



# Highlights of England, Scotland & Ireland

12 days | 14 days with London extension

Our travelers love this tour as their first time out of the country—or as an energetic way to experience as much of England, Scotland, and Ireland as they can. No wonder it's one of our most popular trips. You'll launch your Anglophile adventure in cosmopolitan London, where you'll get to meet Big Ben and the Tower of London before boarding a train through the hilly English countryside to Edinburgh, Scotland. There, let the Georgian and Victorian architecture transport you back in time through cobblestone streets. Finish your trip with a feast for the eyes as you ferry to Ireland's cliffs, swathed in a hundred hues of green. And, if London's calling you, take the early arrival option and enjoy two more days in the city to explore its rich heritage—and rank your favorite chip shops.



## Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 6 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 train ride
- 1 ferry transfer

## Included highlights

- Trafalgar Square
- Big Ben
- Buckingham Palace
- Edinburgh Castle
- Local pub culture
- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Ring of Kerry
- Rock of Cashel
- Blarney Castle
- Cliffs of Moher

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

## Group size

15–38

# Highlights of England, Scotland & Ireland

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to London today.

## London → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in London

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to England! If you arrive between noon and 6 p.m., we recommend you treat yourself to afternoon tea—the traditional British meal of cakes, biscuits, dainty sandwiches, and, of course, tea.

Tonight, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London

*Included meals: breakfast*

London's been settled for almost 2,000 years, and its history winds through Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Viking rule. Your guided tour takes you through the relics, landmarks, and stories of this vibrant and cosmopolitan city of contrasts.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square commemorating the British naval victory over France and Spain in 1805. Keep your eye out for the square's four bronze lion statues guarding Nelson's Column, as well as the National Gallery art museum.
- Gaze up at the dome and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill. The Anglican cathedral, once the tallest building in London, has held services for state funerals, jubilee celebrations, and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer.
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations since 1066 and the final resting place of William Shakespeare, Isaac Newton, and many other luminaries.
- View the city's defining landmarks, including Big Ben—the Great Bell of the clock at the north end of the Palace of Westminster and

London's unofficial calling card. You'll also pass the Tower of London, home to the Crown Jewels of England, but also lions and a polar bear during its time as a menagerie of exotic wild animals.

- Take in the contrast of old and new when you pass by Tower Bridge, the largest bascule bridge ever completed at the time, and the London Eye—the larger-than-life observation wheel that's quickly become symbolic of the city.
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, the royal residence in London where you may catch the Changing of the Guard ceremony—just look for the distinctive red tunics and tall bearskin caps.

Can't get enough of castles and kings? Add the excursion to Windsor Castle for a fascinating peek into the royal goings-on at the world's longest-inhabited castle, as well as the historic market town of Windsor.

Not joining the excursion? Enjoy a free afternoon in London to shop and dine in posh Covent Garden in the West End or head to Shoreditch for its vibrant art and street food scene. Your Tour Director is also your go-to source for recommendations.

+ Windsor Castle

## Edinburgh → 2 nights

### Day 4: Train ride to Edinburgh

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Journey by train through the English countryside and past the lochs—or lakes—and rolling hills of Scotland. Watch ancient castles, cathedrals, and villages drift in and out of view as the train winds to your destination in Edinburgh.

Tonight, sit down with your fellow travelers for an included dinner, served with beer or wine. *Please note: Porterage is not included for the train transfers. Travelers must be comfortable lifting and carrying all luggage over steps, onto platforms, and into luggage storage.*

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

*Included meals: breakfast*

Nestled between the rivers Almond and Esk, Edinburgh emerges from a series of hills and rocky ridges, earning its nickname Athens of the North. Get to know the Scottish capital and all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant, dramatic neoclassical and Georgian architecture in New Town. The ornate sandstone and granite structures surrounding oasis-like gardens and green spaces became a model for European urban planning.
- Contrast New Town's grace with Old Town's rustic Royal Mile, which runs between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace—the official residence of British monarchs in Scotland. Here, you'll cross moody narrow streets and alleys, known as "closes," flanked by brooding stone buildings and timeworn cathedrals.
- Pass the towering Sir Walter Scott monument—paying homage to the *Ivanhoe* and *Rob Roy* scribe—one of the largest monuments devoted to an author in the world.
- Ascend to Castle Rock and enter Edinburgh Castle. Standing on an extinct volcano at the top of the Royal Mile, it houses the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone—in use since the 13th century for coronation of the monarchs of England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom.

