



Britain and Ireland Explorer (2012)

17 day tour

INCLUDED FIRST CLASS SERVICES

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Enjoy the unique comfort of luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
- Traveler Welcome pack
- London Airport transfer service available

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- Stratford: Visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare.
- Peterborough: Relax on the east coast train to York.
- York: See York Minster, city walls and medieval "Shambles"
- Durham: See the Castle and fine Romanesque Cathedral.
- Borders: See Jedburgh Abbey and stop at Hadrian's Wall.
- Edinburgh: Visit the Castle during your guided city tour. Selected departures experience the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- St Andrews: Visit the university town to see the golf course.
- Loch Lomond: Embark on a guided highlight scenic cruise.



- Lake District: Visit William Wordsworth's grave in Grasmere.
- Chester: See the Cathedral, famous 'Rows' and city walls.
- Dublin: Visit the Book of Kells during your guided city tour. Follow the story of the famous drink the Guinness Storehouse.
- Kildare: Visit Ireland's National Stud and Japanese Gardens.
- Cashel: See the great Rock where St Patrick preached.
- Killarney: Tour the scenic Ring of Kerry.
- Blarney: Visit the Castle and kiss the Blarney stone.
- Waterford: Visit Waterford Crystal showroom.
- Cardiff: See the castle and Millennium Stadium.
- Bath: Visit the Roman Baths and Georgian Pump Rooms.
- Stonehenge: Visit the mysterious megaliths.
- Scenic drives – Scottish Highlands, Grampian Mountains, Glencoe, English Lake District, Ring of Kerry, Severn Bridge.
- London: See Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace on your London sightseeing tour

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- A Welcome Reception with light informal meal (WR)
- Enjoy lunch and one drink at the Guinness Storehouse. (HL)
- Enjoy a Highlight Dinner in the Highlands. (HD)
- Choose from a selection of restaurants in Killarney (DA)
- Enjoy final Celebration Dinner with wine (CD)
- 15 Full Breakfasts (FB)
- 2 three-course Dinners with choice, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

ITINERARY

Day 1 - DEPART USA

Board your overnight flight (not included).

Day 2 - ARRIVE LONDON

Welcome to London! After checking in to your hotel, perhaps take a stroll to Hyde Park or the department stores of Oxford Street.

Hotel: Thistle Marble Arch

Day 3 - LONDON SIGHTSEEING

Your half day sightseeing tour of London's West End shows you Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and historic Westminster Abbey where kings and queens have been crowned through the centuries. Continue to Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace, home of the Queen. The afternoon is at leisure to explore or shop.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 4 - LONDON – STRATFORD – YORK

After a warm welcome from your Tour Director, drive to Stratford to visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Move on to nearby Peterborough where you board the train to York. Within the old city walls, see the crooked houses of the Shambles and York Minster, England's largest medieval cathedral. Settle into the hotel with a Welcome Reception and light informal meal.

Hotel: 53

Meals: Welcome Reception

Day 5 - YORK – DURHAM – EDINBURGH

Stop in Durham to see the castle and Romanesque cathedral. Then view part of Hadrian's Wall, Britain's most impressive Roman monument. Cross the wild Northumberland moors into Scotland, passing the ruins of Jedburgh Abbey en route to the capital of Edinburgh

Hotel: Royal Terrace/Apex City

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 6 - EDINBURGH SIGHTSEEING

Walk with your guide inside Edinburgh Castle for spectacular views of the town. Continue down the Royal Mile, past the St Giles' Cathedral, to the Queen's Holyroodhouse Palace before crossing over to the 'New Town'. The afternoon is free to shop on Princes Street. Tonight, selected departures enjoy the Military Tattoo – a colourful mixture of historic battles and military manoeuvres, complete with pipes and drums.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 7 - EDINBURGH – ST ANDREWS – HIGHLANDS

Drive to the university town St Andrews, home of golf! Continue over the River Tay, through Dundee and Perth to Pitlochry, and cross the Grampian Mountains to your Highland hotel. This evening enjoy a Highlight Dinner with haggis, accompanied by the sound of the bagpipes

Hotel: Laggan Country Hotel

Meals: Full Breakfast / Highlight Dinner

Day 8 - HIGHLANDS – LAKE DISTRICT

Mountains and glens greet you as you drive through dramatic Glencoe. From the 'bonnie banks of Loch Lomond' board your guided cruise on the 'Queen of Scottish lakes'. Afterwards, continue south through Glasgow into the Southern Uplands before crossing the English border to arrive in the beautiful Lake District

Hotel: Castle Green/Low Wood/Hydro

Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 9 - LAKE DISTRICT – GRASMERE – CHESTER

Enjoy the beauty of the Lake District this morning; its fells, lakes and valleys combining to make it one of England's best loved regions. Perhaps take a cruise on the tranquil waters of Lake Windermere? Visit the village of Grasmere, where the poet William Wordsworth is buried before continuing to Chester.

