

# CLASSIC SCOTLAND & IRELAND - PRIVATE ITINERARY

DAY  
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## DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN EDINBURGH

Upon your arrival in **Edinburgh**, you will be greeted by a private driver who will take you to your hotel in the city centre. If you arrive early in the day, we recommend spending the afternoon walking through the city, strolling along the **Royal Mile** and exploring the Old and New Towns, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are also plenty of museums and landmarks to visit within the city centre, including the majestic **Edinburgh Castle**.

Spend the night in Edinburgh.

**Attractions:** Calton Hill, Edinburgh, Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh New Town, Edinburgh Old Town, Scotland, The Grassmarket, The Royal Mile & St Giles Cathedral

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## DAY 2: INTO THE HIGHLANDS

Today your guide will pick you up from your hotel in a comfortable vehicle to start your private tour. They will first take you to the "Capital of the Highlands, **Inverness**, journeying through the scenic Highlands. Along the way, you could see the picturesque village of **Dunkeld**, visit the 13<sup>th</sup>-century **Blair Castle** or pass by the Highland Folk Museum inside the **Cairngorms National Park**.

Arriving near Inverness, you can visit the **Battlefield of Culloden Moor**, to see where the last battle on British soil occurred in 1746, marking "the beginning of the end for the Highlands." Nearby you could also roam around **Clava Cairns**, a series of tombs and standing stones dating back roughly 4,000 years.

Spend the night in the Inverness area.

Driving distance: 251 km / 156 miles

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Blair Castle, Cairngorms National Park, Clava Cairns, Culloden Battlefield & Visitor Centre, Dunkeld, Highland Folk Museum, Inverness

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## DAY 3: LOCH NESS, CASTLES & ISLE OF SKYE

The iconic **Isle of Skye** awaits! Your guide will drive you from **Inverness** to the famous western island via **Loch Ness**. If you want, you could take a boat tour onto the loch, or visit the nearby **Urquhart Castle** ruins. Further along the drive, your guide will make a stop at the iconic **Eilean Donan Castle**. When you arrive on Skye, your first stop will be at the scenic village of **Portree**, where you can explore and admire its colourful buildings and dine at a local restaurant.

Spend the night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

Driving distance: 185 km / 115 miles

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 9 hours*

**Attractions:** Eilean Donan Castle, Loch Ness, Portree, Urquhart Castle

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## DAY 4: THE ISLE OF SKYE

A private driver is the best way to take full advantage of your day on Skye. You will head north to the striking Trotternish Peninsula. Here you'll have the option to see highlights such as "**The Old Man of Storr**" rock pinnacle, **Kilt Rock Waterfall**, the **Quiraing** landscape, and the mystical **Fairy Glen**. You can decide with your guide where you would like to spend the most time and if you would like to go for certain walks.

Spend another night on the Isle of Skye or nearby.

*Driving distance: 70 km / 45 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Fairy Glen, Isle of Skye, Kilt Rock & Mealt Falls, Old Man of Storr, Quiraing, Staffin & An Corran Beach

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## DAY 5: SLEAT PENINSULA & GLENFINNAN

You will head to Skye's southern Sleat Peninsula, characterised by beautiful beaches, lochs, and glens of the region. Depending on your interests, you may wish to stop for a walk at the crystal-clear **Fairy Pools** at the foot of the Black Cuillin Hills. Or you could go sample the local whisky at the Talisker Distillery (pre-booking is essential).

In the afternoon, you will catch the ferry from Armadale to Mallaig to return to the mainland. Your guide will drive you to your accommodation, passing by Glenfinnan along the way. Here you can marvel at the **Glenfinnan Monument** and **Viaduct**, the latter of which features in the *Harry Potter* film series.

Spend the night in the Fort William area.

*Ferry from Armadale to Mallaig: 30 minutes*

*Driving distance: 135 km / 85 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 9 hours*

**Attractions:** Cuillin Mountains, Fairy Pools, Fort William, Glenfinnan

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## DAY 6: TRAVEL ALONG DRAMATIC GLENS

Today's journey will be a scenic one, so don't hesitate to let your guide know if you have specific interests. You'll travel past Scotland's most famous valley, **Glen Coe**, which offers world-famous scenery. This is a great location for a panoramic walk. Further, you could stop at the grave of Rob Roy at Balquidder or to admire the beautiful Falls of Dochart in the village of Killin.

Spend the night in the **Trossachs National Park** area.

*Driving distance via Glen Coe: 130 km / 80 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Glen Coe, Inveraray & Inveraray Castle, Loch Lomond

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## DAY 7: TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK TO GLASGOW

Today's drive will take you to Scotland's largest city, Glasgow. You'll travel through the **Loch Lomond** and **Trossachs National Park**, where you could stop to take a nature walk, visit a distillery or, if time allows, enjoy a boat tour on Loch Katrine. For a fun photo opportunity, don't miss **Doone Castle**, featured in many TV series and films. You could also stop by **Stirling Castle**, one of Scotland's top attractions.

Your guide will drop you off in Glasgow. It's time to say goodbye to them as you'll have a different guide when you travel around Ireland.

Spend the night in Glasgow.

