GO AHEAD TOURS



# Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland

15 days | 18 days with London extension

Travel through the landscapes of Scotland and Ireland, where hundreds of years of history spring to life. Start your journey in Edinburgh, where you'll admire stunning Georgian architecture. Then, head to the Scottish Highlands and Glasgow before crossing the Irish Sea to visit historic Belfast. Turn south through charming Galway, explore County Kerry's coastal landscapes, and cap off your trip amid Dublin's bustling streets.




## Your tour package includes

13 nights in handpicked hotels
13 breakfasts
5 dinners with beer or wine
1 liquor tasting
10 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach
1 ferry transfer

## Included highlights

Edinburgh Castle
Inveraray Castle
Western Highlands
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
Titanic Belfast Museum
Causey Farm
Cliffs of Moher
Dingle Peninsula
Blarney Castle
St. Patrick's Cathedral

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

## Group size

15–38



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# Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland

15 days | 18 days with London extension

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

**Day 1: Travel day**
Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

## Edinburgh → 2 nights

**Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh**
*Included meals: welcome dinner*
Welcome to Scotland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

**Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Follow a Scottish local on a sightseeing tour of the city.

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

Enjoy a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.
+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

## Scottish Highlands → 2 nights

**Day 4: Transfer to the Scottish Highlands**
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Continue on to the Scottish Highlands, admiring incredible sights as you go.

- Pass Loch Lomond as you drive through scenic Trossachs National Park
- Stop to explore Inveraray Castle and its gardens with a local guide
- Take in stunning scenery as you travel through the Scottish Highlands

*Please note: Entrance to Inveraray Castle is seasonal and runs from April through October only. When entrance is out of season, it will be replaced with a visit to the Ardkinglas House.*
This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

**Day 5: Sightseeing tour of the Western Highlands**
*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting*
Spend the day exploring the scenery and sites throughout the Western Highlands.

- Stroll through Oban with your Tour Director to visit the Roman-style McCaig's Tower and view the city's picturesque harbor
- Tour a distillery to learn about the malt whisky making process
- Sample some malt whisky paired with snacks
- Pass scenic lochs, glens, and mountains en route to Glencoe
- Visit the site of the Massacre of Glencoe and learn about the battle between Clan MacDonald and Scottish forces in 1692
- Enter the Glencoe Visitor Centre, an eco-friendly cultural history center that's nestled into its breathtaking surroundings

## Glasgow → 1 night

**Day 6: Transfer to Glasgow & sightseeing tour**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Travel to Glasgow and set off on 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

## Belfast → 2 nights

**Day 7: Ferry to Belfast**
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Make your way to the village of Cairnryan where you'll board a ferry for your voyage across the Irish Sea to Belfast, Ireland.
Sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening.

**Day 8: 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.
+ Giant's Causeway

## Galway → 2 nights

**Day 9: Galway via County Meath**
*Included meals: breakfast*
En route to Galway, stop in County Meath to pay a visit to Causey Farm.

- Learn about daily life on a working Irish farm
- Watch a demonstration of traditional games and dance, like hurling and ceili

*Please note: On some departures, the visit to Causey Farm may be replaced with a different farm experience.*
Then, 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 Galway or add an excursion.
+ Castle Banquet Dinner

**Day 10: Free day in Galway**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Spend a free day in Galway or add excursions.
+ Traditional Irish Music & Dance Show with Dinner
+ Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

## County Kerry → 2 nights

**Day 11: County Kerry via the Burren, Cliffs of Moher & Bunratty Castle**
*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*
Travel through the Irish countryside to County Kerry today, taking time to view spectacular scenery en route.

- Pass through the Burren, a unique limestone plateau where fields of rock are dotted with wildflowers
- Walk along the mesmerizing coastline of the majestic Cliffs of Moher
- Take a guided tour of the 13th-century Bunratty Castle

This evening, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

**Day 12: Dingle Peninsula & Killarney National Park**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Make your way along the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula.

