



Scotland and Ireland Castles, Countryside and Coast (copy)

with Nanda Journeys

 Dublin, Ireland

Trip Overview



Your host

Nanda Journeys 

 May 14 – May 25, 2022

 Group size: 1-12

 Dublin, Ireland



About this trip

Visit Scotland and Ireland on this customized small group **cultural and community immersion** journey. Visit some of the most incredible sites that Scotland and Ireland have to offer including, **Edinburgh Castle, Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle, Giant's Causeway and Cliffs of Moher, the Gap of Dunloe, the Rock of Cashel**. Immerse yourself in **daily life** and learn about Ireland's unique culture, history and music with hands on experiences including a **breadmaking class** in a family home, an **Irish music lesson** with Christy and Sheila at their **Doolin Music House**. Learn about rural farming life with visits to a local farm to see a **sheepdog demonstration**. Stay in boutique hotels, including a night at Culloden, the **former palatial residence** of the towns Bishops and now a 5* hotel on 12 acres!

MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE – 12

Trip Overview

Pricing

The best way to explore any country is as a small group! This allows your guide to tailor your experience, allow flexibility with timing, and visit places off the beaten track. And let's be honest, who likes following the crowd and not being able to hear the guide as a party of 30 or more people!

Price is based on a MINIMUM of 6 people. If more than 6 people join, your participation costs will go down! Invite your friends!

Trip Overview

What's included

✓ Hotel Accommodations	Hotel & Breakfast
✓ Entrance Fees	All entrance fees and activities mentioned
✓ Local Guides	English speaking guide
✓ Private Driver	Private 12 seater Mercedes Sprinter or similar
✓ 24/7 Travel Support	Nanda Journeys team support before, during and after travel. 24/7 during travel.
✓ Breakfast Daily	Daily Lunch and 3 Dinners as outlined in the daily itinerary
✗ Passport & Visas	Passport application, renewal and visas are not included
✗ Alcoholic Beverages	Meals include soft drinks with alcoholic beverages being at your own personal expense
✗ Meals	Meals not mentioned in the program itinerary
✗ Insurance	Travel insurance is not included, but highly recommended. Nanda Journeys will provide recommendations
✗ Tips	Tips for driver, guide and hotel staff are not included. Suggested tipping \$10-15 per person per day driver/guide, \$2-4 in room maid service.
✗ Flights	International Flights and Domestic Flights not included

Packages & Options

Available packages

Shared Room Land Only

\$4599

Pricing per person in a shared room. NOTE PRICING IS BASED ON A MINIMUM OF 6 PASSENGERS – if more people join the journey, the price will be reduced.

Max group size 12

Please review Booking Terms & Conditions [HERE](#)

Single Room Land Only

\$5399

Pricing per person in a single room. NOTE PRICING IS BASED ON A MINIMUM OF 6 PASSENGERS – if more people join the journey, the price will be reduced.

Max group size 12

Please review Booking Terms & Conditions [HERE](#)

Available options

Edinburgh–Dublin Flight

\$160

Itinerary

Day 1 Welcome to Scotland

Upon arrival at Edinburgh airport, meet your guide and driver before departing for your hotel in the city center to drop your bags. Set off for a walking tour of this beautiful city where you will see the Royal Mile & Edinburgh Castle in the Old Town.

Edinburgh, the inspiring capital of Scotland, is a historic, cosmopolitan, and cultural city. The setting is wonderfully striking: a city is perched on a series of extinct volcanoes and rocky crags, which rise from the generally flat landscape of the Lothians, with the sheltered shoreline of the Firth of Forth to the north. Edinburgh Castle dominates the city-center skyline and from its ramparts you can look down on medieval lanes and elegant, sweeping terraces that hold over a thousand years of history, mystery, and tradition. Yet Edinburgh is also a modern, dynamic capital where international festivals attract the world's leading performers, galleries display cutting-edge art, and bars, restaurants and clubs create a lively, cosmopolitan atmosphere with a distinctly Scottish twist. 'Edinburgh,' said writer Robert Louis Stevenson, 'is what Paris ought to be'.

