

8 DAYS IRELAND AND THE UK



Day 1

Fáilte go hÉirinn /Welcome to Ireland and its capital Dublin, situated on east coast of Ireland at the mouth of the River Liffey. Once your flight has landed you will meet in the arrivals hall by your driver who will whisk you through the streets of Dublin to the city centre. With its historic buildings include Dublin Castle, dating to the 13th century, and imposing St Patrick's Cathedral, founded in 1191. City parks include

landscaped St Stephen's Green and huge Phoenix Park, containing Dublin Zoo. The National Museum of Ireland explores Irish heritage and culture.

Once you have checked into your hotel, the rest of the day is at tour leisure.

This evening you will experience the vibrance of Dublin's traditional drink and Irish music scene on this evening pub crawl through Temple Bar – the city's cultural quarter! Accompany two friendly musicians on a fun and educational tour through the hip yet historic district, where you'll visit classic pubs and bars, witness local drinking culture, and encounter Irish storytelling and music at its best. Sláinte!

Included:

*Private Transfer: Dublin Airport to Hotel
Musical Pub Crawl
5* Star Hotel*

Day 2

Dublin is much admired for its diverse shades of architecture: from walled medieval town to the city of Georgian splendour and grace – Trinity College, Irish Parliament House, Four Courts. This tour also looks at how Dublin has fared in the decades pre and post independence as well as the good, the bad and the most innovative of recent development – Temple Bar, the Liffey quays.

Stroll along the Liffey Boardwalk with views of the Customs' House and port, the Ha'penny Bridge.

Once the tour has finished it is off to the Guinness Storehouse, Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story. Visitors will discover what goes into the making of a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished your group is invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse.

But the day is not finished there, you can not go to Dublin and without learning of the amber gold, follow in the footsteps of the founding fathers of Jameson on the only tour of the original Jameson distillery in Dublin. A constant presence in the heart of our Dublin city since 1780, and as you can imagine. Learn the heritage and history, hear the stories of the past and where it all began.

Included:

5 Star Hotel
Private half Guide – 4 hours
Guinness Store House Admission
Jameson Distillery Tour*



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Day 3



Sadly it is time to leave the Emerald Isle, your driver will collect from your hotel and take you to the airport in plenty of time for your flight to the next destination Edinburgh, consisting of a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments

and memorials.

Upon arrival in Edinburgh you will be collected from the airport and taken to your hotel. Once you have checked into your hotel, the rest of the day will be at your leisure to explore the city.

Included:

*Private Transfer: Hotel to Dublin Airport
Private Transfer: Edinburgh Airport to Hotel
5* Star Hotel*

Day 4

Departing Edinburgh you will travel past Linlithgow Palace and Stirling Castle. To the north is the National Wallace Monument, which commemorates Scotland's great hero, William Wallace.

You will pass close to the location where William Wallace defeated the English army in 1297, and after this take a short stop for coffee at Callander.

The scenery changes dramatically as you venture further into the Highlands. The flat plains of the lowlands transform into shimmering lochs, rugged mountains, and forest-filled glens. The alluring beauty makes it easy to forget this was once a battleground of the fiercely territorial Highland clans.

You then head down to Scotland's most famous valley, Glencoe, where you'll be mesmerised by the beautiful cliff faces and steep slopes.

After Glencoe, you enter a deep glacial valley, known as the Great Glen. Passing through the town of Fort William you travel in the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, before arriving at Fort Augustus on the shore of Loch Ness.

At 23 miles long and over 700ft deep, Loch Ness is the largest loch by volume in Scotland. The loch is best known for the legendary Loch Ness Monster ("Nessie"), and you can take the opportunity to go in search of the monster on a fantastic boat cruise. Or you can simply enjoy the beautiful scenery on the banks.

Fort Augustus boasts the Caledonian Canal, which is a great spot to relax and watch the boats sail by. You stop here with time to eat lunch and take in the scenery around Scotland's most famous loch.

