

ITINERARY | Celtic Adventure 2027

Proposed/Tentative 20 days / 19 nights

August 10 – August 29, 2027

** ITINERARY is SUBJECT to availability and change **

2 nights Dublin | 2 nights Kinsale | 2 nights Killarney | 2 nights Galway | 1 night Ballybofey | 1 night Belfast
2 nights Glasgow | 1 night Fort William | 1 night Inverness | 1 night Pitlochry | 4 nights Edinburgh

Day 1 | Tuesday | August 10, 2027 | Arrive Dublin, Republic of Ireland

Welcome to the Republic of Ireland and the capital city of **Dublin**! Founded as a Viking settlement in 841 AD and home to the Irish Parliament since the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922. Upon arrival at Dublin, travel into the heart of the city for an introduction to this energetic city on a **panoramic city tour**, see the **Georgian Squares** with their 18th century homes, **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, **Phoenix Park**, statue filled **O'Connell Street** fashionable **Grafton Street**, and **Trinity College** home to the Book of Kells. Following the tour, check into your hotel, settle in for a two-night stay, the remainder of the afternoon is yours to explore. This evening, get to know your fellow travellers at the **Welcome Dinner**.

Included Meals: Dinner

Overnight: Dublin

Day 2 | Wednesday | August 11, 2027 | Dublin

Today you discover the history of Dublin. Joining a **local guide** for a fascinating tour of **Dublin Castle**, from the excavation site of Viking and medieval Dublin to the Gothic **Chapel Royal**, and finally to the splendour of the former viceregal **State Apartments**. Followed by a guided tour of one of the most interesting places to go in Dublin, **Kilmainham Gaol Museum**. Built back in 1796, initially known as the 'new gaol' to differentiate it from the dungeon it was replacing, the Museum is an enthralling place to explore. See the **prison's chapel**, visit the cells, and stone breakers yard. There can be no better way to end a vigorous day of touring, nor would a visit to Dublin be complete, without a guided tour of **Guinness Storehouse**. Experience the history, heart, and soul of Ireland's most iconic beer, exploring the story of Guinness across the seven floors of their iconic building. Followed by a mouth-watering **pint of Guinness** in the 360-degree roof top bar, offering spectacular views of the city.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Dublin

Day 3 | Thursday | August 12, 2027 | Dublin to Kinsale

This morning bid farewell to Dublin and travel south to **County Kildare** – the center of Ireland's horse industry, enjoy a **guided tour** of the **Irish National Stud Farm**. Having bred its first winner in 1909, the stud farm has continued to produce many famous racehorses. Also on the grounds is the **Japanese Gardens** renowned for their symbolism of "The Life of Man" and St. Fiacre Commemorative Garden. From here continue to **Cashel** for a guided tour of the amazing **Rock of Cashel**, a group of medieval buildings including a 12th century Round Tower, 13th century Gothic Cathedral, 15th century High Cross and Romanesque Chapel. This was the seat of the Kings of Munster from 370 – 1101 and has early associations with St. Patrick. Then onward to **Kinsale**, a historic fishing town on the southern coast with old cobble stone streets and many interesting shops and pubs. Known as the gourmet capital of Ireland and renowned for its restaurants. This evening check into the hotel overlooking **Kinsale Harbour** for a two-night stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Kinsale

Day 4 | Friday | August 13, 2027 | Kinsale to Blarney Castle, Cobh, and return

Travel to **Cobh**, one of the main points of emigration during the great famine. Here we will visit "**The Queenstown Story**" which portrays the hardship of life on board ship as it sailed to the "New World". Annie Moore, the first ever emigrant

to be processed on Ellis Island when it officially opened on 1st January 1892 left from Cobh with her two brothers. Cobh is also known for being the last port-of-call for the ill-fated Titanic. Then continue to **Blarney** where you will have an opportunity to visit **Blarney Castle**. Time to 'pucker-up' and kiss the famous **Blarney Stone** said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who dare. The Castle visit includes the breathtaking gardens of Blarney Estate. After, take a short stroll to Blarney Woolen Mills, the worlds largest Irish gift shop which comes complete with a restaurant serving delicious homemade dishes. Perhaps you might fancy a visit to Christy's Irish Bar for a creamy pint of stout and a bowl of Blarney beef stew. A short stop at the 17th century **Charles Fort** for a photo-op to capture the stunning views and learn the fascinating history of this majestic fort. Arriving back in the charming village of Kinsale, the remainder of the evening is at your leisure to explore as you please. A great opportunity to check out one of the local restaurants in Ireland's gourmet capital.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Kinsale

