

# The Valerie Reilly Tour Scotland & Ireland

Oct 11<sup>th</sup> – Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 2025

Oban / Fort William / Inverness / Edinburgh / Belfast / Derry /  
Westport/ Galway / Dublin

## *Céad Míle Fáilte*

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### Day One – Saturday October 11<sup>th</sup>

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Depart the US on your overnight flight to either Glasgow or Edinburgh International Airport.

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### Day Two – Sunday October 12<sup>th</sup>

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Arrive in Scotland and meet your coach driver and guide.

We head straight for the Highlands via the Gourock – Dunoon ferry.

13.00hrs      Arrive Gourock

We take the Gourock – Dunoon ferry – 20 minutes

14.00hrs      Arrive Dunoon

15.00hrs      Arrive Inverary Castle Inverary

An Inveraray Castle has been standing on the shores of Loch Fyne since the 1400s, although the impressive castle we know today was inspired by a sketch by Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard in the 1700s. Vanbrugh died soon afterwards, but the great architect's gem of an idea became the base of the house which the 3rd Duke was eventually to build. The foundation stone was laid in 1746 and what followed was the construction - to a design by the architects Roger Morris and William Adam - of a truly modern, baroque, Palladian and Gothic-style castle, architecturally before its time.



17.00hrs Depart Inverary Castle  
18.20hrs Arrive Loch Melfort Hotel x 2 nights

This romantic 4-star country house hotel offers views from each bedroom. It offers a Scottish dining and local seafood in the property's restaurant with a choice of menus. Special dietary requirements is offer. Outdoor seating directly on the sea is also available. Loch Melfort Hotel is close to the Arduaine Gardens and south of Oban.



Dinner in your hotel this evening.

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### Day Three – Monday October 13th

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08.30hrs Depart hotel – must depart on time  
09.15hrs Arrive ferry terminal Oban  
09.55hrs Depart Oban  
10.45hrs Arrive Craignure, Isle of Mull  
*35 miles of single track road*  
12.15hrs Arrive Fionnphort  
*The group will have some time at leisure to enjoy lunch in Fionnphort*  
13.15hrs Board ferry as foot passengers for the short journey over to Iona. On arrival on the island we walk to the Abbey (10 – 15 minutes). Only residents vehicles are allowed on the island.



Iona Abbey is an abbey located on the island of Iona, just off the Isle of Mull on the West Coast of Scotland. It is one of the oldest Christian religious centres in Western Europe. The abbey was a focal point for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland and marks the foundation of a monastic community by St. Columba, when Iona was part of the Kingdom of Dál Riata. Saint Aidan served as a monk at Iona, before helping to reestablish Christianity in Northumberland, on the island of Lindisfarne. Iona Abbey is the spiritual home of the Iona Community, an ecumenical Christian religious order, whose headquarters are in Glasgow. The Abbey remains a popular site of Christian pilgrimage today.

15.30hrs Return ferry to Fionnphort  
16.00hrs Board coach at Fionnphort  
17.30hrs Arrive Craignure  
18.45hrs Depart Craignure  
19.45hrs Arrive Oban  
20.30hrs Arrive at your hotel

Dinner is in your hotel this evening.

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## Day Four – Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup>

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09.00hrs Check-out and depart your hotel

We travel to Glencoe via Tyndrum and the Bridge of Orchy.

### Glencoe Visitor Centre

Dramatic mountains, rare beauty and haunting history in the heart of the Highlands. Don't miss our eco-friendly visitor centre, your gateway to exploring Glencoe. Follow in the footsteps of the Clan MacDonald and the tragic Massacre of 1692. Uncover a long-lost way of life in our reconstruction of a 300-year-old turf and creel house.



From Glencoe we head to the Ben Nevis Distillery just north of Fort William with a lunch stop in Fort William.

Ben Nevis Distillery has been crafting Scottish whisky at the foot of Britain's highest mountain since 1825. We invite you to take a distillery tour and sample our selection of whiskies.



After the tour we head to our hotel in Fort William.

