



INSIGHT VACATIONS

The Art of Touring in Style

Britain & Ireland Discovery April 26 – May 21, 2012 – 26 days



Tour Pace: A well paced tour with a blend of two-night stays in key cities plus the change of pace with two different Irish ferry crossings and pleasant driving days with frequent stops.

Hotels: Hotels are mainly modern in the major cities; while the Highland hotels are mainly traditional and much simpler in style, although typical of the region.

Please Note: In some parts of Ireland, the Scottish Highlands and Islands north from Edinburgh and Glasgow, the remote nature and limited seasonality means hotels are often more basic, modest and simpler in style than Insight hotels elsewhere in Europe, especially in the larger or capital cities. These properties are typically family-run establishments and have completely individual character - which is part of their attraction. The key attribute of these properties is their easy access to the wonders of the beautiful countryside and more remote towns and villages.

Itinerary

Day 1 - DEPART CANADA

Board your overnight flight (not included).

Day 2 - ARRIVE LONDON

Welcome to London! After checking in to your hotel you are at leisure.

Hotel: Thistle Marble Arch

Day 3 - LONDON SIGHTSEEING

Your half day sightseeing tour of London's West End shows you all the main sights including Big Ben and Buckingham Palace.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 4 - LONDON – STRATFORD

After a warm welcome from your Tour Director, head for Oxford, 'City of Dreaming Spires'. Continue on through pretty Cotswold villages to Stratford, nestled beside the river Avon, where you visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Tonight enjoy a Welcome Reception and light informal meal

Hotel: Alveston Manor Meals: Welcome Reception

Day 5 - STRATFORD – YORK

A leisurely drive brings you to the walled city of York. See the huge York Minster and stroll through the maze of cobbled streets to the crooked houses of the Shambles.

Hotel: Marriott Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 6 - YORK – LAKE DISTRICT – GRETNA – EDINBURGH

Tour the beautiful Lake District and visit Wordsworth's grave in the village of Grasmere. Cross into Scotland and stop briefly at Gretna Green. Then it's on to the majestic Scottish capital. Tonight, selected departures attend the spectacular flood lit Military Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle.

Hotel: Royal Terrace/Roxburghe Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 7 - EDINBURGH SIGHTSEEING

Take a guided tour inside historic Edinburgh Castle, home to the Honours of Scotland. Continue down the Royal Mile, past St Giles' Cathedral to the Queen's Holyroodhouse Palace. Then cross over to the 18th century New Town. The afternoon is at leisure.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 8 - EDINBURGH – ST ANDREWS – HIGHLANDS

Cross the Firth of Forth on your way to St Andrews – the home of golf. Continue over the River Tay into the Grampian Mountains. You pass Blair Athol Castle before reaching the sparkling Spey Valley. Tonight, enjoy a Highland Style dinner with bagpipes.

Hotel: Laggan Country Hotel Meals: Full Breakfast / Highlight Dinner

Day 9 - HIGHLANDS – WICK

The morning, enjoy a wee dram of the finest Highland whisky at the Tomatin distillery before visiting the Culloden Visitor Centre and battlefield, scene of the 1746 defeat of the Jacobites. Later drive via stately Inverness and along the shores of Loch Ness in search of the monster. Now follow the lovely coastal route north to Wick.

Hotel: Norseman Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 10 - ORKNEY ISLANDS EXCURSION

Drive to John O’Groats, the most northerly town on the British mainland, where you board a ferry to the Orkney Islands. Visit the village of Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and the Italian Chapel. Head back to the mainland for the evening.

Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 11 - THURSO – ISLE OF SKYE

Relax and enjoy the pristine landscapes of lochs and mountains on your way to the fishing town of Ullapool. Then it’s ‘over the sea to Skye’. Admire the scenic splendour of the Cuillin Hills en route to your hotel in Portree.

Hotel: Tongadale Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 12 - ISLE OF SKYE – LOCH LOMOND – GLASGOW

Take in magnificent scenery as you pass Eilean Donan Castle and continue to Glencoe. Stop on the ‘bonnie banks’ of Loch Lomond before arriving in Glasgow.

Hotel: Marriott/Crowne Plaza Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 13 - GLASGOW – LONDONDERRY

Bid farewell to Scotland as you cross the Irish Sea, enjoying views of the Island of Arran on the way. Take the scenic Antrim coast road to the amazing rock formation known as the Giant’s Causeway before reaching your hotel.

Hotel: City Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 14 - LONDONDERRY – BELLEEK – SLIGO

Join a local guide to see Derry’s Walls, the Guildhall and the city’s cathedral. Cross the border to see O’Donnell’s Castle in Donegal. Drive south to visit the Belleek Pottery Centre. Continue to the churchyard at Drumcliff, the last resting place of Irish poet WB Yeats. Then it’s on to Sligo.

Hotel: Radisson Blu Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 15 - SLIGO – GALWAY – LIMERICK

Take a scenic drive through the beautiful Connemara region to visit the famous marble factory. Continue on to Galway where you see St Nicholas Cathedral, the Spanish Arch and Eyre Square. Now for a visit to Bunratty Folk Park, where old Ireland comes to life! Stay tonight in Limerick, famous for rhymes, lace and Georgian houses.

Hotel: George Boutique Hotel Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 16 - LIMERICK – KILLARNEY

An orientation tour shows you King John's Castle, St. Mary's Cathedral and the treaty stone. Now drive through the charming village of Adare into County Kerry. In Killarney, enjoy a ride on a famous jaunting car.

