

# 14 Day England, Scotland & Ireland

May – October 2023

From \$4389\* Air & Land

\*Call for specific rates for specific dates and departure cities



## DAY 1, Thursday - Depart for England

Depart for England



## DAY 2, Friday - Arrive in London

Arrive in London, the cosmopolitan capital of the United Kingdom; transfer to your hotel. Most flights arrive in the early morning and your room may not be ready for you. In this case, leave your luggage with the concierge and your Tour Manager will provide suggestions for you to begin to explore the city on your own. This evening, at approximately 6 PM, enjoy a Welcome Drink and attend an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager, followed by a Welcome Dinner

**Overnight:** London

**Meals:** Dinner



### **DAY 3, Saturday - London City Tour**

Discover London's history and pageantry on a tour of the trendy West End that begins with a drive through fashionable Kensington with its elegant squares and parks. Pass Harrods, the luxury department store on the way to Piccadilly, Trafalgar Square, and Westminster Abbey, an architectural masterpiece. Continue to the historic Houses of Parliament, one of the world's most iconic buildings and view Big Ben. The afternoon is at leisure for individual interests. Perhaps head to the Mall, a tree-lined royal road leading to Buckingham Palace, the official residence of Her Majesty the Queen or, join the *optional* tour of the Tower of London, a former fortress and royal palace and St. Paul's Cathedral. The evening is yours to explore London at your own pace

**Optional:** Tower of London & St. Paul's Cathedral (PM)

**Overnight:** London

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 4, Sunday - Stratford-upon-Avon, Medieval York**

From London, head to Stratford-upon-Avon, a charming market town on the River Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare. In this beautiful, rural village, trace the footsteps of England's most famous poet and playwright. View the thatched cottage where Anne Hathaway lived before continuing to Shakespeare's school and his home on Henley Street. At Holy Trinity Church, view his final resting place before free time in this celebrated town where the Bard's plays are still performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Then, travel to the walled medieval city of York in northeast England with its rich history dating back to the Romans.

Dinner together is at the hotel

**Overnight:** York

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 5, Monday - York Minster, Edinburgh**

View the massive York Minster, a remarkable 13th-century Gothic cathedral with magnificent medieval stained glass and two functioning bell towers, considered one of the largest and most beautiful cathedrals in the world that dominates this historic city. Drive past the city walls that form a walkway on both sides of the River Ouse on the way to Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Britain's most impressive Roman monument. Crossing into Scotland, drive via Jedburgh Abbey one of the four great abbeys built on the border during the Middle Ages. One of the country's most spectacular ancient monuments, that has endured a turbulent 900-year history. After lunch en route, arrive in dramatic Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city with its exquisite Georgian and Victorian architecture

**Overnight:** Edinburgh

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 6, Tuesday - Edinburgh's Heritage, Holyrood and Edinburgh Castle**

Edinburgh's rich heritage is revealed today on a tour of this historic city. Pass the elegant mansions of the 200-year-old Georgian "New Town" on the way to the Museum of Scotland and the Scottish Parliament at the foot of the Royal Mile. Admire regal Holyrood Palace, the Queen's official residence in Scotland. Later, visit stately Edinburgh Castle perched high above the city; view Scotland's magnificent crown jewels, St. Margaret's Chapel and the Stone of Destiny, returned from London after 700 years. After stunning panoramic views from its ramparts, return to the center of the city for leisure time to explore this endlessly fascinating city on your own. Tonight, don't miss the fun-filled *optional* Scottish Dinner with tartan-clad entertainers, bagpipers and Highland dancers

**Optional:** Scottish Dinner & Show

**Overnight:** Edinburgh

**Meals:** Breakfast





### **DAY 7, Wednesday - Ferry to Belfast**

Morning drive to the small village of Cairnryan, to board a luxury high-speed ferry that whisks you to Belfast in Northern Ireland across the Irish Sea. Upon arrival, free time to independently discover Northern Ireland's capital with its beautifully restored Victorian architecture, glittering waterfront lined with European-style cafes and rich cultural life. Tonight's dinner highlights popular Irish specialties

**Overnight:** Belfast

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 8, Thursday - Explore Belfast, Titanic Museum**

Today's exploration of Belfast begins at the towering dome of the Edwardian City Hall, the university district, and the newly-renovated Ulster Museum, a repository of historic treasures. Stop in a neighborhood where buildings are still scarred from "The Troubles" which ended with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. Visit the gleaming Titanic Belfast Museum constructed in the actual dockyard where the doomed ship was built; its multimedia presentation follows the history of Belfast and the creation of the world's most famous ocean liner. Exhibits include a high-tech ride through a re-creation of the city's shipyards, details of the Titanic's construction and old film footage of the actual ship. The rest of the day is yours to discover Belfast on your own