Edinburgh Castle

No trip to Edinburgh is complete without a visit to the iconic landmark that dominated Edinburgh's skyline. Edinburgh's Castle rock has been a stronghold for over 3000 years. In its dominating position overlooking the capital city, the grandeur and historical significance of Edinburgh Castle has made it a globally famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site. Sited on top of an extinct volcano, gaining stunning views across City of Edinburgh, the castle has witnessed many of the defining events of Scottish history and has dominated its surroundings with majesty for centuries. Captivating visitors with its ancient buildings and marvelous views, it continues to spellbind with its wonderful story.

Overnight: Brooks Hotel (or similar)



Itinerary

Day 2 Heading for the Highlands!

Today you will travel north towards Inverness. Stop at Dunkeld & Pitlochry, two picturesque towns in Highland Perthshire, perfect for a stroll and some lunch. Continue further north and drive through the scenic Cairngorm National Park. The Highland Folk Museum is worth a stop to learn more about the history of this region if you wish to include and is free entry. In the late afternoon you will arrive at Culloden Battlefield for a tour with your guide before checking in to your accommodation in the city.



Pitlochry. The bustling town of Pitlochry is a gateway to the Highlands. It's a popular town with great scenery and home to Scotland's smallest distillery. Just off the main A9 route north, the town is a busy stop-off point for people heading into the Highlands. It benefits from a lovely setting on the River Tummel, backed by Ben Vrackie, and is particularly beautiful during the changing colors of autumn. This small town is known globally for its Victorian charm.

Culloden Battlefield

Scene of the 1746 Battle of Culloden between the Jacobite and the British armies. As the last battle being fought on British soil, Culloden marks the beginning of the dismantlement of the structures of Highland society. In the aftermath of the battle, kilts and tartans were banned. It was here that the Jacobite army fought for a Stuart king to reclaim the throne of Britain from the Hanoverians. Today, 250 years on, Culloden is still a site that connects us intimately with Britain's past. Find out why this battle lasted only one hour but still changed the course of Scotland's history. Listen to accounts from genuine

Itinerary

characters who were involved in the Battle, experience the battle in a 360 degrees theatre, get a bird's eye view of the forces and tactics at play.

Inverness. Crowned by a pink crenelated castle and lavishly decorated with flowers, Inverness is a thriving city boasting historical buildings in the Old Town and peaceful areas close to the center. This thriving city offers a rich variety of things to do and see from culture to eating and drinking. Enjoy the fine circular walk from Inverness Castle, currently a courthouse, along the river past St Andrew's Cathedral, which dominates the River Ness, and through the Ness Islands where you will find anglers casting long lines to leaping Atlantic salmon.

Overnight: Glen Mhor Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Looking for Nessie!

After a delicious breakfast, a short drive will bring you to the world-famous Loch Ness. Enjoy a shared cruise on the loch and a visit to Urquhart Castle overlooking the loch. Afterwards, continue to Fort Augustus, located at the south-west end of the Loch Ness, where you can stop for a lunch break. Drive via Fort William on to Oban where in the late afternoon you will have a distillery tour.

Loch Ness is the deepest freshwater loch in the Scottish Highlands and is one of the most visited locations in Scotland. Loch Ness is about 24 miles long by one mile wide and at its deepest point, it goes down nearly 1,000 ft. Lying northeast of the Great Glen in the Highlands, Loch Ness is best known for alleged sightings of the crypto-zoological Loch Ness Monster, also known affectionately as



Itinerary

"Nessie".

