

Grab Your Passport and Let's Go to Scotland and Ireland!!!!

July 29, 2017 to August 10, 2017

Cost: The land portion of this trip is \$2,709.52 and you will arrange your own airfare, taking advantage of any frequent flyer or bonus mileage you can. I will help you book your flights if you need help with this aspect. The airfare will run about \$1,200 to \$1,500. You will need to book your flight from DFW to DUB (Dublin, Ireland) on Friday, July 29, 2017. This will be an overnight flight of about 8 hours and you will arrive in Dublin in the early morning hours of Saturday, July 30, 2017. Take a taxi to the hotel to meet up with our group.

- Sat. July 30, 2017 We will tour Dublin City and surrounding sites today. We will get to tour the Guinness Storehouse and go to Trinity College to see the Book of Kells
We will stay two nights in the **Dublin O'Callaghan Mont Clare Hotel.**
- Sun. July 31, 2017 Today, we will have breakfast and then visit Christchurch Cathedral in the oldest part of Dublin. It is part of the Anglican Church of Ireland and the mother church of Dublin and Glendalough. From there we go to the National Museum and later to Malahide Castle and Gardens.
- Mon. Aug. 1, 2017 Today we move to Cork. Here we will stay in the **Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel.** It is actually within an old woolen mill. We visit the House of Waterford Crystal, Blarney Castle, and Cork City – Ireland's third city – after Dublin and Belfast.
- Tue. Aug. 2, 2017 Off to Kerry now. We stay overnight in the **International Hotel Killarney.** Our hotel is located in the heart of town very near Killarney National Park. Later we visit Killarney Lakes and the Ring of Kerry – this region is beautiful and a little bit wild with Iron Age forts and Ogham stones – there are also old monasteries and amazing landscapes here.
- Wed. Aug. 3, 2017 We move on to Galway. Tonight we stay in the **Harbour Hotel** here. We will see the Cliffs of Moher – one of Ireland's top visitor attractions with lots

of sea bird nests. We will tour Galway City and tour the home of Galway Crystal.

- Thur. Aug. 4, 2017 Off to Belfast where we stay in the **Europa Hotel** – elegant décor, bistro, bar with lots of shops all around this area within walking distance. We will go to the Titanic Belfast Expo with over nine galleries documenting the ill-fated Titanic ship that was actually constructed in the shipyards at Belfast.
- Fri. Aug. 5, 2017 We take the ferry over to Scotland and will spend tonight at the **Hallmark Hotel**. In Glasgow, we will tour the city, visit a famous Tenement House and a Weaver's Cottage.
- Sat. Aug. 6, 2017 We move on to Fort William in the North. Here we stay at the **Alexandra Hotel Fort William**. Here we are close to Scotland's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. You will hear all about Bonnie Prince Charlie's war and how it affected the Jacobites in their war against the English king on the throne. We will go to the Glenfinnan Monument (a very moving battlefield) and to Old Inverlochy Castle.
- Sun. Aug. 7, 2017 Still in Fort William, we will go to Clava Cairns – a prehistoric cemetery site with amazing burial cairns that are over 4,000 years old. It is said that this site was built by sun worshippers and at evening, you can certainly feel the presence of some ancient something here! We will go to Culloden Battlefield and Brodie Castle on our way to our hotel for the night – **Waterside Hotel Inverness**.
- Mon. Aug. 8, 2017 We go to Edinburgh. We will stay at the **Carlton Hotel Edinburgh** for 2 nights.
- Tue. Aug. 9, 2017 While in the city we will tour Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh City, and Holyrood House. The Royal Mile (the road between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood) is a fantastic shopping area with lots of quaint shops. We will visit St. Mary's Close and St. Giles Cathedral. Our evening's entertainment is the 66th Military Tattoo – Spine-tingling presentation including pipers, drummers, singers, dancers, all representing the time when Great Britain was an Empire. This is staged in the forecourt of Edinburgh Castle – AWESOME!

Wed. Aug. 10, 2017 We are headed home.

Our fabulous tour has been arranged by Tina Finnerty at Exploring Vacations. You can email questions to her at tina@exploringvacations.com Her phone number is 1-888-451-3744.

Payment for the trip is \$2,709.52. which can be paid in 3 equal payments of \$903.18 on Tuesday, November 1, 2016; Thursday, December 15, 2016; and Monday, January 16, 2017. She can accept Visa and MasterCard directly, and American Express through Paypal. You can also pay for the whole thing at once and this must be in her hands by Monday, January 16, 2017.

Meals, money for souvenirs, and other incidentals ARE NOT INCLUDED in the price quoted.

You will need a current passport. You can go ahead and get this right now. The process takes a little while. The Oaklawn Post Office is the place to apply and to get your photo made. Cost is about \$100.