**Overnight:** Belfast

**Meals:** Breakfast



### **DAY 9, Friday - Giant's Causeway & Visitor Center, Derry's Medieval Walls**

The day starts with a breathtaking scenic drive through the Glens of Antrim to the north coast of Northern Ireland, known as the Causeway Coast, an area of outstanding beauty. Here, visit Giant's Causeway, the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland, where unusual hexagonal columns formed by 60 million years of volcanic activity stretch into the sea. Marvel at this natural phenomenon! The Giant's Causeway is also steeped in myth and legend. Some say it was carved from the coast by the mighty giant, Finn McCool who left behind an ancient home full of folklore. Look out for clues of his existence - including The Giant's Boot and Wishing Chair. After a visit to the informative Visitor Center, on to the pretty city of Derry (also called Londonderry) with its glimpses of Northern Ireland's past and present. In the afternoon, a walking tour of the artistic cultural hub of Derry includes St. Columb's Cathedral and the neo-Gothic Guildhall with its beautiful stained glass windows. View the preserved medieval city walls with its four original gates that completely encircle the old city, protecting Derry throughout centuries from foreign invaders. Dinner in Derry is at your hotel

**Overnight:** Derry

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 10, Saturday - Picturesque Sligo, Knock Shrine, Westport**

Morning drive to Sligo, with its renowned natural beauty, home to the young poet William Butler Yeats, one of the most picturesque places in Ireland. Next, proceed to the village of Knock in County Mayo, where many believe that the Virgin Mary appeared; pause at the sacred Knock Shrine, a Roman Catholic pilgrimage site. The day ends in bustling Westport, in the northern West Coast well-known for its outdoor activities, spas, and international nightlife. Upon arrival, enjoy a dinner of local favorites

**Overnight:** Westport

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### **DAY 11, Sunday - Glen Keen Sheep Farm,**

A day in the Irish countryside! Visit the unique Glen Keen Farm\* with its stunning natural beauty. One of the largest farms in Ireland, this single family-owned working sheep farm is larger than some national parks. Learn more about this center of agritourism designated as a special area of conservation for its natural beauty. After lunch, travel into the heart of Connemara with its crystal lakes, towering mountains and striking expanses of emerald green to visit Kylemore Abbey and its Victorian Walled Garden. Stroll through the restored rooms of the abbey and the magnificent Victorian Walled Garden with its colorful floral displays. Perhaps, stop for a cup of fresh herbal tea at the Tea House, before returning to Westport. The evening is at leisure

*\*Farm activities are weather dependent*

**Overnight:** Westport

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch



### **DAY 12, Monday - Seaside Galway, Discover Dublin**

Today, travel to Galway, once a seafaring town, nestled on the shores of Galway Bay, one of the fastest growing cities in Europe. Walk the picturesque winding streets in the downtown area to Eyre Square and the trendy Latin Quarter. At Lynch's Castle, view 14th-century stonework that includes ghoulish gargoyles before arriving at imposing Galway Cathedral on the banks of the River Corrib. Lunch on your own in this lively bohemian city with its brightly painted pubs, cafes, and galleries. Then, it's off to Dublin, the capital of Ireland. At Trinity College, marvel at the 8th century Book of Kells, a superb example of early Irish manuscript illumination on display in the Old Library before continuing to St. Stephen's Green, Phoenix Park and legendary St. Patrick's Cathedral. The evening is at leisure in Dublin with its wide choice of fine restaurants, non-stop nightlife and friendly pubs on every corner

**Overnight:** Dublin

**Meals:** Breakfast





### **DAY 13, Tuesday - Dublin at Leisure, Irish Pub Farewell Dinner**

Enjoy a full day of leisure in Dublin, to further explore this fascinating city on your own. Then it's time to get ready for a fabulous Farewell Dinner at one of Ireland's oldest pubs. It will be a rip-roaring evening of traditional Irish music and dance accompanied by a great selection of quality Irish food to delight your palate

**Overnight:** Dublin

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### **DAY 14, Wednesday - Depart Ireland**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight

**Meals:** Breakfast

## **Escorted Package Includes**

- Flights New York-London, Dublin-New York  
Other departure cities available. Click on date of departure for selection and prices
- Airline taxes & fuel surcharges
- 12 nights First Class accommodations
  - 2 nights London
  - 1 night York
  - 2 nights Edinburgh
  - 2 nights Belfast
  - 1 night Derry
  - 2 nights Westport
  - 2 nights Dublin
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel portage
- All transfers included only with airfare purchase on package arrival & departure dates†♦
- 19 meals: 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

