



May 28/29 - June 12, 2020

# Best of Ireland and Scotland

Hosted by Becky McGarrity and Taree McGee  
Explore Europe Tours



# Best of Ireland and Scotland

The tour is hosted by Becky McGarrity and Taree McGee who look forward to welcoming adventurous travelers who love to explore new countries. We'll begin in Dublin with a tour of the award winning Epic Ireland, recently named Europe's Leading Tourist Attraction for 2019. The tour will continue around the coast of Ireland, including Waterford, the Ring of Kerry up to Northern Ireland. After returning to Dublin, we'll fly to Edinburgh. The Scottish part of the tour includes a 3-day trip up to the Isle of Skye and the Scottish Highlands.

*IF = In flight meals, B = Breakfast, D = Dinner*

## **Optional Pre-tour Day: Friday, May 29, 2020: Dublin**

On arrival in Dublin, we will transfer to our hotel. This afternoon we will visit the Guinness Storehouse at St. James' Gate Brewery as well as the book of Kells. We will check in to our hotel and have a free evening in Dublin. **(IF)**



## **Day 1: Friday, May 29, 2020: Depart**

We will gather at the St. Louis airport and set off for Dublin, Ireland. **(IF)**

## **Day 2: Saturday, May 30, 2020: Dublin, Wexford**

On arrival in Dublin, we will meet Liam Fitzpatrick, our expert Irish tour director and board our bus for a city orientation tour. We will see the Georgian Squares with their 18th Century houses, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Phoenix Park (biggest town park in Europe), statue filled O'Connell Street, and the fashionable Grafton Street. We will visit EPIC Ireland, the Irish Emigration Museum. Then we will enjoy lunch at The Brazen Head Pub. In the afternoon, we will have a guided tour of Kilmainham Gaol, where political prisoners were housed. We will check in to our hotel near Dublin this evening. **(IF/L)**

## **Day 3: Sunday, May 31, 2020: Waterford**

This morning, we will drive to Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, which was founded by Vikings in 914. We will have a tour of the city, including a visit to the world-famous Waterford Crystal Factory. In the afternoon, we will visit the beautiful coastline and have an hour's horseback ride at Lake Tours Stables. We will have dinner at our hotel. **(B/D)**

## **Day 4: Monday, June 1, 2020: Blarney Castle, Killarney**

No trip to Ireland would be complete without a visit to Blarney Castle to kiss the famous Blarney Stone, said to bestow the gift of eloquence on all those who dare. We will have free time to explore Cork and have lunch. In the afternoon, we will visit the Franciscan Wells Brewery for a tour and tasting. We will spend two nights in the Killarney area. **(B/D)**

## **Day 5: Tuesday, June 2, 2020: Killarney, Ring of Kerry**

Today, we embark on one of Ireland's most famous tours – The Ring of Kerry. We will travel the wild and rugged landscape of the Iveragh Peninsula, which has some breathtaking views of the Atlantic coastline, in a horse drawn jaunting car. The highlight of the day will be a visit to Muckross House and Gardens, one of Ireland's leading stately homes. The elegantly furnished rooms portray the lifestyles of the landed gentry, while downstairs in the basement one can experience the working conditions of the servants employed in the House. The Gardens at Muckross House are renowned world-wide for their beauty. We will also see a number of skilled craft workers using traditional skills in the crafts of weaving, bookbinding and pottery in the adjacent walled garden center. This evening, we will have dinner at The Laurels and then enjoy The Show Ireland at the Celtic Steps before returning to our hotel. **(B/D)**

## **Day 6: Wednesday, June 3, 2020: Galway**

This morning, we bid farewell to Killarney and take the coast road to the majestic Cliffs of Moher standing 702 feet at their highest point. They stretch for 5 miles along the Atlantic coast line. We will have fabulous views from the vantage point of O'Brien's Tower. Following some free time to view the cliffs, we will travel through the lunar type landscape of the Burren which takes its name from the Irish word 'bhoireann' meaning, 'a stony place' or 'a rocky place'. We will enjoy lunch at Gus O'Connor's Pub before continuing on to the Galway area where we will stay for 2 nights. **(B/L)**

## **Day 7: Thursday, June 4, 2020: Aran Islands**

Located off the Connemara coast, the three Aran Islands are a time capsule of traditional Irish culture. We will take the ferry to Inis Mor and have spectacular view of the coastline and the wild Atlantic Ocean. Our day trip will include a bike ride to see the prehistoric hill fort, Dún Aonghasa. We will visit Kilmurvey Beach with turquoise water and stunning views of Connemara. The Kilmurvey craft village is an ideal place to buy genuine Irish souvenirs, including the famous Aran sweaters. We will return to Galway in the evening for dinner at Busker Brownes and enjoy some traditional Irish music. **(B/D)**

## **Day 8: Friday, June 5, 2020: Belfast**

The partitioning of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland was finalized on 3 May 1921 and today we will trav-



# Reformation Tours, LLC

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el up into Northern Ireland, which is part of United Kingdom. The capital city is Belfast, a center of industry and shipbuilding. We will tour Titanic Belfast, Winner of Europe's Leading Visitor Attraction (World Travel Awards, 2016). Housed in an iconic, six-floor building, Titanic Belfast is located in the heart of Belfast, right beside the historic site of this world-famous ship's construction. We will spend two nights in Belfast. **(B)**

