# **INSIGHT VACATIONS**

The Art of Traveling in Style\*

# **BEST OF IRELAND & SCOTLAND**





# **KEY**

- Central Hotels + Nights
- Scenic Hotels + Nights
- Place Visited
- O Optional Place Visited
- Trip Option

- Cruise
- Train
- ₩ Join/Leave Options
- **₹** Included Flights
- Heritage Site

## Day 1 | Welcome to Dublin



On arrival at Dublin airport, your airport transfer service leaves for your hotel at 08:30, 11:00 and 13:00. Join your Travel Director at 18:00 for a warm and friendly Welcome Dinner, an opportunity to get to know each other over a meal with wine.

Meals: Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Clayton Hotel Charlemont, Dublin.

# Day 2 | In Dublin's Fair City



An orientation with your Travel Director will take you past the Custom House and travel along the River Liffey. See the Guinness Brewery, 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 to gain insight into the establishment's impressive history.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Clayton Hotel Charlemont, Dublin.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

*Irish Countryside & Glendalough -* An afternoon drive takes you through the rural countryside of County Wicklow - the garden of Ireland. With our Local Expert, we'll pass through the pretty Wicklow Mountains to the picturesque setting of St. Kevin's great 6th Century monastic site at Glendalough. Afterwards, we'll explore the monastic remains before returning to Dublin via the Great Sugar Loaf Mountain

Adult: 27.00 FUR

Dinner & Irish Show - Over an excellent dinner of quality Irish food, enjoy an evening of comedy, dance, song and music, as Ireland's musical history unfolds. The show will delight you long after the night has ended. You'll be tapping your toes and joining in the fun, and it's all wrapped up in the spirit of Irish humour. At the end of your meal, cap off one of Ireland's best nights out with an Irish Coffee. Adult: 72.00 EUR

## Day 3 | Kildare and 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. Continue on to Cork, Ireland's second most populous city, built on the River Lee. Travel along Grand Parade to see Cork's City Hall and Opera House.

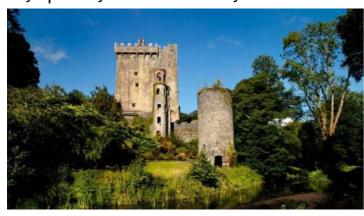
Meals: Breakfast.

Hotel: Maldron Hotel South Mall Cork City.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Cork Dinner - Lively and fun loving, Cork city is justly celebrated for fine local produce and great restaurants. Tonight, take the opportunity to dine out and enjoy the great atmosphere and vibrant heart of Ireland's 'rebel' city. Three-course dinner with drinks. Adult: 51.00 EUR

## Day 4 | Blarney Castle and Killarney



Visit the ruined 15th century Blarney Castle, home of the famous Stone of Eloquence - once kissed, never forgotten! Or enjoy a sensory walk in the extensive and varied estate gardens. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Queenstown Story - Experience this intriguing port town, home to the world's second-largest natural harbour. We'll visit stunning St Colman's Cathedral and the Queenstown Story to hear about the town's past and discover how it became the single most important Irish port of emigration.

Adult: 23.00 EUR

Gaelic Roots - A tour de force of traditional Irish song, music and dance, Gaelic Roots showcases Ireland at its best. Using traditional instruments, Irish dance and time-honoured folk songs, this energetic show will have you tapping your feet and singing along in no time. Adult: 34.00 EUR

## Day 5 | Ring of Kerry Experience



Explore Killarney with Insight 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 and past the grounds of Ross Castle, admiring the incredible scenery of the National Park. While there aren't any mountains to climb, walkers should be fit, have good walking shoes or boots, sunscreen and

Tour the superb seascapes, towering cliffs and spectacular mountains of the Ring of Kerry. Journey past lush lakelands and through delightful villages like Sneem. Cross the peat bogs of the Black Mountains to Moll's Gap and admire Queen Victoria's Ladies View. Upon returning in the mid-afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Killarney Plaza Hotel and Spa.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

An Irish Pub Experience - Enjoy an exclusive Irish "session" in the oldest pub in town, perhaps even pull your own pint! A local musician joins us this afternoon for music, song and a glimpse into Ireland's past. Enjoy this unique experience whilst sipping on an Irish Coffee,

Whiskey or local Draft Beer.

Adult: 26.00 EUR

## 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' Centre at the 700-foot Cliffs of Moher.

Continue on to your hotel, located at the heart of the Wild Atlantic Way.

Join your Travel Director in Galway to see the infamous Lynch Memorial and the Church of St. Nicholas, where Christopher Columbus reputedly prayed before his discovery of America. Also see the aged Spanish Arch and Eyre Square, dedicated to the late US President, John F. Kennedy.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Galway.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Medieval City Walk With Pub Supper -** Join our local expert for an entertaining and informative stroll through this medieval jewel of the West. Dine this evening in one of Galway's best-loved taverns and raise a glass with our West of Ireland traditional musicians. **Adult:** 56.00 FUR

## 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.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa/Clayton Hotel, Sligo Bay.

# Day 8 | Walk in the Giant's Steps



Cross into Northern Ireland to visit Londonderry. What better way to experience sightseeing than with one of Northern Ireland's best storytellers, Ronan, as he walks with you inside the city walls, still topped with cannons. Walk down steep Shipquay Street, with its elegant Georgian houses, to the Gothic Guildhall. Journey to the iconic Giant's Causeway for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. This geological masterpiece was created by the cooling of lava which burst through the earth's crust millions of years ago. Learn how the National Trust is enabling farming and biodiversity to work together, supporting both wildlife and quality food production. Next, take a spectacular drive along the Antrim Coast to your hotel, overlooking the sea at the head of Ballygally Bay.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Ballygally Castle Hotel, Co. Antrim.