Hotel: Killarney Towers/Killarney Avenue Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 17 - RING OF KERRY EXCURSION

Experience the spectacular scenery of the Ring of Kerry. Tonight enjoy a selection of restaurants for your dining pleasure.

Meals: Full Breakfast / Dine Around

Day 18 - KILLARNEY – BLARNEY – WATERFORD

Kiss the Stone of Eloquence at Blarney Castle. Enjoy an orientation tour of Cork seeing St Finbar's Cathedral before continuing along the coast to your hotel in Waterford.

Hotel: Dooleys Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 19 - WATERFORD – KILKENNY – DUBLIN

Visit the Waterford Crystal showroom. Drive to Kilkenny to see the magnificent 13C castle. Continue to the fun-loving Irish capital, Dublin.

Hotel: Academy Plaza/ Burlington/Herbert Park Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 20 - DUBLIN SIGHTSEEING

Tour Dublin's elegant Georgian squares with a local guide. You also see the Irish President's home, O'Connell Street and Customs House. Then visit the Old Library of Trinity College to admire the 8th century Book of Kells. This afternoon you are at leisure.

Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 21 - DUBLIN – CHESTER

Cross the Irish Sea and travel through North Wales, past Conwy Castle, to Chester. See the ruined Roman amphitheatre, city walls Tudor 'Rows' and cathedral.

Hotel: Queen Meals: Full Breakfast / Dinner

Day 22 - CHESTER – BRISTOL

Drive to the border town of Ludlow, rich in tragic royal history. Continue along the Wye Valley past Tintern Abbey and over the soaring Severn Bridge to Bristol.

Hotel: Marriott City Centre Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 23 - BRISTOL – BATH – PLYMOUTH

Travel the short distance to the beautiful Georgian city of Bath. Visit the Roman Baths before moving on to Plymouth, taking in Glastonbury along the way.

Hotel: Jurys Inn/Copthorne Meals: Full Breakfast

Day 24 - CORNWALL EXCURSION

Enjoy a highlight cruise on the harbour then see the Barbican and Hoe. Cross the Tamar river to enter Cornwall - land of smugglers' coves and delightful fishing villages, to visit Looe. This evening enjoy a glass of wine with your Celebration Dinner

Meals: Full Breakfast / Celebration Dinner

Day 25 - PLYMOUTH – STONEHENGE – LONDON

Visit mysterious Stonehenge before crossing Salisbury Plain to return to London, where you bid farewell to your Tour Director. **Meals: Full Breakfast**

Day 26 - RETURN TO CANADA

Your tour comes to an end after breakfast. **Meals: Full Breakfast**

INCLUDED FIRST CLASS SERVICES

- Escorted by a professional Tour Director
- Headsets for all guided visits and walking tours
- Enjoy the unique comfort of Insight's Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and on-board restroom
- Insight Hotels include all service charges, taxes and portorage
- Insight Traveller Welcome pack
- London Airport transfer service available

INCLUDED HIGHLIGHTS

- Central England: See the 'dreaming spires' and colleges of Oxford. Visit William Shakespeare's birthplace in Stratford.
- North England: See York Minster, city walls and "Shambles". Visit William Wordsworth's grave in Grasmere.
- Central Scotland: Visit the Castle during your guided tour of Edinburgh. Selected departures experience the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Visit St Andrews, home of golf.
- Highlands: Visit Tomatin Whisky Distillery, Culloden Visitor Centre and Battlefield and see Loch Ness and Eilean Donan.
- Orkney Islands: Excursion to visit Skara Brae, the Ring of Brodgar, Kirkwall and Italian Chapel.

- Northern Ireland: Visit these amazing Giant's Causeway. See 'Derry's walls' and Guildhall. Visit Belleek Pottery Centre
- Republic of Ireland: Visit the grave of WB Yeats. Visit the Connemara marble factory. See the sights of Galway. Visit Bunratty Folk Park. See King John's Castle in Limerick. Visit the village of Adare. Ride on a jaunting car. Experience views over mountains and sea on the Ring of Kerry. Visit Blarney Castle and kiss the Blarney stone. See the sights of Cork. Visit the Waterford Crystal Showroom. See Kilkenny Castle. Visit the Book of Kells in Trinity College Library on your guided tour.
- Welsh Marches: See Chester's 'Rows', city walls and Cathedral. Visit the quaint border town of Ludlow
- South West England: Visit the Roman Baths and Pump Rooms. Visit Glastonbury. Enjoy a cruise on Plymouth harbour. Visit the fishing village of Looe. Visit Stonehenge.
- Scenic drives – Cotswolds, Lake District, Highlands, Glencoe, Isle of Skye, Loch Lomond, Antrim coast, Connemara, Ring of Kerry, Wye Valley, Severn Bridge, Cornish Coast.
- London: See Westminster Abbey, Big Ben and Buckingham Palace on your London sightseeing tour

INCLUDED QUALITY DINING

- A Welcome Reception with light informal meal (WR)
- Traditional Highland Dinner with Scottish entertainment (HD)
- Choose from a selection of restaurants in Killarney (DA)
- Enjoy finalé Celebration Dinner with wine (CD)
- 24 full Breakfasts (FB), 8 three-course Evening Meals with choice, or buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

**Limited time Offer – Save \$825.00pp. Land only \$4625.00pp dble, \$5990.00single
Avoid the single supplement – ask about Insights single share program**

Call Now – 604-659-4176 or 1-877-659-4176

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