

Scotland, Ireland and England

19 nights

- Day 1 Make your own way to **Edinburgh Airport**, where you will **collect your self-drive rental car**. From here, head north across the Forth Road Bridge and through the Kingdom of Fife to Perth.
You could visit the **historic Abbey and Bishop's Palace in Dunfermline**. Then continue on to Perth, where you could visit **Scone Palace** which was the coronation site of several Scottish monarchs including Robert the Bruce and Macbeth. From Perth, continue to head north to **Pitlochry**, the capital of Highland Perthshire.
Overnight in Pitlochry.
- Day 2 Today, you could **visit Blair Castle** and make a **scenic drive** to the **Queen's View** and **Loch Rannoch**. Blair Castle is the seat of the Dukes of Atholl and the only private army in the UK. The castle contains an impressive collection of antiquities, including paintings, furniture, porcelain, and weaponry.
In Pitlochry you could visit **Blair Atholl or Edradour Distillery**, where you can tour the production areas to learn how single malt whisky is manufactured. At the end of your tour you get to sample the product, of course!
Overnight in Pitlochry.
- Day 3 Today, you will leave Pitlochry and make your way to **Oban**, on the west coast of Argyll. Your route will take you through some of Scotland's more breathtaking scenery featuring mountains, lakes, and coastline.
En route you could stop in **Killin** to visit the **Breadalbane Visitor Center**, and **near Oban** you could visit **Dunstaffnage Castle**, an impressive ruin in a romantic setting on the shore of Loch Linnhe.
Overnight in Oban.
- Day 4 Today, you can make a **full-day excursion by ferry and bus to Mull** and the tiny pedestrian Isle of Iona, which was the birthplace of Christianity in Scotland. St. Columba founded his abbey here in 563AD after he arrived from Ireland, and it is still in use today.
Overnight in Oban.
- Day 5 Today, you will leave Oban and make your way to the Royal Burgh of **Stirling**. Places of interest in this area include : **Stirling Castle, Argyll's Lodging, the Church of the Holy Rude, Bannockburn**, and the **Wallace Monument**.
Stirling Castle is considered by many to be the "best" castle in Scotland. It was a Royal Palace in medieval times and up till the end of the 16th century.
Argyll's Lodging is a beautifully restored 17th century townhouse.
The **Church of the Holy Rude** is the oldest church in Stirling and dates from the 15th C.
Bannockburn was the site of one of Scotland's most important battle victories against English forces, in the year 1314.
The **Wallace Monument** was built in the 19th Century to honor William Wallace, also known as Braveheart, who was a Scottish military hero in the 13th century.
Overnight in/near Stirling.

