



## Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland

Travel through the landscapes of Scotland and Ireland, where hundreds of years of history spring to life. Start your journey in Edinburgh, where you'll admire stunning Georgian architecture. Then, head to the Scottish Highlands and Glasgow before crossing the Irish Sea to visit historic Belfast. Turn south through charming Galway, explore County Kerry's coastal landscapes, and cap off your trip amid Dublin's bustling streets.



### Your tour package includes

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- 13 nights in handpicked hotels
- 13 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liquor tasting
- 1 food tasting
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 ferry transfer

### Included highlights

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- Edinburgh Castle
- Inveraray Castle
- Western Highlands
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
- Titanic Belfast Museum
- Irish Farm visit
- Cliffs of Moher
- Dingle Peninsula
- Blarney Castle
- St. Patrick's Cathedral

### Tour pace

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On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

### Group size

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15-38

# Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

## Edinburgh → 2 nights

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Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Scotland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Included meals: breakfast

Follow a Scottish local on a sightseeing tour of the city.

- View the Georgian New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites
- Pass the Sir Walter Scott monument
- Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone

Enjoy a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

## Scottish Highlands → 2 nights

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Day 4: Transfer to the Scottish Highlands

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Continue on to the Scottish Highlands, admiring incredible sights as you go.

- Pass Loch Lomond as you drive through scenic Trossachs National Park
- Stop to explore Inveraray Castle and its gardens with a local guide
- Take in stunning scenery as you travel through the Scottish Highlands

Please note: Entrance to Inveraray Castle is seasonal and runs from April through October only. When entrance is out of season, it will be replaced with a visit to the Ardkinglas House. This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of the Western Highlands

Included meals: breakfast

Spend the day exploring the scenery and sites throughout the Western Highlands.

- Stroll through Oban with your Tour Director to visit the Roman-style McCaig's Tower and view the city's picturesque harbor
- Pass scenic lochs, glens, and mountains en route to Glencoe
- Visit the site of the Massacre of Glencoe and learn about the battle between Clan MacDonald and Scottish forces in 1692
- Enter Glencoe Folk Museum, which is set within traditional 18th century thatched cottages, to learn about the local culture and history

Please note: The Glencoe Folk Museum is open seasonally from April-October.

## Glasgow → 1 night

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Day 6: Whiskey distillery, transfer to Glasgow & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting

As you travel to Glasgow, stop for a tour of a local distillery to learn about the malt whisky making process and sample some malt whisky paired with snacks.

Continue to Glasgow and set off on a tour with a local guide.

- Discover local highlights, including George Square and the River Clyde
- Admire the city's university and medieval cathedral
- Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which features everything from medieval suits of armor to a collection of works by Scottish artists

## Belfast → 2 nights

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Day 7: Ferry to Belfast

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way to the village of Cairnryan where you'll board a ferry for your voyage across the Irish Sea to Belfast, Ireland.

Sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening.

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Belfast

Included meals: breakfast

Get to know Belfast, the cultural heart of Northern Ireland, from a local's perspective on a guided tour.

- Glimpse the copper-domed City Hall and the recently restored Grand Opera House
- Learn all about Belfast's long history, from its origins in the Bronze Age and rise as an international seaport to its role in the conflict known as "the Troubles"
- Enter the Titanic Belfast Museum for a look at the vessel's infamous history

Enjoy a free afternoon in Belfast or add an excursion.

+ Giant's Causeway

## Galway → 2 nights

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Day 9: Galway via County Meath

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

En route to Galway, stop in County Meath to pay a visit to local working farm.

- Learn about daily life on an Irish farm
- See how Irish brown bread is made and enjoy a taste of this traditional food
- Watch a demonstration of traditional games and dance, like hurling and céilí

Then, continue on to Galway for a sightseeing tour of the city led by your Tour Director.

- Stroll past Lynch's Castle, Galway Cathedral, the Druid Theater Company and the broad expanse of Eyre Square
- View the city's medieval walls and Spanish Arch
- Peruse authentic Claddagh rings in a local shop

Enjoy a free evening in Galway where, maybe hit up a local pub and listen to live traditional Gaelic music the city is famous for.

