys and dramatic coastlines of the breathtaking Isle of Skye. As you take in the sights, history and stories of this beautiful region, stop at Eilean Donan Castle. This iconic location has been used in many blockbuster films over the years. The castle sits perfectly on an island where three glistening lochs convene making it truly the real-life version of the highland castle from your imagination. **(B)**

### DAY 13 | JOURNEY TO GLASGOW

Head to the train station to board your train bound for Scotland's largest city. Renowned for its culture and style, your Glasgow Local Host will fill you in on all that's good and not-to-be-missed while visiting their beloved city. **(B)**

### DAY 14 | EXPLORE GLASGOW LIKE A LOCAL

From grand Victorian architecture to contemporary street art and a thriving Museum scene, Glasgow truly has something for everyone. There's no better way to experience the city than on a walking tour with a Local Specialist. As you stroll the streets, hear stories of the city's rich history and culture, see famous landmarks such as St. Mungo's Cathedral and the People's Palace and encounter a few friendly *weegies* along the way. **(B)**

### DAY 15 | DEPART GLASGOW

Bid farewell to Scotland as you are transferred to Glasgow Airport where your vacation ends. *Slán go fóill* – goodbye until we meet again. **(B)**

**Note:** Guests can opt to leave from Edinburgh Airport for an additional cost.

**Note:** If your visit is in August, you might want to attend the incredible Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, a not-to-be-missed spectacle with bands, musicians and other performers from around the world. See pages 134-135 for details.





# Catherine's Collection

A legacy of excellence, ready for you

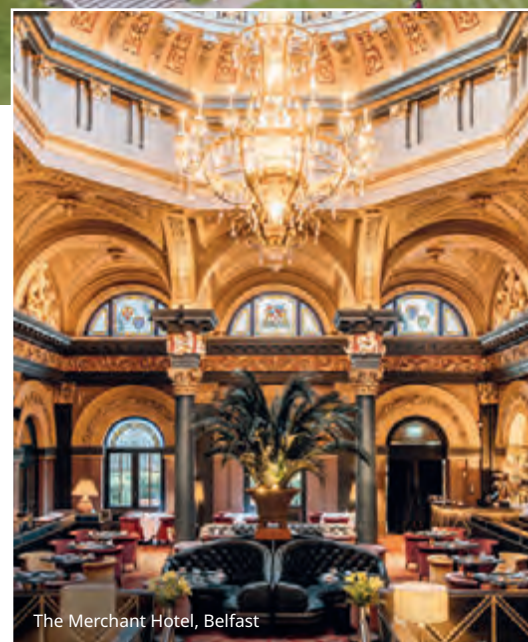
For over 40 years, Brendan Vacations' inspirational leader and (literal) icon, Catherine Reilly has led the way in seeking out and nurturing relationships with the best accommodations and experiences Ireland & Scotland have to offer. This portfolio is a relection of our commitment to taking you personally, everything included has been carefully vetted to ensure you have access to the finest stays and culturally-rich, authentic activities in every region you visit.



Dromoland Castle | ©TourismIreland

## Where to Stay

From grand manors & estates and incredible hotels to legendary castles and other unique properties, every accommodation included in Catherine's Collection has been hand-selected with you in mind. Whether situated in prime city-centric locations or in secluded splendor, these places reflect the spirit and culture of the regions they inhabit. Ancient or modern, their walls are etched in history, furnished with local charm and brought alive through impeccable service and colorful characters. Far more than just beds for the night, these are stays that come with stories, designed to enrich every day of your Celtic journey.



The Merchant Hotel, Belfast





“”

Catherine's years of traveling to every corner of our country has resulted in designing this special collection of which we are very honored to be included in. The dedication shown by her talented team in developing friendships with hotel partners such as us, local guides and organizers of unique experiences is second-to-none and in the end, it is her guests who reap all of these incredible relationship benefits. We are delighted to have worked with Brendan Vacations for over 30 years, helping make travel dreams come true at our castle.

MARK NOLAN | MANAGING DIRECTOR, DROMOLAND CASTLE

Explore Catherine's Collection in all regions of Ireland & Scotland, plus London for those interested in extending their trip to the UK.

Dynamic Dublin	116
Dublin's Doorstep & the Hidden Heartlands	118
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Galway & the West	126
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Luxurious London	146



For full lists of accommodations and experiences, information, suggestions and inspiration on ways to get the most out of each region, scan the QR code.

#### MAP KEY

① Featured Activities

★ Featured Accommodation

① Accommodation

Hotel

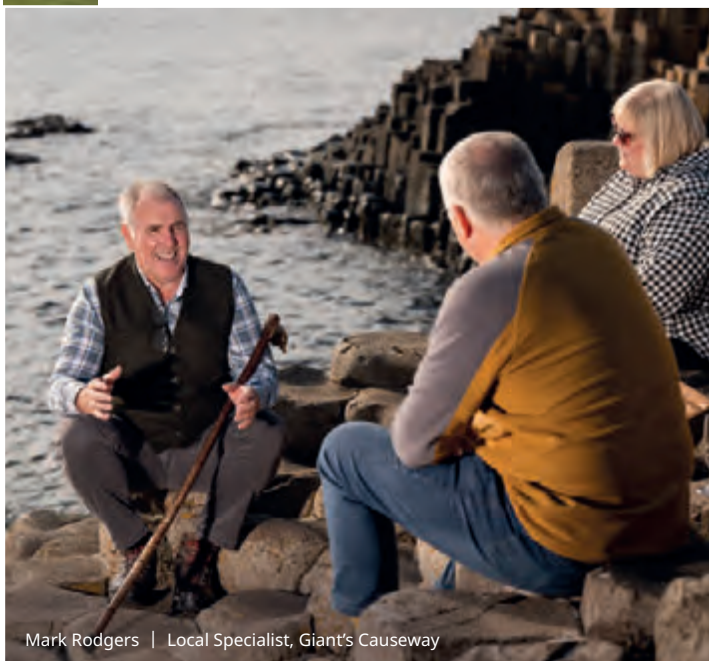
Manor / Estate

Castle

Bed & Breakfast / Guest House

## What to do

Connect with the best of local Celtic culture every day of your trip through our expansive collection of hand picked experiences. Delve into history in medieval cities and ancient ruins. Uncover your past through ancestry explorations. Enliven your tastebuds from a menu of food & drink offerings that includes everything from michelin star fine dining to breadmaking classes. Discover the natural wonders of our homelands on incredible outdoor experiences and active adventures. No matter if you're on a romantic retreat, a golfing getaway or after some well-earned family fun, our experiences provide opportunities to pack your passions, meet enigmatic local storytellers and uncover hidden gems in every corner of our homelands.



Mark Rodgers | Local Specialist, Giant's Causeway



# Dynamic Dublin

Whether you're venturing on a trip with friends with pub crawls as the main scene, a family focused on discovering your Celtic ancestry or traveling solo to explore beyond the countless attractions, shops and historical monuments, Ireland's largest city caters to every type of traveler. With a progressive food scene, innovative museums and a host of unique activities to enjoy, you're spoiled for choice on what to do. Here are a few of our favorites to get you started.



## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ① Trinity College & The Book of Kells

A must-see for all visitors to the city is seeing one of Ireland's greatest cultural treasures. Trinity College's spectacular library is home to the Book of Kells. This 9<sup>th</sup>-century masterpiece that documents the four Gospels of the life of Jesus Christ, offers a unique insight into a rich part of Ireland's culture.



## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ② See Georgian Dublin On a Walking Tour

The bright, vivid colors on the world's finest Georgian buildings have become visual symbols of the city. Discover the urban legend behind why upper-class Georgians began painting the doors of their homes on a walking tour with an enigmatic Local Specialist.



©TourismIreland





### FOOD & DRINK

## 3 Delicious Dublin Food Tour

Spend a cozy afternoon sampling the best of Dublin's culinary scene with award-winning food blogger, Ketty. The Delicious Dublin Food Tour takes you to local shops and restaurants and gives you the opportunity to taste everything from Shepherd's Pie to creamy local Ice Cream. As you eat, stroll and gab, you'll learn all about the history of Irish food and how Dublin's modern foodie scene has evolved.



### ACTIVE

## 5 Experience Gaelic Games

Have fun while trying your hand at culturally significant indigenous sports. Learn about how this not-for-profit organisation fosters community engagement, supports local clubs financially and enhances the value of open and green spaces for community use.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### THE DAVENPORT

CITY CENTER | | ★★★★★

Just around the corner from the Brendan Vacations office, The Davenport is a great base to explore Dublin and offers the perfect blend of old-meets-new. It's close to the life-size Oscar Wilde statue and there is no better location for the best Dublin Door display.

**FEATURES:** 107 Guestrooms, 8 Suites, Restaurant & Bar, 24/7 Gym Access.



1	THE MERRION		★★★★★	11	THE MORGAN		★★★★★
2	THE WESTBURY		★★★★★	12	THE ADDRESS CONNOLLY		★★★★★
3	THE FITZWILLIAM HOTEL		★★★★★	13	ASHLING HOTEL		★★★★★
4	DYLAN HOTEL		★★★★★	14	SANDYMOUNT HOTEL		★★★★★
5	BROOKS HOTEL		★★★★★	15	HERBERT PARK HOTEL		★★★★★
6	RADISSON BLU ROYAL HOTEL		★★★★★	16	CLONTARF CASTLE HOTEL		★★★★★
7	THE ALEX		★★★★★	17	CAMDEN COURT		★★★★★
8	THE GREEN		★★★★★	18	THE WILDER		★★★★★
9	THE MONT		★★★★★	19	CARLTON HOTEL DUBLIN AIRPORT		★★★★★
10	HYATT CENTRIC THE LIBERTIES		★★★★★	20	BUSWELLS HOTEL		★★★★

### FOOD & DRINK

## 4 Teeling Whiskey Distillery

The official home of the 'Spirit of Dublin' plays an important part in reviving the traditional style of Dublin whiskey distillation by being the first to open its doors in the city in 125 years. Experience the inner workings of an operational distillery, then enjoy a cocktail at The Bang Bang Bar overlooking the city.



©TourismIreland



# Dublin's Doorstep & the Hidden Heartlands

They say the beauty of travel is not only found in the places you visit, but in the people you meet along the way and in Ireland, this is doubly true. Dublin's Doorstep and the Hidden Heartlands are centered around the local communities that will bring you the very best of our homelands. Absorb an easy pace of rural life as you take in charming towns, glistening lakes, scenic pasturelands and tranquil forests.

