



Ireland and Scotland

August 23 ~ September 3, 2023





Wednesday, August 23 (In-flight Dinner)

Transfer to Minneapolis for our overnight flight to Dublin, Ireland.

Thursday, August 24 (Breakfast)

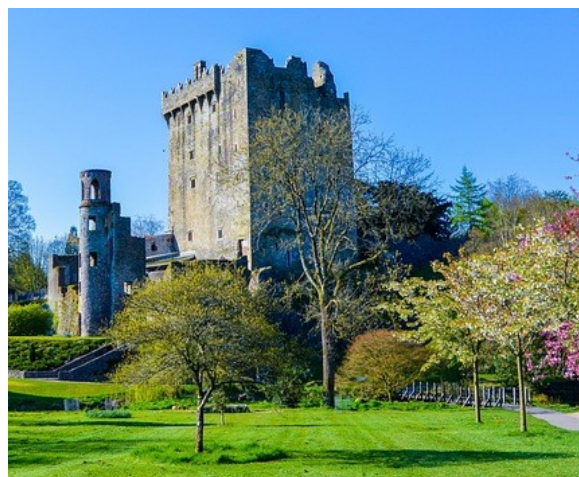
Arrive in Dublin this morning where we will be met by our **Irish driver/guide** and taken on a **tour of Dublin**, Ireland's capital city, situated on the River Liffey. We will see *The Georgian Squares* with their 18th century houses, and statue-filled O'Connell Street. Then take a self-guided tour of the **Guinness Brewery** and sample Ireland's famous stout. Mid-afternoon we will check into the 4-star **Camden Court Hotel** for one night. Our hotel is perfectly located in the heart of the city. Take time to rest or get out and explore the area's shops, museums, public squares and pubs.

Friday, August 25 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Enjoy a full Irish breakfast at the hotel before we journey to **County Kildare**, the center of Ireland's horse breeding industry. Here we will have a guided tour of **Irish National Stud Farm** an integral part of the Irish thoroughbred industry for over 100 years. Our next stop is **Kilkenny**. In this charming town you will have time to enjoy lunch, shop at the **Kilkenny Design Center** and walk the beautiful and extensive park grounds of Kilkenny Castle. Then we're on our way to **Waterford** where we will meet an "entertaining" Irish guide who will take us on a walking tour of this historic, waterside city. Afterwards we will check into the **Tower Hotel** for one night. Dinner is included at the hotel.

Saturday, August 26 (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Our day starts with a visit to **The House of Waterford Crystal Visitor's Center**. There will be plenty of time to browse and shop in the Crystal Showroom. Next, we travel along the scenic southern coastline through Dungarvan, Youghal, and Cork on our way to **Blarney**, stopping for a pub lunch along the way. In Blarney you will have an opportunity to visit **Blarney Castle** and kiss the famous Blarney Stone, said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who dare. You will also have time to visit the Blarney Woollen Mills, which carries a wide range of sweaters, tweeds, china, and crystal. On our arrival in **Killarney**, we'll check into the **Killarney Plaza Hotel**, for three nights. Here you can really unpack and enjoy Ireland's most charming and delightful small town! Our posh hotel is located in the heart of Killarney with hundreds of shops and pubs all easily accessible from our hotel. Enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening.



Sunday, August 27 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we embark on one of Ireland's most famous tours - the **Ring of Kerry**. We will stop at **Kerry Bog Village** to see authentic thatched cottages and how people lived in Ireland many years ago. This evening we go to **Kate Kearney's Cottage** where you will be served a traditional Irish dinner in a cozy, informal atmosphere. Then delight in traditional Irish entertainment with music and Irish dancers.

Monday, August 28 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Today you will see the most beautiful part of Ireland as we travel along the **Dingle Peninsula**! Our tour takes us to the most westerly point of Ireland where you can view the beautiful patchwork fields of a hundred shades of green separated by low, ancient stone fences and dotted with sheep. From the high cliffs you will marvel at the crashing sea against the pitch-black boulders and if it's clear you'll have great views of the famous Blasket Islands. In the tiny village of **Adare** you will see the traditional thatched roofs on homes. Then we're on our way to **Clare** where we will check into the lovely **Bunratty Castle Hotel** (or similar) for the evening. Tonight, we step back in time to the 15th century with an evening of music, song and dinner.