Day 10: Free day in Galway

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in Galway or add excursions.

Please note: The Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner excursion is only offered on certain days of the week and may not be available on some departures.

+ Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner

+ Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

# Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland

## County Kerry → 2 nights

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Day 11: County Kerry via the Burren, Cliffs of Moher & Bunratty Castle

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel through the Irish countryside to County Kerry today, taking time to view spectacular scenery en route.

- Pass through the Burren, a unique limestone plateau where fields of rock are dotted with wildflowers
- Walk along the mesmerizing coastline of the majestic Cliffs of Moher
- Visit the 13th-century Bunratty Castle and explore the grounds at your leisure during a self-guided tour

This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 12: Dingle Peninsula & Killarney National Park

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way along the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula.

- Take a scenic drive along the Sleat Head Drive, enjoying impressive coastal views as you go
- Enter the Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian church overlooking the harbor at Ard na Caithne
- Enjoy photo stops at Coumeenole Beach, Sleat Head, and Dunbeg Fort

After free time for lunch in the town of Dingle, head to Killarney National Park for photos at Ross Castle on Lough Leane.

## Dublin → 2 nights

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Day 13: Dublin via Blarney Castle

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way to Dublin this morning, stopping to explore Blarney Castle along the way.

- Explore the castle's dungeon, court, and battlements
- Kiss the legendary Blarney Stone

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Dublin

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Take a comprehensive tour of Ireland's capital city with a local expert leading the way.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, site of the presidential residence, and pass by the Guinness Brewery

Step inside the soaring St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church

- Pass St Stephen's Green and admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square as you go
- See Trinity College and enjoy a walking tour of the college grounds

Enjoy a free afternoon in Dublin to visit Grafton Street or the Temple Bar district, or add an excursion.

This evening, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.

+ Glendalough

## Flight Home

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Day 15: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose.

## **Day 3: Abbotsford House & Melrose**

### **Abbey**

Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Continue on to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The poet designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today, it serves as a museum for Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Walter Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders abbeys. Please note: Some areas of the abbey are closed off due to masonry and damage repairs.

## **Day 8: Giant's Causeway**

Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal columns, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that mythical giant Finn McCool built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. Please note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion.

## **Day 10: Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park**

Make your way to the island village of Cong, situated on the border of counties Galway and Mayo. Here, enjoy free time to stroll through the town's charming streets, catching glimpses of the nearby Ashford Castle. Then, continue on to Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine convent founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle. Here, you'll have time to explore the abbey's interior and walled Victorian gardens. After free time for lunch on your own, take a scenic drive through the Irish countryside, passing Connemara National Park, one of the country's most beautiful and unspoiled places. Make photo stops in the Inagh Valley and at the Maam Cross before returning to Galway.

## **Day 10: Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner**

Enjoy a three-course dinner served with beer or wine at a restaurant in Galway. Then, attend a performance of Trad on the Prom at a local venue. The show is filled with live music and performances by World Champion Irish stepdancers. The dancers have been featured in notable productions such as Riverdance, The Chieftains, and Lord of the Dance. Sit back and listen to Gaelic tunes as you watch this mesmerizing traditional Irish dance show. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from May 1 through September 30 only and is only offered on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

## **Day 14: Glendalough**

County Wicklow has some of the wildest and most spectacular mountain scenery in Ireland, as well as many of the country's most important historic sites. Journey through Wicklow's captivating landscapes to Glendalough, which became famous throughout Europe as a center of Christian learning. Saint Laurence O'Toole became the Abbot of Glendalough in 1154 and worked to bring the Irish Church closer to the Roman Church. You'll learn more about O'Toole, who went on to become the Archbishop of Dublin, and his work in Glendalough as you visit St. Kevin's Cross, the remains of the sixth-century cathedral, and the remarkable Round Tower. Your Tour Director will lead you on a tour of the site, and then you'll enjoy free time.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](http://goaheadtours.com/terms)