

Celtic Beauties

Scotland and Northern Ireland

June 17 - 29, 2023

Saturday, June 17 (In-flight Dinner)

Our journey begins with an overnight flight to Glasgow, Scotland.

Sunday, June 18 (In-flight Breakfast, Dinner)

Arrive in **Glasgow, Scotland** and drive past some of the **highlights of Glasgow** before we depart for **Edinburgh**, Scotland's majestic capital city, for a panoramic **guided city tour** featuring **Old and New Towns**. Old Town is a labyrinth of cobbled streets, narrow alleyways and hidden courtyards contrasted by the neat and orderly elegance of New Town. Together they are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. **Royal Mile**, the center of Old Town, is packed full of specialty shops for you to explore. A tour of **St. Giles' Cathedral**, with its inspiring stained glass windows and medieval history, will be a highlight of our day! This afternoon we will check into our hotel in **Edinburgh** for one night. Enjoy dinner this evening as a group.



Monday, June 19 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Our day begins with a visit to the iconic **Edinburgh Castle**, home to Scotland's Crown Jewels. Next we will tour the **Royal Yacht Britannia**, the Queen's vessel that has played host to numerous dinner parties around the world as well as the honeymooning Charles and Diana. Then we'll journey to the inspiring and historical city of **Stirling**. Across the valley stands a large memorial to Sir William Wallace and his great victory at **Stirling Bridge** in 1297. At **Stirling Castle** we'll step back in time to the richness of royal life in the 1500s. This afternoon we'll check into the beautiful **Atholl Palace Hotel** for three nights. Our hotel is located in Pitlochry, known as the *Gateway to the Highlands*, and offers award-winning gardens with scenic mountain and river views. We'll enjoy a superb dinner at the hotel along with splendid views of the Tummel Valley.



Tuesday, June 20 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Travel through spectacular **Cairngorms National Park** to the **Scottish Highlands**, a mountainous region with **Loch Ness** at the center. We'll explore **Culloden Battlefield Visitor Center**, located at the scene of Scotland's bloodiest battle where the 1745 Jacobite Rising came to its tragic end. We arrive in **Inverness**, the capital of the Highlands, for some free time and lunch. Later, we'll enjoy a **Loch Ness cruise** featuring magnificent scenery, historic monuments, intriguing tales surrounding a mysterious monster, and the weathered ruins of **Urquhart Castle**. Next, we'll watch an amazing **sheepdog demonstration** where a team of dogs work together to maneuver sheep through various obstacles.

Wednesday, June 21 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Our day begins with a scenic drive through **Trossachs National Park** which boasts some of the most stunning scenery in the world with its majestic mountains, glens, and the vast tranquil beauty of Loch Lomond. We will visit the **Trossachs Woollen Mill** followed by time for lunch at your leisure in the charming town of Callander. Next, we arrive at the **Glenturret Distillery**, home of *Famous Grouse Whisky*, for a tour and tasting.

Thursday, June 22 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we return to **Glasgow** where we will board our flight to **Belfast, Northern Ireland**. Upon arrival we will enjoy a **tour of Belfast City**. We'll visit **Titanic Belfast**, a new state of the art visitor center, that tells the story of **RMS Titanic**, from her conception in Belfast to her infamous maiden voyage and tragic end. We'll check into our hotel in Belfast where dinner will be included.

Friday, June 23 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we journey along one of the most scenic coastal routes in all of Ireland, the **Antrim Coast Road Drive**. Enjoy breathtaking views as we travel along the northern coastline. On a clear day, you can see the Mull of Kintyre in Scotland. Next, we travel through the picturesque villages of Glenarm, Carnlough and Cushendall. No visit to Northern Ireland would be complete without a stop at the **Giant's Causeway**, a remarkable basaltic formation of approximately 37,000 columns and ranked as one of the natural wonders of the world. Later we arrive in **Limavady** where we will check into our hotel for one night.





Saturday, June 24 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Enjoy a **walking tour** of **Derry City**. As we walk on the 17th century walls, we will hear the history of this ancient city going back to 546 AD when St. Colmcille founded his first abbey here on the banks of the River Foyle. We'll also view the new **Derry Peace Bridge** over the River Foyle. This pedestrian bridge, opened in 2011, spans a 400-year-old physical and political gap between two sides of a once divided community. Later we travel to **Omagh** where we will visit the **Ulster American Folk Park**, an outdoor museum of emigration history that depicts emigrant life on both sides of the Atlantic. A ship and dockside gallery link the

old world to the new. From here, it is on to **Donegal**, where we'll check into our hotel for a two-night stay. Tonight, we'll gather together for delicious dinner.

Sunday, June 25 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Today we **tour County Donegal**, the most north-westerly county in Ireland. Painters, poets and writers have never fully succeeded in conveying the varied beauty of this wonderland of mountains, lakes and coastline. We'll stop in **Ardara**, center of the Donegal homespun and knitting industry, where we'll view a **hand weaving demonstration** in the **Triona Design Center**. Our tour continues as we wind our way around the Blue Stack mountain range to **Leo's Tavern**, which is the family home of Ireland's international singing star Enya. Tonight we'll enjoy dinner at **The Old Castle Bar**, housed in historic buildings that echo centuries of glorious—and treacherous—Irish history.



Monday, June 26 (Breakfast, Dinner)

This morning we travel to **Belleek** for a **guided tour** of this world-famous fine **Parian China manufacturing center**. Our journey continues along the banks of Lough Erne to Enniskillen, the capital of county Fermanagh, and through the counties of Cavan and Meath. Late this afternoon we arrive in **Dublin** and check into our hotel for three nights.

Tuesday, June 27 (Breakfast)

Today enjoy a **tour of Dublin**, Ireland's capital city, situated on the River Liffey. We will see *The Georgian Squares* with their 18th century houses, and statue-filled O'Connell Street. Then take a self-guided tour of the **Guinness Brewery** and sample Ireland's famous stout. By mid-afternoon we return to our hotel. Get out and explore the area's shops, museums, public squares and lively pubs.

Wednesday, June 28 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Today we travel to **Glendalough** in **County Wicklow**, where we will visit a **monastic site** that was founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. Enter the gateway arches that lead into the Cashel where you will find the often photographed Round Tower, remains of several churches and cathedrals, and ancient gravestones and Celtic crosses. Our next stop is **Powerscourt** to see the expansive **formal gardens** of this 18th century estate - recently voted No. 3 in the World's Top Ten Gardens by National Geographic! Upon our return to Dublin you will have the remainder of the afternoon free to relax or explore on your own. A farewell dinner is included in the lovely dining room of our hotel. Then walk into nearly any pub in the city to enjoy live, local music.

Thursday, June 29 (Breakfast)

As we fly home today we'll be taking with us fond memories of the enchanting places we have visited!

TOUR PRICING AND ADDITIONAL DETAILS COMING SOON!



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