16.00hrs Arrive Alexandra Hotel Fort William x 2 nights

Just a 5-minute drive from the foot of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, the Alexandra Hotel offers free on-site parking and free Wi-Fi in public areas. The shores of Loch Linnhe and Loch Eil are 10 minutes' walk from the hotel. An open-fire features in the hotel's lounge where guests can relax with a drink. Local, Scottish produce is served in the Alexandra's traditionally decorated restaurant. The Jacobite Steam Rail Station is less than a 5-minute walk away. Steam trains travel from Fort William to Mallaig, offering beautiful views across the Scottish countryside. Glen Coe, a popular walking and climbing destination, is less than a 30-minute from the hotel. Rooms are spacious and have a private bathroom with a selection of toiletries. A TV, work desk and tea and coffee facilities are included in all rooms.



Dinner is under your own arrangement tonight.

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## Day Five – Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup>

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09.00hrs Depart your hotel

This morning we drive to Mallaig via Glencoe and Fort William. The Fort William / Mallaig road runs parallel with the railway line featuring in the “Harry Potter” series of movies.

10.30hrs Depart Mallaig

11.00hrs Arrive Armadale, Isle of Skye

From Armadale we travel up Skye to the Islands’ capital, Portree.

12.15hrs Arrive Portree – time at leisure to avail of lunch

13.45hrs Depart Portree – travelling to Dornie via the Skye Bridge

15.00hrs Arrive **Eilean Donan Castle**.

The name Eilean Donan, or island of Donan, is most probably called after the 6th century Irish Saint, Bishop Donan who came to Scotland around 580 AD. There are several churches dedicated to Donan in the area and it is likely that he formed a small cell or community on the island during the late 7th century. The first fortified structure was not built on the island until the early 13th century as a defensive measure,



protecting the lands of Kintail against the Vikings who raided, settled and controlled much of the North of Scotland and the Western Isles between 800 and 1266. From the mid 13th century, this area was the quite separate “Sea Kingdom” of the Lord of the Isles where the sea was the main highway and the power of feuding clan chiefs was counted by the number of men and galleys or “birlinns” at their disposal. Eilean Donan offered the perfect defensive position. Over the centuries, the castle itself has expanded and contracted in size. The medieval castle was probably the largest, with towers and a curtain wall that encompassed nearly the entire island. The main keep stood on the island’s highest point. Around the end of the 14th century the area of the castle was reduced to about a fifth of its original size and, although the reason is unclear, it probably relates to the number of men required to defend the structure. By the 16th century a hornwork was added to the east wall to offer a firing platform for the newly introduced cannons.

16.45hrs Depart Castle

18.30hrs Arrive Fort William

Dinner is in your hotel this evening.

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## Day Six – Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>

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08.30hrs Check-out and depart your hotels

We travel North to Fort Augustus stopping at the **Commando Monument at Spean Bridge**.

The Commando Memorial stands some 17ft or 5.2m high, and comprises a group of three bronze commandos dressed in typical World War Two uniforms and equipment including cap comforters, ammunition pouches and weapons. They are looking south towards Ben Nevis. A large inscription on the plinth just beneath their feet reads "United We Conquer", while the plaque on the front of the plinth reads: "In memory of the officers and men of the commandos who died in the Second World War 1939–1945. This country was their training ground."



### 10.30hrs Arrive Fort Augustus for our **Loch Ness Cruise**

Fort Augustus is in the historic and scenic Highland region of Scotland, situated between Fort William and Inverness on the shores of Loch Ness. Although the town only boasts a modest population of around 400 people it is a popular and busy tourist destination and with a wide range of activities to keep you occupied during your stay.



### 11.00hrs Depart on the cruise

Loch Ness is brimming with history, and tales of the world's shyest monster. You might just spot Nessie. But the real stars of the Loch are its castles, monuments, and scenery. So all-aboard one of our cruises for a seat to one of the greatest shows on earth. You have to sail it to believe.



After the cruise we have time at leisure in Fort Augustus to avail of lunch.

### 14.00hrs Depart Fort Augustus

Continuing our journey North to Inverness along the shores of Loch Ness, stopping at **Urquhart Castle – in ruins – enroute.**



Discover more than 1,000 years of stirring history centered on the Great Glen. The magnificently situated Urquhart Castle, on the shore of Loch Ness, has seen some of the most dramatic chapters in our nation's story. Once one of Scotland's largest castles, Urquhart saw great conflict during its 500 years as a medieval fortress. Control of the castle passed back and forth between the Scots and English during the Wars of Independence. The power struggles continued, as the Lords of the Isles regularly raided both castle and glen up until the 1500s. The last of the government

troops garrisoned here during the Jacobite Risings blew up the castle when they left. Urquhart's iconic ruins remain, offering glimpses into medieval times and the lives of its noble residents.

