



Grand Tour of Ireland

14 days | 17 days with Glasgow & Edinburgh extension

Delve beyond the sheep-dotted green landscapes to the cities and villages that span the country, all the way from Dublin to Derry. Mingle with Dubliners in traditional pubs, pick up a souvenir in Waterford, drive along the Ring of Kerry, and walk across Giant's Causeway. After two weeks of exploring, you'll leave feeling like a local (if you can even bear to leave at all).



Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 dinners with beer or wine
- 12 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

- St. Patrick's Cathedral
- Glendalough
- Kilkenny Castle
- Waterford Crystal Factory
- Cobh Heritage Centre
- Blarney Castle
- Ring of Kerry
- Cliffs of Moher
- Titanic Belfast Museum

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some hills and stairs.

Group size

15-38

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Dublin today.

Dublin → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Dublin

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Ireland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Dublin

Included meals: breakfast

Take a comprehensive tour of Ireland's capital city with a local expert leading the way.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, site of the presidential residence, and pass by the Guinness Brewery.
- Step inside the soaring St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ireland's largest church.
- Pass St Stephen's Green and admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square as you go.
- See Trinity College and enjoy a walking tour of the college grounds.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Dublin to visit Grafton Street or the Temple Bar district, or add an excursion.

+ Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

Waterford → 2 nights

Day 4: Waterford via Glendalough & Kilkenny

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Leaving Dublin, travel a short distance through South County Dublin to County Wicklow.

- Enter Wicklow Mountains National Park and make your way to the Glendalough Visitor Centre to learn about the historic site.
- Explore the ancient monastery, passing by the Round Tower, stone churches, and decorated crosses.
- Continue to Kilkenny, Ireland's best-preserved medieval town.
- Tour the imposing 12th-century Kilkenny Castle, overlooking the River Nore.

- Pass by the Gothic St. Canice's Cathedral, built in the 13th century.

Please note: the sightseeing tour of Kilkenny may take place on day 5 and the sightseeing tour of Waterford may take place on day 4 November through February due to site closures.

Continue on to Waterford and sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 5: Sightseeing tour of Waterford & Rock of Cashel

Included meals: breakfast

Today, a local guide introduces you to Waterford's historic sites and exports.

- Learn about the city's roots as a Viking settlements as you walk through the Waterford Viking Triangle.
- Pass Reginald's Tower, a replica Viking ship, and the Dragon Slayer's Sword.
- See the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, the oldest Roman Catholic cathedral in Ireland.
- Visit the Waterford Crystal Factory to learn about its world-famous crystal.

Please note: the sightseeing tour of Kilkenny may take place on day 5 and the sightseeing tour of Waterford may take place on day 4 November through February due to site closures.

Continue on to the Rock of Cashel, an outcrop of limestone dominating Tipperary Plain.

- View the ruins of the ancient seat of the kings of Munster and the 12th-century Round Tower.
- Take a tour of the iconic Rock of Cashel, commanding stone buildings that date back to the 12th and 13th centuries.

County Kerry → 2 nights

Day 6: County Kerry via Cobh & Blarney Castle

Included meals: breakfast

On your way to County Kerry, get a feel for the many sides of Ireland, from small villages to vibrant cities and iconic castles.

- Visit the Cobh Heritage Centre to see exhibits that highlight the story of Irish emigration over the past 150 years.

- Climb to the top of Blarney Castle to kiss the famed Blarney Stone, which is said to grant the "gift of gab."

Day 7: The Ring of Kerry & Killarney National Park

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Travel around the Ring of Kerry, a 112-mile coastal route that covers some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery.

- Pass the pristine Lakes of Killarney in Killarney National Park and gaze across Dingle Bay.
- Enjoy unsurpassable views of mountains, beaches, and the Atlantic Ocean.
- Explore the picturesque villages that line the Ring of Kerry including the village of Sneem, "The Knot in the Ring."

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

County Galway → 2 nights

Day 8: County Galway via County Clare

Included meals: breakfast

Head north to Galway today, taking time to view spectacular scenery en route.

- Walk along the mesmerizing coastline of the Cliffs of Moher.
- Pass through the Burren, a unique limestone plateau where fields of rock are dotted with wildflowers.

Continue on to Galway for a sightseeing tour of the city led by your Tour Director.

- Stroll past Lynch's Castle, Galway Cathedral, the Druid Theater Company, and the broad expanse of Eyre Square.
- View the city's medieval walls and Spanish Arch.
- Peruse authentic Claddagh rings in a local shop.

Enjoy a free evening in County Galway or add an excursion.

Please note: On some departures the Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner excursion will be offered on day 9.

+ Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner

Day 9: Free day in Galway

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day in County Galway or add as excursion.

Please note: On some departures the Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner excursion will be offered on day 9.

+ Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

Sligo → 1 night

Day 10: Sligo via Glen Keen Farm

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

Pay a visit to Glen Keen Farm, one of the largest sheep farms in Ireland, on your way to Sligo.

- Learn about sheep farming while soaking in the natural beauty that defines the area.
- Watch an interactive sheep herding demonstration.
- Enjoy a traditional lunch at Glen Keen Farm, dessert, coffee, and tea.

