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# SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

8 or 10 days | Scotland | Ireland

These lands were once home to ancient Celtic and Gaelic tribes; today their histories blend comfortably into the modern day. Bring your group into the Middle Ages with a trip to Edinburgh Castle and under the towering spire of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. In Belfast, old conflicts have given way to an influx of restored 19th-century architecture and a thriving arts scene.

## EVERYTHING YOU GET:

-  **Full-time Tour Director**
-  **Sightseeing:** 3 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides; 2 walking tours
-  **Activity level:** Average; moderate walking (about 3 hours daily), and may include light hiking and climbing up hills or stairs
-  **Entrances:** St. Patrick's Cathedral; Titanic Belfast; Bannockburn Visitor Center; Edinburgh Castle; Stirling Castle; *with London extension: Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace*
-   **All of the details are covered:** Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motorcoach; 6 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (8 *with extension*); European breakfast and dinner daily
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*These tours give girls the confidence to work toward a significant goal and the courage to try new things while traveling. They return with character and want to make their world a better place.*

Kim H., Group Leader



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## DAY 1: FLY OVERNIGHT TO IRELAND

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### DAY 2: DUBLIN

- Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Dublin, Ireland’s capital city scenically situated between Dún Laoghaire (pronounced “dun leery”) and Howth Head’s rocky peaks. Literary history greets you around every corner, as if the walls echoed Beckett plays or Jonathan Swift satires. Admire Dublin’s elegant Georgian squares and be sure to ask your guide about the colorful doors.
- Take a walking tour of Dublin.

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### DAY 3: DUBLIN

- Take an expertly guided tour of Dublin: Georgian squares; O’Connell Street; St. Stephen’s Green.
- Visit St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

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### DAY 4: DUBLIN | BELFAST

- Travel to Belfast, a city in transition, and learn how it’s redefining itself after famously undergoing a period of religious strife in the 1970s and 1980s. Yet, testaments to the city’s past still exist: Along Catholic Falls Road and Protestant Shankill Road, witness giant political murals that help tell the history of Northern Ireland. In the city center you’ll see Victorian architectural gems such as the City Hall and the Albert Memorial Clock, Belfast’s very own leaning tower. You’ll also pass the shipbuilding docks where the legendary steamship *Titanic* was constructed.
- Take an expertly guided tour of Belfast: Lower Falls; Shankill Road; Belfast’s famous murals.
- Visit Titanic Belfast, an interactive museum and attraction.

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### DAY 5: BELFAST | EDINBURGH

- Travel by ferry to Cairnryan.
- Travel to Alloway.
- Visit the Bannockburn Visitor Centre.
- Continue on to Edinburgh, where Edinburgh Castle is the enduring symbol of Scotland’s capital and site of many of the nation’s storied events. Ownership of the fortress, perched atop an extinct volcano, changed hands many times over the centuries, from Scottish to English and back again. Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth here to James VI of Scotland, who would later rule England as James I.

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### DAY 6: EDINBURGH

- Enjoy a guided walking tour of Edinburgh’s Royal Mile. For a sense of what it was like to live in Edinburgh in centuries past, stroll down the Royal Mile through the Old Town, a romantic jumble of medieval buildings. Then, learn the darker history of the city by walking in the footsteps of graverobbers Burke and Hare.
- Visit Edinburgh Castle.
- Take a walking tour of Edinburgh, and hike to Arthur’s Seat: an ancient volcano east of Edinburgh Castle and one of Scotland’s most notable natural landmarks.



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**DAY 7: EDINBURGH**

- Take an excursion to Stirling, the Trossachs, and Loch Katrine.
- Snap a photo with the William Wallace Monument and see sheepdog demonstration (April-September).
- Visit Stirling Castle.

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**DAY 8: DEPART FOR HOME**

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**EXTENSION DAYS**

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**DAY 8: EDINBURGH | LONDON**

- Travel by train to London.
- Take a walking tour of London and soak up the unique culture that this capital city has to offer.

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**DAY 9: LONDON**

- Take a guided tour of London.
- With your expert local guide you will see Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, and Changing of the Guard at Buckingham Palace (if scheduled).
- Visit the Tower of London.

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**DAY 10: DEPART FOR HOME**

Itinerary subject to change. For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

**TOP THREE THINGS I WILL SEE, DO, TRY, OR EXPLORE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

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