16.30hrs Arrive Mercure Hotel Inverness x 2 nights

Set in the heart of Inverness city centre and overlooking the River Ness, Mercure Inverness has a free high-speed WiFi. Inverness Rail Station is 200 metres from the hotel. A selection of shops and nightlife can be found in the surrounding area. Each en suite room at Mercure Inverness has a flat-screen TV, a hairdryer and tea/coffee making facilities. Guests can also enjoy 24-hour room service. Brasserie Restaurant serves modern bistro food, and has views across the river. There is a friendly bar and a lounge area.



Dinner in under your own arrangement tonight

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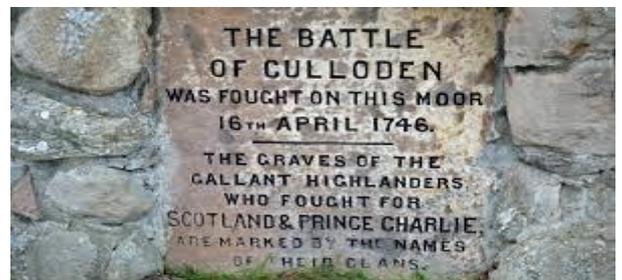
### Day Seven – Friday October 17<sup>th</sup>

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10.00hrs Depart hotel

This morning we take the short journey to Culloden

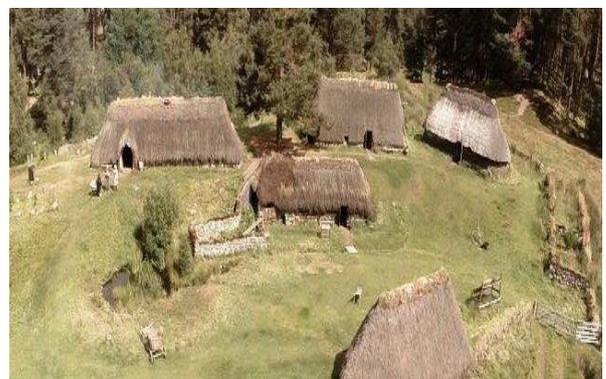
Fought near Inverness in Scotland on 16 April 1746, the Battle of Culloden was the climax of the Jacobite Rising (1745-46). The forces of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, attempting to reclaim the throne for his family, met a British army led by the Duke of Cumberland, son of the Hanoverian King George II. The battle finally settled a contest for the monarchy that had lasted almost 60 years.



Your visit includes admission to the visitor centre.

Less than an hour's drive away we visit the **Highland Folk Museum** (this featured in season 1 of Outlander)

Discover how Highland people lived, worked, and played at this award-winning museum. Experience life portrayed from the early 1700s to the mid-1900s. Find the difference between a "cruck" and a "croman", smell the "reek" of a peat fire, relive early school days and life on the farm, or just enjoy a "blether" and reminisce with our friendly staff. Extensive play area, shops, café, and picnic sites throughout grounds.



Mid-afternoon we return to Inverness.

Dinner is under your own arrangement this evening.

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## Day eight – Saturday October 18<sup>h</sup>

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08.00hrs Check-out and depart your hotel  
12.00hrs Arrive Aberdeen, - *comfort stop en-route*

Aberdeen is a port city in northeast Scotland, where the Dee and Don rivers meet the North Sea. With an offshore petroleum industry, the city is home to an international population. It's also known as the 'Granite City' for its many enduring grey-stone buildings. The 19th-century Marischal College is typical – a monumental Victorian landmark that's now headquarters of the City Council



### Time at leisure in Aberdeen

14.00hrs Depart Aberdeen  
14.35hrs Arrive Dunnottar Castle



Dunnottar is much more than just a topographical curiosity. This rock and the magnificent buildings on it have borne witness to much of the rich and tragic tapestry of Scotland's history. Visit to create your own unforgettable experience and discover the importance of Dunnottar – an impregnable fortress that holds many secrets of this country's colourful past.