## FOOD & DRINK

### ① Feel at Home Experience at Clonalis House

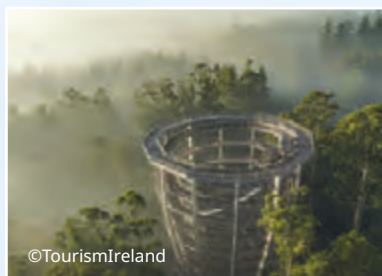
Give new meaning to the term 'family dining' at the charming Clonalis House. Enjoy a rare opportunity to connect with the property's lineage over a private meal with the O'Connor family, direct descendants of Ireland's last High King and traditional Kings of Connacht. Indulge in a hearty, delicious meal featuring the best seasonal produce from local artisans and foraged ingredients from the grounds, followed by a fireside drink in the library or an al-fresco aperitif on the terrace overlooking the parkland.



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ② Avondale Treetop Experience

A unique woodland experience awaits at Avondale House and Forest Park. Stroll along the accessible walkway, winding through a diverse array of trees including majestic Giant Redwoods. As you ascend gently above the canopy, and reach the innovative viewing tower you'll be rewarded with 360° views over the Avonmore River and the Vale of Avoca. You'll soon see why Co. Wicklow is known as the 'garden of Ireland.' For the young at heart or adventurous, why not return to ground level via the gigantic spiral slide?



©TourismIreland

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### CARTON HOUSE

MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE | 🏰 | ★★★★★

A world away and yet just 25 minutes from Dublin Airport, Carton House is easy to fall in love with. Queen Victoria knew it well, Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier came for a vacation and Peter Sellers and Marianne Faithfull lived here for years, now it's your turn to experience it.

**FEATURES:** 165 Guestrooms and Suites, Restaurant, Bar, Fitness Center & Spa, Golf, falconry, fishing & other activities available.



#### CO. LAOIS, CO. KILDARE & CO. WICKLOW

- ① BALLYFIN DEMESNE 🏰 ★★★★★
- ② THE K CLUB 🏰 ★★★★★
- ③ POWERSCOURT HOTEL, RESORT & SPA 🏰 ★★★★★
- ④ CLIFF AT LYONS 🏰 ★★★★★
- ⑤ BARBERSTOWN CASTLE HOTEL 🏰 ★★★★★

#### CO. DUBLIN & CO. MEATH

- ⑥ FITZPATRICK'S CASTLE HOTEL 🏰 ★★★★★
- ⑦ DUNBOYNE CASTLE HOTEL 🏰 ★★★★★

#### ATHLONE

- ⑧ HODSON BAY HOTEL 🏰 ★★★★★
- ⑨ SHERATON ATHLONE 🏰 ★★★★★

#### CO. ROSCOMMON & CO. LEITRIM

- ⑩ KILRONAN CASTLE ESTATE & SPA 🏰 ★★★★★
- ⑪ CLONALIS HOUSE 🏰 ★★★★★
- ⑫ LOUGH RYNN CASTLE 🏰 ★★★★★



## FOOD & DRINK

### 3 The Shed Distillery

Journey into the heart of rural Ireland and the inner sanctum of The Shed Distillery. The first distillery in the area in over 100 years is located in the tiny village of Drumshanbo. Explore the distillery's copper stills and enjoy samples of their Single Pot Still Irish Whiskey, innovative Gunpowder Irish Gin and other remarkable brands from the curious mind of PJ Rigney.



©TourismIreland

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### 5 Hill of Tara

Delve into ancient Irish history at the place that was once the seat of the High Kings of Ireland. Explore countless monuments and ramparts, take in views of 16 of the Ireland's 32 counties from atop the hilltop summit and venture through a 5,000 year-old Neolithic underground passage tomb, rumored to have been the sacred dwelling for the Gods and entrance to the otherworld.



©TourismIreland



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### 4 Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens

Spend a day with the family at the Irish National Stud, home to world-class horses and lavish gardens. Meet equestrian legends from breeders to prize stallions and take in the history at the on-site Horse Museum. Explore the immaculate Japanese gardens or let your little ones unleash some energy at the Kid Zone play area. This place has something for everyone.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.





# Cork & the Southeast

Castle ruins and national parks, domineering mountains and cascading waterfalls, medieval cities, colorful coastal villages and some of the most scenic drives in the world, Cork and the Southeast has it all. Visit the Opera, get the 'gift of the gab' or see famous Crystal being crafted. Ireland's 'second capital' Cork is home to Avant Garde street art, riverside walks and off-beat pubs.



©TourismIreland

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ① Blarney Castle & Gardens

If you've ever had the pleasure of conversing with an Irish local, you've probably noticed how quick-witted they are. If you want to gain the 'gift of gab', then a visit to Blarney Castle and its legendary stone is in order. You mustn't be faint of heart though, as the only way to empower the stone is by giving it a quick peck while hanging down backwards from the ramparts. Afterwards, join one of the estate's gardeners and explore the exquisite gardens, arboretums and avenues populated with plants and trees from all over the world that date back as far as the Jurassic period.

## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ② Mount Congreve Guided Walk

Built in 1760 and home to six generations of Congreves, this immense and important botanical collection spans 70 brilliant acres of curated gardens. Join an expert gardener and gain insight into Mount Congreve's commitment to creating a sustainable garden environment and how they are integrating year-round environmental practices.



©TourismIreland



## FOOD & DRINK

### ③ Midleton Distillery Experience

Go behind the scenes of the John Jameson legacy as you explore its distillery in Midleton and gain a deep insight into the stories that helped create this classic concoction. Enjoy tastings along the way, a stone's throw away from where the magic really happens.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



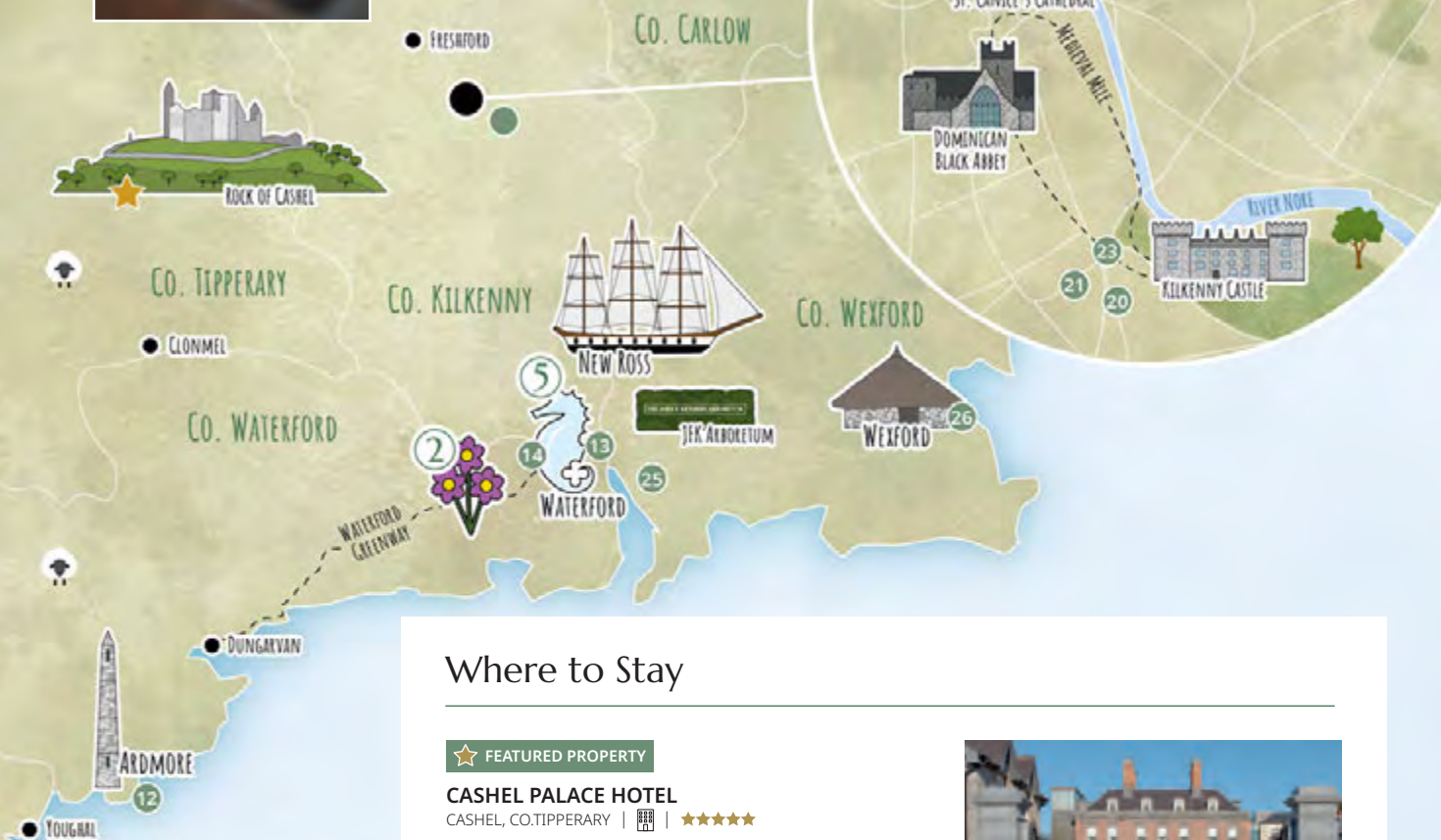




## HISTORY &amp; CULTURE

## 5 House of Waterford Crystal

Wind through the fiery noise of glassblowers, mold-shapers and hand-painters as they show you the intricate details of their craft. Witness their time-honored processes manifest into exquisite crystal creations, ready for you to take home as souvenirs.



## Where to Stay

## ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

## CASHEL PALACE HOTEL

CASHEL, CO. TIPPERARY | 5.0 | ★★★★★

Enveloped in nature and overlooked by ancient history, this luxury hideaway has been meticulously restored, exquisitely reimagined and boasts one of the best views in all of Ireland, with the Rock of Cashel framed perfectly by the opulent gardens.

**FEATURES:** 42 Guestrooms & Suites, Spa, Michelin star fine dining at The Bishop's Buttery, Private Dining, Bar & Pub.



## CORK

1	HAYFIELD MANOR	5.0	★★★★★
2	MONTENOTTE HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
3	THE IMPERIAL HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
4	THE RIVER LEE	4.5	★★★★
5	THE KINGSLEY	4.5	★★★★
6	THE ADDRESS CORK	4.5	★★★★
7	RADISSON BLU CORK	4.5	★★★★

## CO. CORK

8	CASTLEMARTYR RESORT	5.0	★★★★★
9	FOTA ISLAND RESORT	5.0	★★★★★
10	INCHYDONEY ISLAND LODGE & SPA	4.5	★★★★
11	WESTWOOD COUNTRY HOUSE	4.5	★★★★

## CO. WATERFORD

12	CLIFF HOUSE HOTEL	5.0	★★★★★
13	FAITHLEGG HOUSE HOTEL & GOLF	4.5	★★★★
14	GRANVILLE HOTEL	4.5	★★★★

## KINSALE

15	ACTONS HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
16	TRIDENT HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
17	THE BLUE HAVEN	4.5	★★★★
18	OLD BANK TOWNHOUSE	4.5	★★★★
19	KINSALE HOTEL & SPA	4.5	★★★★

## KILKENNY

20	BUTLER HOUSE	4.5	★★★★
21	KILKENNY ORMONDE HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
22	NEWPARK HOTEL	4.5	★★★★
23	KILKENNY HIBERIAN HOTEL	4.5	★★★★

## CO. KILKENNY

24	LYRATH ESTATE	5.0	★★★★★
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## CO. WEXFORD

25	DUNBRODY COUNTRY HOUSE	4.5	★★★★
26	KILLIANE CASTLE COUNTRY HOUSE	4.5	★★★★



## FOOD &amp; DRINK

## 4 Kinsale Food Tour

Enjoy a gently-paced tour through the metaphorical belly of this foodie hot-spot, stopping at restaurants and eateries to taste delectable regional treats as well as learn about local produce and the producers and purveyors behind them.