Please note: Vegetarian options are available for the included lunch.

After, continue on to Sligo.

Belfast → 3 nights

Day 11: Belfast via Derry

Included meals: breakfast

On your way to Northern Ireland, journey through the landscapes immortalized by the poetry of William Butler Yeats.

- Visit Glencar Waterfall, which is mentioned in W. B. Yeats' poem titled The Stolen Child.
- Continue on to Derry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, for a guided tour.
- See the 17th-century city walls and learn about the history of the conflicts that took place between the Protestant and Catholic populations.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Belfast

Included meals: breakfast

Get to know Belfast, the cultural heart of Northern Ireland, from a local's perspective on a guided tour.

- Glimpse the copper-domed City Hall and the recently restored Grand Opera House.
- Learn all about Belfast's long history, from its origins in the Bronze Age and rise as an international seaport to its role in the conflict known as "the Troubles."
- Enter the Titanic Belfast Museum for a look at the vessel's infamous history.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Belfast or add an excursion.

+ Castles of Northern Ireland & Afternoon Tea

Day 13: Free day in Belfast

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Enjoy a free day in Belfast or add an excursion.

This evening, celebrate your trip with your group at a farewell dinner.

+ Giant's Causeway

Flight Home

Day 14: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to visit Scotland.

+ Glasgow & Edinburgh extension

Continue your tour by crossing into Scotland. You'll explore the historic cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh on guided tours and discover the charms waiting at the end of every close. Spend your extra time in each locale however you'd like, and lean on your Tour Director to point you toward the most exciting sites.

Glasgow → 1 night

Day 14: Ferry to Glasgow & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Board a ferry in Belfast for your voyage across the Irish Sea to the village of Cairnryan, Scotland. Then, continue on to Glasgow for a tour with a local guide.

- Discover local highlights, including George Square and the River Clyde.
 - Admire the city's university and medieval cathedral.
 - Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, which features everything from medieval suits of armor to a collection of works by Scottish artists.
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Edinburgh → 2 nights

Day 15: Edinburgh via Stirling Castle

Included meals: breakfast

Travel through the picturesque Scottish countryside to explore Stirling Castle, where King James VI once lived.

Then, continue on to Edinburgh and spend a free evening in the city or add an excursion.

+ Scottish Cèilidh

Day 16: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Included meals: breakfast

Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant Georgian New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites.
- Pass the King George statue, Bute House, and Sir Walter Scott monument.
- Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone.

Spend a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.

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

+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

Flight Home

Day 17: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport to board your flight home.

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/LSS | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Powerscourt Estate & Gardens

\$85CAD/\$95CAD* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Named the third most beautiful in the world by National Geographic, the Italianate gardens of Powerscourt Estate rival even the immaculately manicured flower beds of Versailles. Spend time wandering through these sprawling grounds and exploring the Palladian-style country house that lies at the heart of the property. Once a 13th-century castle, this opulent home underwent extensive renovations in the 1700s to transform it into the grand hall it is today.

Day 8: Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner

\$149CAD/\$159CAD* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Enjoy a three-course dinner served with beer or wine at a restaurant in Galway. Then, attend a performance of Trad on the Prom at a local venue. The show is filled with live music and performances by World Champion Irish stepdancers. The dancers have been featured in notable productions such as Riverdance, The Chieftains, and Lord of the Dance. Sit back and listen to Gaelic tunes as you watch this mesmerizing traditional Irish dance show. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from May 1 through September 30 only and is only offered on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.

Day 9: Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (9 hours, departs in the morning)
Make your way to the island village of Cong, situated on the border of counties Galway and Mayo. Here, enjoy free time to stroll through the town's charming streets, catching glimpses of the nearby Ashford Castle. Then, continue on to Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine convent founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle. Here, you'll have time to explore the abbey's interior and walled Victorian gardens. After free time for lunch on your own, take a scenic drive through the Irish countryside, passing Connemara National Park, one of the country's most beautiful and unspoiled places. Make photo stops in the Inagh Valley and at the Maam Cross before returning to Galway.

Day 12: Castles of Northern Ireland & Afternoon Tea

\$169CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Travel outside of Belfast to visit Hillsborough Castle for a guided tour of the State Rooms and gardens. The property, which was built in the 18th century, sits on 100 acres of sprawling green space and is an example of Georgian-style architecture. Then, sit down to a traditional afternoon tea complete with unlimited tea, sweet and savory pastries, plus the region's renowned scones served with clotted cream and jam. Please note: This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 13: Giant's Causeway

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (6 hours, departure time varies)
Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal columns, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that mythical giant Finn McCool built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. Please note: Raingear is recommended for this excursion.

Extension excursion options

Day 15: Scottish Cèilidh

\$175CAD/\$185CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)
Enjoy a special evening of Scottish tradition as you witness an authentic cèilidh, an age-old Scottish celebration. Sit down to an included dinner and be serenaded by a band playing Scottish folk tunes while you dine. As the evening winds down, dancers take to the stage to perform a series of traditional dances. Then, cap it all off by joining the company on stage to try the steps for yourself.

Day 16: 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.

*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