*Due to its isolated position, there are a large number of steps (in excess of 200) leading down and back up into the Castle which may prove challenging. Unfortunately the positioning of the Castle also means that wheelchair access is not possible. From the car park, the Castle is reached by walking approx. 300m along an earth path to the headland, there are then over 200 concrete steps from the cliff top to the entrance kiosk which is located within the Castle.*

17.00hrs Depart Dunnottar  
18.20hrs Arrive Dundee x 1 night – Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa.

In the centre of Dundee's City Quay sits the luxury 4-star Apex City Quay Hotel & Spa. With free Wi-Fi, a luxury spa and a boujee restaurant and bar. Find yourself lounging in a room or suite while you stay clean in your en suite where you can find Antipodes organic toiletries. Some rooms even feature a Nespresso Coffee machine. A mini fridge is provided. Cots and highchairs are



available on request. You can visit the contemporary Quayside Bar & Grill to try dishes from the land, field, and sea plus sip on some cocktails, shaken or stirred overlooking the City Quay.

Dinner is in your hotel tonight

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### Day nine – Sunday October 19<sup>th</sup>

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- 10.00hrs Check-out and depart our hotel
- 11.30hrs Arrive **Stirling Castle** , comfort stop en-route

Stirling is one of Scotland’s greatest stone castles – an icon integral to how we understand the nation’s story. The castle peaked in importance in the 1500s, but its volcanic crag has been fortified since ancient times. Generations of Scottish monarchs have enlarged, adapted and embellished Stirling Castle. Explore its three main enclosures, and then admire the refurbished Royal Palace – childhood home of Mary Queen of Scots. The palace’s lavish design drew on European Renaissance fashions to show off James V’s power and good taste.



- 13.30hrs Depart the Stirling Castle
- 14.00hrs Arrive The Kelpies

The Kelpies are 30-metre-high horse-head sculptures depicting kelpies (shape-shifting water spirits), standing next to a new extension to the Forth and Clyde Canal, and near River Carron, in The Helix, a new parkland project built to connect 16 communities in the Falkirk Council Area, the sculptures were designed by sculptor Andy Scott and were completed in October 2013. The sculptures form a gateway at the eastern entrance to the Forth and Clyde canal, and the new canal extension was built as part of The Helix land transformation project. The Kelpies are a monument to horse powered heritage across Scotland



- 15.00hrs Depart The Kelpies
- 16.30hrs Arrive at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Edinburgh x 2 nights

Built in 1892, this historic hotel is at the heart of the city, 10 minutes from Edinburgh Castle and the Royal Mile. The Hotel is within a half-mile of Princess Street shopping, Usher Hall events, the Grass market, and Edinburgh Old Town. Take in scenic castle views and enjoy the 24-hour fitness center and a warm DoubleTree cookie upon arrival. Bread Street Brasserie is located on the ground floor of the hotel and is the perfect place to grab a delicious breakfast. Our other restaurant offers all-day dining, afternoon tea, and cocktails.



Dinner in under your own arrangement this evening

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## Day Ten – Monday October 20<sup>th</sup>

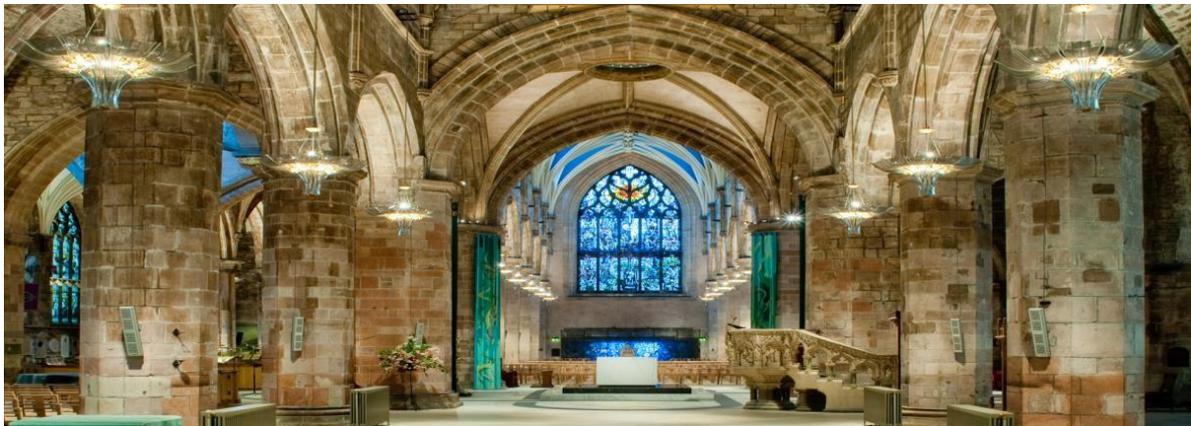
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We start the day with a Blue Badged Guided walking Tour of Edinburgh.