Looking to be swept away by the wild romance of the Scottish Borders region? Add an excursion and join fellow literature lovers for a quest to the home of Sir Walter Scott and the Gothic ruins of Melrose Abbey.

Prefer to see more of Edinburgh? Use your free afternoon in the city to go back and wander the winding streets of Old Town. If you're feeling adventurous, perhaps consider a spooky stroll through the tunnels that weave underneath the city. Of course, there's always tucking into a booth in a cozy cafe and lingering over tea and shortbread.

*Please note: The order of today's activities are subject to change.*

+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

## Liverpool → 1 night

## Day 6: Transfer to Liverpool

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel through the jewel-green landscapes of Northern England, stopping along the way to enjoy a break in one of the Lake District's charming towns. This seductive side of England has inspired adventure seekers and poets alike with its mountainous landscape, lakes, and peat bogs.

Then, continue to Liverpool and enjoy a free evening in the city to unwind by the waterfront or add a fab (four) excursion down memory (and Penny) lane with a visit to the Beatles Story Museum.

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## Dublin → 2 nights

### Day 7: Ferry to Dublin

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel through northern Wales and stop in the village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch, which is the longest-named place in Europe. Then, continue to Holyhead and board a ferry across the Irish Sea to Dublin.

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Dublin

*Included meals: breakfast*

As soon as you step off the ferry in Dublin, you'll understand dramatist Lady Gregory's claim that "I feel more and more the time wasted that is not spent in Ireland." You'll take a comprehensive tour of Ireland's capital city with a local guide and get a taste of the country's rich history and craic—that trademark acerbic banter.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, an expanse of woodlands, sprawling lawns, the occasional fallow deer, and site of the presidential residence. You'll also pass by the Guinness Brewery and should you find yourself with a pint of the famous brew in hand, remember to sip it slowly.
- Step inside the soaring St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church, and gaze up at its stained-glass windows shimmering with depictions of biblical scenes and saints.
- Feast your eyes on the verdant and flowering landscaping throughout St. Stephen's Green, a peaceful retreat, and admire the ivy-covered Georgian architecture of Merrion Square as you go.
- See Trinity College, alma mater of notables from Oscar Wilde to Samuel Beckett, and walk past Grafton Street to the Molly Malone statue. Hum the traditional Irish song

dedicated to this figure of local folklore before continuing to the Temple Bar district's lined with colorful buildings and cobblestone streets buzzing with street performers and artisans.

If the Temple Bar district has you clamoring for more quintessential Irish merriment, join the excursion for a dinner and a showcase of the thundering rhythms and precise footwork of Irish dance.

Prefer a quieter night? Use your free time this evening for a sunset stroll along the River Liffey, or head to Ha'Penny Bridge for a breathtaking nighttime view of the city.

+ Traditional Irish Dinner & Show

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## County Kerry → 2 nights

### Day 9: County Kerry via Blarney

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Resume your journey through the Emerald Isle today. You'll roll through lush green landscapes, storybook villages, and the farmlands that dot Ireland's countryside.

- Make a photo stop at the famed Rock of Cashel in County Tipperrary, an ancient fortification surrounding a medieval cathedral standing above the limestone outcrops.
- Gain the gift of gab — or so the legends promise — when you enter Blarney Castle to kiss the legendary Blarney Stone.

