



The New Barleycorn's Thistle & Shamrock Tour



**10 Days/9 Nights in Scotland & Ireland
September 10 – 20, 2018**

Mon Sept 10: Heading for the Emerald Isle

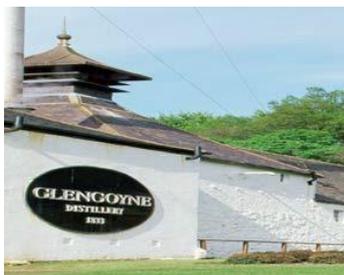
Today we start our journey by flying from the United States on an overnight flight across the Atlantic Sea to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Tue Sept 11: Welcome to Scotland

This morning, you will land in Edinburgh Airport and proceed into the arrivals area where you will find your Driver/Guide who will transfer you to the city of Edinburgh, one of Europe's most beautiful cities draped across a series of rocky hills overlooking the sea. **We will meet in the city to indulge in a hearty Scottish breakfast together before enjoying a sightseeing tour of Edinburgh** where we explore The Old Town and The New Town including The Royal Mile. The tour will conclude at Edinburgh Castle, the historic fortress which dominates the skyline of the city and contains the Scottish Crown Jewels and the Stone of Scone. **We will take a tour of Edinburgh Castle, a world famous icon of Scotland, and afterwards, you are free to explore Edinburgh at your own pace. Later, meet up with the group for our Welcome Dinner tonight at the hotel and toast to the adventures which await you in Scotland & Ireland. Dinner & Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel (TBD)**



Wed Sept 12: A Day Well Spent By The Lochs



After breakfast this morning, we will set out to explore the famous Loch Lomond, renowned for its unsurpassed beauty. Loch Lomond is the centerpiece of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park and is the largest expanse of freshwater in Great Britain. The Trossachs, with its lochs, glens and heather-covered mountains was a favorite destination of Sir Walter Scott, who used the location as the backdrop for his novel 'Rob Roy' and poem 'The Lady of the Lake'. **We will enjoy a cruise on Loch Lomond and afterwards we will visit Glengoyne Distillery** which is located in the Southern Highlands and has been producing an exceptional single malt scotch whiskey for nearly 200 years. It is one of the few distilleries producing whiskey in this part of Scotland today. Knowledge is passed from generation to generation, nothing is written down. They focus on distilling slowly to create

the best whiskey possible. Following this, we will return to Edinburgh to spend the remainder of the day as you please. Edinburgh nightlife has a vast number of bars, restaurants and, particularly, atmospheric old pubs in which to pass a few spare hours.

Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel

Thu Sept 13: Exploring Edinburgh



After a leisurely breakfast this morning, **we will set out to visit The Royal Yacht Britannia**, the floating Royal residence which was the home for the British Royal Family for over 40 years. We will use our boarding passes to follow in the footsteps of Royalty to discover the heart and soul of this most special of Royal residences. Afterwards, you are free to enjoy your last day in Edinburgh as you wish. **This evening we gather to enjoy an evening of food, drink and entertainment at The Spirit of Scotland – a true**

showcase of Scottish Hospitality! Dinner & Overnight: Edinburgh Hotel

Fri Sept 14: Welcome to Northern Ireland

Once you have had your breakfast, we will bid Edinburgh and Scotland farewell in search of new adventures in the rejuvenated and unmissable, **Northern Ireland**. We will catch the ferry from Edinburgh to Belfast, the transformed city famous in equal parts for the birthplace of the Titanic and the notorious history of Northern Ireland.

Upon arrival into Belfast, we will journey to Armagh, known as the 'Orchard County', owing to the rich apple growing country centered in the north of the county. Armagh is perhaps better known as the spiritual capital of Ireland since Saint Patrick founded his first church on the hilltop site of the present **Church of Ireland Cathedral** around 445AD. On the opposite hill, the twin- spired **St. Patrick's Cathedral** (started in 1840) is flanked by two large marble archbishops who look mildly across town. **We will visit both of these churches, the respective seats of the Protestant and Catholic archbishops.** We check into our hotel and enjoy dinner together.