Hotel: Queen

Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 10 - CHESTER – DUBLIN

Step back into Roman times in Chester. See the city's ancient encircling walls and remarkable 13C black and white 'Rows'. Continue into Wales, past the massive Conwy Castle before crossing over to the Isle of Anglesey. The village with the longest name in Europe is coming up now - see if your Tour Director can recite it for you! From the port of Holyhead, set sail for Ireland and its fun-loving capital, Dublin.

Hotel: Burlington/Herbert Park

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 11 - DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING

A guided sightseeing tour of Dublin takes you past the Georgian squares, Customs House, along O'Connell Street and through Phoenix Park. Visit the Old Library of Trinity College which houses the 8C Book of Kells, its delicate paintings one of the treasures of the Middle Ages. Round off your tour at the Guinness Storehouse, which includes a highlight lunch and one drink and a souvenir history of the Guinness story.

Meals: Full Breakfast / Highlight Lunch

Day 12 - DUBLIN – KILDARE – KILLARNEY

Drive to Ireland's premier thoroughbred horse breeding region for a guided tour of the National Stud. You also visit the finest Japanese Gardens in Europe. Continue to view St. Patrick's great Rock of Cashel, crowned with the noblest group of medieval monuments in Ireland. Cross the rolling pastures which encircle Tipperary, (a long way, according to some), before reaching Killarney. This evening, for your dining pleasure, choose from a selection of restaurants.

Hotel: Killarney Towers/Killarney Avenue

Meals: Full Breakfast / Dine Around

Day 13 - RING OF KERRY EXCURSION

A delightful excursion takes you around the Ring of Kerry, a world of towering cliffs, lush lake lands and remote villages. Get a sense of the unhurried pace of Irish life as you pass through Ireland's highest mountain range, the MacGillicuddy Reeks, and make your way to the three peaceful Lakes of Killarney. In the afternoon, perhaps take an optional ride with the locals on one of Killarney's jaunting cars.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 14 - KILLARNEY – WATERFORD

Cross the rugged Derrynasaggart Mountains to visit Blarney Castle, the home of the famous stone of eloquence, once kissed, never forgotten! Travel on through the scenic port of Dungarvan to the historic walled city of Waterford, where you can admire a sparkling display of crystal. Enjoy a glass of wine with your Celebration Dinner at the hotel tonight.

Hotel: Dooleys

Meals: Full Breakfast / Celebration Dinner

Day 15 - WATERFORD – CARDIFF

Drive to Rosslare to take the ferry across the Irish Sea. Continue past the valleys of South Wales to the Welsh capital, Cardiff, famous for its imposing castle and the brilliant Millennium Stadium.

Hotel: Radisson Blu

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 16 - CARDIFF – STONEHENGE – LONDON

Cross the Severn bridge, spanning the Bristol channel between England and Wales, then on to Bath with its Georgian streets and crescents, and visit the Roman Baths. Cross Salisbury Plain and stop to visit the mysterious megaliths of Stonehenge. From here, travel to London, where the tour ends.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 17 - RETURN TO USA

Your tour ends after breakfast.

Meals: Full Breakfast

OPTIONAL SIGHTSEEING

Most of our tours already include a host of bonus highlights and comprehensive sightseeing. There may also be an exciting array of optional excursions which will turn an already amazing experience into the trip of a lifetime! These are entirely optional and can be booked through your Tour Director at the commencement of your tour. The following is a general list for guidance and budgeting purposes only. Actual optional excursions and prices will be advised by your Tour Director at the beginning of your tour.

CARDIFF CASTLE TOUR

Visit this unique Castle given to the city by the Marquis of Bute who designed some of the most unusual and beautiful rooms to be found in any castle in Britain.