Urquhart Castle offers a taste of the Highlands at their most dramatic. Discover 1,000 years of drama, experience a glimpse of medieval life, and enjoy stunning views over Loch Ness from the ruins of the greatest castle in the Highlands. Urquhart's stories are also told through a remarkable collection of artefacts left by its residents, historic replicas, including a full-sized, working trebuchet siege engine. The castle has a distinctly Highland heritage, and the site has witnessed some of the most dramatic chapters in our nation's history. It is here that St Columba is said to have worked miracles in the 6th century, where acts of chivalry and defiance provided inspiration during the Wars of Independence and where the MacDonald Lords of the Isles struggled with the Crown for power.

Fort Augustus. Situated on the most southern tip of Loch Ness on the Great Glen Way, this historic and scenic hamlet is a popular tourist destination. Lying on the impressive 60 mile long Caledonian Canal, halfway between Inverness and Fort William, Fort Augustus offers spectacular views down Loch Ness and is a paradise for keen walkers and cyclists with many beautiful walks around the area, the most popular being the Great Glen Way. At Fort Augustus visitors can also enjoy a visit to the Caledonian Canal Heritage Centre which details the history of the canal. Sit and watch the boats navigating the locks or explore the Clansmen Centre. Visitors can explore the surrounding countryside by cruising Loch Ness, home to the world-famous Loch Ness monster, or take a trip to nearby Urquhart Castle, a classic romantic ruin jutting out into the loch.

Fort William

Lying in the shadow of Ben Nevis, Fort William is the 'Outdoor Capital of the UK' and the main town in Lochaber. Fort William's setting is dramatic, on the shore of Loch Linnhe, and as one of the major

Itinerary

resorts of the Highlands, the town commands an important position and is easily accessible from Glasgow and the central belt.

Oban. As you sweep down the hill towards the expanse of the bay, the view opens before you and one begins to appreciate why Oban has developed into Scotland's most popular west-coast holiday town. With a resident population of 8,500, Oban has recently become better known as "The Seafood Capital of Scotland". The panoramic views of the mountains, lochs and islands which have captivated artists, authors, composers, and poets for centuries are as striking now as they were when Dunollie Castle, a ruined keep, was the northern outpost of the Dalriadic Scots. The town's present-day popularity owes much to the Victorians, and as early as 1812, when the Comet steamship linked Oban with Glasgow. Indeed, once Oban had the royal seal of approval from Queen Victoria, who called it "one of the finest spots we have seen", the town's destiny as an endearingly enchanting holiday destination was as firmly set as the lava columns of Fingal's Cave in Staffa.

Oban Whisky Distillery

Nestling beneath the steep cliff that overlooks Oban, one of Scotland's oldest sources of single malt scotch whisky is but a stone's throw from the sea. Take a tour of the senses at Oban Distillery! You will be taken around the distillery by one of our knowledgeable guides, exploring each part of the whisky making process. Your tour will finish with a sample of our Oban 14-year-old single malt with some crystallized ginger – a taste sensation! To round off nicely you will be given a small memento to remind you of your visit to Oban Distillery.

Overnight: Perle Oban Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast

Itinerary

Day 4 Castles, Gardens and Lochs

After breakfast, start driving towards Edinburgh. Make a stop in **Inveraray to visit the impressive Castle and Gardens.** Afterwards, the route will lead you along the beautiful loch Lomond. The old fishing village of Luss is a great place for a stroll along the Loch and a coffee. Final stop at Stirling Castle to witness this historic fortress in all its glory. You will arrive in Edinburgh in the late afternoon and spend the night at the Norton House Hotel not far from Edinburgh Airport.



Loch Lomond

Lying on the Highland Boundary Fault, Loch Lomond is the largest body of freshwater in mainland Britain. Being 24.5 miles (39 km) long, it is the largest freshwater loch in Scotland and has more than 30 islands, the largest of which is Inchmurrin. The Loch Lomond and Trossachs area of Scotland was awarded National Park status in July 2002 and is today used by generations of Scots and visitors for boating, water skiing, bathing, and picnicking, or just enjoying the unique atmosphere and scenery.