*Driving distance: 109 km / 68 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Doune Castle, Glasgow, Loch Lomond, Stirling & Stirling Castle, Trossachs National Park

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## DAY 8: TRAVEL TO DUBLIN, IRELAND

Today a private car will pick you up to drive you to Glasgow Airport for your flight to Dublin, Ireland for the second portion of your tour. Upon your arrival in **Dublin**, start exploring this amazing city, with its eclectic mixture of heritage sites, museums and historic pubs. You can take a stroll along the cobbled streets of the Temple Bar district or visit the historic **Trinity College** to see the ancient **Book of Kells**. Alternatively, you could enjoy an afternoon tea sightseeing tour of the city on a vintage bus or grab a pint at the **Guinness Storehouse** for a taste of the world-famous beer.

Spend the night in Dublin.

**Attractions:** Book of Kells and Old Library, Dublin, Guinness Storehouse, Ireland, Trinity College Dublin

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## DAY 9: TOWARDS THE IRISH WEST COAST

Your private guide for the Ireland portion of your tour will pick you up to start your adventure around the Emerald Isle. You'll first pass through the beautiful midlands. You can decide where to stop with your guide. You could learn about Irish history at **Trim Castle** or roam atmospheric ruins at **Clonmacnoise**. Or why not taste the local whiskey at Kilbeggan Distillery? (pre-booking is advised)

Later, your guide will take you to your stop for the night, the lively **Galway**. The colourful city is the perfect place to taste some Irish delicacies with its famous food scene and numerous pubs.

Spend the night in the Galway area.

*Driving distance: 229 km / 142 miles*

*Estimated driving duration: 2 hours (without stops)*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Clonmacnoise, Galway, Kilbeggan Distillery, Trim Castle

**DAY 10: DISCOVER RUGGED CONNEMARA**

Enjoy the sights of the striking **Connemara** region today. Its rugged landscape is famous for its mountains, white sand beaches, picturesque lakes and heathlands. You'll first stop by **Killary harbour**, Ireland's only true fjord with a length of 16 kilometres (9.9 miles). Further along, your guide will also make a stop at **Kylemore Abbey**. Here you can admire the spectacular Gothic architecture and take a stroll in the Victorian Walled Garden.

For a more leisurely time, you could instead decide to take your own day trip to the **Aran Islands** (pre-booking necessary). These three windswept islands are one of the few places where the Gaelic language, culture and music still truly thrive.

Spend another night in the Galway area.

*Driving distance around Connemara: 214 km / 133 miles*

*Driving distance to Aran Islands: 76 km / 47 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 9 hours*

**Attractions:** Aran Islands, Clifden, Connemara National Park, Killary Harbour, Kylemore Abbey

**DAY 11: CLIFFS OF MOHER & LIMESTONE LANDSCAPES**

Start the day with a visit to **Dunguaire Castle**. Sitting on a rocky outcrop overlooking Galway Bay, it is one of the most photographed castles in Ireland. Further ahead, your guide will take you to a beautiful spot to experience the surreal landscape of The **Burren**.

Then you will arrive at the jewel of Ireland, the breathtaking **Cliffs of Moher**. This is the top tourist attraction in the country, showcasing some of the most iconic coastal scenery of the island. On a sunny day the views are expansive, but even a stormy day can be exhilarating with the powerful Atlantic below.

If time allows, your guide might also stop by the 15th-century **Bunratty Castle**. Here you could visit the nearby Bunratty Folk Park, where you can experience Irish rural life from the 1800s.

Spend the night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

*Driving distance: 269 km / 167 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Bunratty Castle, Cliffs of Moher, Kinvara & Dunguaire Castle, The Burren

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## DAY 12: RING OF KERRY

The **Ring of Kerry** is a highlight in Ireland and today your private guide takes you around this must-do scenic drive. Your first stop will be at **Kells Bay House**, to see its primeval forest of planted giant ferns. You'll also pass by the ancient stone forts of **Caherdaniel and Staigue**, and Derrynane Bay with its beautiful white sand.

When you complete the circle, you'll have a chance to see the picturesque **Torc Waterfall**. If you prefer, today you could also take an optional boat tour from the coast to see the **Skellig Islands** from up close.

Spend another night in the Killarney/Tralee area.

*Driving distance: 198 km / 123 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Caherdaniel & Staigue Forts, Kells Bay House and Gardens, Ring of Kerry, Skellig islands, Torc Waterfall

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## DAY 13: STEP INTO IRELAND'S FAMOUS HISTORY

Today your guide takes you back to Dublin. First, you'll stop by **Blarney Castle**, a legendary medieval stronghold that houses the Blarney Stone, surrounded by many myths and tales. Then you might decide with your guide to go explore the spectacular **Rock of Cashel**, a historic site containing a collection of medieval buildings that span over 1000 years of history. Back in **Dublin**, enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure, perhaps with a fine Irish dinner to top off your amazing journey.

Spend the night in Dublin.

*Driving distance: 343 km / 213 miles*

*Average travel & exploring duration: estimated 8 hours*

**Attractions:** Blarney Castle, Dublin, Rock of Cashel

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## DAY 14: DEPARTURE

On your day of departure, a private driver will pick you up from your hotel to take you directly to Dublin Airport. If your flight is in the afternoon, you can use the morning to enjoy some last-minute shopping or sightseeing.

*Whatever your needs, we are here to help. If you have any questions about our packages or services, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

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