



CELTIC HIGHLIGHTS

13 Day Tour from Glasgow to Glasgow
July 19 - July 31, 2020



From their breath-taking scenery to their vibrant cities and small towns, this fascinating tour delivers the best of Scotland, England's Lake District, North Wales, and the Emerald Isle. You'll start and end in Glasgow and overnight also in Inverness and Edinburgh in Scotland; Liverpool, England; Dublin, Killarney, Limerick, and Sligo in Ireland; and Belfast, Northern Ireland. Throughout the tour, you'll learn about the history and cultures as you visit some of the areas' must-see attractions. For example, in Belfast you will visit the Titanic Experience to learn more about this ship and its ill-fated maiden voyage

You'll also experience stunning scenery on this Britain and Ireland tour. Travel through the incomparable landscapes of Snowdonia National Park in Wales, with picturesque villages, mountains, and lakes. Follow Ireland's Ring of Kerry, a 100-mile panoramic drive with sparkling seascapes, brightly colored farmhouses, and the breath-taking panorama of the Lakes of Killarney. Visit the spectacular 668-foot Cliffs of Moher and awe-inspiring Giant's Causeway, composed of thousands of basalt columns formed millions of years ago.

But that's not all... Your Redlands hosts have also included out-of-the-ordinary experiences just for you. For example, you'll visit the Irish National Stud in Kildare whose thoroughbreds command respect on the racecourses of the word. You'll also taste the famous gingerbread crafted in Grasmere in England's Lake District. Or how about a walk with a Local Guide on the old city walls in Derry, Northern Ireland?

FULL TOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

Welcome to Glasgow! Check into your hotel with the rest of the day free to relax in Scotland's largest city. At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome dinner at your hotel.

 Dinner

DAY 2 GLASGOW–FORT WILLIAM–INVERNESS

Your Celtic adventure starts in earnest with a city drive, taking in the fine 12th-century cathedral, imposing university buildings, and elegant Georgian squares. On the way this morning: the “Bonnie Banks” of Loch Lomond, wild Rannoch Moor, Glen Coe, lovely Loch Linnhe, and Fort William beneath Ben Nevis. In the afternoon, look out for signs of the mysterious Loch Ness monster. Spend the night in Inverness, the Highland capital.

 Breakfast  Dinner

DAY 3 INVERNESS–CULLODEN–BLAIR ATHOLL–EDINBURGH

At CULLODEN VISITOR CENTER, hear the story of the crushing Hanoverian victory over Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish clans. Then, drive through the Cairngorms National Park and visit BLAIR CASTLE, the ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to Europe's last remaining private army, the Atholl Highlanders. Tonight in Edinburgh, don't miss our optional Scottish evening with Highland dancers, bagpipers, and the Ceremony of the Haggis.

 Breakfast

DAY 4 EDINBURGH

Morning city sightseeing with a Local Guide introduces you to the 200-year-old “New Town” and the famous scientists, inventors, and novelists who lived there. In the “Old Town,” visit EDINBURGH CASTLE to admire Scotland’s Crown Jewels, then explore HOLYROOD PALACE (when available, excluding August and other occasional dates). Later, a unique optional excursion: board the former Royal Yacht Britannia, once the perfect royal residence for glittering state visits and family holidays. Dinner rounds off this evening. For departure numbers August 9 through August 24, tickets are included for tonight’s performance of the world-renowned MILITARY TATTOO.

 Breakfast

DAY 5 EDINBURGH–GRETNA GREEN–GRASMERE, ENGLAND–LIVERPOOL

On the way through the history-steeped Lowland Hills, stop at Gretna Green. Then, leave the land of the Scots and journey into England through the tranquil Lake District, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to Grasmere, home of poet William Wordsworth, to try original Grasmere Gingerbread. In Liverpool, visit The Beatles Story, an atmospheric journey into the life, times, culture, and music of the “Fab Four.

 Breakfast

DAY 6 LIVERPOOL–NORTH WALES–DUBLIN, IRELAND

Travel to lovely Betws-y-Coed, then through the incomparable landscapes of Snowdonia National Park and over breathtaking Llanberis Pass. After a stop at Caernarvon, cross Britannia Bridge to the Isle of Anglesey for a photo stop at tongue-twisting Llanfairpwllgwyngyll. At Holyhead, board your FERRY and cross the Irish Sea to Dublin. For a first taste of Ireland, why not join an optional Irish cabaret evening including dinner, dance, song, and laughter?

 Breakfast

DAY 7 DUBLIN

An orientation drive in the Irish capital includes statue-lined O’Connell Street, elegant Georgian squares, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and Oscar Wilde’s Trinity College. Afternoon at leisure. Tonight, consider an optional dinner outing to the Guinness Storehouse.

 Breakfast

DAY 8 DUBLIN–KILDARE–CASHEL–BLARNEY–KILLARNEY

Horse-racing country awaits this morning. Drive across the Curragh to visit the Irish National Stud at Kildare, whose thoroughbreds command respect on the racecourses of the world. On the way to Killarney, pause to take photos at the Rock of Cashel, where St. Patrick preached. Time for lunch, to walk up to the castle, and to shop for traditional Irish handicrafts in Blarney, renowned for its magical Kissing Stone.

 Breakfast  Dinner

DAY 9 KILLARNEY–RING OF KERRY–ADARE–LIMERICK

Follow the road known as the RING OF KERRY for a spectacular 100-mile panoramic drive around the island's southwestern tip. Have your camera ready for sparkling seascapes, brightly colored farmhouses, subtropical vegetation, and the breathtaking panorama of the Lakes of Killarney from Ladies View. In the afternoon, travel via quaint Adare to Limerick. A suggestion for a very special night out: an optional medieval banquet at an historic castle.

 Breakfast

DAY 10 LIMERICK–CLIFFS OF MOHER–GALWAY–SLIGO

Drive to the spectacular CLIFFS OF MOHER, rising 668 feet above the Atlantic, and step on to the edge of the world to admire the awe-inspiring views and watch the birds glide along the rugged cliffs. Via the limestone plateau of The Burren, reach Galway, a popular seaside destination and a buzzing cosmopolitan center with colorful shops and a busy café and bar culture. Then, spend the night in the coastal seaport and county town of Sligo.

 Breakfast  Dinner



DAY 11 SLIGO–DERRY, NORTHERN IRELAND–GIANT'S CAUSEWAY–BELFAST

First highlight today is Derry, situated on the banks of the Foyle River, and a walk on the Old Town walls in the company of a Local Guide. After lunch, take your photographs of Dunluce Castle, then visit awe-inspiring GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, composed of thousands of strangely symmetrical basalt columns jutting out to sea. Stay in Belfast tonight, Northern Ireland's seat of government.

 Breakfast  Dinner


DAY 12 BELFAST–GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

This morning, visit the fascinating TITANIC EXPERIENCE and learn about the building of the largest passenger steam ship, its maiden voyage, and the tragic night of April 14, 1912. Board your FERRY for the crossing of the North Channel to Cairnryan on the west coast of Scotland. Back in Glasgow, celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner at your hotel.

 Breakfast  Dinner

DAY 13 GLASGOW

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

 Breakfast