Inveraray

The ancient Royal Burgh of Inveraray is located 60 miles northwest of Glasgow by Loch Fyne in an area of spectacular natural beauty. The ruggedness of the highland scenery serves as a spectacular backdrop for a sheltered tidal Loch, beside which nestles the present castle built between 1745 and 1790. Much of the town, including the church, was designed, and built by the Edinburgh-born architect Robert Mylne between 1772 and 1800.

Stirling Castle

One of Scotland's grandest castles due to its imposing position and impressive architecture, Stirling Castle commands the countryside for many miles around. It towers over some of the most important

Itinerary

battlefields of Scotland's past including Stirling Bridge, the site of William Wallace's victory over the English in 1297, and Bannockburn where Robert the Bruce defeated the same foe in the summer of 1314. Situated on a volcanic outcrop guarding the lowest crossing point of the River Forth, Stirling Castle is a great symbol of Scottish Independence and a source of enduring national pride. The castle's long, turbulent history is associated with great figures from Scotland's past, such as William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, and Mary Queen of Scots. It has seen many royal dramas and witnessed the lives and deaths of almost every Scottish monarch up to the Union of the Crowns in 1603.

Overnight: Norton House Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 Cultural Exploration & Community Cooking – Belfast

After breakfast, your private driver will transfer you to Edinburgh airport for your flight to Dublin (not included). You'll be greeted at the Dublin airport by your new private driver who will be with you throughout your stay in Ireland. In route to Belfast, enjoy a **hands-on farmhouse baking experience** with Tracey in her 18th century thatched cottage on the shores of Strangford Lough. Tracey will teach all about the traditional Irish baking and walk you through the steps to make your very own Irish fruit soda cake, potato bread (or fudge as it is known locally) and Soda bread. You will not only leave with all your handmade goodies, but also all the yummy recipes so you can bake for your friends when you get home.

Continue to Belfast, Northern Ireland. Upon arrival enjoy a panoramic **city tour** where you will take in the leaning **Albert Memorial Clock tower** (Ireland's answer to the Tower of Pisa) and the Opera House,



Itinerary

which is one of Belfast's great landmarks. Your tour will pass by the City Hall, the Crown Bar (dates from 1885), Queens University and the Botanic Gardens.

Visit the **Titanic Museum**, an iconic landmark building; located at Titanic's original construction site. Opened in 2012 to mark the centenary of the ship's sinking, it is the world's largest Titanic visitor experience and the most popular visitor attraction in Belfast.

Tonight enjoy your palatial **5* stay at Culloden**, and estate covering 12 acres and the former residence of the towns Bishops.

Overnight: [Culloden Estate and Spa](#)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 Country back roads and whiskey tasting

Enjoy a full Irish Breakfast at your hotel this morning, before your private driver guide takes you to the rather unfrequented area of east County Down. From here, you will meet your expert local guide Brigid, who will bring you on a guided walking tour in the area.

Brigid Watson created **Sustainable Journeys** to showcase what this historic and stunningly beautiful region has to offer. Brigid boasts an impressive background in Geography, History, Environmentalism and Sustainability, enabling her to bring you on a multifaceted journey that is both interesting and relaxing. The North-eastern coast of Ireland is less travelled and unspoilt, offering residents and visitors a quieter pace of life and a chance to venture off the beaten track. Known as the '**Cradle of Christianity**' this long settled region has a treasure trove of historical sites and is a nature lovers' paradise. Most importantly, Brigid aims to provide you with a tour that is designed to



Itinerary

match your interests and needs, making each experience an intimate and enjoyable one.

In the evening time, continue onto Dublin. Enjoy a visit to **Jameson Distillery**.