## Day 9 | High Tea at Ardgowan Estate



Cross the Irish Sea by ferry and journey to Ardgowan. Sir Ludovic Shaw Stewart welcomes you to his family castle, set on a 10,000acre 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 where your Travel Director will show you the city's grand public buildings, including George Square and St. Mungo's Cathedral.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea

Hotel: Radisson Blu Hotel, Glasgow.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

Glasgow Dinner - In recent years, Glasgow has developed a fearsome culinary reputation. With its elegant and chic atmosphere, this restaurant is very much at the forefront. In the hub of Glasgow's vibrant cosmopolitan capital, enjoy an evening of Scottish fayre and experience the unique atmosphere of the city at night.

Adult: 45.00 GBP

## Day 10 | Glencoe and Loch Ness



A scenic drive takes you along the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond. Absorb the dramatic landscape of Glencoe, still echoing with the cries of massacred clansmen. Pause at the Commando Memorial for a view of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis before reaching the Great Glen. Continue on to Loch Ness and embark on a cruise to soak up the scenery, historic monuments and intriguing tales of Nessie in the heart of Scotland's great glen.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine Hotel: Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness.

## Day 11 | A Highlands Experience

In the morning, see the sights of Inverness, before travelling to the Culloden Moor Visitor Centre, where Bonnie Prince Charlie's Jacobite army was finally defeated. Then have a 'wee dram' during a visit to a local distillery, hear stories of the whisky smugglers as you delve into the fascinating world of the single malt.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner with Wine Hotel: Kingsmills Hotel, Inverness.

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

An Evening with Nessie - Join us at the only pub on the shores of Loch Ness, overlooking Dores beach. Enjoy a drink whilst listening to the tales of our expert Steve, a man who has devoted over thirty years of his life to hunting for the elusive Loch Ness Monster. A unique evening, following the journey of the ultimate "Nessie Hunter"!

Adult: 20.00 GBP

## Day 12 | St. Andrews and Edinburgh



A scenic drive takes you through the Grampian Mountains past the Duke of Atholl's Blair Castle. Drive down and cross the Tay to visit St. Andrews. As you arrive, pass the Old Course, the home of golf since its invention in the 15th century. Enjoy free time to explore. Why not wander to St. Andrews University where the love story of Kate Middleton and Prince William began? Alternately, stroll to West Sands Beach where the famous 'Chariots of Fire' scene was filmed. Continue across the majestic Forth Road Bridge to the Scottish capital, Edinburgh. In the evening, select departures attend The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Sheraton Grand Hotel & Spa, Edinburgh.

## **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

**Blair Castle -** Journey into the fascinating past with a visit to the ancestral home of the Dukes of Atholl. Brimming with treasures inside and out, magnificent Blair Castle is set in its own grounds against a backdrop of glorious scenery. During your visit, see how the castle has been transformed through the ages and learn how Queen Victoria's famous stay led to the creation of Europe's only private army. **Adult: 25.00 GBP** 

**Scottish Dinner & Cabaret -** Join us for a lively and memorable evening of traditional Scottish song, dance, tartan and bagpipes. In addition to wine and dinner, your kilted hosts will lead you through some of the best-loved Scottish music and songs. You'll learn a Highland dance or two and sample Scotland's national dish - haggis. An exceptional Scottish experience!

Adult: 72.00 GBP

# Day 13 | Scotland's Capital of Culture



In the morning, join a Local Expert to see the highlights of the city. Drive along Princes Street to the ornate Scott Memorial, then see the 18th 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, the Stone of Destiny and Scotland's Crown Jewels, the Honours of Scotland. In the afternoon, you are at leisure to continue exploring as you wish, or perhaps go shopping. Join your friends in the heart of Edinburgh at a Celebration Dinner of modern Scottish cuisine served with wine.

Meals: Breakfast. Dinner with Wine

**Hotel:** Apex City of Edinburgh Hotel/Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa, Edinburgh.

#### **OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:**

You will be offered one of the following three optional experiences depending on availability:

**Edinburgh's Most Haunted -** Join our Ghouls and Ghosts to embark upon a scary and mirth-filled tour of Edinburgh's old town as never seen before! We'll enjoy a drink afterwards to calm our nerves before returning to the land of the living. **Adult: 29.00 GBP** 

**Royal Edinburgh -** We'll enjoy views of the Queen's Park and take in a spectacular panorama of Scotland's Capital before arriving at Holyrood Palace - the King's official home in Scotland. Our Local Expert will bring its ancient stories to life before a leisurely visit through

the official rooms of the palace.

Adult: 39.00 GBP

**Edinburgh - The Untold Story -** Walk Edinburgh's heart with your Local Expert, to hear about the ultimate loyal dog, grave robbers, executions and other untold stories. Stroll through the Wynds and Closes of the real Edinburgh and enjoy a drink in one of this city's most famous pubs.

Adult: 25.00 GBP

# Day 14 | Farewell Edinburgh

Your journey comes to an end after breakfast with transfers arriving at Edinburgh airport at 06:15 and 09:00.

**Meals:** Breakfast