



# **IRELAND / SCOTLAND**

## **July 9 - 22, 2023**



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## DAY 1 July 8: TRAVEL DAY - DEPART ORLANDO

### DAY 2 July 9: WELCOME TO DUBLIN

Arrive at Dublin Airport - Meet your driver and professional guide

#### On arrival enjoy a panoramic tour of Dublin

Here you will discover the north and south side of the River Liffey. This area offers striking monuments such as the GPO (General Post Office) on the city main thoroughfare, O'Connell Street, or the Custom House along the quays, as well as the Phoenix Park, the largest public park in Europe. The south side appears more sophisticated with its vast Georgian squares, such as Merrion Square, where Oscar Wilde's House can still be found (today owned by an American College), its colorful doors, along with Grafton Street and its quality shops. Not so far from St. Stephen's Green, in Kildare St., you will see the house of Bram Stoker, the author of Dracula. This part of the city is also dominated by Trinity College, where the famous book of Kells is permanently exhibited in its library. The university is facing the medieval district where Dublin Castle and the two Anglican Cathedrals can be found.



Transfer to your hotel and check in.

Dinner in local restaurant. Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin.

## DAY 3 July 10: TRINITY COLLEGE & BOOK OF KELLS & GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

Trinity was founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth 1st on grounds confiscated from an Augustinian priory and is the oldest university in Ireland. The Campanile, erected in 1852, was built on what is believed to be the centre of the monastery. Built to further the education of the ruling Anglo-Irish families, restrictions were imposed to prevent Catholic from attending courses. These restrictions were not fully lifted until the 1970. Trinity however admitted women in 1902, earlier than most British universities. Most of the main buildings off the main square were built during the Georgian period, some of which replaced older buildings. Within its walls, visitors will be able to admire Parliament Square and its 18th Century edifices.



#### In the afternoon visit Guinness Storehouse

The Guinness Brewery in Dublin is Europe's largest stout producing brewery and home to the Guinness Storehouse. Opened in 1904, the Storehouse was an operational plant for fermenting and storing Guinness. Today it houses a very fine exhibition dedicated to the Guinness story.

Visitors will discover what goes into making a pint of Guinness - the ingredients, the brewing process, the time, the craft and the passion. The exhibition shows how the brew has been marketed and how it is today sold in over 150 countries. Once the tour has finished, the guests are invited to the Gravity Bar to enjoy their pint of Guinness. Regular demonstrations on the art of pulling a pint of Guinness also take place in the Storehouse. Launched on the fifth floor in 2011, "Five" at Guinness Storehouse, includes a small replica authentic Irish

Bar, an 18th Century inspired Brewers Dining Hall, and a restaurant named Gilroy's where guests enjoy a Guinness gastronomic experience driven entirely by the Irish tradition of wholesome local produce. Menus include local foods such as Ardsalagh goat's cheese, Irish mussels from Carlingford and the Waterford Blaas bread supplied by MD Bakery in Waterford. This area will host from time to time live cooking demonstrations using Guinness in the recipe and it includes an interactive recipe sharing bank that allows visitors to take Guinness recipe cards home.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin.

## DAY 4 July 11: NEWGRANGE, BEACTIVE ABBEY & TRIM CASTLE

### This morning visit Bru Na Boinne Newgrange

Brú Na Bóinne Visitor Centre is designed to present the archaeological heritage of the Boyne Valley, which includes the fascinating megalithic passage tombs of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth. The extensive exhibition includes a full-scale replica of the chamber at Newgrange as well as a full model of one of the smaller tombs at Knowth. The centre is the starting point for all visits to both monuments and contains extensive interpretative displays and viewing areas.

Then visit the Bective Abbey founded in 1147 for the Cistercian Order by Murchad O'Máeil-Sheachlainn, King of Meath. The remains now visible at the Abbey date mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries. They include the church, chapter house and cloister. The cloister ruins are particularly well-preserved, and feature pointed, gothic arches typical of Cistercian architecture. Today, the ruins provide a maze of passageways with dead ends and interrupted staircases, all asking to be explored.



Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Dublin.



## DAY 5 July 12: DUNGUAIRE CASTLE

### This morning depart Dublin and journey to Galway

#### En route visit Dunguaire Castle

Dunguaire Castle was built in 1520 by the O' Hynes clan on the picturesque shores of Galway Bay. The Castle takes its name from the nearby ancient fort of Guaire, built by the King of Connaught who died in 662 AD. This restored 16th century tower house sits on a rocky outcrop 200m (300 yards) outside the picturesque village of Kinvara. In 1924 Dunguaire was bought and restored by Oliver St. John Gogarty, the famous surgeon and literary figure. It became the venue for meetings of the literary revivalists such as W.B. Yeats, his patron Lady Gregory, George Bernard Shaw, Edward Martin and J.M. Synge. Subsequently the castle became the property

of Shannon Development. Today the restored castle gives an insight into the lifestyle of the people who lived from 1520 to modern times. During the summer months it plays host to the Dunguaire Castle Banquets in the evenings.