# Killarney & the Southwest

Quaint Killarney is the place where coziness and adventure meet. Boasting vivid 19<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, bustling nightlife and a spectacular National Park, it is a great hub from which to explore the unparalleled coastlines of the Southwest. Whether you want to absorb the spectacular scenery and local culture at your own pace or get your adrenaline up, there's something for everyone here.

## FOOD &amp; DRINK

### 1 Skellig Six18 Distillery

The 618 steps carved from the landing to the top of Skellig Michael inspired the name of the distillery, whose whiskey draws its inspiration from the wild ways and waters of the region. This world-class distillery experience offers an inspiring perspective into the tenacious spirit it takes behind the scenes to bring their delicious spirits to your glass.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ③ Deluxe Coastal Seaweed Experience

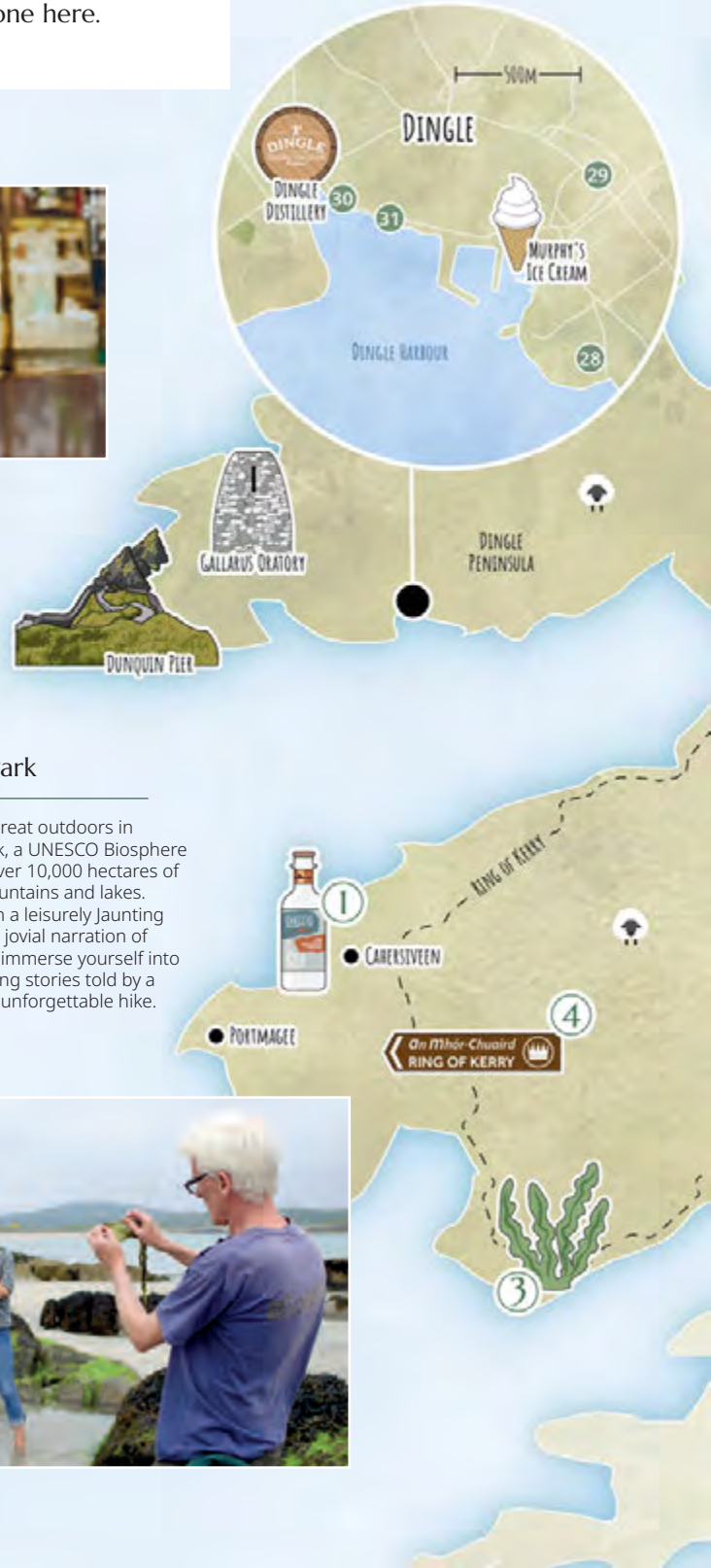
Join a friendly local guide in Caherdaniel Village for a Deluxe Coastal Seaweed Experience with Ocean Toast. Try a cup of seaweed-infused tea and hear stories about Ireland's captivating coastline and tides. Afterwards, you'll head out on a relaxing nature walk to forage for coastal plants before enjoying a delicious lunch of seaweed-based dishes and beverages, including kombuchas and fruit kefir.



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

#### ④ The Ring of Kerry

As Ireland's most iconic scenic drive, The Ring of Kerry has inspired thousands of poets, writers and artists from all over the world. Experience this once-in-a-lifetime adventure from the comfort of a coach as your local guide tells you stories about the history, geography and legends of the area.







## HISTORY & CULTURE

### 5 Muckross House

Satisfy your bucket-list or culture seeking cravings for time-travel by visiting this spectacular Victorian mansion. Set on the land around Killarney National Park, magnificent Muckross House was made popular by Queen Victoria who stayed at the house on her visit to Killarney in 1861.

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### GREAT SOUTHERN

KILLARNEY | | ★★★★★

Since the first railway line was built from Dublin to Killarney in 1854, the Great Southern has been a focal point for the local community, Co. Kerry and southwestern Ireland. It's hallowed halls have welcomed everyone from locals to Presidents, Princes, Barons and Dignitaries.

**FEATURES:** 177 Guestrooms & Suites, Health Club, Spa, Pool & Tennis Court, Restaurant, Bar, Wine Cellar & Afternoon Tea.



#### KENMARE

- 1 PARK HOTEL KENMARE ★★★★★
- 2 SHEEN FALLS LODGE ★★★★★

#### SNEEM

- 3 PARKNASILLA RESORT & SPA ★★★★★
- 4 SNEEM HOTEL ★★★★★

#### KILLARNEY

- 5 DUNLOE HOTEL & GARDENS ★★★★★
- 6 KILLARNEY PARK HOTEL ★★★★★
- 7 THE EUROPE HOTEL & RESORT ★★★★★
- 8 AGHADOE HEIGHTS HOTEL & SPA ★★★★★
- 9 MUCKROSS PARK HOTEL & SPA ★★★★★
- 10 ARD NA SIDHE COUNTRY HOUSE ★★★★★
- 11 KILLARNEY ROYAL HOTEL ★★★★★
- 12 ARBUTUS HOTEL ★★★★★
- 13 KILLARNEY PLAZA HOTEL & SPA ★★★★★
- 14 KILLARNEY TOWERS HOTEL ★★★★★
- 15 SCOTTS HOTEL ★★★★★
- 16 RANGLES HOTEL ★★★★★
- 17 THE BREHON HOTEL ★★★★★
- 18 CAHERNANE HOUSE HOTEL ★★★★★
- 19 THE HEIGHTS HOTEL KILLARNEY ★★★★★
- 20 KILLEEN HOUSE HOTEL ★★★★★
- 21 THE AVENUE HOTEL ★★★★★
- 22 ABBEY LODGE ★★★★★
- 23 ARDREE HOUSE ★★★★★
- 24 LOCH LEIN COUNTRY HOUSE ★★★★★

#### TRALEE

- 25 BALLYSEED CASTLE ★★★★★
- 26 BALLYGARRY ESTATE HOTEL & SPA ★★★★★
- 27 THE ROSE HOTEL ★★★★★

#### DINGLE

- 28 DINGLE SKELLIG HOTEL ★★★★★
- 29 DINGLE BENNERS HOTEL ★★★★★
- 30 CASTLEWOOD HOUSE DINGLE ★★★★★
- 31 HEATON'S DINGLE ★★★★★



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.





# Shannon Region

Shining with beauty on Ireland's west coast, the Shannon Region is full of picturesque villages, ancient relics and fantastic flavors. There are countless ways to navigate this incredible region, step in to a different planet in the Burren, soak in incredible cliffside views as far as the eye can see or even stay a night at a legendary castle.

## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ① Cliffs of Moher

Dubbed the most beautiful place in Ireland, this UNESCO World Heritage site must surely be at the top of your Emerald Isle bucket list. As you step away from the liveliness of the city for a breath of fresh Irish air and glance over the Cliffs of Moher from the land or on a cruise along the 5-mile shoreline, listen closely for the whispers of ancient folklore blowing in the wind.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ② Burren Smokehouse VIP Experience

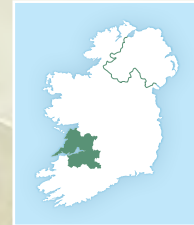
Since 1989, The Burren Smokehouse has been producing the finest fish from the Lisdoonvarna area, growing from a local delight to a renowned international delicacy. On the VIP tour of the production facility, enjoy a masterclass, a tasting platter and meet the makers of the smoked organic Irish Salmon and learn how fishing and aquaculture is a foundational part of life on the Atlantic.



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ③ Burren Walking Tour

The incredibly vast landscape of The Burren has been inspirational to artists and writers for years. Experience the wilderness of these lands and gain insight into the past generations who lived and farmed on this unique terrain on a walking tour with a Local Specialist. From cliffs and caves to fossils and archaeological sites, no story nor stone will be left unturned as you explore this other-worldly setting on foot.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.





## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### DROMOLAND CASTLE

NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS, CO.CLARE |  | ★★★★★

Experience 16<sup>th</sup>-century elegance with modern day comforts in one of Ireland's finest castle hotels. The 375-acre estate will find you hunting, fishing, horseback riding, golfing and more. Conveniently just 8 miles from Shannon Airport.


**FEATURES:** 98 Luxury Guestrooms & Suites, Health Club, Spa & Pool, 2 Restaurants, Bar, Lounge, Afternoon Tea, Golf, Falconry, Archery & More.