Adult Price: UK £ 11

BLAIR CASTLE

Blair Castle is at the hub of a breath-taking historic landscape. This magnificent ancient seat of the Dukes and Earls of Atholl is Scotland's most visited historic house. It is the home of the Atholl Highlanders, Europe's only remaining private army, and is brimming with treasures inside and out.

Adult Price: UK £ 14

LAKE WINDERMERE CRUISE AND STEAM TRAIN RIDE

Windermere is England's largest lake. What better way to enjoy the beautiful scenery than a relaxing cruise followed by a short ride aboard a steam train from Lakeside to Haverthwaite.

Adult Price: UK £ 14

ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

This magnificent ship has played host to some of the most famous people in the world. But, above all, Britannia was home to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family. For four royal couples, Britannia was to provide a honeymoon sanctuary before the onset of married life in the world's most photographed family. Now berthed in Leith, you are welcomed on board to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences.

Adult Price: UK £ 14

JAUNTING CART RIDE

Don't miss the opportunity to take a ride through the streets of Killarney and into the beautiful Bourne Vincent National Park with a local "jarvie" in one of the area's famous jaunting cars.

Adult Price: UK £ 17

GUINNESS STOREHOUSE

One of the most famous Irish exports - Guinness! We pay a visit to the world famous Guinness Storehouse where they have been brewing the 'black stuff' since 1759.

Adult Price: UK£ 19

WATERFORD WALKING TOUR

We take an interesting and informative walking tour with a local guide and then continue to get to know the locals with a drink in a typical pub.

Adult Price: UK £ 19

DINNER IN EDINBURGH

Join your tour companions this evening for a night out in this splendid city as we visit a well established restaurant for a three course dinner with a drink included.

Adult Price: UK £ 26

LIAM O CONNOR

The 'Liam O'Connor Show' is a spectacular explosion of music, song and dance rooted in the Irish music tradition. Experience a spellbinding display of raw energy, passion and melodic genius. Liam O'Connor is an internationally renowned musician of 20 instruments and his show has a long running residency in Killarney. Your Tour Director will advise ticket availability.

Adult Price: EURO 28.5

DINNER AT THE BLUE ANCHOR

Join your friends for a superb meal at the ""Blue Anchor"". This ancient inn, where hospitality has been enjoyed since 1380, is a maze of little passages and features a lovely thatched roof.

Adult Price: UK£ 30

DINNER AND DUBLIN COAST DRIVE

A three course dinner at a local restaurant followed by a scenic drive around Dublin Bay.

Adult Price: UK £ 39

WELSH CASTLE BANQUET

Go back in time and experience a medieval music event in the sumptuous surroundings of Cardiff Castle. Hear stories of Wales in days of old and enjoy the beautiful Welsh voices including Welsh Choral Singing. A three course meal of Welsh specialities is included. The show is presented by performers in traditional Welsh Costume.

Adult Price: UK £ 43

DINNER AND CEILIDH

Enjoy the great atmosphere or 'craic' at our ceilidh evening. Traditional Irish music and dancing and the chance to sing along to some familiar Irish melodies. Dinner is included on this fun evening.

Adult Price: UK £ 45

SCOTTISH DINNER AND CABARET

Join us for a memorable evening of traditional singing, dancing and bagpipe playing. There is food, wine and a great atmosphere to enjoy. Join in with the singing, we'll show you a Highland dance or two and there's a chance to sample Scotland's national dish - haggis. It's a grand night and a wonderful way to celebrate an evening in Edinburgh.

Adult Price: UK £ 47

RAGUS THE SHOW

Inspired by the islanders of Inis Mór, Ragús is a show of Live, fast moving, traditional Irish music, song and dance. Evocative of times past, audiences feel the pulse of a rich and vibrant musical heritage and come away with a truly enjoyable and unique cultural experience. A three-course dinner with Irish coffee is included.

Adult Price: UK £ 53

DINNER AND IRISH CABARET

Over an excellent dinner you'll enjoy a non-stop show featuring comedy, dance, song, music and fine food. Ireland's musical history unfolds in a cabaret that will delight you long after the night has ended. The cast will have you tapping your toes and joining in the fun, and it's all wrapped up in the spirit of Irish humour. We will even serve you an Irish Coffee at the end of dinner to cap off one of Ireland's best nights out.

Adult Price: UK £ 61

**To reserve this tour, contact:
Linda Terrill at 404-869-7412**