Day 5 | Saturday | August 14, 2027 | Kinsale to Killarney

Travelling along the southern coastline this morning, through the town of Skibbereen, to Ballydehob, from here to **Mizen Head**, the most southerly point of Ireland, visit the award-winning **Maritime Museum** and heritage attraction. Take a short walk, 99 steps that lead to the **Arched Bridge** crossing the crashing waves to the **Mizen Head Lighthouse**, for a wonderful view of the swirling Atlantic Ocean. Following this adventure, travel up the coast through picturesque lazy towns & villages to **Kenmare**, nestled among the mountains. With free time to explore a true example of one of Ireland's few planned towns. The journey continues to **Killarney** travelling a stretch of the famous **Ring of Kerry** with stunning views over the **Killarney Lakes** and **Ladies View**. Arriving at beautiful Killarney, checking in for a two-night stay. Enjoy **dinner** with your fellow travellers this evening.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Killarney

Day 6 | Sunday | August 15, 2027 | Killarney to Dingle Peninsula and return

Today enjoy the unspoiled beauty of the **Dingle Peninsula**, once cited as 'the most beautiful place on earth' by National Geographic. Visit **Brian de Staic Studio** specializing in Celtic jewelry. This unique jewelry is handcrafted and engraved with ancient Celtic symbols and the letters. Continuing around **Slea Head**, with breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline, see early monastic settlements shaped like beehives, dating back over a thousand years. Then to Ireland's most westerly point with views of the **Blasket Islands** and other incredible locations made famous by the movies. After enjoying leisure time in Dingle, return to Killarney and the rest of the day is yours to explore on your own, you may enjoy visiting beautiful and tranquil Killarney National Park and Ross Castle.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Killarney

Day 7 | Monday | August 16, 2027 | Killarney to Galway

Bidding farewell to Killarney, travel to **Tralee**, capital town of County Kerry and famous for The Rose of Tralee Festival. Then off to Tarbert to board the **Shannon Ferry** crossing the **Shannon Estuary** to Killimer. Taking the **scenic coast road** to the majestic **Cliffs of Moher**, standing 702 feet at their highest point; they stretch for 8 kms along the Atlantic coastline. **O'Brien's Tower** stands near the highest point and has served as a viewing point for hundreds of years. Following leisure time to view the cliffs, head into the quaint and colourful village of **Doolin**. Enjoy some leisure time for lunch before continuing. Travelling through the lunar landscape of the Burren, and the scenic shores of Galway Bay, stopping to visit **Dunguaire Castle**, built in 1520, a restored 16th century tower house that sits on a picturesque rocky outcrop on the shores of Galway Bay. Arriving in Galway, check into the hotel, the remainder of the evening is yours to enjoy.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Galway

Day 8 | Tuesday | August 17, 2027 | Galway (OPTIONAL Connemara National Park and return)

Morning will be at leisure or *OPTIONAL \$\$ TBD | Trip to Kylemore Abbey based on number of pax interested*) This morning embark on a tour of **Connemara** made up of mountains, lake lands and boglands. The scenery is both magical, and a paradise for artist and photographer alike. Because of its wild and rugged beauty, it has been the chosen location for many films like "The Quiet Man" and in more recent times "The Field". Visit **Kylemore Abbey**, built 1866 as a private home, enjoy a **self-guided tour of the Abbey**, stroll the Abbey's Victorian walled garden, and the beautiful Gothic Church. In the afternoon enjoy a **guided walking tour** through the charming old, cobbled stone streets of Galway as your local guide recounts tales of war and conquest, joy and tragedy, emigration and slavery, success, and folly, along with some good ole Irish Blarney! Concluding with a visit to a local pub for refreshments and more informal storytelling with our local guide.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Galway

