

# CLASSIC SCOTLAND & IRELAND

## ITINERARY

DAY  
1

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

Make your way into **Edinburgh** city centre where your hotel will be located. Many travellers opt to take a taxi or use public transport, but for a more direct and comfortable ride, we will be happy to organise a private airport transfer for you. For those arriving early in the day, we recommend spending the afternoon walking through the city, strolling along the **Royal Mile** and exploring the **Old Town** and **New Town**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are also plenty of museums and landmarks to visit within the city centre, including the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

*Included: Entrance to Edinburgh Castle*

**Attractions:** Calton Hill, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh New Town, Edinburgh Old Town, Scotland, The Grassmarket, The Royal Mile & St Giles Cathedral

DAY  
2

### DAY 2: INTO THE HIGHLANDS

Start your road trip driving into the Highlands. On the way you'll have many possible stops, such as the picturesque village of **Dunkeld** and the 13<sup>th</sup>-century **Blair Castle**. Driving through the **Cairngorms National Park** you could also stop at the **Highland Folk Museum**. Arriving near **Inverness**, you can drive to the **Battlefield of Culloden Moor**, to see where the last battle on British soil occurred in 1746, marking "the beginning of the end for the Highlands." Nearby you can visit **Clava Cairns**, a series of tombs and standing stones dating back roughly 4,000 years.

Spend the night in the Inverness area.

*Driving distance: 251 km / 156 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 3.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Blair Castle, Cairngorms National Park, Clava Cairns, Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre, Dunkeld, Highland Folk Museum, Inverness

DAY  
3

### DAY 3: LOCH NESS, CASTLES & ISLE OF SKYE

Today's journey will take you from Inverness to the famous **Isle of Skye**. Drive along the shores of **Loch Ness** where, if time allows, you could take a boat tour in search of its notorious and elusive monster. You can also explore the nearby **Urquhart Castle** ruins. Later, make a stop at the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle** before arriving on Skye. Your first stop on the island will be at the scenic village of **Portree**, where you can explore and admire its colourful buildings and dine at a local restaurant.

Spend the night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

*Included: Entrance to Urquhart Castle*

*Driving distance: 185 km / 115 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 3.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Ness, Portree, Urquhart Castle

## DAY 4: THE ISLE OF SKYE

Today take full advantage of your time on Skye, a haven for nature lovers. We recommend driving to the northern part of the island and taking your time around all the attractions on the breathtaking **Trotternish Peninsula**. There you can enjoy a walk up to “**The Old Man of Storr**” rock pinnacle and see the beautiful **Kilt Rock waterfall**. Other highlights include the **Quiraing** rock face, the **An Corran Beach** at Staffin, where you may spot ancient dinosaur footprints, and the mystical **Fairy Glen**.

Spend another night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

*Driving distance: 70 km / 45 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 1.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Fairy Glen, Isle of Skye, Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls, Old Man of Storr, Quiraing, Staffin & An Corran Beach

## DAY 5: SLEAT PENINSULA & GLENFINNAN

Head south to the Sleat Peninsula, admiring the beautiful beaches, lochs, and glens of the region. You may wish to stop on the way to enjoy a walk to the crystal-clear **Fairy Pools** at the foot of the **Black Cuillin Hills** or to sample single malt whisky at the local distillery. This afternoon catch a ferry from Armadale to Mallaig on the mainland. On your journey to **Fort William**, we recommend a stop at **Camusdarach Beach** and **Glenfinnan**. Admire the Glenfinnan Monument, overlooking Loch Shiel, and the viaduct, featured in the *Harry Potter* films.

Spend the night in the Fort William area.

Ferry duration: 30 minutes

*Ferry from Armadale to Mallaig: 30 minutes*

*Driving distance: 135 km / 85 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 3 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Camusdarach Beach, Cuillin Mountains, Fairy Pools, Fort William, Glenfinnan

## DAY 6: TRAVEL ALONG DRAMATIC GLENS

Today's journey takes you past Scotland's most famous valley, **Glen Coe**, which offers world-famous scenery. You could stop at Rob Roy's grave at Balquidder and at the beautiful **Falls of Dochart** in the village of Killin. Alternatively, you could travel the longer scenic route via the seaside town of Oban onto the historical valley of **Kilmartin Glen** and past the charming village of **Inveraray**. This region is considered to have one of the most important concentrations of Neolithic and Bronze Age remains in Scotland, including cairns, standing stones, and castles.

Spend the night in the Trossachs National Park area.

*Driving distance via Glen Coe: 130 km / 80 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours (without stops)*

*Driving distance via Kilmartin Glen/Inveraray: 285 km / 180 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 4.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Glen Coe, Inveraray & Inveraray Castle, Kilmartin Glen, Loch Lomond

DAY

7

## DAY 7: TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK TO GLASGOW

Today's drive will take you to Scotland's largest city, **Glasgow**. Drive through the **Loch Lomond** and **Trossachs National Park**, where you could stop for a nature walk, enjoy an optional steamship tour on **Loch Katrine**, or visit a local whisky distillery. For a fun photo opportunity, don't miss **Doune Castle**, featured in *Monty Python & the Holy Grail* and the *Outlander* TV series. If time allows, you could also stop by **Stirling Castle**, one of Scotland's top attractions. Enjoy the evening at your leisure in **Glasgow**.