#### CO. CLARE

1	GREGANS CASTLE HOTEL		★★★★★
2	OLD GROUND HOTEL ENNIS		★★★★★
3	THE OAKWOOD HOTEL		★★★★★
4	THE ARMADA HOTEL		★★★★★
5	FALLS HOTEL & RIVER SPA		★★★★★
6	THE INN AT DROMOLAND		★★★★★

#### LIMERICK

7	THE SAVOY LIMERICK		★★★★★
8	LIMERICK STRAND HOTEL		★★★★★
9	THE GEORGE LIMERICK		★★★★★
10	NO.1 PERY SQUARE		★★★★★
11	LIMERICK CITY HOTEL		★★★★★

#### CO. LIMERICK

12	THE DUNRAVEN ADARE		★★★★★
13	FITZGERALD'S WOODLANDS HOUSE HOTEL & SPA		★★★★★
14	THE MUSTARD SEED AT ECHO LODGE		★★★★★

### OUTDOOR & NATURE

#### ④ Burren Farm Experience

Explore 500 acres of Irish farmland comprised of scattered limestone fragments, livestock and historical remains. Join 5<sup>th</sup>-generation farmers for a tractor-led tour of the farm. Gain insight to the diversity of the local habitat and how the lands are cultivated with sustainability and conservation in mind, then enjoy a picnic of farm-grown flavors.



### HISTORY & CULTURE

#### ⑤ Foynes Flying Boat Museum & Irish Coffee

Once an operating airport during WWII, Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum holds decades of history inside its riveted walls. Wander through the exhibits, memories and life-sized replicas of what travel looked like in the 1930's. Home to the original Irish Coffee, Foynes is famous for serving this creation to a group of weary travelers on a life-changing stormy night. Sip on the world-class concoction at the cozy namesake's lounge.



©TourismIreland





# Galway & the West

Fall in love with one of Ireland's most romantic destinations, from the intimate charms of Westport to the majesty of Ashford Castle. Share in the rich folklore and traditions of the Aran Islands, immerse in the region's literary connections and explore its rugged beauty from Connemara to Ireland's most northerly point at Malin Head. In Galway revel in the joyful spirit of the city, enjoying a thriving atmosphere filled with great food, music, song, dance and laughter.



## ACTIVE

### 1 Cycle the Great Western Greenway

Get outside and escape the urban life along the path of an old, retired railway as you cycle along one of the longest off-road trails in Ireland. Surrounded by the great green scenery from Westport to Achill Island, ride around the best viewpoints and photo-ops that are practically unreachable by any other method of transportation. Whether you choose to cycle all, or part of the 42km route, the Great Western Greenway is a perfect chapter to add to your Celtic story.

## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### 2 Galway Bay in a Day with the Aran Islands

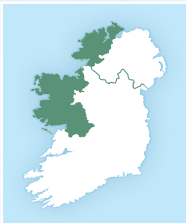
For those who are sadly short on time in the region, this day tour is the best way to fit in all the must-sees in the area. Uncover Gaelic culture as you explore Connemara and the smallest of the Aran Islands, Inis Oírr. Afterwards, take in the astonishing Cliffs of Moher from below on a cruise, marvelling at the famous bluffs towering 700ft above you and enjoying the sprawling coastal views as you loop around this part of the Atlantic Ocean.



## FOOD & DRINK

### 3 Galway Food Tour

If you're a taste enthusiast, join our local food specialist Sheena Dignam in Galway, a city with a thriving culinary scene. Discover a diverse selection of delicious Galwegian dishes as you walk the vibrant streets, meet artisanal producers and restaurateurs, enjoying plenty of samples from the city's impressive repertoire of gourmet food and drink along the way.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### ASHFORD CASTLE

CONG, CO. MAYO | | ★★★★★

Situated on its own 350-acre estate on the shores of Lough Corrib, Ashford Castle is undoubtedly one of Ireland's most renowned hotels. It has hosted Princes and Presidents and was once home to the Guinness family. Today, its lavish guest rooms, locally-sourced fine dining, award-winning spa and more, offer the ultimate in luxury and hospitality.

**FEATURES:** 83 Luxury Guestrooms & Suites, Health Club, Spa & Sauna, Restaurant & Cocktail Bar, Golf, Falconry, Fishing & More!



#### GALWAY

1	GLENLO ABBEY HOTEL		★★★★★
2	THE G HOTEL & SPA		★★★★★
3	THE HARDIMAN		★★★★★
4	THE GALMONT HOTEL & SPA		★★★★★
5	THE ARDILAUN HOTEL		★★★★★
6	THE HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
7	GALWAY BAY HOTEL		★★★★★
8	HARBOUR HOTEL		★★★★★
9	THE CONNACHT HOTEL GALWAY		★★★★★
10	FLANNERY'S HOTEL		★★★★★
11	WINACRE LODGE		★★★★★

#### CO. GALWAY / CONNEMARA

12	CASHEL HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
13	ABBEGLEN CASTLE		★★★★★
14	DELPHI LODGE		★★★★★

#### WESTPORT

15	KNOCKRANNY HOUSE HOTEL & SPA		★★★★★
16	CASTLECOURT HOTEL		★★★★★
17	WESTPORT PLAZA HOTEL		★★★★★
18	CLEW BAY HOTEL		★★★★★

#### CO. MAYO

19	THE LODGE AT ASHFORD CASTLE		★★★★★
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#### SLIGO / CO. SLIGO

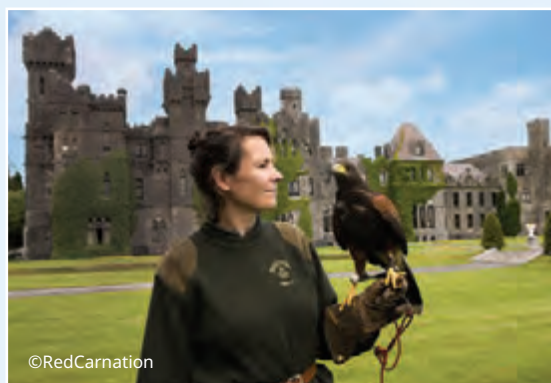
20	SLIGO PARK HOTEL		★★★★★
21	RADISSON BLU HOTEL & SPA		★★★★★

#### DONEGAL / CO. DONEGAL

22	LOUGH ESKE CASTLE		★★★★★
23	MILL PARK HOTEL		★★★★★
24	REDCASTLE HOTEL		★★★★★



After venturing through the extraordinary gardens of Ashford Castle, you'll find yourself entering the mystical woodlands that house the oldest falconry school in Ireland. Get up close & personal with these majestic birds of prey as they soar into the sky from the perch of their leather-clad launchpad (also known as your arm). Interacting with these creatures is an experience unlike any other.



5 Westport Walking Tour

Find out why Westport is 'officially' the best place to live in Ireland during a leisurely, light-hearted and educational stroll around the historical heritage town with a charismatic Local Specialist. Discover how and why the town was built in 1780 and learn the stories of a few famous residents including Saint Patrick and the Pirate Queen Grace O'Malley.





# Brilliant Belfast

Northern Ireland's capital is known for the era of the 'Troubles' and the birthplace of the Titanic, but if you wander through the modern-day downtown it is truly hard to believe its past. From the famous murals that pepper the streets and modern day artists displaying their work, the capital of Northern Ireland is a great stop for culture chasers. The streets are packed with amazing restaurants, pubs and shops heaving with personality and pride.

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### 1 Murals & The Peace Walls on a Black Cab Tour

You've heard the saying, 'if these walls could talk...' well in Belfast, they do. Hop into an old-fashioned black cab and let an experienced driver escort you around the city. Mural after mural, you'll learn about the Troubles of Northern Ireland and see how the locals used street art as a means of expression throughout the years. Go beyond the history books and get up close and personal to these very telling walls that have literally been captured in time.



©TourismIreland

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL

CITY CENTER | | ★★★★★

Transformed from an iconic office block, the Grand Central Hotel is an ode to the city. Standing tall on Bedford Street, this impressive jewel fuses glamour and grandeur with the unique Belfast spirit.

**FEATURES:** 300 Guestrooms, Restaurant, Bistro, Bar, Rooftop Lounge.



- |                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 1 THE MERCHANT HOTEL      | ★★★★★ |
| 2 THE FITZWILLIAM BELFAST | ★★★★★ |
| 3 THE HARRISON            | ★★★★★ |

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 4 CULLODEN ESTATE & SPA | ★★★★★ |
| 5 TITANIC HOTEL BELFAST | ★★★★★ |
| 6 EUROPA HOTEL          | ★★★★★ |

## FOOD & DRINK

### 2 Jawbox Gin at the Duke of York

Named after the boxy Belfast sinks where locals used to gather, Jawbox Gin has become a staple of the city. Distilled in authentic copper pots and infused with regional botanicals, it prides itself on being a top-quality spirit. Enjoy a glass at the Duke of York pub with its dark wood fixtures, brick walls and detailed intricate artwork hanging everywhere (even from the ceiling). This place is the quintessential Irish pub.



CATHEDRAL QUARTER



## FOOD & DRINK

### 3 John Long's Fish & Chips

Taste-enthusiasts get excited. Known as 'the best kept secret in Belfast', John Long's is the oldest established fish and chip shop in the city. With over 100 years of dishing up fresh, traditional favorites, it's no surprise that this place is one of the top seven wonders of the city. If you are looking for good food, good value and good *craic* (fun) then there is nowhere better than Long's, located just steps away from the Europa Hotel on Athol street.







#### HISTORY & CULTURE

### ④ Belfast City Tour with a Local Specialist

Learn the secrets and stories of Belfast from one of our magnificent local guides who were born and raised in the city. The perfect opportunity for culture-seekers to get a greater perspective of the city, you'll get an in-depth look at the major sites and discover hidden gems, all the while benefiting from your Local Specialist's untapped regional knowledge. Step into the beat of this amazing city as you walk through winding alleyways, lively streets and shadowy corridors.



©TourismIreland



#### HISTORY & CULTURE

### ⑤ Titanic Belfast

An absolute must-do in the city is Titanic Belfast. Shining ominously in the ocean's reflection like a gleaming industrial iceberg bobbing alongside the water, the strange beauty of this museum's exterior will give you chills. Situated on the former Harland & Wolff shipyard, this is where the RMS Titanic was built and where its ill-fated maiden voyage began. Take a tour through the past and transport yourself back in time to the elegant 'Golden Age' of ocean travel.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.