- Day 6 After breakfast, head for **Edinburgh Airport**, where you will **return your rental car** and catch your flight to Dublin in the Republic of Ireland.
When you land in Dublin, the Amethyst Travel local representative will be waiting to **meet and assist you**.
Private transfer to your accommodation in the center of Dublin.
After some time to settle in, you could visit **Dublin Castle** in the afternoon.
Overnight in Dublin.
- Day 7 Today you can **explore Dublin** - Ireland's vibrant capital.
For example : **St. Patrick's** and **Christchurch Cathedrals**, **Trinity College** and the **Old Library**, where you can see the **Book of Kells** (ca. 9th Century), and other ancient manuscripts, the **Guinness Hop Store**, the **Old Jameson Distillery**, and **The Chimney** (an observation tower offering panoramic views of the city).
The best way to get around the city is on one of the **hop-on/hop-off buses** that follow a circuit past the major places of interest every 20 minutes or so.
A **one-day rover ticket** for unlimited travel on this service is **included** in your package.
Overnight in Dublin.
- Day 8 This morning, take a cab back to **Dublin Airport**, where you will **collect your rental car** and head south towards **Waterford**, on the south coast of Ireland.
En route, you could visit the historic town of **Kilkenny**, with its magnificent **12th Century Castle** and **13th Century St. Canice's Cathedral**.
Overnight in/near Waterford.
- Day 9 Today, you could visit the **Waterford Crystal Factory**, (takes around 3 hours for the tour plus browsing time in the well-stocked shop).
Then take a **scenic drive** to one of the many **picturesque villages** on the south coast, or **explore** the historic **New Ross area**, for example : **Duiske Abbey**, the **Kennedy Homestead** (birthplace of JFK's great-grandfather in 1820).
Overnight in/near Waterford.
- Day 10 From Waterford, head north-west, towards **County Kerry**.
En route, you could visit the historic town of **Caher**, with its magnificent **13th Century Castle**, and the **Swiss Cottage**, as well as the Rock of Cashel (one of the most important ecclesiastical sites in Ireland) before continuing on to Ireland's west coast.
Overnight in Killarney or Tralee.
- Day 11 Today, you could take a scenic drive either round the **Ring of Kerry** (from Killarney), or along the **Dingle Peninsula**, the most westerly point in Ireland (from Tralee).
On either of these trips you will get to see some of the magnificent and rugged scenery for which the West of Ireland is justly famous.
Overnight in Killarney or Tralee.
- Day 12 Today, you will leave County Kerry and make your way back to the east coast, where you will spend your last night in Ireland not far from Dublin Airport.
En route, you could stop in the ancient city of **Limerick**, which was founded as a Viking settlement in the year 922AD. Here you can visit **King John's Castle** (13th C, Norman architecture), **St. Mary's Cathedral** (12th C, the oldest building in the city), and the **Old Bishop's Palace** (18th C). The 18thC **Custom House** is also worth a visit – it contains the **Hunt Collection**, an amazing collection of antiquities assembled by the Hunt family during the 1930's.
From Limerick, head east across the country to **Ashbourne**, just north of Dublin Airport.
Overnight at Ashbourne.

- Day 13 Today, you will return to Dublin Airport where you will return your Irish rental car and catch a flight to Manchester in England.
Here you will collect your English rental car and head for the cathedral city of **York**.
Overnight in York.
- Day 14 Today, you could spend the day **sightseeing in York**.
The main places of interest are : **York Minster** (one of the finest medieval cathedrals in Europe), the **Jorvik Viking Centre**, **York Castle Museum**, and **Clifford's Tower**.
Overnight in York.
- Day 15 Today, you will leave York and make your way south-westwards to the beautiful **Cotswolds area**.
En route, you could stop to visit **Tatton Park** (elegant stately home), the **Wedgwood Pottery Visitor Centre**, and/or **Warwick Castle** (arguably the best medieval castle in England).
Overnight in the Cotswolds.
- Day 16 Today you can **explore the Cotswolds**, which is one of the most picturesque areas in England and is famous for its quaint villages and beautiful landscapes.
You could visit **Broadway**, **Chipping Campden**, **the Swells and the Slaughters** (these are all very pretty villages), as well as **Sudeley Castle**.
Alternatively you could head north to visit **Stratford-upon-Avon** the birthplace of William Shakespeare.
Overnight in the Cotswolds.
- Day 17 Today, you will leave the Cotswolds and head for **Salisbury**.
En route, you could stop in **Bath**, where you can visit the **Roman Baths & Pump Room**.
Further on, you could visit **Stonehenge**, the most important prehistoric site in England.
From Stonehenge it's just a short drive to Salisbury.
Overnight in Salisbury.
- Day 18 This morning, you could visit **Salisbury Cathedral**, which dates from medieval times and has the tallest spire in England (404 feet high).
Then make your way to **Heathrow Airport**, where you will return your rental car.
From Heathrow, take the underground railway into London, where you will spend your last 2 nights in England.
Overnight in London.
- Day 19 Today, you have a full day to **explore London at your own pace**.
Some of the main places of interest are : **Westminster Abbey**, **St. Paul's Cathedral**, the **Tower of London**, **Buckingham Palace**, the **Cabinet War Rooms**, **Kensington Palace**, and **The British Museum**.
Overnight in London.
- Day 20 After breakfast, head back to **Heathrow Airport**, where you will bid farewell to England and catch your homebound flight.