Edinburgh is Scotland's compact, hilly capital. It has a medieval Old Town and elegant Georgian New Town with gardens and neoclassical buildings. Looming over the city is Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels and the Stone of Destiny, used in the coronation of Scottish rulers. Arthur's Seat is an imposing peak in Holyrood Park with sweeping views, and Calton Hill is topped with monuments and memorials.



After the tour we visit St Giles Cathedral



Situated between Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse is St Giles' Cathedral, built on an ancient sanctuary during the ninth century. The temple is dedicated to St Giles, patron saint of the lepers. During and shortly after the Scottish Reformation, the cathedral was reformed on numerous occasions to suit the Protestant style of worship. Currently, the temple shows evidence of various periods. The most important restoration took place after the English set the church on fire in 1385. Years later the temple was redesigned in a Gothic style. Although St Giles' Cathedral is the Church of Scotland's principal place of worship, it is not technically a cathedral as it does not have a bishop.

We have the rest of the day at leisure in Edinburgh

Dinner is in a local restaurant (or the groups hotel) this evening

**This is a rest day for the coach**

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## Day Eleven – Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>

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### ***Optional extension to Ireland***

07.00hrs Check-out and depart your hotel  
10.30hrs Arrive Cairnryan  
11.30hrs Depart Cairnryan on Stena Superfast  
13.45hrs Arrive Belfast  
14.30hrs Arrive the Titanic Centre



Titanic Belfast

This a visitor attraction and a monument to Belfast's maritime heritage on the site of the former Harland & Wolff shipyard in the city's Titanic Quarter where the RMS Titanic was built.

17.30hrs Check-in to your hotel – Holiday Inn, Belfast City Centre x 2 nights

The 4\* Holiday Inn Belfast is centrally located, close to major public transport and road links, Ulster Hall, Grand Opera House and Victoria Square Shopping Centre are all within 10 minutes' walk of the hotel. With free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel and secure discounted overnight parking nearby. The hotel features a Starbucks coffee station, 24-hour room service and a fitness centre. All bedrooms feature a flat-screen TV, a pocket sprung mattress, a safe, a bathroom, and tea and coffee making facilities. Premium Rooms are also available with the following additional features: Espresso coffee machine, a mini-fridge with complimentary soft drinks, a bathrobe and slippers. The bar and media lounge serve Starbucks coffees and a wide range of drinks, including local beers. Guests can enjoy the comfy seating, games, magazines and TV. They can also work in the E-Bar, which features power points and a wireless printer. The To Go Café offers quick take-away food and drinks 24 hours a day.



Dinner is in your hotel this evening.

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### Day Twelve – Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup>

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10.00hrs We depart our hotel

We start the day with a City Tour of Belfast

Belfast is Northern Ireland's capital. It was the birthplace of the RMS Titanic, which famously struck an iceberg and sunk in 1912. This legacy is recalled in the renovated dockyards' Titanic Quarter, which includes the Titanic Belfast, an aluminium-clad museum reminiscent of a ship's hull, as well as shipbuilder Harland & Wolff's Drawing Offices and the Titanic Slipways, which now host open-air concerts



From the City we head out to Hillsborough Castle & Gardens

Hillsborough is a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Irish Big House rather than a castle. It was very common for the rich, predominantly Anglo-Irish upper classes to call their grand country houses 'castles', as this reinforced the antiquity of their families. In this case the name refers back to the original 'fort', which was the first home of the successful Hill family who gave the town its name. The grand Big House of Hillsborough replaced this earlier fortified home, which we now call The Fort.



We return to the City mid-afternoon and the rest of the day is at leisure

Dinner is under your own arrangement this evening.