# Diverse Derry~ Londonderry

The second-largest city in Northern Ireland holds a rich and diverse history behind the fortified walls that surround it. Londonderry, or 'Derry' as some locals call it, will bring the past to life with its 17<sup>th</sup>-century architecture, iconic castles and medieval weaponry. From walking the ancient ramparts to exploring the winding streets that lead to quaint shops, bistros and cafés, you'll encounter a welcoming energy and distinct cultural vibrance that makes this city a must visit.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



1 MILE

BRANDYWELL

NOVEY FOLEY

## FOOD & DRINK

### ① Derry~Londonderry Food Tour

Get a taste for the flavors and spirit of Derry~Londonderry on a Food Tour that winds through the cobbled streets of this history-rich walled city. Restaurants, shops and eateries offer up their local treats for you to get to know the locals, the history and the personality of this place.



©TourismIreland

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ② Derry Girls Mural

Derry Girls follows the hilarious exploits of a group of teenagers, their families, friends and school principal as they try to rise above the conflict in Northern Ireland in the early 1990s. This tribute to the award-winning comedy was painted on the wall of Badgers Bar and Restaurant on Orchard Street by a local group of artists in 2019 and has become an icon of the city since, reflecting the vibrancy, warmth and pride of its people. If you haven't seen Derry Girls yet? Ah, catch yourself on!

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ③ The Grand Guildhall

Connecting the vibrancy of the modern era to the elegant grandeur of the Victorian era, the auburn brick Guildhall has graced the edge of the city walls since 1887. Walk through the halls and see the busts of former leaders and dignitaries, or enjoy a tea, coffee or snack and watch as the city passes through the square.



©TourismIreland



## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ④ Derry~Londonderry Walking Tour

What starts as a leisurely stroll through cobbled streets and winding corridors, will soon open your eyes to a whole new side of Europe's last-standing fortified city. As told by your Local Specialist, you'll learn the troublesome stories of Derry~Londonderry's past and Ireland's divided history. With this unique insight and incomparable wealth of knowledge, you'll walk away from this guided tour with an exclusive educational experience that leaves no stone unturned.



©TourismIreland

KILFENNAN VALLEY PARK

## FOOD & DRINK

### ⑤ Walled City Craft Brewery

Take a journey from grain to glass at Derry~Londonderry's go-to brewery & gastropub. Join an expert brewer for a tour of the brewhouse, get an insight into the brewery's approach to craft brewing and sample signature IPAs, wheat beers and stouts. At the taproom, take a Beer Masterclass and explore the brew's impact through history, from ancient Mesopotamian recipes to today's modern craft beers. If Gin is more your tippie, make your own extra small batch with a miniature copper still, a wide array of botanicals and expert guidance from the distillery team at the Earhart Gin School. Named after aviator Amelia Earhart, who emergency landed her plane on her Atlantic crossing in a Derry~Londonderry field.



©TourismIreland

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY




#### BISHOP'S GATE HOTEL

CITY CENTER |  | ★★★★★

Named Bishop's Gate due to its location within the walled city, this 30-bedroomed boutique hotel has been provided by the Inner City Buildings Preservations Trust. We are proud to support this project that showcases Derry~Londonderry at its most hospitable best.

**FEATURES:** 30 Guestrooms, Fitness Centre, Restaurant & Bar.



①	CITY HOTEL DERRY		★★★★★
②	EVERGLADES HOTEL		★★★★★
③	DA VINCI'S HOTEL DERRY		★★★★★
④	EBRINGTON HOTEL		★★★★★



# Northern Ireland's Causeway, Glens & Lakelands

From the rugged coast and shady glens to the rural towns, villages and glittering lakelands, there's natural beauty, kinetic energy, history and heritage in abundance throughout this region, encompassing all corners of Northern Ireland. Experience echoes of its rich, natural past through the age-old traditional practices of bread making, farming or distilling. Immerse yourself in a fictional past and see why the region is called Game of Thrones territory and delve into a legend of giant-sized proportions by following the basalt footsteps of the mythical Finn McCool at the Giant's Causeway.



©TourismIreland

## FOOD & DRINK

### ① Traditional Breadmaking with Tracey Jeffery

It's one thing to sample the incredible flavors Ireland's scenic farmlands have to offer, it's another thing entirely to prepare the fare first-hand. Join Local Specialist Tracey Jeffery in her cozy 18<sup>th</sup>-century cottage along the shores of Strangford Lough as she teaches you the secrets of homemade buttermilk, jam and traditional Irish bread. The smell of these ingredients in your own home will have you drifting back to the coast of Ireland for years to come.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ② Boatyard Distillery

Take a tour of Co. Fermanagh's first legal distillery since 1890 and learn how the waters and botanicals are crafted to comprise the prized flavors. Situated on the banks of Lough Erne, the distillery takes its name from the disused boatyard that it's built on, making it a unique location where visitors can arrive just as easily by boat as they can by car.



©TourismIreland

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### BALLYGALLY CASTLE HOTEL

BALLYGALLY, CO. ANTRIM | 🏰 | ★★★★★

Perfectly blending historic charm with modern comfort, this castle hotel is the only 17<sup>th</sup>-century building still used as a residence in Northern Ireland today and is an ideal retreat for those seeking a touch of regal elegance.

**FEATURES:** 54 Guestroom & Suites, Restaurant & Bar.



#### CO. ANTRIM

①	MARINE HOTEL	🏰	★★★★★
②	BUSHMILLS INN	🏰	★★★★★
③	LONDONDERRY ARMS HOTEL	🏰	★★★★★
④	FULLERTON ARMS	🏰	★★★★★
⑤	BLACKROCK HOUSE	🏰	★★★★★

#### CO. DERRY-LONDONDERRY

⑥	ARDTARA GUESTHOUSE	🏰	
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#### CO. FERMANAGH

⑦	LOUGH ERNE RESORT	🏰	★★★★★
⑧	MANOR HOUSE HOTEL	🏰	★★★★★
⑨	KILLYHEVLIN LAKESIDE HOTEL	🏰	★★★★★



OUTDOOR & NATURE

④ Giant's Causeway

Amongst the crashing waves and plunging cliffsides of the Antrim Plateau, was where a giant by the name of Finn McCool forged his path across the sea millions of years ago. Acclaimed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, The Giant's Causeway and its unbelievable formation of perfectly carved columns will leave you thinking that maybe, just maybe, some legends ring true.



OUTDOOR & NATURE

③ Dunfin Farm

Peat cutting, guided nature walks and sheep shearing are not just a connection to Northern Ireland's farming history, they're a way of life. While this family farm has modernized over 70 years of operations, it still uses traditional practices that help conserve nature, culture and farm life heritage.



©TourismIreland

OUTDOOR & NATURE

⑤ Beyond the Bridge with Mark Rodgers

The striking energy of the Antrim Coast is the backdrop for *seanchaí* Mark Rodgers' storytelling journey along this stretch of land that has been connected to his family for generations. As you cross the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge 100ft above the Atlantic surf and reach an old fisherman's cottage, Mark will illuminate the region's fishing history and give insights into the culture and legends that have grown from the rocky shorelines of this awe-inspiring place.





# Enchanting Edinburgh

Expect the royal treatment in an enigmatic city that mixes tales of witches and wizardry with ancient history and a vibrant modern atmosphere. The Scottish capital is overlooked by the imposing peak of Arthur's Seat and among its hilly, cobblestone streets and 'closes' are countless opportunities to connect with local culture, from Holyrood Palace and the Royal Yacht Britannia to Edinburgh Castle, the site of the famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ① Journey of Flavor at Johnnie Walker

Embark on a multi-sensory tour through the 200 year history of Scotland's most-famous whisky. Sample their most popular labels and special edition limited brands (or non-alcoholic cocktails for the designated drivers) from rooftop bars with panoramic views. With whisky concierges on hand to help answer questions and bartenders doubling as Performance Artists, your visit is sure to be a memorable one, filled with tempting tastings and immersive entertainment.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ② Eat Walk Edinburgh

This walking tour is the perfect way to sample local Edinburgh cuisine. Part guide, part foodie historian, your Local Specialist will show you the hidden gems and best regional favorites this city has to offer.





## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ③ Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

A celebration like no other, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo will shock your senses and send a jolt through your soul with its lively bagpipes, drums, fireworks and kilted performers. Watching from the bandstands of Edinburgh Castle's Esplanade, entertainers from around the world will regale you with music and marches used to honor soldiers long ago. As you sit back and enjoy the show you won't just witness the heritage here, you'll feel it in your heart.

**Note:** Tickets are included on select Guided Vacations that travel on coinciding dates. For other travel styles, we recommend booking as early as possible.



©VisitScotland/KennyLam



## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ④ Secrets of the Royal Mile Walking Tour

Cut through the historic heart of Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Old Town on a ramble along its famous thoroughfare, the Royal Mile. These pedestrianized streets are lined with many of the city's star attractions including St Giles' Cathedral and Camera Obscura. Walk back in time along cobblestone pathways between tenements and taverns and weave through arm-width alleyways known as closes, uncovering the city's hidden history as told by your Local Specialist.

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### MARKET STREET HOTEL

CITY CENTER |  | ★★★★★

Perfectly placed in the center of Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, Scottish culture & heritage is woven into the fabric of the hotel's design, best described in three words - unique, bold and daring.




**FEATURES:** 98 Guestrooms & Suites, Restaurant & Bar.



#### CITY CENTER

①	100 PRINCES STREET		★★★★★
②	THE CALEDONIAN EDINBURGH		★★★★★
③	ROSEATE HOTEL		★★★★★
④	THE BONHAM		★★★★★
⑤	VIRGIN HOTEL EDINBURGH		★★★★★
⑥	NIRA CALEDONIA		★★★★★
⑦	THE SCOTSMAN HOTEL		★★★★★
⑧	GRASSMARKET HOTEL		★★★★★

#### EDINBURGH AREA

⑨	DAKOTA EDINBURGH		★★★★★
⑩	MACDONALD HOUSTON HOUSE		★★★★★
⑪	MURRAYFIELD HOTEL AND HOUSE		★★★★★

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ⑤ Holyrood Palace

Walk upon the grounds of Scottish Royalty and heritage at Holyrood Palace. During your visit to this immaculate structure, situated at the bottom of Edinburgh's Royal Mile, you'll visit the throne room, admire the palace treasures, gaze at the great gallery and take a replica of the Royal Collection home with you to keep the memories alive forever.



©VisitScotland/KennyLam



# Scotland's South

Once an area synonymous with struggles between nations, Scotland's south is now blooming with lush, natural beauty and home to historical homes steeped in rich legends. From quaint towns and magnificent ruins to flowing rivers and peaceful farms there's so much to explore in this region that is integral to the story of Scotland. Come and see the beauty of 'the borders' with our top recommendations.



### FOOD & DRINK

#### ② Traquir House Ale

Have a pint fit for a royal. The oldest inhabited house in Scotland has been lived in by the Stuart family since 1491 and is also the home of a deeply Scottish refreshment (no, not whisky). Every Traquir House ale has an individual nod to Scottish history, each one based on a deeply researched or ancient family recipe. Savor the historic flavors in a brewery underneath the estate's chapel, set in beautiful grounds that have been visited by twenty-seven Scottish Kings & Queens and dates back to 1107.

