



## 2012 SMALL GROUP ESCORTED TOUR ENGLAND, WALES, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

17 Days

**GUARANTEED SMALL GROUP**  
LIMITED TO 15 PERSONS

**Direct: 404-869-7412**

Toll Free: 800-863-9067

Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales in one small group escorted tour! There are so many special experiences that make your Britain and Ireland vacation unique, and you simply can't match them by traveling on your own. When you join us on this fully escorted small group motorcoach tour, you'll see glorious Britain, Scotland and Ireland with a congenial group of travelers, a more personalized experience than a large bus tour.

### **Thursday - DEPART HOME**

Board your overnight transatlantic flight to London, England.

### **Friday - ARRIVE LONDON**

Afternoon black taxi tour of the London film locations used in all 6 Harry Potter films. OR Our 'Royal London' Tour will take you to the very heartbeat of the Royal Family - see the home of the Queen of England.

### **Saturday - LONDON DAY FREE**

You will have a Big Bus pass for a panoramic tour of London, plus a London cruise. We suggest the London Eye. One of the newest and most popular attractions in London, this 135-meter tall Ferris wheel along the banks of the Thames River is one of several landmarks that can be seen, including Big Ben, Parliament, Tower Bridge, and Buckingham Palace. (CB)



**Sunday - STONEHENGE/BATH/WALES** Today we drive through the English countryside to see the mysterious circle of standing stones at Stonehenge and the medieval village of Lacock, which inspired the image of Potter's Godric's Hollow, Emma and Pride and Prejudice. We continue to Bath to visit the excavations of the Roman baths, and the Pultney Bridge, which is totally covered with houses. Nearby is Tintern Abbey, one of the greatest monastic ruins of Wales. Wales has its own language, its own Prince, and some of the most beautiful scenery in Britain. Stay in Cheltenham. (CB)





**Monday - COTSWOLDS/STRATFORD/CHESTER** Drive up through the pretty villages of the Cotswolds. Some of the loveliest towns in all England are located in the Cotswolds, with houses of honey-colored stone along winding lanes. You visit Anne Hathaway's birthplace - a quaint thatched cottage in the market town of Stratford. We end our day in the Roman city of Chester. See the medieval city walls. The historic center of the city is the Cross, the intersection of four principal thoroughfares - Eastgate, Northgate, Watergate and Bridge. The town crier, colorfully garbed, appears at the Cross to proclaim that all is well and he has some announcements to shout. This takes you back in time when the Cross featured a pillory, whipping post and stocks. Countless writers have lived in the city or stayed here - Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Dr. Samuel Johnson and Henry James among them. (B)

**Tuesday - LAKE DISTRICT/EDINBURGH** Drive through the Lake District for stunning views of lakes, gentle hills and valleys. Perfectly kept cottages trimmed with fuchsia hedges, black and white cows and bulls, and butter-golden gorse dot the hillsides. Continue into Scotland and stop to the Moffat Woollen Mills. Drive to Edinburgh (B)



**Wednesday - ALNWICK CASTLE & GARDENS** Your choice of:  
 Take a hop-on-hop-off panoramic sightseeing tour of Edinburgh.  
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 From the grandeur and pomp of its 12th century castle, the Royal Mile leading down through medieval Old Town and the gardens and squares of New Town to Holyrood, a royal palace, the city blends history, entertainment and sophistication. Learn the tale of Greyfriar's Bobby, who reportedly spent 14 years guarding the grave of his owner. Some intriguing characters got there start here, including Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. OR Enjoy an all-day excursion to the family home of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland. Set in a stunning Capability Brown landscape, Alnwick Castle (pronounced Annick) is the second largest inhabited castle in England (after Windsor Castle). Their particularly noteworthy gardens have been extensively restored. Return to Edinburgh for a traditional Scottish Music Show. (CB,D)

**Thursday - INVERNESS/LOCH NESS MONSTER** Drive alongside Loch Ness, where we enjoy monster hunting at the ruined Urquhart Castle. Keep your camera at the ready - just in case "Nessie" makes an appearance. Nearby, the native Caledonian Pine Forest landscape will take you back in time to how Scotland would have looked 500 years ago. Overnight in a bed and breakfast. (B)



**Friday - RIDE THE HARRY POTTER TRAIN/ISLE OF SKYE** Ride the Jacobite "Hogwarts Express" steam locomotives. We head by ferry to Skye, and up to Portree, where pastel houses line the harbor. Inner Hebridean Isle of Skye, With nearly a thousand miles of dramatic coastline of coral beaches and sheer cliffs, and an interior of wild peat bogs, the Isle of Skye is a compelling destination. It seems a world away in time. The pace of life is slow and the atmosphere is relaxed and friendly. Get your cameras ready for romantic Eilean Donan Castle, the most photographed spot in Scotland (B)



**Saturday - GLEN COE/EDINBURGH** Enjoy the mystical mountains of Glencoe. In the 1692 battle here, 40 members of the MacDonald clan were massacred in cold blood by the Campbells for not forswearing the Jacobite cause. They say you can still hear their cries! Our hotel is an authentic 13th century Scottish castle hotel set within acres of wooded parkland on the picturesque banks of the river Esk. All the bedchambers, tastefully furnished in period style. gray-stone walls. (B)

### **Sunday- EDINBURGH/DUBLIN**

We will assist you in booking your flight to arrive in Dublin by 10AM (cost of flight not included).

Arrive in Dublin, Ireland's capital, which has retained its Georgian elegance, and transfer to your hotel. Our afternoon of Dublin takes you to Trinity College to see the illuminated Book of Kells, and St. Patrick's, Ireland's national cathedral. Visit the Guinness Storehouse in the heart of old Dublin, where you sample Ireland's most famous creamy stout.