- Take a scenic drive along the Slea Head Drive, enjoying impressive coastal views as you go
- Enter the Gallarus Oratory, an early Christian church overlooking the harbor at Ard na Caithne
- Enjoy photo stops at Coumeenole Beach, Slea Head, and Dunbeg Fort

After free time for lunch in the town of Dingle, head to Killarney National Park for photos at Ross Castle on Lough Leane.

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## **Dublin** → 2 nights

**Day 13: Dublin via Blarney Castle**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Make your way to Dublin this morning, stopping to explore Blarney Castle along the way.

- Explore the castle's dungeon, court, and battlements
- Kiss the legendary Blarney Stone

**Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Dublin**
*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*
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 walk past Grafton Street to the Molly Malone statue, ending in the Temple Bar district

Spend a free afternoon in Dublin or add an excursion.
This evening, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.
+ Glendalough

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## Flight Home

**Day 15: Departure**
*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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## + London extension

Mind the gap, get in the queue, ask for bangers with your mash—now you're ready for London! Arrive early and start your journey with extra time in the bustling English capital, taking in the sights alongside a local expert.

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## **Overnight Flight** → 1 night

**Day 1: Travel day**
Board your overnight flight to London today.

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## **London** → 3 nights

**Day 2: Arrival in London**
Welcome to England! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers as you enjoy a welcome drink this evening.

**Day 3: Sightseeing tour of London**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Take a guided tour of London's regal landmarks with a local expert leading the way.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations and weddings
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Enjoy a free afternoon in London or add an excursion.
+ Windsor Castle

**Day 4: Free day in London**
*Included meals: breakfast*
Spend a free day in London or add an excursion.
+ Stonehenge & Oxford

**Day 5: Train to Edinburgh**
*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*
This morning, transfer to King's Cross Station to board your train to Edinburgh, Scotland. Then, meet up with the rest of your tour group and get to know them during tonight's welcome dinner (day 2 of the regular itinerary).
*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.*

# 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/SIR | 1-800-754-5066**

**Day 3: 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: Some areas of the abbey are closed off due to masonry and damage repairs.

**Day 8: 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.

**Day 9: Castle Banquet Dinner**
$169CAD/$179CAD* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)
Enjoy a feast fit for a king inside walls of a nearby castle. Sip from a goblet of mead and learn the castle's history before proceeding to the banquet hall, where you'll enjoy a sumptuous, four-course dinner and an evening of live entertainment, including songs and stories. Please note: this excursion is only offered mid-April through mid-October.

**Day 10: 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 10: 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 14: Glendalough**
$69CAD/$79CAD* (5 hours, departure time varies)
County Wicklow has some of the wildest and most spectacular mountain scenery in Ireland, as well as many of the country's most important historic sites. Journey through Wicklow's captivating landscapes to Glendalough, which became famous throughout Europe as a center of Christian learning. Saint Laurence O'Toole became the Abbot of Glendalough in 1154 and worked to bring the Irish Church closer to the Roman Church. You'll learn more about O'Toole, who went on to become the Archbishop of Dublin, and his work in Glendalough as you visit St. Kevin's Cross, the remains of the sixth-century cathedral, and the remarkable Round Tower. Your Tour Director will lead you on a tour of the site, and then you'll enjoy free time.

## Extension excursion options

**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.

**Day 4: Stonehenge & Oxford**
$190CAD (9.5 hours, departs in the morning)
Pay a visit to Oxford, home to one of the most prestigious universities in the world. You'll admire the charming city's spire-studded architecture and learn more about its academic legacy during a visit to New College at Oxford University. Founded in the 14th century, this college is one of the oldest institutions in the city, and you'll discover its extensive history during your visit. Then, enjoy free time for lunch before continuing on to Stonehenge, perhaps England's most mysterious landmark. The origin and purpose of this ring of stones, which dates back an estimated 5,000 years, is unknown, though most believe it was a temple and observatory. Take some time to explore the intriguing stone formations and visit the newly opened exhibition and visitor center before heading back to London. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*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