

# IRELAND

*“the island of memories”*

July 20 – 31, 2017  
12 days / 11 nights



**Day 1** Arrive in Dublin, Ireland’s vibrant capital, and one of Europe’s most youthful cities. Newer bars and cafés thrive alongside pubs that have stood for centuries. Check in to your hotel, enjoy any tea and scones that are offered, rest a bit, and then explore the neighborhood, the impressive Trinity College. View the 8<sup>th</sup> century illuminated manuscript, the Book of Kells in the Old Library and stroll through Merrion Square. Visit the lively Temple Bar District with its preserved medieval cobbled streets. The area comes alive in the evening with a choice of many pubs and restaurants.

**Buswells Hotel (2 nights)** [www.buswells.ie](http://www.buswells.ie)

**Day 2** Enjoy a self-guided walking tour through the Old City dating from Viking and medieval times. Visit Dublin Castle, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and any of Dublin’s outstanding history museums. In the evening, participate in a candlelit Food, Folklore & Fairies dinner in one of Dublin’s oldest pubs and discover how Irish people lived in times past. With renowned storytellers, travel back in time to explore the fascinating world of Ireland long ago. Listen to the magical tales and enjoy live traditional Irish music and ballads. (B, D)

**Day 3** Meet your private driver/guide in the morning for a leisurely drive to Kilkenny, which stands on the site of an old monastery. In medieval times it was a prosperous walled city with much of its medieval architecture skillfully preserved. En route visit Glendalough, a scenic and historic village nestled in the Wicklow Mountains. You will have the afternoon to explore the city of Kilkenny at your leisure, visiting the Kilkenny Castle, St. Canice’s Cathedral, rich in folklore and legend, and Smithwick’s in the ancient St. Francis Abbey Brewery for a tour and tasting. (B)

**The Butler House (2 nights)** [www.butler.ie](http://www.butler.ie)

**Day 4** Take a leisurely drive through the Kilkenny County countryside, visiting ancient abbys and quaint villages. Visit the Glen of Aherlow, a quiet country valley and the Rock of Cashel, a spectacular group of medieval buildings. In the evening, experience dinner and storytelling at the historical (and haunted) Kyteler’s Inn. (B, D)

**Day 5** After breakfast, depart your hotel for the drive to Killarney in County Kerry. En route visit the Cobh Heritage Center, site of the emigration port for over 3 million Irish people, and walk in the footsteps of our ancestors. Tour the Jameson Whiskey Distillery, a journey through the story and making of Irish whiskey. Killarney lies on the edge of the astoundingly beautiful Killarney National Park, with its three magnificent lakes and a spectacular mountain range. (B)

**Arbutus Hotel (3 nights)** [www.arbutuskillarney.com](http://www.arbutuskillarney.com)

**Day 6** Enjoy the day visiting the sights of Killarney – the medieval Irish Chieftain Ross Castle, the town of Dingle with its Celtic and Prehistoric Museum and the stunning Slea Head Drive on the Dingle Peninsula. Visit a master craftsman’s glass making studio and watch an artist at work. (B)

**Day 7** Spend the day driving along the mystical Ring of Kerry, a beautiful combination of soft mountains, forest glades, bogs, rivers, lakes, and pristine beaches. Stop at charming villages and inspiring historical sites, the Staigue Stone Fort and the Ladies View. In the evening, enjoy dinner and a traditional Irish dance performance, Celtic Steps, at the local theater. (B, D)

**Day 8** Today you will journey to Galway, a small but thriving city with winding medieval lanes. The historic core is tiny but tangled, so getting lost is half the fun. Here you can follow the sign posted Tourist Trail of Old Galway. En route to Galway visit the Cliffs of Moher. Check in to your city center hotel and explore Galway at your leisure. (B)

**Park House Hotel (3 nights)** [www.parkhousehotel.ie](http://www.parkhousehotel.ie)

**Day 9** With your driver, explore Galway County with its bleak bogs, heather-clad moors, misty mountain-fringed lakes, rugged coastline, and extensive wilderness. Explore Connemara National Park, Ashford Castle, and the Quiet Man bridge and cottage. Experience a medieval banquet at Dunguaire Castle in the evening. A live show features song and poetry from the great Irish writers. (B, D)

**Day 10** Enjoy another day in the Galway Bay region with your private guide. Visit a remote sheep ranch to observe how the special sheep dogs are trained. Spend the afternoon and evening at your leisure on your last day in the city of Galway.