## Day 9: Saturday, June 6, 2020: Belfast

Today's day trip is to the exciting coastline of North Antrim. Giant's Causeway is a geological outcropping of hexagonal basalt columns, which are fun to climb. We will also hear the legend of the giant, Finn MacCool. The Carrick-a-rede Rope Bridge hangs 80 feet above the sea and is made of planks and wires. Brave members of the group can walk across to the tiny island with a salmon fishery. Our final stop is the Old Bushmills Distillery. We will dine in our hotel this evening. **(B/D)**



## Day 10: Sunday, June 7, 2020: Dublin, Edinburgh

On our way back to Dublin, we will visit Newgrange (subject to availability), which dates back to 2300 BC, before the Pyramids of Egypt. It's a recognized place of astrological, spiritual, religious and ceremonial importance and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site. At Causey Farm, we will have fun learning how to dance the traditional Irish céilí. We will then continue on to Dublin, where we will board our flight to Edinburgh. We will dine in our hotel tonight. **(B/D)**

## Day 11: Monday, June 8, 2020: Edinburgh

This morning we will have free time to explore Edinburgh. We will have a guided tour of the city in the afternoon. This evening we will have dinner and storytelling with Mercat Tours before returning to our hotel. **(B/D)**

## Day 12: Tuesday, June 9, 2020: Isle of Skye

Our Rabbie's driver and guide will pick us up from our hotel in Edinburgh in 16-seater vehicles and we will travel west, past Stirling Castle, the Wallace Monument, and Doune Castle, before stopping in Callander for refreshments. Next we will travel through splendid scenery surrounding Loch Lubnaig to Glencoe, scene of the great

massacre of the Clan MacDonald in 1692. And after lunch we will pass Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, and head into the Great Glen. Traveling west on the "Road to the Isles" we will head past the Five Sisters of Kintail. We will stop at the famous Eilean Donan Castle, one of Scotland's most photographed castles. Crossing over the bridge to Skye, we will follow the dramatic coastline, toward the island's capital, Portree. And after all this breath-taking beauty, we will be dropped off at our accommodation in the early evening with enough time to go out and explore the town.

## Day 13: Wednesday, June 10, 2020: Isle of Skye

Today is a flexible day on Skye; and our driver-guide will ensure we take a unique route that suits the weather, the local events, and our group's interests. We can travel north to the Trotternish Ridge and beyond. Here we will find the geological wonders like Old Man of Storr, Kilt Rock, and the stunning mountain pass of the Quiraing. As an alternative, our guide may take us back in time and teach us about the legends and clan culture surrounding the 13th-century home of the Clan MacLeod, Dunvegan Castle. We will return to our accommodations in the evening. **(B)**

## Day 14: Thursday, June 11, 2020: Isle of Skye, Edinburgh

We will travel south through the Cuillin Hills and back over to the mainland for stunning views over Loch Duich and the Five Sisters of Kintail. After a visit to Loch Ness for lunch and the chance to spot "Nessie," we will head south through the Grampian mountains along Loch Laggan, famous now as "Monarch of the Glen Country" before passing Dalwhinnie and onwards past Blair Castle. We will stop for refreshments in one of the Perthshire villages before heading past Perth, over the Queensferry Crossing, and back to Edinburgh. Dinner will be in a local restaurant this evening. **(B/D)**



## Day 15: Friday, June 12, 2020: Return

We will transfer to the airport this morning to return to the

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## Land Price: \$3,999\* Ireland only price is \$2,799

\*Price based on double occupancy with a minimum of 25 participants

## Terms and Conditions

### Tour Includes

- Land transportation: via deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- Accommodations (double-occupancy) in superior 3 and 4-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Professional tour director and local guides
- All transfers, as a group
- All taxes and tips
- Basic passenger trip insurance (upgrade to full coverage for \$215)

### Your Tour Does Not Include

- Pre-tour night in Dublin (\$150)
- Round-trip air transportation from St. Louis, including taxes and fees
- Single supplement (\$650)
- Meals and beverages not identified in itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, such as passports and visas. Passports must be valid for six months beyond return date.

### Payment Schedule

Please make checks payable to "Reformation Tours" send all payments to Reformation Tours, P.O. Box 854, Belleville, IL 62222. If you would like to pay by credit card, please note there is a 3.5% surcharge.

- Deposit of \$350 will secure your place on the tour.
- Final invoices will be sent in February 2020.
- Final payment due March 15, 2020.
- Reservations will be accepted after March 15, 2020, subject to availability.

### Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be in writing and the date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit until 100 days prior to departure, a \$100 per person penalty will be charged for cancellation. From 99-14 days prior to departure, a \$350 per person penalty plus any nonrefundable deposit will be charged for cancellation. Anyone canceling 14 days or less prior to departure will receive no refund. In the unlikely event the tour does not reach minimum enrollment required, all deposit money will be returned.

Reformation Tours reserves the rights to alter itineraries without notice should it become necessary. While on tour, if conditions necessitate changes, or if certain features are un-available or limited, we reserve the right to vary or substitute alternatives. All prices are calculated at the exchange rate in effect at the time of this quotation. Should currency fluctuations necessitate an adjustment in tour price; the adjusted price will be reflected in the final invoice.

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar, the number of participants and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee.

Responsibility: **Reformation Tours, LLC.**, their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances be liable to the client under or by reason of this agreement directly or indirectly for any accidents, injury, delay, damage, or inconvenience caused to the client by negligence of others, by malfunctions of transportation systems or equipment, by acts of war, terrorism, or rebellion, strikes, theft, itinerary changes, extreme weather conditions, or cancellations, and the client hereby releases the above mentioned corporation and persons from any and all such liability. The airline/s concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust the price.



**Reformation Tours, LLC**

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