Storytelling, dinner and traditional music in a candlelit Dublin pub: The scene is set in one of Dublin's oldest pubs. As early as the 1600's, it was a popular haunt. The Seanachi, the Irish word for storyteller, entertains with oral tales of fairies, Celtic warriors and legendary deed-doing. Tales are told and songs sung and everyone is made to feel welcome. With turf fire glowing a perfect setting in which to take you back through the romantic mists of time. History comes alive tonight! (B,D)

**Monday - DUBLIN/WICKLOW DAY TRIP** A full day in the "Garden of Ireland" including Powerscourt Estate and Gardens, and Glendalough. The charming walled garden at Powerscourt, the striking terraces, fine statuary and varied trees are linked by carefully designed walks and set in the magnificent surroundings of the Wicklow mountains. The Glendalough monastery was founded by St. Kevin, a hermit monk who died about 618 AD. The extensive ruins of Glendalough include several early churches, and a graceful round tower in a spectacular, scenic setting. (B)

**Tuesday - KILKENNY HOMESTAY** Enjoy the relaxed pace of Ireland, known for its bogs and turf fires, rich farmlands and scenic countryside. Travel through the Curragh, the horse breeding center of Ireland. You visit Kilkenny Castle. Stay in Kilkenny, somewhere very special with its cobbled streets and castle, one of the finest examples of an Irish medieval town. Tonight, "Meet the Irish" by staying as a welcome guest in a local home, not only wonderfully located, but also fully equipped, comfortably homey, and clean. Enjoy a pub lunch. (B,L)



**Wednesday - BLARNEY/COBH/KILLARNEY**

This morning you take the scenic route to Cobh, originally a small fishing village. Cobh was the departure point for many Irish immigrants in the 19th century, and is associated with the loss of the Titanic. Visit Blarney, with a chance to kiss "The Stone". Travel through landscapes of the rarest green, where herds of black and white cows peek from every hill on the way to Killarney. (B)



**Thursday - RING OF KERRY EXCURSION** An incredible day awaits! The scenic and spectacular Ring of Kerry offers unrivaled views of County Kerry's magnificent shoreline, one of nature's masterpieces. Traveling via Killorglin you see beautiful mountain vistas and rugged landscapes along the way. Travel through Killarney by pony and trap. Have your camera ready! A musical pub evening is in store for us tonight, complete with local entertainment. (B,D)

**Friday - ADARE/SHANNON** We'll travel to the quaint village of Adare, distinguished by its charming thatched cottages. Tonight, we've planned a special farewell castle medieval dinner. We'll be transformed back in time as we sip the traditional mead and don bibs to eat with our fingers at a fun-filled medieval dinner at Bunratty Castle, built in 1460 on the edge of Ratty River and protected by a moat. You have a choice, too, to stay at a wonderful 5 star castle hotel - Dromoland Castle. (B,D)



**Saturday - HOMEWARD** The tour ends with a transfer to Shannon Airport. (B) Transfers and hotels available to Dublin available at added cost.

#### **Includes:**

- \*Minibus or motorcoach with driver/guide
- \*First-class accommodations for 15 nights; room with private bath.
- \*15 hearty breakfasts (CB & B), special pub lunch (L), 4 dinners (D)
- \*Baggage handling at hotels.
- \*All taxes and service charges.
- \*All sightseeing and entrance fees.

#### **Some highlights:**

London - Black taxi tour, hop on hop off tour, Thames cruise England - Stonehenge, Roman Baths, Anne Hathaways House, Chester Roman walls Wales - Tintern Abbey; Edinburgh - hop on hop off tour voucher Borders - Alnwick Castle Highlands - Ride the Hogwarts Express, Eilean Donan Castle, Urquhart Castle Skye - Ferry to the Isle of Skye Scenic Drives - Cotswolds, Lake District, Royal Mile, Princes Street, magnificent Glen Coe, the road to Skye, Braveheart Country, searching for the Loch Ness Monster, Scottish Highlands Book of Kells at Trinity College Guinness Brewery & Pub visit Kilkenny Castle Blarney Castle Killarney by pony and trap and Ring of Kerry tour Muckross Traditional Farm

- Passport Case with "What You Need To Know Before You Go"
- Irish song-sheet for our on board sing-alongs
- Baggage Strap

#### **Your Accommodations:**

Your 3\* & 4\* B&B's/hotels/castles:

London, Jurys Chelsea 2 nights  
 Cheltenham, Queens Hotel 1 night  
 Chester, Westminster Hotel 1 night  
 Edinburgh, Apex European Hotel 2 nights  
 Fort William/Skye/Inverness, Bed and breakfast 2 nights  
 Edinburgh, Dalhousie Castle 1 night  
 Dublin, Academy Plaza 2 nights  
 Kilkenny, Homestay 1 night Killarney  
 Killarney, Plaza Hotel 2 nights  
 Shannon, Oakwood Arms or Dromoland Castle (Dromoland Castle additional) 1 night

<b>2012</b>	<b>SMALL GROUP TOUR – MAX. 15 GUESTS</b>	<b>PER PERSON</b>
Departs to London Thursday		LAND ONLY
10-May	26-May	\$5,619
24-May	9-Jun	\$5,634
7-Jun	23-Jun	\$5,634
21-Jun	7-Jul	\$5,634
5-Jul	21-Jul	\$5,634
19-Jul	4-Aug	\$5,634
13-Sep	29-Sep	\$5,634

No other departures in July/August due to the London Olympics.

Price per person in a twin room. Discount child 8-11 sharing with 2 adults: All Year \$450; sharing with another child \$50. Triple reduction (or child 12-17) \$24; Single supplement \$1,542. Twin supplement for Dromoland Castle \$233.