Overnight: [Cassidy's Hotel](#) (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 7 Dublin Cultural Exploration

Your private guide will meet you at your hotel this morning to bring you on a walking tour of the city. See the landmark areas of the city and enjoy visit to **Trinity College, to see the Book of Kells, and Epic Emigration Museum**. Discover why 10 million people left Ireland, and the impact they had on the world Irish history should never be a long list of names and dates, it should be an experience. Get hands on with Irish culture and its past with our fully interactive museum – swipe through video galleries, dance through motion sensor quizzes, listen to remastered audio from 100 years ago and watch videos that bring Irish history to life.



Enjoy some time at leisure in the afternoon. In the evening time, make your way to the city pick-up point for your Irish night of music, dance and a 3 course meal. **The Merry Ploughboys live in concert** is widely regarded as the best traditional music show in Dublin and as a must see for any visitors to Dublin city. The show is a highly entertaining performance of live traditional Irish music, song, and Irish dancing. From start to finish, this is a show based on fantastic interaction between the performers and the audience. The very best of fresh Irish food is served from our restaurant which offers a choice menu. The entertainment commences with Ireland's leading traditional Irish

Itinerary

music group The Merry Ploughboys.

Overnight: Cassidy's Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Day 8 Rock of Cashel

Your private driver guide will collect you from your hotel this morning to bring you south to County Kerry. On route, enjoy a visit to the **Rock of Cashel**, Irelands most impressive collection of medieval architecture. Towering over the town of Cashel from its perch on a 200-foot-high outcrop of limestone, the Rock of Cashel was once the seat of the Kings of Munster. St. Patrick visited the rock in 450, while Brian Boru was crowned the 1st high King of Ireland here in the tenth century. Granted to the church in the twelfth century, by the O'Brien clan, the Rock became the seat of the archbishop of Cashel. It was during this period that Cormac's Chapel was built. In 1647 Cromwellian forces under the leadership of Lord Inchiquin ransacked the Rock.



Overnight: Scotts Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast

Itinerary

Day 9 Jaunty Carts, Ceili and the Craic, Killarney

This morning the group will take a **Gap of Dunloe Tour** including a **jaunting car ride and open boat trip**. The Gap of Dunloe is a narrow mountain pass forged between the MacGillycuddy Reeks and Purple Mountain by glacial flows. The river running through the gap is the river Loe from where the Gap gets its name. The Gap begins at Kate Kearney's Cottage. The road narrows in many places, winds through the pass and descends into The Black Valley passing five lakes: Coosaun Lough, Black Lake, Cushnavally Lake, Auger Lake and Black Lough. Within easy walking distance from Kate Kearney's cottage is a picturesque old bridge known as the 'Wishing Bridge'. It is said that wishes made here really do come true! The Gap is approximately 11 km from north to south. The jaunting car (horse drawn wagon) travels through the Pass before a boat takes you back to Killarney from Lord Brandon's cottage at the other end. A packed lunch is included today.

Return to Killarney for the balance of the day at leisure with dinner on your own.

Enjoy a public **Ceili Night** at Killarney Grand.* *As this is a public Ceilidh it is out of our control if they decide to cancel or move this event.*

Overnight: Scotts Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast



Itinerary

Day 10 Country Life & Cliffs of Moher

Leave Killarney this morning and travel west with your private driver guide to County Galway. In route enjoy the **Cliffs of Moher**, which are situated on the Atlantic Ocean and bordering the Burren region, the Cliffs of Moher are one of Ireland's most spectacular sights. Standing 230 meters above the ground at their highest point and 8 km long, the cliffs boast one of the most amazing views in Ireland. On a clear day, the **Aran Islands** are visible in Galway Bay as well as the **valleys and hills of Connemara**. The cliffs reach their highest point just north of O' Brien's Tower built by Cornelius O' Brien, a descendant of Brian Boru, to entertain his lady friends. A visit of the tower is also possible. The sweeping view across the Atlantic has recently been ranked the best 'cliff-view' on the planet.



