

## CUSTOM GROUP TOUR ITINERARY



Proposal # 533486  
 Name: Mary Fislar  
 Tour Name: Picture Perfect Travel  
 Tour Date: September 08 - 22, 2022

Thu, Sep-08

### DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Depart your hometown and take an overnight flight across the Atlantic. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you travel to start your vacation.

Fri, Sep-09

### EDINBURGH ARRIVAL

After landing at Edinburgh Airport, complete customs and immigration formalities. Your CIE Tours guide will welcome you to Scotland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Next, set off on an orientation tour of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital city. Your knowledgeable guide will share many fascinating stories about the historic city as you travel through the Old Town. Stop to tour the imposing Edinburgh Castle, perched high above the city on volcanic rock and dominates the skyline. The castle has been involved in many historical conflicts from the War of Scottish Independence to the Jacobite Rising in 1745 and even acted as a military prison during both World Wars. Then, walk a short distance to visit Greyfriars Kirk, which sits just outside the Old City, near the Grassmarket. It is said that Greyfriars Bobby, a Skye terrier from the 19th century who supposedly sat loyally next to his master's grave for 14 years, and the infamous Mackenzie poltergeist roam the kirkyard. After your visit, motor a short distance to your hotel, check in and settle into your room. In the evening, join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: RADISSON BLU ROYAL MILE HOTEL, EDINBURGH

Sat, Sep-10

### PALACE OF HOLYROODHOUSE

This morning, visit the Palace of Holyroodhouse at one end of the Royal Mile. This magnificent palace which has a long history of royal owners is the official residence of Her Majesty, The Queen, and used for many receptions and state visits. Next, visit the Scottish Parliament Building before setting off to explore Edinburgh's underground via Mary King's Close with a local guide. During your visit, hear dramatic stories, which bring Edinburgh's glorious past to life as you see preserved streets that are over 400 years old. After, return to your nearby hotel, where you may like to relax or freshen up before a festive evening with your group.

Tonight, head to a unique Scottish venue, for dinner followed by a traditional Scottish ceilidh. The night includes lively music, dancing and of course the ceremonial Haggis.

OVERNIGHT: RADISSON BLU ROYAL MILE HOTEL, EDINBURGH



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## CUSTOM GROUP TOUR ITINERARY



Sun, Sep-11

### **NATIONAL MUSEUM**

Today, walk a short distance to St. Giles Cathedral to celebrate Mass with your fellow travelers. Then, visit the National Museum of Scotland, which holds archaeology, geology, natural history and many other types of artifacts from around the globe. Continue on to visit the Scotch Whiskey Experience for a tour and tasting of the finished product. After, return to your nearby hotel, where the rest of the day is at leisure for independent activities and dining.

OVERNIGHT: RADISSON BLU ROYAL MILE HOTEL, EDINBURGH

Mon, Sep-12

### **ROSSLYN CHAPEL**

Leaving Edinburgh, journey into Roslin and stop to visit Rosslyn Chapel, which was built in the 15th century and today, attracts over 25,000 visitors annually. Next, travel to Scott's View to enjoy beautiful scenery overlooking the valley of the River Tweed, which is believed to be a favorite view of Sir Walter Scott. Continue on to visit Floors Castle before driving into St. Boswells to visit Dryburg Abbey. Transfer to your nearby hotel, check in and enjoy some free time before meeting your group for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DRYBURG ABBEY HOTEL, ST. BOSWELLS

Tue, Sep-13

### **MELROSE ABBEY**

After breakfast, journey into Melrose and stop to take a tour around Melrose Abbey, founded by the Cistercians in 1136. It is famous for its fine stonework and the figure of a pig playing the bagpipes. Continue on to visit the stunning Abbotsford House, which was once home to famed writer, Sir Walter Scott. Next, travel to visit the Lochcarron Mill before returning to your hotel in St. Boswells. Tonight, dine with your group in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: DRYBURG ABBEY HOTEL, ST. BOSWELLS



Wed, Sep-14

**TRAQUAIR HOUSE**

Departing St. Boswells, drive into Innerleithen and stop to visit the Traquair House, which has been inhabited for the last 900 years. The present-day brewery was established at the Traquair House in 1694, which you will get to opportunity to tour before sampling three ales. Next, travel to visit the New Lanark Visitor Center, the best example in Scotland of an industrial heritage village. The center gives visitors a glimpse of life under Robert Owen's paternalistic management whose far-reaching ideas on the care of his workers made New Lanark famous. While here, enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch with your fellow travelers. Then, continue on to visit the Robert Burns Museum for a 21st century tribute to Burns. The museum houses the world's most important collection of Burns' original works and personal belongings, in a bright and impressive surrounding. Transfer to your hotel in Ayr, check in and spend some time at leisure before dining with your group in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: FAIRFIELD HOUSE HOTEL, AYR

Thu, Sep-15

**ISLE OF ARRAN**

This morning, stop to view Troon Golf Course before setting off on a ferry ride to Isle of Arran, which is situated in the Firth of Clyde. Arran is a small island located off the south-west coast of Scotland. Palm trees grow here in the mild climate thanks to the Gulf Stream. The northern part of the island is rugged and hilly, whereas the south is gentler and lower lying due to a geological fault line. Also, the island has a wealth of wildlife, history and wonderful scenery. Upon arrival, stop to visit Brodick Castle, which houses a fabulous collection of furniture. Also, see the lovely restored garden, created in 1923 by the Duchess of Montrose. Next, visit a local Cheese Shop for a demonstration before visiting Arran Aromatics for some free time to shop. Head back to the mainland via ferry and transfer to your hotel in Stranraer, where you will check in for your overnight stay. In the evening, join you group for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: NORTH WEST CASTLE HOTEL, STRANRAER



