



The Scots Irish Tour

Starting at \$2,965*

Travel back in time with us

This fast-paced Scotland and Ireland tour focuses on their rich history, with plenty of castle tours and museums to help bring the past to life. It's the perfect trip for those interested in exploring Scottish and Irish heritage.

Trip details

Tour start

Edinburgh

Tour end

Shannon

11 ☀

Days

10 🌙

Nights

19 🍴

Meals

* Prices listed are in US dollars, and are per-person, double-occupancy. If you would prefer a single room, there is a single-room supplement of \$75



Trip Highlights:

- Edinburgh Castle
- Cliffs of Moher
- Isle of Skye
- Glenveagh Castle
- Giant's Causeway
- Crosskeys Inn Irish Night - CIE Tours Exclusive
- Stirling Castle
- Titanic Belfast
- Arigna Mining Experience

Hotels:

- Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club
- Columba Hotel
- Muthu Newton Hotel
- DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro
- Europa Hotel
- Station House Hotel - Letterkenny
- Kilronan Castle
- Temple Gate Hotel

2023 Scots Irish Tour - 11 Days/10 Nights

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 Edinburgh | Scotch Whisky Experience*

Your tour departs at 2:00 PM from your hotel. Head out to The Scotch Whisky Experience on the famed Royal Mile. Learn about the art and aromas of whisky production, taste a dram of single malt or blended whisky, and view the world's largest collection of Scotch whisky. For dinner you'll hear colorful tales of Scottish history and culture while tasting a range of flavorful whiskies paired with local dishes. (August 6-22 departures will instead have free time to explore and dine independently.) (D*)

Day 3 Chocolate Tasting | Blair Castle | Highlands

Head through the scenic countryside of Perthshire to visit Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier for a tasting of award-winning chocolates with an expert chocolatier. All the chocolates are made on-site with sustainable ingredients, including local heather honey and berries, and fresh cream from local herds of Scottish Friesians. Next, visit Blair Castle; this citadel, with its romantic turrets and towers, dates back to the 13th century. Continue through majestic Highland scenery to Inverness (Sunday departures) or Nairn (Tuesday departures). (B, D)

Day 5 Stirling Castle | Ferry to Belfast

Head to Stirling, where you'll tour Stirling Castle. Perched on volcanic rock above the town, this grand castle is one of Scotland's most important. Explore the richness of the 16th-century decor of the palace, once the childhood home to Mary Queen of Scots. Drive on through southwestern Scotland to Cairnryan and board the ferry to Belfast, where you'll dine in your hotel this evening. (B, D)

Day 7 Nine Glens of Antrim | Giant's Causeway | Derry Walking Tour

Enjoy ocean and mountain scenery as you travel the Nine Glens of Antrim. Discover the Giant's Causeway, enormous hexagonal columns rising out of the sea, and pause for photos at the Dunluce Castle ruins. Head to Derry for a walking tour with a local guide to see how this city, with its painful history, has been transformed into a thriving cultural hub. Proceed on to your hotel in Letterkenny. (B, D)

Day 9 Arigna Mining | Lough Key Forest

Visit the Arigna Mining Experience to discover local history and life as a coal miner in the Arigna Valley. Visit Lough Key Forest Park to explore how humans have shaped the landscape on this old estate over thousands of years. Walk through tunnels used by servants in the 19th century, see the sunken garden, and then walk along with the Tree Canopy Bridge for panoramic views of nature and the shimmering lake. Return to the charming village of Ballyfarnon and relax in your castle hotel before dinner. (B, D)

Day 11 Tour Ends in Shannon

Your tour ends after breakfast. (B) B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner

Day 2 Edinburgh Panoramic Tour | Edinburgh Castle | Independent Sightseeing

See the highlights of central Edinburgh including the bustling Princes Street and the 200-year-old Georgian "New Town." Walk along part of the Royal Mile and visit Edinburgh Castle to see the Scottish Crown Jewels. The remainder of the day is free to relax or explore. Dine independently this evening. (The August 6 - 22 departures attend the spectacular Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo on the Castle Esplanade.) (B)

Day 4 Loch Ness | Isle of Skye | Armadale Castle

Travel alongside Loch Ness, passing the picturesque Eilean Donan Castle. Cross to the Isle of Skye by bridge and visit Armadale Castle, returning by ferry. Take the "Road to the Isles" past lochs, lush woodlands, and heather-covered moors of the majestic Highlands, stopping for photos around scenic Glencoe. Continue through The Trossachs to your hotel in Dunblane. (B, D)

Day 6 Titanic Belfast | Belfast Walking Tour | Crosskeys Inn

At Titanic Belfast, delve into the history of the famous liner. Walk with a local guide to see the imposing City Hall in Donegall Square and Victorian buildings, including the Opera House and the Crown Liquor Saloon. Your afternoon is free to explore. In the evening, visit Crosskeys Inn for dinner and entertainment in a CIE Tours Exclusive. (B, D)

Day 8 Glenveagh National Park | Donegal | Belleek Pottery | Kilonan Castle

Visit Glenveagh National Park where Captain Adair built Glenveagh Castle in 1870. Enjoy a guided tour and stroll the extensive gardens. Head to Donegal town, and visit CIE Tours preferred shopping partner Triona Design before enjoying free time to explore the town and have lunch independently. Head to Belleek Pottery to watch skilled craftspeople create delicate, highly decorative pieces. Travel to luxurious Kilonan Castle with time to relax before dinner in the castle's fine restaurant. (B, D)

Day 10 Galway Walking Tour | Cliffs of Moher | Medieval Castle Banquet

Head to Galway and join a local guide for a gentle walking tour. See the narrow streets, the medieval city walls, and Lynch's Castle. Travel through the Burren and see its limestone hills, often blooming with a vast array of wildflowers. Visit the Cliffs of Moher, soaring high above the Atlantic. In the evening, head out to a castle for a medieval-style banquet. (B, D)

Please see www.cietours.com for the most up-to-date itinerary and pricing