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### Day Thirteen – Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup>

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09.00hrs Check-out and depart our hotel

10.30hrs Arrive at the Giants Causeway

Welcome to one of the most amazing places on the planet; The Giant's Causeway. The Giants Causeway comprises around 40,000 thousands of mostly hexagonal basalt columns descending gently into the sea. Depending on who you believe, the stones were formed either by an underwater volcano's geological actions or by a giant named Finn McCool, who lived and battled along the north Antrim Coast.



*"You are standing on, or are about to visit, one of my favourite places. The jewel in the crown of the fabulous coast of Antrim. A site of World Heritage and therefore ranked alongside Mount Everest and the Giant Redwoods of California for its importance to humankind. Volcanic activity helped Finn Mc Cool forge this wonder of the World some 60 Million years ago. It is today the habitat of rare plants and animals. Please treat their home with the pride and the care it deserves." – David Bellamy*

12.30hrs Depart The Causeway  
13.00hrs Arrive at the Bushmills, after some free-time for lunch we have a Distillery Tour

Bushmills is home to the world's oldest licensed whiskey distillery. Official records stretch back to 1608, when the area was granted its license to distil. Over 400 years later, whiskey is still being made in Bushmills, thanks to experience and craft passed down from generation to generation.



Bushmills is more than just a whiskey. It's a village, where family, friends and neighbours work side by side at the distillery. As we often say, "without the village there would be no whiskey, and without the whiskey there would be no village".

16.00hrs Depart Bushmills  
17.30hrs Arrive at the Maldron Hotel, Derry x 1 night

The 4-star Maldron Hotel Derry is located within Derry's historic city walls, offering luxurious accommodation and easy access to the city's theatres, restaurants and shops. All rooms have free WiFi access, a work desk and seating. Some rooms have views of the River Foyle and the 400-year-old city walls. The Grain & Grill Restaurant serves a variety of seasonal and local dishes. A full Ulster or continental breakfast is available. The Lyric Bar boasts a varied menu with a relaxed atmosphere and complimentary live entertainment at weekends. The fitness suite is free for guests to use. Parking in the underground car park is also free and offered on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note parking cannot be guaranteed and is extremely limited.



Dinner is your hotel this evening

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## Day Fourteen – Friday October 24<sup>th</sup>

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09.00hrs Check-out of our hotel

We start the day with a walking tour of Derry



The walls are at the centre of the historic city of Derry and within them are a number of Derry's most important landmarks including the Apprentice Boy's Hall and St. Columb's Cathedral (the first ever purpose-built Protestant Cathedral).

11.00hrs Depart Derry  
 13.20hrs Arrive Sligo  
 Some time at leisure in Sligo to avail of lunch  
 15.00hrs Depart Sligo  
 16.10hrs Arrive Foxford Woolen Mills

One of the last working mills in Ireland, Foxford Woolen Mills was founded by an Irish Sister of Charity in 1892 who harnessed the power of the River Moy to help drive prosperity in a region that had been hit hard by the great famine. The Mill had to overcome many challenges over the years, in order to survive.



Today, it is a thriving Mill in the village of Foxford, County Mayo. With the help of a new design team lead by award winning Irish Designer Helen McAlinden, Foxford embrace contemporary homeware alongside their classic weaves.

17.10hrs Depart Foxford  
 18.00hrs Arrive at the CastleCourt Hotel in Westport x 1 night

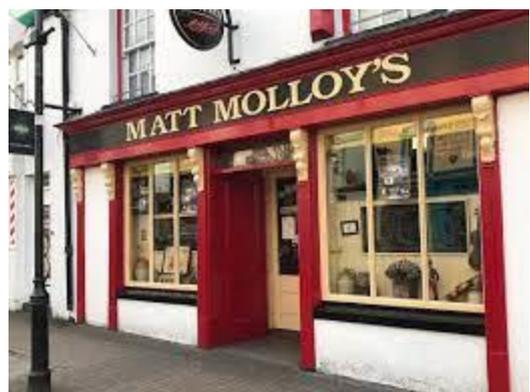
The family owned 4-star CastleCourt Hotel is located in the heart of Westport. It offers live music and dancing every night, a 20-metre indoor pool, gym and spa and beautifully decorated rooms. The spacious rooms at The CastleCourt Hotel, Spa & Leisure all feature TVs and free WiFi. Some rooms have 4-poster beds. With an outdoor rock pool hot tub, the luxurious Spa Sula offers a range of massages, body wraps and beauty treatments. There is also a sauna, steam room and a fully equipped gym. The Orchard Restaurant offers a bright and stylish space, whilst the Courtyard Bistro provides light lunches and pastries throughout the day.