Travel via the Burren - Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Galway.

## DAY 6 July 13: ARAN ISLANDS & CLIFFS OF MOHER

### This morning take the ferry to Inis Mor - Enjoy a minibus tour of Inis Mor



#### Then visit Cliffs of Moher

Situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 metres above the ground at their highest point and 8km long, the Cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the Aran Islands are visible in Galway Bay as well as the valleys and hills of Connemara. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet by Conde Nast Traveler. The respected travel publication has voted the world-famous landmark at the top of a new chart of 'Nine Gorgeous Cliff Views that Rival The Grand Canyon'.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Galway.

## DAY 7 July 14: GALWAY WALKING TOUR

The city centre of Galway is mainly pedestrian, so a walking tour is the best way to enjoy its atmosphere and discover some of its most important monument. The tour starts on Eyre Square and finishes at the Claddagh. During the tour you will see Lynch Castle, home to the mayors of Galway, Saint Nicholas Church founded in the 13th century, and the famous Spanish Arch. You can walk along the Corrib river to the Claddagh village or to the majestic Cathedral.

Time at leisure for shopping.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Galway.



## DAY 8 July 15: FROM GALWAY TO DONEGAL

### First visit Drumcliffe Church

Drumcliffe was an early Christian site at the foot of impressive Benbulbin – the table top mountain. Today the principal visible remains of the monastic site are the High Cross, another plain cross, the stump of a round tower, the Church of Ireland and a graveyard. Drumcliffe is best known worldwide as the final resting place of W. B Yeats, whose grandfather was Rector here. You can see an ordinary grave for this great Nobel Prize winning author, poet and dramatist. There is a small Church Of Ireland that is also worth visiting. Services are held on Sundays at 12h00. There is no charge to visit the church, however donations are expected.

### Continue to Donegal Craft Village

Donegal Craft Village is a showcase for contemporary arts and crafts in Ireland. Stop off and indulge in the award winning restaurant renowned for its freshly ground coffee, delicious home made cakes and gourmet lunches. The beautifully landscaped grounds include a picnic area, a charming courtyard, and spacious free parking. Meet the artists in their workshops and treat yourself to the many items they offer. Resident artists work in the areas of glass, weaving, wood, jewellery, painting and paper crafted giftware.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Donegal.



## **DAY 9 July 16: FROM DONEGAL TO BELFAST**

**This morning depart Donegal  
and journey to Belfast**

En route visit Giant's Causeway  
Encounter Northern Ireland's favourite giant Finn McCool at the new Giants Causeway Visitor centre on the North Antrim coast which opened in the summer of 2012. According to legend Finn McCool created the Giants Causeway by building stepping stones to Scotland to challenge the Scottish giant Benandonner! The new Visitor centre explores the major themes of mythology, geology, landscape, ecology, culture and social history based on the UNESCO World Heritage site that consists of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago after a volcanic eruption. There are various interactive exhibits and short video presentations within five designated interpretive exhibition areas and the self guided visit will culminate with a spectacular two minutes audio-visual projection of a volcanic eruption flowing over the walls and onto the floor. Other services and facilities include a large craft and souvenir shop. To enhance the wider visitor experience around the site, a hand held audio guide is available in a range of languages which will bring the wider World Heritage Site to life and inform visitors of unique features to look out for across this amazing landscape. Guided tours of the site are also available. The walks and trails around the World Heritage Site have been upgraded, with the addition of a new accessible cliff top walk for families and people with disabilities. In 2015, *Conde Nast Traveler* magazine included hopping the stones of the Giant's Causeway as one of the '50 things to do in Europe before you die'.



At arrival enjoy a guided tour and discover Belfast.  
Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Belfast.



## **DAY 10 July 17: BELFAST TO GLASGOW**

**This morning take the ferry  
from Belfast to Cairnryan**

**Enjoy a panoramic tour of Glasgow**

Continue to your hotel and check in.  
Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Glasgow.

## **DAY 11 July 18: FROM GLASGOW TO OBAN**

**This morning depart Glasgow  
and journey to Oban**

**Enjoy a cruise on Loch Lomond**

Loch Lomond is a lake in Scotland located in the west of the country, south of the Highlands. By its surface, it is the largest of the lochs of Great Britain, and the second after Loch Ness in volume. On the east bank dominates Ben Lomond, 974 meters high, which is the southernmost peak of the Munros massif. Numerous islands are scattered on the lake, some with ancient ruins. One of them, Inchmurrin, is the largest lake island in the British Isles. As with Loch Tay, many of the islands appear to have been crannogs, artificial islands built during prehistoric times. Today the loch is well known for the Loch Lomond Golf Club which hosts international competitions.