Continue to County Kerry and sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of the Ring of Kerry

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out on the Ring of Kerry, a 112-mile coastal route that covers some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery as it winds around the Iveragh Peninsula. Expect your breath to catch with every rugged mile of coastal vistas and windswept beaches.

- Pass the pristine Lakes of Killarney in Killarney National Park and gaze across Dingle Bay. On a clear day, the lakes' crystal-clear waters reflect the surrounding forests and hills.
  - Try not to blink so you won't miss a moment of the ever-changing views of mountains, beaches, and the Atlantic Ocean.
  - Explore the quaint villages that line the Ring of Kerry, including the village of Sneem, with its candy-colored storefronts.
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## Dublin → 1 night

### Day 11: Dublin via the Cliffs of Moher

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

This morning, travel north to walk the mesmerizing coastline of the Cliffs of Moher. Perched along Ireland's west coast, the weathered cliffs extend for about five miles and are marked by jagged rock formations and abundant birdlife. Walking close to the cliffs' edge is a thrilling but dizzying experience due to the sheer drop, but you can rest assured that the view's just as good from the well-maintained walking paths.

Continue to Dublin this afternoon and celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

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## Flight Home

### Day 12: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## + London extension

London, a city where every corner reveals a piece of history, leaves every visitor yearning to burrow a little deeper into the city's storied past and frenetic present. With an option to arrive early and begin your journey with two more nights in the bustling English capital, you can see the city your way. As always, count on your Tour Director for expert tips on where to go, what to see—and how to navigate the Tube, London's busy subway system.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to London today.

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## London → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in London

Welcome to England! Meet your Tour Director and fellow early arrival travelers as you enjoy a welcome drink this evening.

### Day 3: Free day in London

*Included meals: breakfast*

Exclusively offered on this tour for our early arrivals, join an excursion to the iconic and mysterious Stonehenge, whose 4,000-year-old monoliths have bewitched visitors.

Prefer to stay in town and explore? Check out the lesser-known street food markets, like Maltby Street Market or Druid Street Market, or stroll the tranquil canals of Little Venice, a peaceful enclave with narrowboats, waterside cafes, and whimsical houseboats.

+ Stonehenge & Salisbury

#### **Day 4: Free day in London**

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Your early arrival has you with the day to yourself. Get a head start on exploring London before tomorrow's tour of the city's major monuments. Check out chic Notting Hill or the emerging art scene in Graffik Gallery.

Meet up with the rest of your tour group and get to know everyone during tonight's welcome dinner, served with beer or wine. Tomorrow, you'll all set off together for the main tour starting right where you are, London, before continuing to Edinburgh and beyond.

# 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. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/BES](https://goaheadtours.ca/BES) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Windsor Castle

\$175CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday, entrance will be replaced by an excursion to Hampton Court. For any departures where the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Tuesday, the excursion will be moved to another day on tour or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

After a scenic drive through gently rolling countryside, arrive at Stonehenge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of England's most recognizable icons. Get an informative overview of the its history at the visitor's center before exploring the monument. Then, head to the nearby town of Salisbury to peruse its famed Charter Market and visit Salisbury Cathedral, home to one of the four surviving original copies of the Magna Carta. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

## Day 5: Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

\$145CAD/\$155CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

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: Due to renovation projects, groups will visit Dryburgh Abbey through the end of 2024. Dryburgh is regarded as the most peaceful of the four Borders abbeys thanks to its location set within the woods along the River Tweed.

## Day 8: Traditional Irish Dinner & Show

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Enjoy this special evening of Irish food, music, and live entertainment. Dinner will be served first, giving you a taste of the country's traditional dishes. You'll then be treated to a live show of Irish music and dance. Join in the fun as you enjoy a merry and memorable night. Please note: The specific venue and day of the week for this excursion may change due to availability. This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through October.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 3: Stonehenge & Salisbury

\$215CAD (7 hours, departs in the morning)

\*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.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)