### FOOD & DRINK

#### ① Wilson's Farm & Kitchen

Experience the pace, peace and plentiful flavors of farm fare and life at Wilson's Farm and Kitchen. Home to the Wilson family since 1938, three generations have managed and protected this bountiful land set in the hills and valleys near Kelso. There's walking, tractor and trailer tours to be had, plus a range of incredible food experiences featuring seasonal, locally sourced ingredients (sometimes picked by yourself) that are prepared with care and served in unique and stunning settings.

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### CROSSBASKET CASTLE HOTEL

EAST KILBRIDE | | ★★★★★

Set among 16 acres of enchanting woodlands and waterfalls, this 17<sup>th</sup>-century castle turned 4-star luxury hotel is a fairytale retreat. From acclaimed dining at the Albert and Michel Roux Jr. restaurant to the 9 individually designed suites with exquisite furnishings, original chandeliers and scenic views, Crossbasket offers a unique blend of past and present luxuries.

**FEATURES:** 52 Guestroom & Lodges, Restaurant & Bar.



#### MUIRFIELD

① GREYWALLS HOTEL ★★★★★

② CARBERRY TOWER HOTEL & ESTATE ★★★★★

#### EAST KILBRIDE

③ MACDONALD CRUTHERLAND HOUSE ★★★★★

#### PEEBLES

④ CRINGLETIE HOUSE HOTEL ★★★★★

⑤ MACDONALD CARDRONA HOTEL ★★★★★





OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ③ Seafari Cruise around Craighleith & Bass Rock

Take an exhilarating wildlife boat tour from North Berwick Harbor and venture around the islands of Craighleith and Bass Rock. Spot a wide range of Scottish wildlife in their natural habitats such as puffins, guillemots, gannets and perhaps dolphins. A perfect experience for photographers and wildlife enthusiasts.



HISTORY & CULTURE

### ④ Rosslyn Chapel

The beautiful Rosslyn Chapel was founded in 1446 and featured as a key location in the novel (and later, the movie) of Dan Brown's *The DaVinci Code*. Although not exactly the hidden place of mysterious codes, grails and other long lost drama, Rosslyn Chapel stands as a testament to time, conservation and care. Take in its ornate stonework, elegant stained-glass windows and experience the quiet beauty of intricate 15<sup>th</sup>-century artistry.



HISTORY & CULTURE

### ⑤ Abbotsford House: Home of Sir Walter Scott

Eclectic, eccentric, Abbotsford House is truly Sir Walter Scott's Palace of the Imagination. The estates reflects the persona of the man credited with reviving what being Scottish means today. From popularizing tartans and saving the Scottish bank note to rediscovering his country's crown jewels, this beautiful home and its warm Regency gardens are overflowing with the adventures of the life of the original 'Great Scott'. Take a tour of this destination near the babbling banks of the River Tweed and see how the original plan of a romantic natural habitat has bloomed over 250 storied years.





# Glasgow & Loch Lomond

From the vibrant urban culture of Glasgow to the idyllic serenity of neighboring Loch Lomond, the striking contrasts in this beautiful part of Scotland are what make it so special. You'll get a feel for how the locals spend their time in these drastically different locations while we introduce you to amazing experiences during your visit to this stunning region.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ① Glengoyne Distillery

Burrowed in a picture-perfect patch of land that was originally purchased for only £8, this location has seen iconic whisky being crafted here for over 200 years. This special setting is at the forefront of the distillery's operation. Not only are Glengoyne committed to 100% management of unused liquid by-products, your visit will help conserve the surrounding local wetlands. With a chance to support traditional customs, make a difference to the local environment and taste some of Scotland's boldest flavors, this storied distillery is a must-do.

## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ② Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

The vast wilderness of The Trossachs National Park is located a short way from Glasgow, here you'll find the bonnie banks of the largest Loch in all of Britain, Loch Lomond. Gape at breathtaking views, energize with a dip in the crystal-clear waters, cruise the shoreline, or just pause for a moment to soak in the sweet serenity of centuries-old landscapes that have remained unspoiled for countless generations. Let us help you navigate the pathways of this lush and unsurpassed gem.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### ③ Loch Lomond Cruise

There's no better way to experience Loch Lomond's network of islands and curious history than via the comfort of a cruise. Relax with a drink from the fully stocked bar while you travel across the storied waters of Britain's largest lake. Explore the Loch's south basin and enjoy views of the towering Ben Lomond and the stately homes and castles that dot the bonnie banks.



## FOOD & DRINK

### ④ Eat Walk Glasgow

Brought to life by a Local Specialist who is an absolute fanatic about food, you'll feast your way through a cornucopia of traditional Scottish dishes while learning the history behind their culinary revolution. Your charming and knowledgeable guide will show you the best produce Scotland has to offer, leaving you with stories and recipes that you can share with your family and friends as soon as you get home.







## HISTORY & CULTURE

### 5 Glasgow Street Art Walking Tour

Home to an ever-growing number of murals and installments commissioned by local artists, we'll walk you through the streets of Glasgow showing off the most significant and extravagant masterpieces along the way. Vibrant buildings, proudly adorned with splashes of color, only add to the modernistic beauty of the city juxtaposed with the historic backdrops set behind them. Culture-seekers prepare, you're going to be overwhelmed with an abundance of old-meets-new on this fun and educational tour.



## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### CAMERON HOUSE

LOCH LOMOND | 🏰 | ★★★★★

One of Scotland's most-loved places to stay is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century baronial mansion that sits romantically overlooking Loch Lomond and boasts a championship golf course, some exceptional Scottish cuisine and so much more.

**FEATURES:** 140 Guestrooms, 2 Restaurants, Spa & Rooftop Infinity Pool, Golf Course, Falconry, Archery and other activities available.



#### CITY CENTER

1	DAKOTA HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
2	CARLTON GEORGE HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
3	THE ADDRESS GLASGOW	🏨	★★★★★

#### GLASGOW AREA

5	DAKOTA EUROCENTRAL	🏨	★★★★★
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#### LOCH LOMOND AREA

6	LOCH LOMOND ARMS HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
7	LODGE ON LOCH LOMOND	🏨	★★★★★
8	INN ON LOCH LOMOND	🏨	★★★★



# Scotland's Lowlands

Home to the oldest University in Scotland and the oldest golf course in the world, the historic Scottish Lowlands will have you charmed from the moment you reach its borders. With castles galore hidden amongst mountainside towns, there's so much to do here. Thankfully, we know the best places to go and we've crafted the greatest itineraries for you and yours – as always, taking you personally.



## FOOD & DRINK

### 1 Blair Athol Distillery

Enjoy a guided experience through one of the oldest whisky sites in Scotland. See tasting rooms and enjoy tutored whisky masterclasses before ending with an exclusive bottle poured just for you as an endearing souvenir.

Scan the QR code for more information on this region.

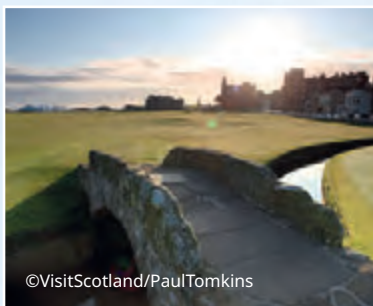




FOOD & DRINK

## ② The Highland Chocolatier

Embark on a journey through some of the finest couverture chocolates in the world, gaining insight into the world of award-winning Master Chocolatier, Iain Burnett. Get a glimpse of the artisan craftsmanship, ingredients and textures of his creations and understand the processes involved in creating gourmet chocolate from the tree to the kitchen, as well as the differences between true artisan gourmet chocolate and others.



©VisitScotland/PaulTomkins

ACTIVE

## ④ Golf at St Andrews

Dating back to 1754, the 'home of golf' has long been the leading golf destination in the world and to this day governs the rules of golf almost everywhere. A chance to play a round on these unparalleled greens is a must-do for any golfing enthusiast. We'll take care of all the details so the only work you'll have to do is on your swing.

OUTDOOR & NATURE

## ③ Highland Safari & Red Deer Centre

When you think of the word 'safari', you might not immediately associate it with Scotland, but we assure you that safaris here are every bit as wild as their more traditional cousins. Explore the heart of the Highlands on an off-road experience with a local kilted Highland Safari Ranger. Journey through hinterlands steeped in history, nature and breathtaking views, watching out for native wildlife including Red Deer, the Famous Grouse and Golden Eagles.



## Where to Stay

★ FEATURED PROPERTY

### RUFFLETS ST ANDREWS

ST ANDREWS | 🏰 | ★★★★★

Nestled in the Scottish countryside, this 1924 turreted mansion turned 4-star hotel offers a peaceful retreat. Its location is perfect for exploring St Andrews' historic sites, including the famous golf courses and medieval cathedral.

**FEATURES:** 23 Guestroom & Suites, Restaurant & Terrace



### ABERDEEN

①	PALM COURT HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
②	MACDONALD NORWOOD HALL HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
③	MACDONALD PITTOODRIE HOUSE	🏨	★★★★★

### FORTH VALLEY & FIFE

④	MACDONALD INCHYRA HOTEL & SPA	🏨	★★★★★
⑤	MACDONALD FOREST HILLS HOTEL & SPA	🏨	★★★★★

### PITLOCHRY & PERTSHIRE

⑥	FONAB CASTLE	🏰	★★★★★
⑦	OLD MANSE OF BLAIR	🏡	★★★★★
⑧	CROMLIX HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
⑨	ATHOLL PALACE HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
⑩	MURRAYSHALL COUNTRY ESTATE	🏡	★★★★★
⑪	DUNKELD HOUSE HOTEL	🏨	★★★★★
⑫	FISHER'S HOTEL	🏨	★★★

HISTORY & CULTURE

## ⑤ Aberdeen Walking Tour

Explore Aberdeen's key sights in the company of a friendly expert Local Specialist. Journey through the city's dark history, growth and current culture as you walk through old streets, explore tunnels, spot amazing street art and retrace the steps of some of its most important figures.





# Scotland's Highlands

Centuries-old customs and unique experiences await you in the majestic Highlands. Among the heather-clad terrain you can search for mythical creatures, sip on ancient recipes, re-live historical battles or even trace your family's history. Whatever you need to make your Scottish dreams come true, we've got it covered.

## ANCESTRY

### 1 Culloden Battlefields

Family vacationers and culture-seekers alike will get a kick out of tracing back the lineage of their ancestral past at the Battlefields of Culloden. Discover the origin of your surname in detail as you sort through the resources and find out where your family stood during the epic clash dating back to 1745. This powerfully emotive and atmospheric battlefield will take you on your own personal journey unlike any other as you learn all about the history of Scotland, and the history of you.