Dinner is in your hotel tonight.

No visit to Westport would be complete without a visit to Matt Molloy's Pub.

MATT MOLLOY'S IS THE BEST KNOWN WESTPORT PUB IN JAPAN, ALASKA, AND PROBABLY TIMBUCTOO. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR INNUMERABLE WORLD TOURS, HE AND THE ILLUSTRIOUS CHIEFTAINS HAVE BROUGHT ITS NAME TO A VAST AND VARIED AUDIENCE, ALONG WITH A TASTE OF THE TRADITIONAL MUSIC THAT FLOWS FROM IT – DARK, DEEP AND UNPASTEURISED, LIKE ITS PINTS..... IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT MATT MOLLOY'S BAR OVERFLOWS ALL YEAR WITH VISITORS – FROM THE BEWITCHED TO THE BAFFLED – FROM ALL FOUR CONTINENTS. THOUSANDS MORE WHO HAVEN'T MADE IT TO THE DOOR, HAVE BOUGHT THE CD, MUSIC FROM MATT MOLLOY'S, PRODUCED BY REAL WORLD RECORDS.



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## Day Fifteen – Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup>

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We depart Westport at midday. Prior to that, for those who wish the coach will take a run out to Croagh Patrick

Croagh Patrick, a soaring cone-shaped peak that rises above Clew Bay in Co Mayo, is where the Irish have always turned for guidance and reassurance before the harvest. People have been coming for well over 3,000 years, since our Neolithic ancestors first recognised its potency as a sacred site. Later, people come to worship the Celtic sun god, Lugh, and then in 441AD the site was cannily co-opted by St Patrick, who reputedly fasted here for 40 days and nights before banishing the snakes from Ireland. Croagh Patrick is the perfect spot to experience a sense of the inclusive, exultant form of early Irish Christianity when it was still infused with the innate love of nature – the Pagan biophilia - of the Irish people.



12.00hrs Depart Westport  
13.15hrs Arrive Kylemore Abbey

Nestled in the heart of Connemara, on the Wild Atlantic Way, Kylemore Abbey is a haven of history, beauty and serenity. Home to a Benedictine order of Nuns for the past 100 years, Kylemore Abbey welcomes visitors from all over the world each year to embrace the magic of the magnificent 1,000-acre estate.



15.30hrs Depart Kylemore  
17.00hrs Arrive Connaught Hotel Galway x 2 nights

Galway, a harbour city on Ireland's west coast, sits where the River Corrib meets the Atlantic Ocean. The city's hub is 18th-century Eyre Square, a popular meeting spot surrounded by shops and traditional pubs that often offer live Irish folk music. Nearby, stone-clad cafes, boutiques and art galleries line the winding lanes of the Latin Quarter, which retains portions of the medieval city walls.



The Connacht Hotel is located close to Lough Atalia, 2.4 km from the city centre. It boasts a leisure centre with a 20 m pool, spacious rooms, free Wi-Fi, and free parking. Rooms at The Connacht are bright and modern in design and feature free internet access, a daily newspaper and an in room safe. They also include a hairdryer, ironing station and tea/coffee-making facilities. Breakfast and dinner is served in Reubens Restaurant, which has a warm and friendly atmosphere. Bar Solo offers a bright and spacious area that is perfect for mid-morning tea and scones, lunch or an evening snack with regular live music. Active Leisure & Fitness offers a sauna, steam room, hot tub and a gym.

Dinner is in your hotel this evening.

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## Day Sixteen – Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>

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08.30hrs Depart the hotel  
10.00hrs Arrive the Cliffs of Moher



You simply cannot travel to Ireland without paying a visit to Ireland's top tourist attraction, the breathtaking Cliffs of Moher, situated in County Clare along the wild Atlantic Way. The Cliffs of Moher have majestically faced the Atlantic for over 350 million years and their beauty is incomparable – it is Ireland's most visited tourist attraction and when you visit you will understand why.