Fri, Sep-16

**SCOTLAND TO IRELAND**

Today, travel into Cairnryan and take a leisurely ferry ride as foot passengers across the narrow channel between Scotland and Ireland into Belfast. Upon arrival, meet your CIE Tours driver/guide who will welcome you to Ireland and escort you and your luggage to the coach. Next, set off on a panoramic tour of Belfast to see the Albert Memorial, the Opera House and Crown Liquor Saloon. Travel along such routes that may include Donegall Street, the famed Great Victoria Street and even along the waterfront. Stop to visit Titanic Belfast to learn about the evolution of the Titanic from concept until her ill-fated end in 1912. After, drive a short distance to your hotel, check in and enjoy some free time before dining with your group in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, BELFAST

Sat, Sep-17

**GIANT'S CAUSEWAY**

Departing Belfast, travel to visit the Giant's Causeway, an impressive area of hexagonal columns formed over 60 million years ago by cooling lava, which has given rise to many legends. Then, journey into Bushmills and stop to visit the Bushmills Distillery, which is Ireland's oldest whiskey distillery. See how whiskey is distilled and enjoy a sample at the end of your tour. Next, drive to just outside of Portrush and stop for photos of Dunluce Castle. During the 16th century it was home to the MacQuillans, and later the MacDonnells. Transfer to your hotel in Donegal, check in and settle into your room. You may like to rest or explore some of the town before joining your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: LOUGH ESKE CASTLE & SPA, DONEGAL

Sun, Sep-18

**SLIEVE LEAGUE SEA CLIFFS**

After breakfast, travel to visit the Slieve League Sea Cliffs, where the highest point reaches 1,972 feet making them the highest in Europe. The cliffs drop straight down to the wild Atlantic waves below and you will see marvelous vistas. After, head back into Donegal and stop to visit Donegal Castle, which incorporates the gabled tower of a 15th century house built by the O'Donnell family. Partially restored, the castle reflects a long and turbulent history. After, enjoy some free time to explore Donegal town on your own before returning to your nearby hotel. Tonight, meet your group for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

DINNER & OVERNIGHT: LOUGH ESKE CASTLE & SPA, DONEGAL



Mon, Sep-19

**BELLEEK POTTERY**

Leaving Donegal, drive into Belleek and stop to visit the Belleek Pottery Factory to see how skilled craftspeople form and decorate clay to produce delicate porcelain masterpieces. Then, continue on to tour Enniskillen Castle, which was built almost 600 years ago by the ruling Gaelic Maguires. Overlooking the River Erne, the castle guards one of the few passes into Ulster and has been strategically important throughout its history. After your visit, journey into the lively city of Dublin, check into your hotel and enjoy the balance of the day at your leisure for individual pursuits and dining.

OVERNIGHT: CAMDEN COURT HOTEL, DUBLIN

Tue, Sep-20

**DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING**

This morning, set off with a local guide who will show you around Dublin. The city has been molded through the centuries by economic, political and artistic influences that has shaped its architecture. Stop to tour Guinness Storehouse to see exhibits on how this world-famous stout was first created and why it is so popular today. Finish your visit in the roof-top bar, where you can sample a draft of Guinness. Then, drive a short distance to visit Trinity College to see the Book of Kells, an 8th century illuminated manuscript of the gospels and the Old Library. After, continue on to tour St. Patrick's Cathedral, which is almost as old as the city itself and famous for its connections with the brilliantly eccentric Dean Jonathan Swift. Return to your nearby hotel, where the remainder of the day is free for independent sightseeing, shopping, dining, pubs and more.

OVERNIGHT: CAMDEN COURT HOTEL, DUBLIN

Wed, Sep-21

**OLD JAMESON DISTILLERY**

Today, travel to visit the Old Jameson Distillery, which was voted World's leading Distillery Tour for the second year (2018, 2019). While here, enjoy a fully-guided immersive tour to learn about the history and process of whiskey making. End with a comparative whiskey tasting and complimentary Jameson cocktail. Then, continue on to visit Dublin Castle, which was the seat of power and government for many centuries. See the State Apartments, where many state functions are held in the richly decorated chambers. After, drive a short distance to visit Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin's oldest building, founded in 1038 by King Sitric. The crypt dates from 1172 and both cathedral and crypt contain remarkable monuments and sculptures. Return to your nearby hotel and enjoy some free time before joining your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant or pub.

OVERNIGHT: CAMDEN COURT HOTEL, DUBLIN



Thu, Sep-22

**RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES**

All too soon, your vacation has come to its final day. Transfer to Dublin Airport in good time to check in for your flight. You may do some last minute shopping at the duty free stores before boarding your aircraft and flying across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States.

**Notes:**

**Short Overview** - The driver is available for up to eight hours a day for touring. Gratuity is not included (driver and/or tour director). For a more detailed look at our **Terms and Conditions**, please see **Page 4** of your contract.

**Hotels** (or similar)

Radisson Blu Royal Mile Hotel, Edinburgh	3 nights
Dryburg Abbey Hotel, St. Boswells	2 nights
Fairfield House Hotel, Ayr	1 night
North West Castle Hotel, Stranraer	1 night
Grand Central Hotel, Belfast	1 night
Lough Eske Castle & Spa, Donegal	2 nights
Camden Court Hotel, Dublin	3 nights

**Highlights**

Tour of Dublin with a local guide  
Ferry to Isle of Arran

**Visits**

All visits are outlined on the above itinerary and included in the cost unless otherwise stated.