Tuesday, August 29 (Breakfast)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we check out and journey along the coastline to the majestic **Cliffs of Moher**, which rise 600 feet above the surface of the Atlantic Ocean. Enjoy the amazing views and exhibits in the **Visitor's Center** before we ride through the **Burren** with its unusual landscape. Upon arrival back in Dublin, we'll check into the **Camden Court Hotel**. Enjoy dinner on your own in the hotel or at one of the many restaurants within easy walking distance. Go out and join the revelry and spirited music in a nearby pub!

Wednesday, August 30 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Today we bid farewell to the Emerald Isle and fly to **Glasgow, Scotland** to meet our tour manager. We will 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. The 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 depart for **Pitlochry** and in at 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. After getting settled in our rooms, there is time to explore the hotel and gardens or relax. We'll enjoy dinner at the hotel along with splendid views of the Tummel Valley.



Thursday, August 31 (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**.

Continue to Stirling for a visit to **Stirling Castle** where we'll step back in time to the richness of royal life in the 1500s. Our guide will captivate us with stories of knights, foreign ambassadors and nobles who once flocked to the castle to revel in its grandeur. Next, we arrive at the **Glenturret Distillery**, home of famous Grouse Whisky, for a tour and tasting. Dinner is included upon our arrival back at the hotel this evening.

Friday, September 1 (Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we'll 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**. We'll learn about the castle's dramatic history and view a collection of artifacts and historic relics. Next, we'll watch an amazing **sheepdog demonstration** where a team of dogs work together to maneuver sheep through various obstacles. As our day comes to an end, we return to the hotel for a delicious dinner.

Saturday, September 2 (Breakfast, Dinner)

Depart Pitlochry this morning and return to Edinburgh for 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. This afternoon we will check into the **Apex Waterloo Place Hotel Edinburgh** (or similar) for one night. Enjoy dinner this evening at **Howies Waterloo Place** (or similar).

Sunday, September 3 (Breakfast)

This morning we return to Glasgow where we will board our flight home. We'll be taking home with us wonderful memories of our trip!



Tour Cost per person:**Double: \$4,399****Single: \$6,969**

* These prices are based on the value of the Euro and Pound Sterling as of October 2022. Tour participants will be notified prior to final payment of any changes to the tour cost due to fluctuations in the exchange rates.

TOUR INCLUDES

Round trip airport transfers

Round trip air

Deluxe motor coach transportation

Ten nights hotel accommodations

Baggage handling at hotels

11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 8 dinners, plus in-flight meals

All activities and entrances as listed in the itinerary

All tour-related gratuities for included meals, local guides, and drivers

All tour-related taxes and fees

Services of knowledgeable, local tour directors/drivers in Ireland and Scotland

Services of a True Travel host

Reservations:

Please submit a completed reservation form along with your **deposit** and **optional travel protection premium**, if desired to:

True Travels**Attn: Rhonda True****921 North Pennsylvania Ave.****Mason City, IA 50401****Phone: 641-530-0963****E-mail: mctrue travels@gmail.com**Please make checks payable to **True Travels****Deposit: \$250 per person****Balance due: May 5, 2023**

Not Included: Optional travel protection plan premium of **\$317** in **double** occupancy and **\$502** in **single** occupancy.

Travel Documents: All passengers must carry a **passport** valid at least six months (**March 4, 2024**) beyond the return date of the trip.

Activity Level: Easy 1 2 3 **4** 5 Active

CANCELLATION POLICY

All payments are fully refundable for cancellations received by **May 5, 2023**. Although every effort will be made to refund passenger payments, cancellations received after this date will be subject to the penalties imposed by our suppliers including, but not exclusive to, the airline used to purchase non-refundable air tickets, as well as a \$150 cancellation fee. It is highly suggested that all travelers help protect their vacation investment by purchasing an optional travel protection plan. Your group representative can provide information on a plan offered by Travel Guard. Should the passenger purchase travel protection and need to cancel after **May 5, 2023**, a travel protection claim must be filed with Travel Guard. Please note that we encourage all travelers to purchase a plan at the time of initial trip deposit and that the premium is refundable for cancellations received before **May 5, 2023**.

Insurance is underwritten by National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pa. a Pennsylvania Insurance Company (NAIC #19445), currently authorized to transact business in all states and the District of Columbia.

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