12.00hrs Departing the Cliffs we head over to Caherconnell Stonefort & Sheepdog Demonstration.



Tucked away in a beautiful Burren valley, Caherconnell offers a sublime half day adventure for young and old, all ages will be captivated by a visit to our wonderful place. Caherconnell has been owned and managed by the Davoren family for over 5 generations and has developed organically to become an authentic incomparable Burren adventure. You are certain of an enchanting day with our energetic sheepdogs demonstrating their skill, a fascinating tour of the 5,000-year-old fort and a classic Burren farm experience. Maintaining a long tradition of hospitality to our guests here at Caherconnell the on-site café offers an array of delicious locally sourced food and a peaceful place to sit and enjoy the Burren landscape.

We take the opportunity to visit the nearby Poul nabrone Dolmen

Situated on the high Burren limestone plateau, Poul nabrone Dolmen is one of Ireland's most iconic archaeological monuments and is the second most visited location in the Burren after the Cliffs of Moher. It is the oldest dated megalithic monument in Ireland.

15.00hrs Depart Poul nabrone  
16.20hrs Arrive Galway



Dinner at your own arrangement this evening.

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### Day Seventeen – Monday October 27<sup>th</sup>

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09.00hrs Check-out and depart your hotel  
10.20hrs Arrive Sean’s Bar Athlone

Sean’s Bar has a detailed and documented history right back to 900AD. During renovations in 1970, the walls of the bar were found to be made of "wattle and wicker" dating back to the ninth century. Old coins which were minted by various landlords for barter with their customers were also found. The walls and the coins are on display in the National Museum. One section remains on display in the pub. Sean’s Bar has been researched thoroughly by the Guinness Book of Records and proudly holds the record for "The Oldest Pub in Ireland" with an official dating of 900AD. Research is ongoing into the title of "The Oldest Pub in the World"; so far, nothing older has been found.



We learn the story of Whiskey Distilling

11.30hrs Depart Athlone  
13.15hrs Arrive Dublin.

After some time for lunch we visit the EPIC Museum

**Epic Museum** was Winner of Europe’s Leading Tourist Attraction at the World Travel Awards 2019, 2020 & 2021. You won’t find leprechauns or pots of gold here, but you’ll discover that what it means to be Irish expands far beyond the borders of Ireland through the stories of Irish emigrants who became scientists, politicians, poets, artists and even outlaws all over the world. Discover Ireland from the outside in and find out why saying “I’m Irish” is one of the biggest conversation starters, no matter where you are.



17.30hrs Check-in to your hotel – Ashling Hotel x 2 nights

Overlooking the River Liffey, The Ashling Hotel is beside Heuston Station in Dublin. This 4-star hotel has beautifully decorated interiors, spacious rooms with free Wi-Fi, and a stylish bar. The Ashling is located just a 5-minute walk from Dublin Zoo and the Guinness Storehouse. A 5-minute journey on the LUAS tram brings you to the lively Temple Bar area. Decorated in warm tones, rooms have comfortable beds with crisp white duvets. Rooms include flat-screen TVs and in-room safes. Chesterfields Brasserie serves cooked breakfasts in the morning, a lunchtime cavery and fine Irish and international cuisine in the evening.



Dinner is in your hotel this evening

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## Day Eighteen – Tuesday October 28<sup>th</sup>

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Today we have a day at leisure in Dublin and this evening we head up to Taylors Three Rock for an evening of Irish Music and dancing .

18.15hrs Depart hotel  
19.00hrs Arrive Taylors Three Rock

Ireland's most loved pub and entertainment venue Taylors Three Rock involves a rip roaring evening of traditional Irish song and dance accompanied by a great selection of quality Irish food to delight your palate.



22.00hrs Depart Taylors  
22.30hrs Arrive at your hotel

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## Day Nineteen – Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>

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Transfer time to Dublin Airport 40 minutes, 3 hour check-in required for Trans Atlantic flight.

*Slán Abhaile*

*Safe Home*



**Please note that the itinerary is subject to change.**

**If persons of limited mobility are booking onto this tour, please consider that entrances to the castles will be difficult as well as the 15 – 20 minute walk to and from the Abbey in Iona.**