Day 9 | Wednesday | August 18, 2027 | Galway to Ballybofey

Leaving Galway, travel through the town of Cong, one of the main locations for the 'Quiet Man' film, continuing northwards passing by the **Knock Shrine**, now an internationally recognized Marian Shrine with one and a half million pilgrims visiting annually. Travel to **Drumcliffe**, in **County Sligo** set against the striking backdrop of the **Benbulbin Mountain**. Best known as the final resting place of one of Ireland's great poets W.B. Yeats. Found in the churchyard, see his gravesite, marked by a simple headstone with the inscription, "Cast a cold Eye On Life, on Death, Horseman, pass by". Continue to Belleek, for a **guided tour of the oldest pottery in Ireland - Belleek Pottery**. Made famous for its fine Parian China, valued by collectors all over the world. Then continue to the town of **Ballybofey** for **included dinner** and overnight stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Ballybofey

Day 10 | Thursday | August 19, 2027 | Ballybofey to Belfast, Northern Ireland

This morning travel to **Derry City** on the banks of the **River Foyle**. Derry City was founded in 546 AD and still retains its 17th century walls. See the new Derry **Peace Bridge** over the River Foyle, that bridges a 400-year-old physical and political gap between two sides of a once divided community. Continuing to **Limavady** to begin a journey along the stunning **Antrim Coast Road Drive**. Sit back and enjoy the spectacular scenery of crashing waves, sandy beaches, and busy seaside villages. Of course, no visit to Northern Ireland would be complete without a visit to the **Giant's Causeway**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, and one of the **natural wonders of the world**, before continuing along the coast road to **Belfast** for **included dinner** and overnight stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Belfast

Day 11 | Friday | August 20, 2027 | Belfast to Glasgow, Scotland

Begin your final day in Ireland with a **panorama tour of Belfast City**. See **City Hall**, one of the finest classical renaissance buildings in Europe, **Linen Hall Library** which has been lending books for over 200 years, the **Grand Opera House** often described as the most beautiful Victorian theatre in the world. Driving by many of Belfast's colorful murals that depict the history and political views of the people and a way of marking territory. Visit **Titanic Belfast**, a state-of-the-art visitor center which tell the stories of the ill-fated RMS Titanic and her sister ships RMS Olympic and HMHS Britannic. Then board the **ferry** crossing the **North Atlantic** arriving in **Cairnryan Scotland**. Travel to **Alloway**, the birthplace of Robert Burns, one of Scotland's greatest poets, following a stop at **Burns Cottage**, then onto **Glasgow** for a two-night stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Glasgow

Day 12 | Saturday | August 21, 2027 | Glasgow

Enjoy a **tour of Glasgow City** this morning, built on the River Clyde, once an important ship building center Glasgow is often described as Britain's finest Victorian City. Visit **Glasgow Cathedral**, one of the city's most ancient and historic sites,

continue to **Tenement House** which provides a rare glimpse into life in Glasgow in the early 20th century. Then visit **Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum**, one of Scotland's most popular attractions that features 22 state-of-the-art galleries displaying 8000 objects. The remainder of the afternoon and evening is free to enjoy Glasgow City on your own.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Glasgow

Day 13 | Sunday | August 22, 2027 | Glasgow to Fort William

Departing Glasgow, travel to Balloch to embark on a **cruise of Loch Lomond**, one of Scotland's most beautiful lakes. Enjoy views of Ben Lomond, stately homes and castles nestled along the banks overlooking the lake. Then travel into the Scottish Highlands. Surrounded by spectacular scenery, continue through the historic glen of **Glen Coe** to **Fort William** and to the **Ben Nevis Distillery**. Nestled at the foot of Britain's highest mountain the distillery, established in 1825, is one of the oldest licensed distilleries in Scotland. Following the **guided tour**, enjoy a wee dram before continuing to **Fort William** for included dinner and overnight stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Fort Williams

Day 14 | Monday | August 23, 2027 | Fort William to Inverness

This morning travel to **Mallaig** and board the **ferry** to **Isle of Skye** recently voted the 4th best island in the world by National Geographic. Visit the **Clan Donald Centre** at **Armada Castle** an award-winning museum of the Isles, discover the history of the Scottish Highlands and Islands through the story of Clan Donald, one of the most powerful Scottish clans. Enjoy breathtaking scenery winding through the island, before returning to the mainland via the **Skye Bridge**. Afterwards, visit **Eilean Donan Castle**, one of the most iconic images of Scotland, situated on an island, and surrounded by majestic scenery. Then, following along the banks of **Loch Ness**, keeping your camera ready for a view of the monster, heading to Inverness, the capital of the highlands for your overnight stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Inverness