Enjoy an **Irish music session** with light lunch at the **Doolin Music House**. You will enjoy the experience of **visiting a local home**, enjoying local company and listening to a good traditional music session around the fire. Sheila is an artist and her works surround the rooms in the house creating a truly at-home atmosphere. A light lunch is included during your visit: smoked salmon and brown bread, Irish cheeses accompanied by a glass of wine or a soft drink.

Discover Galway city's award-winning bars & restaurants on this **gastronomic exploration**. Galway Food Tours launched their evening tours as the perfect & alternative way to get to know the city through food. Our private food tours are a great opportunity to get to discover our medieval city of Tribes to taste delicious treats from family-run businesses and artisanal producers, hear their stories and **bond over a glass of craft beer**. As the sun goes down you will be tasting the best bites and drinks from the East or West of the city; over the course of 3 hours. During your tour we will be taking you to some terrific spots, with a great overview of our passionate people and

Itinerary

beautiful produce, making Galway so special. Places like Kai, Ard Bia, Massimo, Deli La Tasca, Rouge, Dela, The Universal Michelin Star Loam, O'Connell's pub with whiskey & oyster tastings. You will learn about their food philosophy, passions, and culinary secrets. Just one word of caution, bring empty bellies as there will be lots of drinking and eating happening.

Overnight: Eyre Square Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (food tour)

Day 11 Farm Life

Spend your day exploring the beautiful Connemara region, including a visit to **Glen Keen Farm for a guided tour, sheepdog demonstration** and tea/coffee & fresh scones.

Due to its vast size, rich history, and natural beauty, Glen Keen Farm is a one-of-a-kind destination in Ireland. This single family-owned sheep farm consists of a commonage footprint that extends over 5,500 acres, making it one of the country's largest operating farms. It is located within a European Union-designated Special Area of Conservation for its unique habitats and wildlife. Found along the Wild Atlantic Way, Glen Keen Farm is County Mayo's front door to the Delphi Valley, Killary Harbor, and the world- renowned Connemara region.

Enjoy an introduction to our friendly border collies and learn about their training program, diet, herding commands, and life at Glen Keen. Watch the dog's herd the sheep on verbal and whistle instructions given by the shepherd. Learn all about the Mountain Blackface sheep and the history of their introduction to this area.



Itinerary

Your hosts will also bring you on a pre-Irish Famine walking tour. Visit Irish homestead dwellings, Bronze Age forts, and ancient burial grounds located on the property, learning how some have prevailed for over 5,000 years. Listen to stories of survival, hidden chambers, land battles, evictions, and human determination. Connect with the landscape and inhale the purity of this majestic valley, carved by glaciers.

Overnight: Eyre Square Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, afternoon snack

Day 12 Time to say goodbye!

Check out of your hotel this morning and transfer to the Dublin airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: All itineraries are subject to change based on availability of hotels, flights and hosting organizations at the time of finalization of booking. Comparable meetings and activities will be arranged should an itinerary change be necessary. 30 days before departure, a finalized itinerary will be available and reflect final details.



Itinerary

[Terms & Conditions](#) Review and Save Booking Terms & Conditions

Review and download Booking Terms & Conditions [HERE](#)



Your organizer



Nanda Journeys

Nanda Journeys offers theme-focused trips to global destinations that speak to your interests, bringing together travelers with purpose and passion to explore the world in a meaningful way. We create travel programs for the diverse, adventurous explorer united in a desire: to not only experience a destination, but to truly experience a culture & connect with its people, visiting unexplored, off-the-beaten path destinations, that provide an opportunity to give back, and make a meaningful difference in the communities they visit.

500 Cathedral Dr #2377, 

Aptos, California, United

States

+1 888-747-7501 

Member of ATTA

 www.nandajourneys.com



The perfect journey starts with WeTravel

Nanda Journeys trusts WeTravel to handle the booking process so they can fully focus on providing you with the best experience possible.



Pay securely through the
WeTravel platform



Access itinerary and registration
details from your personal dashboard



Manage your booking from
any device at any time



Get help from WeTravel's friendly
support team via chat and email