### **En route visit Inveraray Castle**

Beautiful Inveraray Castle, set on the shores of Loch Fyne, is said to be haunted by a number of ghosts. A young Irish harpist, who was killed by the Duke of Montrose's men in 1644, reportedly haunts the MacArthur Room while the castle's 'grey lady' has only been seen by daughters of a Duke of Argyll. Another spooky apparition is the ghostly 'Galley of Lorne', which can be seen floating away on the horizon when a Duke dies.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Oban.

## DAY 12 July 19: ISLE OF MULL & IONA ABBEY & NUNNERY

Today take the ferry from Oban to the Isle of Mull.

Transfer across the island by coach and then take the ferry to Iona as foot passengers.

### Visit Iona Abbey & Nunnery

Iona is a holy isle, an enduring symbol of Christianity in Scotland. St Columba and his followers came here from Ireland in AD 563 and founded a monastery that became the heart of the early Scottish Church. As a celebrated focus for Christian pilgrimage, Iona retains its spiritual atmosphere and remains an enduring symbol of worship. The abbey church was restored at the beginning of the 20th century, whilst work on restoring the living accommodation began in 1938, following the foundation of the Iona Community. Today, the Iona Community continues the tradition of worship first established by St Columba 1450 years ago. Iona Abbey is one of Scotland's most historic and sacred sites.

Spend some time at leisure on the island before returning to Oban by the same route. Overnight, dinner, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Oban.



## DAY 13 July 20: OBAN TO EDINBURGH

This morning depart Oban and journey to Edinburgh

### En route visit Stirling Castle

One of Scotland's grandest castles due to its imposing position and impressive architecture, Stirling Castle commands the countryside for many miles around. It towers over some of the most important battlefields of Scotland's past including Stirling Bridge, the site of William Wallace's victory over the English in 1297, and Bannockburn where Robert the Bruce defeated the same foe in the summer of 1314.

Situated on a volcanic outcrop guarding the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling Castle is a great symbol of Scottish Independence and a source of enduring national pride. The castle's long, turbulent history is associated with great figures from Scotland's past, such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce and Mary Queen of Scots. It has seen many royal dramas and witnessed the lives and deaths of almost every Scottish monarch up to the Union of the Crowns in 1603.



Continue to Edinburgh and check into your hotel. Overnight, bed & breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh area.

**DAY 14 July 21:  
ST. ANDREWS**  
Enjoy free time in St. Andrews

**OPTIONAL VISIT:**

St Andrews Cathedral  
USD 16.00 per person for self-guided tour

The remains of what was Scotland's largest and most magnificent church still show how impressive St Andrews Cathedral must have been in its prime. St Andrews Cathedral dominated the history of the medieval Church in Scotland, from its construction in the 12th century until the Protestant Reformation in 1560. As Scotland's largest and most magnificent medieval church, the cathedral was the seat of the country's leading bishops. It occupied a site used for worship since the 8th

century AD, when the relics of St Andrew, Scotland's patron saint, are said to have been brought here. The cathedral buildings are surrounded by a graveyard, and encircled by the most complete and imposing monastic enclosure walls in Scotland.



**GOLFERS: Play a round at St Andrews (New) course**

\*Green fees: USD 200.00 per person (Jubilee course) or USD 240.00 per person (The Castle Course). Minimum 8 golfers. There will also be an Abbey booking fee of USD 80.00 per group per round booking fee. Club rental – USD 70.00, Electric Trolley – USD 50.00, Buggy hire – USD 60.00.

Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh.

## DAY 15 July 22: EDINBURGH



### **This morning enjoy a panoramic tour of Edinburgh**

Edinburgh is one of the world's finest capital cities, because of its cultural diversity and impressive history. The medieval streets run through the whole city telling their own story about the 1000 year old traditions and myths of Edinburgh. Throughout your city tour you will get to know different parts of this city, such as the Royal Mile, the Princes Street Gardens, the Calton Hill and many more. Here you will also have a fantastic view of the city and Leith – the port of the city and many more.

### **Visit Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across the City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvellous views, it continues to spellbound with its wonderful story.



This evening enjoy a dinner at a local restaurant  
Overnight, bed and breakfast at your hotel in Edinburgh.

## **DAY 16: FAREWELL**

**Transfer to Glasgow Airport for your journey home.**

## **2023 Where in the World is Bev?? Cultural Immersion Program**

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