Dinner & Overnight: The Armagh City Hotel

Sat Sept 15: Day Tripping to Belfast

Fill up on breakfast this morning as **we visit Northern Ireland's capital city for a day of sightseeing, providing you with a comprehensive look at the very special city of Belfast.** We will hear the history of areas like the City Centre, the Protestant neighborhood of Shankill Road,



the Catholic neighborhood of Falls Road and the Titanic Quarter. **The tour concludes at Titanic Belfast**, named 'World's Leading Tourist Attraction' at the prestigious World Travel Awards 2016, which is located in the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched in 1912, which is located in the very place where Titanic was designed, built and launched in 1912. **We will visit the award winning attraction to experience the story of the Titanic**, from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and

launch, to its maiden voyage and subsequent place in history. **We will return to Armagh and enjoy dinner together. Dinner & Overnight: The Armagh City Hotel**

Sun Sept 16: Last Stops in the North

This morning we will finish up breakfast and bid farewell to Armagh for new adventures in Donegal, known as the Wild Child of Ireland, thanks in part to its rugged interior and characterful pubs. **On route, we will stop in the heather-clad hills of Co. Tyrone at The Ulster American Folk Park**, a colorful indoor and outdoor museum exploring the story of Irish emigration to the New World. You will be immersed into the story of Irish emigration at the museum that brings it to life.



Afterwards, you will reach Donegal for check-in and to enjoy your first of two nights here. **Meet the group for dinner and spend your evening as you please.** With traditional Irish bars boasting exciting live music, to chic and modern pubs with tasty food and beer - Donegal has it all! **Dinner & Overnight: The Mill Park Hotel Donegal**

Mon Sept 17: Local Sights & Sounds of Donegal

After a leisurely breakfast this morning, **we will set out to explore Donegal**, dubbed 'a place like no other on the island'. **Our first stop will be in Killybegs**, Ireland's largest fishing port, to visit the village which bustles with the atmosphere of a charming working town. We will spend time in Killybegs where 'the welcome and hospitality is second to none' before setting out to **visit the Slieve League Cliffs**, spectacular sea cliffs which are among the highest in Europe plunging some 600m to the sea. Promising unforgettable views, look down to see two rocks nicknamed the 'giant's desk and chair' for reasons that are immediately obvious. Afterwards, we will return to our hotel via the Glengesh Pass, a stunning setting of spectacular views with old cottages, farms and sheep dotted along the route. **We will meet up later to enjoy a traditional pub night with dinner, drink & music to celebrate our last night in this special place. Dinner & Overnight: The Mill Park Hotel Donegal**

Tue Sept 18: Wandering on the Wild Atlantic Way

Refuel on your breakfast this morning and get set to bid Donegal farewell and embark on free-spirited Galway, known as 'The City of Tribes' after the 14 family tribes that founded it.

On route, **we will travel along the Wild Atlantic Way**, one of the longest defined coastal routes in the world, **to stop in the beautifully located Drumcliffe to visit the resting place of famous Irish poet, W.B. Yeats**. We will then make our way to our Galway Hotel for check-in for the next 2 nights. Galway is a vibrant place, full of life and character in its people thronging its pedestrianized shopping streets or stopping for a famous bite in one of its many cafes and bars. **This evening we enjoy another traditional pub night together at one of the many fantastic pubs in Galway. Dinner & Overnight: The Park House Hotel Galway**



Wed Sept 19: The Wildest West – Connemara

Enjoy your Irish Breakfast this morning before **we head out and tour “The Wild West of Ireland” - Connemara**, a wild region of bog land, pristine lakes and mountains which is sparsely populated and the landscape much more open. Because the area is so remote, the Irish language and traditions have survived here and Irish is the first tongue of many of the inhabitants. **We will enjoy a cruise on Ireland’s only Fjord along with tea and scones**. This cruise is a great way to take in the dramatic sweep of the landscape. We will pass between the Twelve Bens and the Maam Turk Mountains in the South in County Galway, the Mweelrea Mountains to the North in County Mayo, and also beautiful views out to the Atlantic at the mouth of the Fjord. The views of the surrounding landscape are lovely – hills rising steeply from the silvery sea, with different colors on the peaks and valleys. Afterwards, we will return to our Galway Hotel to spend the rest of the afternoon as you please. **We will meet up later to enjoy our Farewell Dinner at the hotel and toast to a successful and memorable trip to Scotland and the Emerald Isle. Dinner & Overnight: The Park House Hotel Galway**

Thu Sept 20: Homeward Bound...

Pack your bags as we head for the airport where you will board your flight for home. Carry on your photos and memories and bring a bit of Scotland and the Emerald Isle home with you. ‘The Land of One Hundred Thousand Welcomes’ will be expecting you again soon.



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