Spend the night in Glasgow.

*Included: Entrances to Doune Castle and Stirling Castle*

*Driving distance: 109 km / 68 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Doune Castle, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Stirling Castle, Trossachs National Park

DAY

8

## DAY 8: TRAVEL TO DUBLIN, IRELAND

Today, board a flight to **Dublin**, Ireland for the second portion of your tour. Upon your arrival in Dublin, start exploring this amazing city, with its eclectic mixture of heritage sites, museums and historic pubs. You can take a stroll along the cobbled streets of the **Temple Bar** district or visit the historic **Trinity College** to see the ancient **Book of Kells**. Alternatively, you could enjoy an afternoon tea sightseeing tour of the city on a vintage bus or grab a pint at the **Guinness Storehouse** for a taste of the world-famous beer.

Spend the night in Dublin.

**Attractions:** Book of Kells and Old Library, Dublin, Glasgow, Guinness Storehouse, Ireland, Trinity College Dublin

DAY

9

## DAY 9: TOWARDS THE IRISH WEST COAST

Start your road trip towards the west coast, passing through the beautiful midlands. Your first stop is **Trim Castle** where you can learn about Irish history at the largest Anglo-Norman castle in Ireland. You could also make a pit stop at **Kilbeggan Distillery** to see how the local whiskey is made. Later, we recommend roaming around the atmospheric ruins of **Clonmacnoise**. Finally, arrive in **Galway**, a lively city by the Atlantic Ocean. The colourful city is the perfect place to taste some Irish delicacies with its famous food scene and numerous pubs.

Spend the night in the Galway area.

*Driving distance: 229 km / 142 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Clonmacnoise, Galway, Kilbeggan Distillery, Trim Castle

DAY  
10

## DAY 10: DISCOVER RUGGED CONNEMARA

Visit the striking region of Connemara with its landscapes characterised by rugged mountains, white sand beaches, picturesque lakes and heathlands. Stop by **Killary harbour**, Ireland's only true fjord with a length of 16km (9.9miles). Further along, visit **Kylemore Abbey** where you can admire spectacular Gothic architecture and take a stroll in the Victorian Walled Garden.

For a more leisurely day, you can opt for a boat trip to the **Aran Islands**. These three windswept islands are one of the few places where the Gaelic language, culture and music still truly thrive.

Spend another night in the Galway area.

*Driving distance around Connemara: 214 km / 133 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 4.5 hours (without stops)*

*Driving distance to Aran Islands: 76 km / 47 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Aran Islands, Clifden, Connemara National Park, Killary Harbour, Kylemore Abbey

DAY  
11

## DAY 11: CLIFFS OF MOHER & LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES

Start the day by visiting **Dunguaire Castle**. Sitting on a rocky outcrop overlooking Galway Bay, it is one of the most photographed castles in Ireland. Further ahead, explore the unique, lunar-like landscape of **The Burren** before arriving at the breathtaking **Cliffs of Moher**, Ireland's top tourist attraction. It showcases some of the country's most iconic coastal scenery. If time allows, you can then visit the 15<sup>th</sup>-century **Bunratty Castle**. Here you'll also find the Bunratty Folk Park, where you can experience what Irish rural life used to be like a century ago.

Spend the night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

*Driving distance: 269 km / 167 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 4.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Bunratty Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Kinvara & Dunguaire Castle, The Burren

DAY  
12

## DAY 12: RING OF KERRY

Take in the magic of the **Ring of Kerry**, a classic "must do" scenic drive of the Irish countryside. Stop at **Kells Bay House**, to see its primeval forest of planted giant ferns. Other highlights include the ancient stone forts of **Caherdaniel** and **Staigue**, and **Derrynane Bay** with its beautiful white sand. Complete the circle with a visit to the picturesque **Torc Waterfall**. Today, you could also take an optional boat tour from the coast to see the Skellig Islands from up close. These otherworldly islands were recently featured in the *Star Wars* movies.

Spend another night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

*Driving distance: 198 km / 123 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 4.5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Caherdaniel & Staigue Forts, Kells Bay House and Gardens, Ring of Kerry, Skellig islands, Torc Waterfall

DAY  
13

## DAY 13: STEP INTO IRELAND'S FAMOUS HISTORY

Today's journey will take you back to Dublin. We recommend stopping at a few worthwhile sights along the way. Don't miss **Blarney Castle**, a legendary medieval stronghold that houses the Blarney Stone, surrounded by many myths and tales. Later, explore the spectacular **Rock of Cashel**, a historic site containing a fantastic collection of medieval buildings that span over 1000 years of history. Back in Dublin, enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure, perhaps with a fine Irish dinner to top off your amazing journey.

Spend the night in Dublin.

*Driving distance: 343 km / 213 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 5 hours (without stops)*

**Attractions:** Blarney Castle, Dublin, Rock of Cashel

DAY  
14

## DAY 14: DEPARTURE

To get to Dublin Airport, you can take a taxi, or we can arrange a convenient private transfer directly from your hotel. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can use the morning to enjoy some last-minute shopping, visit one of the many attractions or simply relax and take in the atmosphere of the city one last time.

*Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

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