## OUTDOOR & NATURE

### 3 Rothiemurchus Highland Estate

Nestled in Strathspey south of the River Spey, is a privately owned highland estate celebrated for its 10,000 hectares of ancient Caledonian forests, lochs, rivers, glens, mountains and wild landscapes. Managed by the Grant family for centuries, it embodies a commitment to quality and sustainability, caring for its land, people, livestock, forest, and visitors under the motto *Air Son Ma Duchus*. Activities include outdoor Highland pursuits, local produce experiences and insights from the expert Rothiemurchus Ranger Service. Rothiemurchus welcomes all to explore and help preserve its natural beauty and cultural heritage.



## FOOD & DRINK

### 2 Fine Dining at Torrish Restaurant

Book a seat at the Ness Walk Hotel's Torrish restaurant for an unforgettable 5-star luxury dining experience. Enjoy a menu that pairs quintessential Scottish flavors rich in texture with a touch of additional flair, while delighting in unspoiled views over the River Ness.

## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### INVERNESS PALACE HOTEL

INVERNESS | | ★★★★★

Overlooking the River Ness and dating back to the 1890s, this Victorian mansion blends contemporary style with elegant interiors and is an ideal place to explore the capital of the Highlands from.

**FEATURES:** 110 Guestrooms & Suites, Health & Leisure Club, Spa & Pool, Restaurant/Brasserie, Bar & Lounge.



#### INVERNESS

- |                                 |  |       |
|---------------------------------|--|-------|
| 1 NESS WALK HOTEL               |  | ★★★★★ |
| 2 ROCPOOL RESERVE HOTEL         |  | ★★★★★ |
| 3 KINGMILLS HOTEL               |  | ★★★★★ |
| 4 DRUMOSSIE HOTEL               |  | ★★★★★ |
| 5 LOCH NESS COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL |  | ★★★★★ |
| 6 GLEN MHOR HOTEL               |  | ★★★★★ |

#### DORNOCH

- |                      |  |       |
|----------------------|--|-------|
| 7 GLENMORANGIE HOUSE |  | ★★★★★ |
|----------------------|--|-------|

#### AVIEMORE

- |                        |  |       |
|------------------------|--|-------|
| 8 THE BOAT COUNTRY INN |  | ★★★★★ |
|------------------------|--|-------|

#### FORRES

- |                 |  |       |
|-----------------|--|-------|
| 9 BLERVIE HOUSE |  | ★★★★★ |
|-----------------|--|-------|

#### LOCH NESS AREA

- |                              |  |       |
|------------------------------|--|-------|
| 10 LOCH NESS LODGE           |  | ★★★★★ |
| 11 THE LOVAT HOTEL LOCH NESS |  | ★★★★★ |
| 12 ROKEBY MANOR              |  | ★★★★★ |
| 13 WHISPERING PINE LODGE     |  | ★★★★★ |
| 14 THE CLUANIE INN           |  | ★★★★★ |
| 15 THE INCH HOTEL LOCH NESS  |  | ★★★★★ |
| 16 LOCH NESS CLANSMAN HOTEL  |  | ★★★★★ |



#### ④ Glenmorangie Distillery

Allow your tastebuds to be tickled on a tour of the home of Glenmorangie Original. Founded in 1843, the distillery is home to the tallest copper stills in Scotland and the master distillers believe that the tall necks provide more space for aroma and taste, which is evident in their world-famous flagship whisky.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



#### OUTDOOR & NATURE

#### ⑤ Loch Ness Cruise

Culture-chasers become monster-chasers as they check off one of the biggest items on their Scottish bucket list. See if you are lucky enough to sneak a peak at Scotland's most famous resident, Nessie, the Loch Ness Monster. Put your bravery to the test as you cruise across these serpent-ridden waters in search of this mythical creature. Even if she stays in hiding during your visit, at least it'll give you a reason to return one day. Plus, you'll still have the beauty of the Loch to keep in your treasure box of memories. That's a win-win.





# Scotland's Highlands & Islands

From the dramatic coasts to the stunning countryside, the islands and highlands of Scotland are a nature lover's paradise. Marvel at majestic mountains and stunning valleys, uncover ancient mythical sights, ride a ferry to remote islands or catch a train straight out of the movies. Check out our recommendations for the best ways to experience this picturesque region that will have you yearning to explore every corner.

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### 1 Jacobite Steam Train 'Hogwarts Express'

All aboard! Even if you're not a fan of Harry Potter, we're sure you're familiar with the stunning train scenes on the Hogwarts Express. Considered to be one of the greatest railways in the world, you'll travel from Fort William to Mallaig across the Glenfinnan Viaduct, passing the greenest landscapes you've ever seen along the way. For those who are fans of the wizarding world, this is a bucket list must-do with your whole family. As you jump onboard the iconic Jacobite Steam Train, prepare in advance (with wands in hand) for a unique photo-op that you can share with everyone back home.



## FOOD & DRINK

### 2 Isle of Rona Cruise & Seafood Picnic

Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch onboard a luxury cruise en route to the Isle of Rona. Visitors will get a kick out of the wildlife-spotting opportunities all around the harbor, including the resident seal colony that call these waters home. You'll catch the iconic sights of the Man of Storr and Cuillin Hills before going ashore to explore this remote island filled with ultimate peace, tranquility and natural beauty.



## FOOD & DRINK

### 3 Oban Distillery

Established in 1794 and founded on the site of an old brewery, the Oban Distillery is unusual for being one of the last surviving urban distilleries in Scotland. Only seven people actually make the whisky here, each one a custodian of their 200 year-old process that values craftsmanship and authenticity over speed. This dedication is apparent in their 14 year-old single malt, that is among the six classic malts of Scotland.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.



## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### INVERLOCHY CASTLE HOTEL

FORT WILLIAM | | ★★★★★

Perfectly placed within a romantic backdrop, this luxurious and intimate castle hotel is breathtaking inside and out. Why not try a unique dining experience at Seasgair by Michel Roux Jr? Discover the true essence of Inverlochy Castle and see how guests would have dined when the castle was a private home.

**FEATURES:** 17 Guestrooms & Family Rooms, Falconry, Gardens & Tennis, Restaurant.



#### ISLE OF SKYE

1	SKEABOST COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
2	BROADFORD HOTEL		★★★★★
3	DUISDALE HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
4	TORAVAIG HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
5	BALMACARA HOTEL		★★★★★
6	THE SKYE INN		★★★

#### GLENCOE AREA

7	GLENFINNAN HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★
8	WOODLANDS GLENCOE LUXURY LODGES		★★★★★

#### OBAN AREA

9	ISLE OF ERIKA HOTEL, SPA & ISLAND		★★★★★
10	KNIPOCH HOTEL		★★★★★
11	MANOR HOUSE OBAN		★★★★★
12	LOCH MELFORT HOTEL		★★★★
13	WHISKY VAULTS GUEST HOUSE		★★★★
14	ARDTORNA B&B		★★★★





## HISTORY &amp; CULTURE

## ④ Oban Walking Tour

Discover the 'gateway to the Isles' through the eyes of a local on an immersive walking tour, through the history, culture, sights and sounds of seaside city. Hear stories of famous firework fiascos, the proud distilleries, the iconic McCaigs Tower and more and gain an appreciation for a place by Queen Victoria once hailed as one of the finest spots she ever saw.



## OUTDOOR &amp; NATURE

## ⑤ Three Isles Tour from Oban

Enjoy a day of stunning scenery, natural wonders and history as you visit three unique Scottish Islands - Mull, Iona and Staffa. Take a boat to Mull, then board a coach and watch the incredible landscape of Glen More unfold. Take a ferry to Staffa and visit the imposing basalt columns of Fingal's Cave, a nesting ground for puffins and a great place to spot birds, dolphins, minke whales and porpoises. Cap your day by visiting Iona's famous Abbey and Reilig Oran, the burial place of kings.





# Luxurious London

Our English neighbors are ready and waiting to introduce you to the enigmatic streets and time-honored traditions of this diverse medieval city. Expand your horizons with a quick trip to the old markets, curving alleyways and iconic sites of the United Kingdom's most popular gateway. Sip afternoon tea in the footsteps of royalty, see famous landmarks like Big Ben or journey out of the city to the pillars of Stonehenge, historical Windsor or royal Bath.

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ③ Jack the Ripper Tour with Fish & Chips

Take a walking and guided coach tour of the East End streets, alleys and places of Victorian London made frightfully infamous by the legendary Jack the Ripper. Before you embark on the walk of grisly locations, prepare yourself with a hearty traditional fish and chips dinner at a location the Ripper may have left a clue at for the London police. Then, take to the streets guided by an experienced Ripperologist to get insights into lives, times and terrors of one of the darkest tales of murder and mystery of the Victorian age.

## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ① Stonehenge, Bath & Windsor Castle Tour

Stories of ancient aliens, ancient Rome and ancient Kings will have culture-seekers everywhere exhausted with disbelief that so many sites can be seen in one day. However, with Brendan it's possible. We'll show you the mysterious pillars of Stonehenge, the great waters of 'Rome' in Bath and the joyous royal grounds of Windsor Castle, all in the space of an afternoon... just in time to get you back for a cozy English supper.



## HISTORY & CULTURE

### ② Big Ben & The Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace

One of the top icons in London can only be seen on certain days and times. Thankfully, we know exactly when to get you to Buckingham Palace to witness the celebrated Changing of the Guard. Experience this royal ceremony front and center then a few streets down, hear the bells toll at the famous clocktower of Big Ben. Standing proudly next to the River Thames, you'll be surrounded by picture-perfect views in every direction.



Scan the QR code for more information on this region.





## Where to Stay

### ★ FEATURED PROPERTY

#### THE RUBENS AT THE PALACE

CITY CENTER |  | ★★★★★

Overlooking Buckingham Palace and within easy walking distance of Victoria Station, this historic hotel offers a host of restaurants and bars.

**FEATURES:** 173 Guestrooms,  
2 Restaurants & 2 Bars.



1	HOTEL 41		★★★★★	6	THE BAILEY'S		★★★★★
2	THE EGERTON HOUSE HOTEL		★★★★★	7	MILLENNIUM KNIGHTSBRIDGE		★★★★★
3	THE MILESTONE HOTEL		★★★★★	8	THE CHESTERFIELD MAYFAIR		★★★★★
4	THE KENSINGTON DOYLE		★★★★★	9	THE MONTAGUE ON THE GARDEN		★★★★★
5	MILLENNIUM GLOUCESTER		★★★★★				

### HISTORY & CULTURE

#### ④ Royal London Tour with Afternoon Tea

See the best of London on a panoramic drive through the iconic city with a Local Specialist. Witness the Changing of the Guards at Buckingham Palace, see Big Ben, the beautiful architecture of St. Paul's Cathedral, the hallowed Westminster Abbey and stroll through historic Trafalgar Square. Finish your day with delicious afternoon tea at the luxurious The Rubens at the Palace Hotel.