**Day 11** Today you will travel to Clontarf, a picturesque coastal suburb of Dublin where you will spend your last night in Ireland in a 12<sup>th</sup> century castle. En route, visit Clonmacnoise and Athlone Castle. Relax in the castle gardens or walk along the Clontarf’s seafront promenade. Meet your friends for a Farewell to Ireland toast in the castle’s medieval pub. (B, D)

**Clontarf Castle (1 night)** [www.clontarfcastle.ie](http://www.clontarfcastle.ie)

**Day 12** Depart the castle for the Dublin airport and your flight home.

**\$3,250 per person / double room small group tour includes:**

- 3\*+ accommodations
- Private driver/guide throughout tour (upon departure from Dublin)
- Driver/guide gratuity
- Daily breakfast, 5 dinners
- Entry fees as stated in the itinerary

**Does not include:**

- Roundtrip airfare from/to US
- Travel insurance

\*This itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances and/or guide recommendations.

# IRELAND

*“the island of memories”*



July 20 – 31, 2017



# SCOTLAND

*“the land of the brave”*

July 31 – August 7, 2017  
8 days / 7 nights

**Day 1** Arrive in Edinburgh and check in to the city center hotel. Take a self-guided walk along the Royal Mile, one of Europe’s most interesting historic walks. Start at the Palace of Holyroodhouse near the hotel and walk to Edinburgh Castle at the top. Along the way, stop at shops, cafes, and lanes leading to tiny squares. In the afternoon, visit the National Museum of Scotland, a huge museum housing Scotland’s greatest historic artifacts from prehistoric, Roman, and Viking times. Learn about Edinburgh’s witch-burning craze and clan massacres, and the struggle for Scottish independence up to the present day. (B)

MacDonald Holyrood Hotel (1 night) [www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk](http://www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk)

**Day 2** Spend another day exploring Edinburgh.

**Day 3** In the morning, take the high speed train to Inverness. Check in to the luxurious Culloden House Hotel which stands on nearly 40 acres where you are free to wander about the woodland and private gardens. Enjoy the exceptional peace, tranquility, and majesty of the grounds. Gather in the evening to enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Culloden House Hotel (2 nights) [www.cullodenhouse.co.uk](http://www.cullodenhouse.co.uk)

**Day 4** Meet your private driver/guide for a day-long tour of Loch Ness, home of the famed monster; Clava’s ancient Standing Stones for a taste of Scotland’s prehistoric era; the historic 14<sup>th</sup> century Cawdor Castle, and the 1746 Culloden Battlefield to understand what shaped the Highlands and the people who live here. An optional tour that is a bit longer includes Loch Ness and the Isle of Skye. In the evening, attend a performance of the Highland Military Tattoo, a spectacular showcase of Highland and military culture and traditions, at nearby historical Fort George. (B)

**Day 5** Enjoy a leisurely and scenic drive south to Oban with a private driver. Check into the Manor House Hotel, a 1780 Georgian Villa with stunning views of Oban Harbor. Oban, known as the “gateway to the isles”, is a low-key resort town with a winding promenade lined by gravel beaches and a diversity of good restaurants. There are several scenic walking trails that begin at the hotel. (B)

Manor House Hotel (2 nights) [www.manorhouseoban.com](http://www.manorhouseoban.com)

**Day 6** Enjoy a full day excursion exploring the nearby islands of Mull and Iona. Take the ferry from the village of Oban to the Island of Mull. With your private driver/guide, you will drive through stunning glens till the view opens out to the Ross of Mull. You will take the ferry to the sacred island of Iona to walk through the village to the Abbey, founded by St. Columba in 563 a.d. This is a fascinating glimpse of the history of Christianity’s arrival in Scotland. (B)

**Day 7** Take a leisurely drive through the Lowlands on your return to Edinburgh. Check in to the luxurious Prestonfield House Hotel, minutes from Edinburgh's historic attractions and restaurants, yet surrounded by twenty acres of gardens and parkland. Built in 1687, this historic mansion is now Edinburgh's most luxurious 5-star hotel providing the privacy and seclusion of a private estate within the city. Join your friends for High Tea as a fitting farewell to Scotland.

Prestonfield House (1 night) [www.prestonfield.com](http://www.prestonfield.com)

**Day 8** Depart the hotel for the Edinburgh airport for your return flight home.

**\$2,450 per person / double room small group tour includes:**

4\* accommodations

Daily breakfast, 3 dinners

All train and private driver transfers

All tours and events as stated in the itinerary

Driver gratuities

**Does not include:**

Airfare to US

Travel Insurance