Day 15 | Tuesday | August 24, 2027 | Inverness to Pitlochry

Travel to the village of **Aviemore**, located in the heart of the **Monadhliath** and **Cairngorm Mountains**, the perfect location to enjoy spectacular views. Enjoy a **vintage train journey**, including a **light lunch** in the heart of the Scottish Highlands. Step aboard old-style rail cars powered by a restored steam engine that transport you back in time. Travel along part of the original **Highland Railway** track, through scenic **Cairngorms National Park**, past heather-clad moors, and beautiful woodland. Continuing through the beautiful Scottish countryside arriving at a tranquil woodland estate, resting on the banks of the River Tay. Enjoy an **included dinner** and overnight stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Pitlochry

Day 16 | Wednesday | August 25, 2027 | Pitlochry to Edinburgh

Travel southward this morning through the scenic **Grampian Mountains** to **Blair Castle**, seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl and home to Europe's last remaining private army. Enjoy a **guided tour of the castle** and hear the fascinating history, from the visit by Mary Queen of Scots to the Civil War and the Jacobite cause, to the disaster of Culloden. Then travel to **Dundee** crossing the **Tay Bridge** to **St. Andrews**. Not only is St. Andrews famed as the home of golf, but it is also an ancient ecclesiastical capital and Scotland's oldest university. Following a **panorama tour** of St Andrews, enjoy free time for shopping and lunch before departing. Continuing southward, passing through picturesque landscapes and quaint villages before crossing the **Forth Road Bridge** to arrive in the historic and stunning city of **Edinburgh** for a four-night stay.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 17 | Thursday | August 26, 2027 | Edinburgh

This morning a **tour of historic Edinburgh City** awaits. Travel down **Princess Street** and the historic **Royal Mile** before visiting the **Palace of Holyrood house**, the official Scottish residence of her Majesty the Queen. Hear the tales of some truly intriguing characters, the Body Snatchers, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde, and Greyfriars Bobby on a guided tour. Visit majestic **Edinburgh Castle** and enjoy the magnificent views of the city from the castle ramparts. Enjoy leisure time in the city before heading back to the hotel. Spend a traditional Scottish evening of song and dance at the **Spirit of Scotland show**, accompanied by a great selection of quality Scottish food.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 18 | Friday | August 27, 2027 | Edinburgh

Experience **The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** at Edinburgh Castle. A world-famous celebration of music, dance and military precision. Hailed as an unforgettable experience by many travelers, known for its vibrant atmosphere and world-class performances set against Edinburgh Castle.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 19 | Saturday | August 28, 2027 | Edinburgh ****NEW DAY ADDED****

Today is your day to experience aspects of Edinburgh that most appeal to you. So many museums and galleries to visit and time to get that last minute shopping in. Ending the day with a **Farewell Dinner** reminiscing with your fellow travellers over your Celtic adventures.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Edinburgh

Day 20 | Sunday | August 29, 2027 | Depart Edinburgh for home

This journey comes to an end after **breakfast**, as you **transfer** to Edinburgh airport for your flight home, with found memories, newly acquired accents and many stories to share with friends and family.

Included Meals: Breakfast

HIGHLIGHTS:

Dublin Castle | Giants Causeway | Epic Ireland Exhibitions Ltd | Titanic Belfast | Guinness Storehouse | Robert Burns Birthplace Museum | Irish National Stud and Gardens | Glasgow Cathedral St Mungos | Rock of Cashel | Tenement House Glasgow | Cobh Heritage Trust Ltd | Strathspey Rail Tour | Blarney Castle Estate | Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum | Charles Fort | Cruise Loch Lomond Ltd | Mizen Head Signal Station Visitor Centre | Ben Nevis Distillery or similar subject to availability | Ross Castle | Armadale Castle Gardens and Museum of the Isles | Cliffs of Moher | Eilean Donan Castle | Spirit of Scotland Dinner & Show | Blair Castle | Knock Shrine | Royal Yacht Britannia | Belleek Pottery Visitor Centre Edinburgh Castle | Dublin Panorama City Tour | Belfast Panorama City Tour | Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

MEALS: 19 breakfast | 1 Lunch | 8 Dinners