### HISTORY & CULTURE

#### ⑤ Harry Potter Walking Tour

Both familiar fans and new friends are welcome on this enchanted adventure through the magical world of wizarding. Your Local Specialist will guide you through a myriad of film locations from the beloved series, including a visit to platform 9¾ at Kings Cross Station. As you wind through the labyrinth of London's woven streets you'll also happen upon locations used in Doctor Who, Captain America, Sherlock Holmes and many more.



### Capital connection

New for 2025, connect London with Edinburgh by train. Travel in comfort and take in the English countryside as you journey between these neighboring nations in around 4½ hours. Standard, first class, one-way and return tickets are available, making it a great way to extend your trip and see more of our corner of the world, your way.



# Group Travel

## Shared journeys, lasting memories

Looking to travel as a group? No matter the size we can help you find the perfect trip. Experience the best of the Celtic Isles together and start a Celtic story you'll always share.



Ladies View, Ring of Kerry

For more information on how to start your group Celtic story, scan the QR code.



## Groups on Guided Vacations

Our range of Guided Vacations visit every corner of the Celtic Isles, making it easy to find the trip for your group. Once you choose your itinerary, we'll block your seats on the departure date that suits. If you have a larger group wanting a more private experience, our exclusive scheduled departure option allows you to reserve all the space on an existing departure just for your group members.

**TO BOOK CALL | 1-888-370-2736**

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**TO BOOK CALL | 1-800-687-1002**



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## Car rental



We work with Hertz® and Enterprise to bring you the best car rental services across the Celtic Isles. We have a range of cars available to suit your party size, from compact to premium options. Standard rental packages come with unlimited mileage and theft & damage protection.

All vehicles undergo vigorous cleaning processes prior to pick up and may be smaller than you are used to due to our narrow streets and quaint villages. If in doubt, reserve a size up to ensure your luggage will fit (with extra room for any souvenirs.)



For more information on car rental in Ireland & Scotland, scan the QR code.

## Book & travel with confidence

### SECURE YOUR TRIP WITH A SMALL, FULLY-FLEXIBLE DEPOSIT

Don't miss the space on the trip you want. Make your deposit today knowing you have deposit protection. Should your plans change and you cancel your booking before final payment is due, you'll receive a credit of your initial deposit up to \$200 per person (Guided, Self-Drive & Rail Vacations), \$250 per person (Private Chauffeur & Lux Self-Drive) or \$350 per person (small group Guided Vacations) as a travel credit to use toward a future booking within 5 years\*.

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## Travel protection

We recommend you protect your trip with Brendan's Travel Protection Plan that you can book independently or through your booking agent. Our plan provides coverage for your trip payment if you cancel for a covered reason and provides benefits and services during your travels and provides the flexibility of 'pre-departure any reason' cancellation through Brendan's non-insurance cancellation waiver. 23-05-TRV51

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Support our sustainability efforts and reduce our environmental impact by traveling paper-free. For Guided Vacations, register to share your travel preferences with your Travel Director and unlock your e-travel documents 21 days prior to departure.

[LEARN MORE | BRENDANVACATIONS.COM/MYBRENDAN](https://brendanvacations.com/mybrendan)

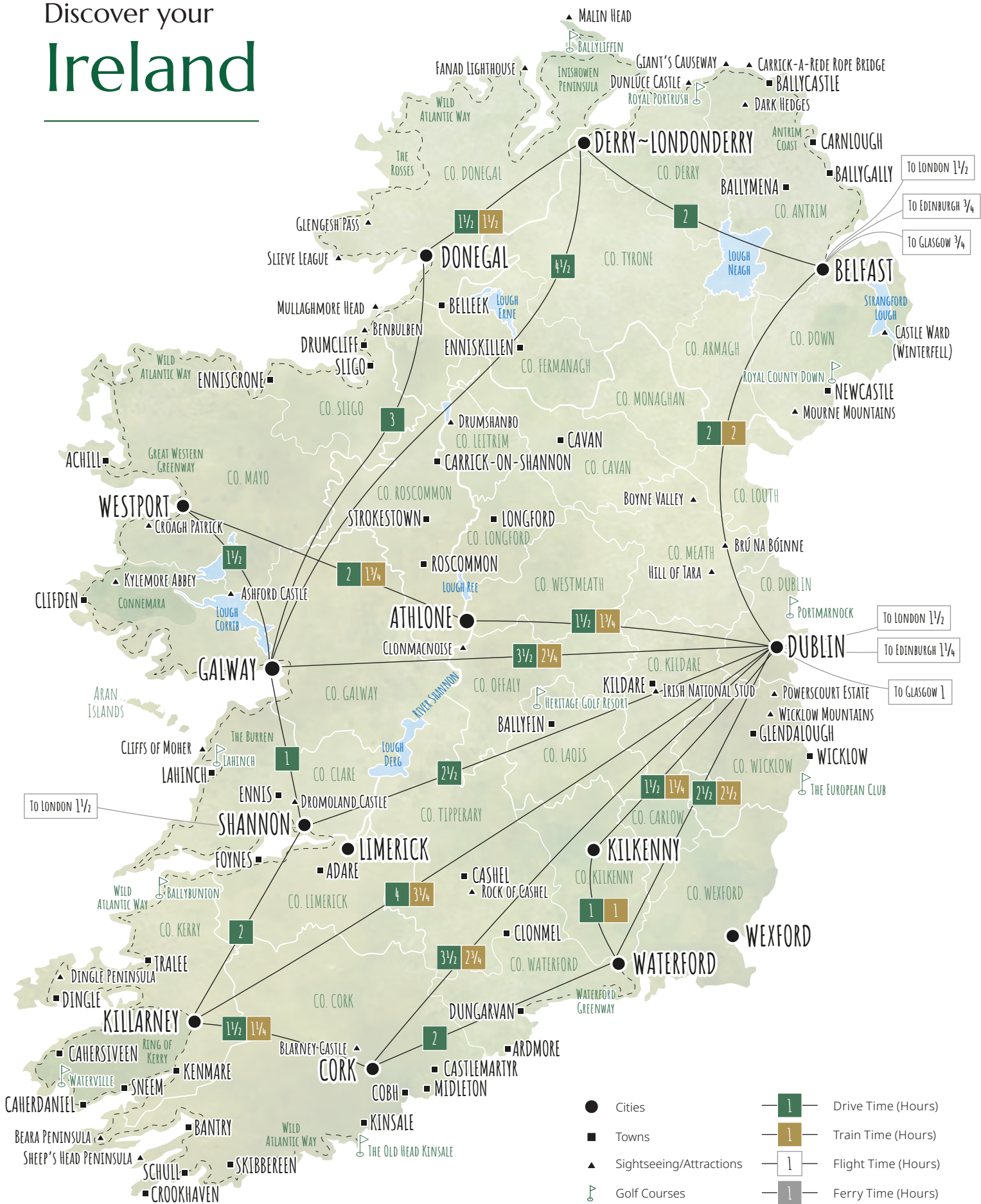
If you've booked a custom trip in one (or more) of our other travel styles, your registration process will be completed via phone. Lead guest contact details are required to complete registration.

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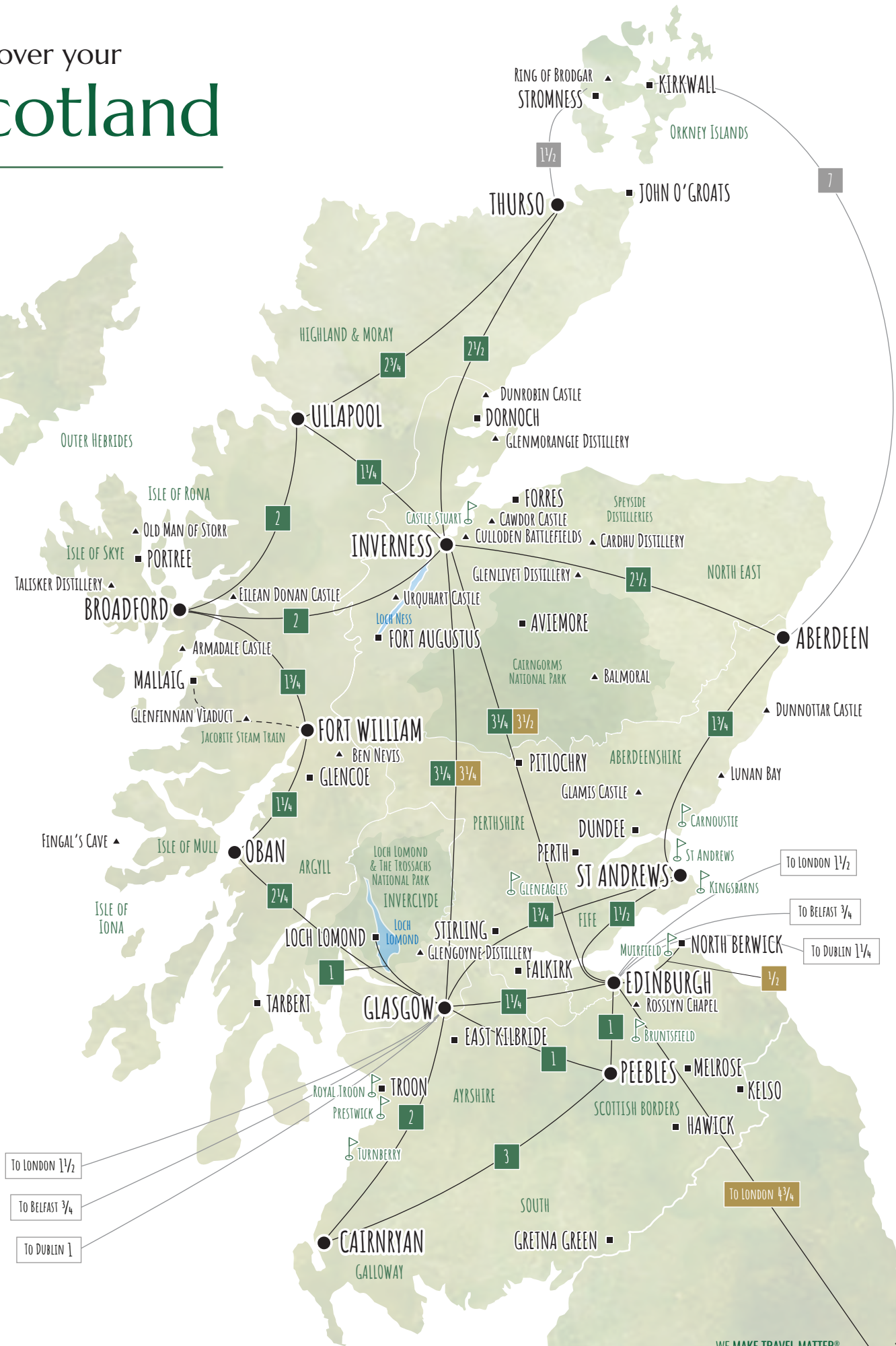


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JASON | JUNE 2024

“”

I was blown away with the service level and perks. Best in the business.

LAUREN | MARCH 2024

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