## Special Features

- Discover London's history and pageantry on a tour of the trendy West End
- In Stratford-upon-Avon trace the footsteps of Shakespeare, England's most famous poet
- Travel to the medieval city of York with its rich history, dating back to the Romans
- Visit Scotland's Edinburgh Castle high above the city; view the magnificent crown jewels
- Tour Belfast's Titanic Museum constructed in the dockyard where the ship was built
- Visit spectacular Giant's Causeway, the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in Northern Ireland
- View Derry's preserved medieval city walls with its four original gates encircling the city
- Spend a day in the Irish countryside -- visit the unique Glen Keen working sheep farm
- Travel to Galway, once a seafaring town, nestled on the shores of Galway Bay
- At Trinity College in Dublin, marvel at the superb 8th century Book of Kells
- Farewell Dinner at an Irish Pub in Dublin with traditional Irish dance and music

†Transfers are available for purchase for land only or on alternative flight dates

◆ London Gatwick Airport transfers available at an additional cost

## Is This Trip Right for You?

This moderately active trip covers a fair amount of ground each day. Expect to spend two to three hours on your feet during tours. The pace is moderate, where you will encounter some uneven surfaces, stairs, steps and significant slopes. This tour is not recommended for people who have difficulty walking. Hotels in Scotland often encompass the traditional style of the region. You can expect small rooms with low lighting and limited access to electrical outlets. Rooms may lack amenities, including air-conditioning, microwaves, refrigerators, in-room safe, and luggage racks. Meals in Scotland will often take place at your hotel. The food served is local to the region with limited variety. Many hotels have limited restaurant staff and therefore meals can take longer than expected. Some hotels in Westport, Edinburgh, Derry and London are built in the traditional local style and have no air conditioning. During heat waves, these hotels can become uncomfortable, even at higher elevations. This is a Classic program.

**Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.**

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance only covers services purchased prior to departure
- Book Online or call to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure
- The day the optionals operate varies by the day of the week
  - **Tower of London & St. Paul's Cathedral**



- Today the focus is on two of the most impressive monuments within London's original "Square Mile". Take a guided visit of St. Paul's Cathedral, where Charles married Diana in 1981. Also, view the exterior architecture of Sir Christopher Wren's Dome, a masterpiece and landmark of London's skyline. Continue to the Tower of London, a former fortress and Royal Palace that has witnessed 1000 years of history most notoriously as a prison. Now the Crown Jewels are kept here and you will have a viewing of these, as well as seeing the iconic Tower Bridge.

Approximate tour duration is 4.5 hours.

Day #3	08 Mar 2022 - 31 Mar 2024	\$95
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- **Village of Lacock with dinner**
- Leaving Bath in the late afternoon, enjoy a drive through the Wiltshire countryside to the picturesque village of Lacock. Owned by the National Trust to preserve its character and heritage, Lacock is often used as a location for films, such as the Harry Potter series, Pride and Prejudice, Cranford and many others. Time to explore the town and later enjoy dinner at an historic local Inn.

Approximate tour duration is 3.5 hours.

Day #4	01 Jan 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	\$60
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- **Scottish Dinner & Show**
- Enjoy a memorable evening of traditional entertainment in Scotland's capital. The colorful tartan clad entertainers will perform a program of music, including the most famous Scottish songs, highland dancers and bagpipers. The show includes a hearty dinner with wine, including a taste of Haggis!

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #7	01 Jan 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	\$95
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- **Half Day Royal Yacht Britannia & Holyrood Palace**
- An exciting morning tour which gives you the opportunity to board the former Royal Yacht Britannia. You'll visit the state rooms, captain's cabin, bridge, galley and engine room and learn about life aboard this elegant ship which has seen so many historic occasions and glittering state visits during 40 years of service to Her Majesty. Continue following in the footsteps of Kings, Queens, Presidents and Prime Ministers with a visit to the Palace of Holyroodhouse\*, the official residence of the Monarch of the United Kingdom in Scotland and see the state apartments and throne room, with an unrivalled collection of tapestries and paintings.

\*For departures May 11th-May 20th and June 23rd-June 30th, Holyroodhouse will be replaced by Thistle Chapel

Approximate tour duration is 4 hours.

Day #8	01 Jan 2023 - 31 Mar 2024	\$80.
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Park Plaza Riverbank, London



This first class hotel overlooks the River Thames.



### York Marriott Hotel, York



This first class hotel overlooks the York Racecourse.

### The InterContinental Edinburgh, The George, Edinburgh



This first class hotel is situated on the fashionable George Street in Edinburgh's New Town.

### Maldron Belfast City, Belfast



This first class hotel is located in the heart of Belfast.

### Maldron Hotel Derry, Derry



This first class hotel is centrally located within the historic city walls of Derry.

### Castlecourt Hotel Resort, County Mayo



This first class hotel is situated in the heart of Westport.

### Clayton Hotel Ballsbridge, Dublin



This first class hotel is a short walk away from the RDS Main Arena.