From Loch Ness, you head south through the mountains of the Cairngorms National Park. Your route travels alongside Loch Laggan (the setting for the BBC series 'Monarch of the Glen'), over the Drumochter Pass and past 13th century Blair Castle.



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You continue south through the forests of Perthshire and make a short refreshment stop on the way. South of Perth you drive past Loch Leven. Then it's over the Queensferry Crossing before returning to Edinburgh.

Included: *Shared Full day Tour: Loch Ness, Glencoe & the Highlands
5* Star Hotel*

Day 5

This morning, you will take the tour that is light on walking heavy on eating. See the local neighbourhoods, learn of their history while stopping to have a nibble or two on the way with a local experienced guide.

The night begins with a walking tour of the darker closes and wynds of Edinburgh, before journeying into the haunted Blair Street Underground Vaults. Finally, we'll retire to a candlelit cellar for a dram of Scottish whisky and an evening of storytelling.

Included: *Edinburgh Food Safari Tour
Shared Tour: Evening of Ghosts & Ghouls
5* Star Hotel*

Day 6



Welcome to London, the capital of England and the United Kingdom, a 21st-century city with history stretching back to Roman times. At its centre stand the imposing Houses of Parliament, the iconic 'Big Ben' clock tower and Westminster Abbey, site of British monarch coronations. Across the Thames River, the London Eye observation wheel provides panoramic views of the South Bank cultural complex, and the entire city.

As the sun goes down over London, take a gourmet bus tour in London from the 360 panoramic terrace of a luxury double-decker bus with Bustronome. With the magnificent view from the upper deck, experience a unique dining experience of British and French cuisine, you can enjoy the best of both worlds whilst you explore London, from Tower

Bridge to the Royal Albert Hall.

Included: *5* Star Hotel
Bustronome Dinner Experience*

Day 7

London's streets are filled with history and mystery, with stories and facts to delight and fascinate visitors. Stretching from Roman London all the way through the capital's layered past.

Today you will be transported back to when this stretch of riverside was 'nothing short of a vast sea of tall masts and the riverside paths echoed with the shouts, grunts, banter and profanities of the dockworkers'. Now one of London's most vibrant neighbourhoods.



In the afternoon it time to indulge in an afternoon tea in Bloomsbury, the Number Twelve Restaurant, provides a relaxed atmosphere while you savouring our freshly prepared tartlets, dainty sandwiches and fine tea.



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A Traditional Afternoon Tea menu is served in Number Twelve Restaurant, which provides a relaxed atmosphere where it is easy to engage in deep conversation without worrying about being overheard

Included: 5* Star Hotel
Half Day Private Guide – 4 hours
Number Twelve Restaurant ~ Afternoon Tea

Day 8



Today you will escape the hustle and bustle of London and travel to the mysterious site on the Salisbury Plains known as Stonehenge. As you approach the breathtaking formation of towering stones, the knowledge that they have stood for around 5,000 years fills you with reverence and wonder. Take your time exploring, taking pictures and listening to the theories and discoveries featured on the audio guide

But don't worry that is not all for today, Bath also awaits. With its stunning buildings and architecture. Travel through the idyllic streets lined with beautiful buildings made from Bath stone, wander along the banks of the River Avon, cross the Pulteney Bridge and pay a visit to the 15th Century Abbey. There is so much to see and do in this gorgeous city.

As you stroll through the pretty streets, see Pulteney Bridge and learn about the rich history of this stunning city.

A must-see during your time in Bath is the ancient Roman Bath. Enjoy entry to explore the baths, including a visit to the Pump Rooms and a chance to drink the warm water that is said to have healing qualities. Dating back to 40AD, the steaming waters still flow freely to this day. Take a stroll through the impressive building and imagine the Romans who once flocked here for relaxation and healing.

Included: Royal Garden Hotel
Shared Stonehenge and Bath Tour from London

Day 9

Your trip has come to end and time to head to the airport, your driver will collect you in plenty of time for your check in and departure.

Included: Private Transfer: Hotel to London Heathrow Airport

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