



# Escapades and Sheninagans Tour to Scotland and Ireland

October 3rd to 13th 2019

\$3999 per person sharing - \$899 single supplement  
including air from Lexington

Two independent days in Edinburgh (pre/post) with five (5) days to explore some of the most dramatic and beautiful places in the Highlands and the romantic Isle of Skye. Five days of Scotland's breathtaking best, including the dramatic mountain scenery of Assynt. Experience the remote white sandy beaches of the Northern Highlands, walk through the ancient pine forests of the Cairngorm National Park and soak up the romantic beauty of the Isle of Skye. Stay two (2) nights in the fishing village of Ullapool and two (2) nights in the picturesque harbor town of Portree, on the Isle of Skye. We'll fly to Belfast and enjoy 2 nights near the Giant's Causeway with final night near Dublin.

## ITINERARY

### October 3rd

Depart Lexington on American flight 4962 at 507pm for Philadelphia and arrive 7pm. Transfer to American Airlines flight 278 departing 9pm for Edinburgh.

### October 4th - Edinburgh

Arrive in **Edinburgh** at **9:15am** local time. Transfer to your hotel is included. You are free to enjoy this beautiful city on your own. (Please note, hotel check-in is generally between **2:00 pm** and **4:00 pm**. If you are arriving into Edinburgh early - the hotel will be happy to hold your luggage until your room is ready). Enjoy a welcome drink at 5pm before dining independently.

**OVERNIGHT: HOTEL IBIS ROYAL MILE, EDINBURGH (B)**



### October 5th - Edinburgh - Touring Begins - Ullapool

Depart Edinburgh at **9:00 am**, our journey takes us north over the Forth Road Bridge to the charming highland village of **Dunkeld** on the banks of the river Tay. From here we head into the **Cairngorm National Park** and the ancient pine forests of the Rothiemurchus estate. Lunchtime will be spent on the beautiful shores of Loch Insh before a short forest walk takes us to the ruins of Loch an Eilein castle. Panoramic views of Loch Ness follow as we travel down to the banks of the famous loch and the village of Dores where we can do some "Nessie" spotting! Then it's on to the shores of **Loch Broom** where we spend two nights at **Ullapool**.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL, ULLAPOOL (B,D)**

### October 6th - Touring - Ullapool

Today we visit the far northwest highlands and the grandeur, expanse and wildness of the mountains of **Assynt** with its abundance of wildlife. We will be immersed in the history of the area and visit the 15th century ruins of **Ardvreck Castle**, once the strong hold of the MacLeods of Assynt. The day is full of amazing views of some of Europe's oldest landscapes from the stunning white sand beach at **Achmelvich Bay** to the traditional fishing village of Lochinver. With the chance of seeing wildlife such as whales and red deer as well, this is sure to be a memorable day. Overnight in Ullapool.

**OVERNIGHT: HARBOUR HOUSE HOTEL, ULLAPOOL (B)**

### October 7th - Touring - Portree - Isle of Skye

We leave Ullapool heading south to take in the drama of the River Droma as it plunges 60m down into the **Corrieshalloch Gorge**. From here we travel past the mountains of the Beinn Eighe national nature reserve and along the picturesque coastline of Loch Torridon. The tranquil setting of **Applecross** is your destination for lunch before taking one of the highest roads in Scotland, Bealach nam Bo, with its jaw-dropping views, hairpin bends and precipitous cliffs. In the afternoon we stop in "tropical" **Plockton** where we can see palm trees growing alongside Loch Carron and take time to enjoy its sheltered serenity.



Then it's over the sea to Skye and the delightful harbor town of **Portree** with its friendly welcome.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: TONGADALE HOTEL, PORTREE (B,D)**

### October 8th - Touring - Portree

It's a very flexible day on Skye. There are many possibilities depending on the weather and our driver/guide will use his/her local knowledge to decide on the best day out for the group. For example we might travel north to the stunning **Quiraing** mountain pass and enjoy a spectacular walk through some of Skye's extraordinary geological scenery or visit the **Kilt Rock**, composed of basalt columns with its waterfall cascading over the cliffs and down into the sea below. After lunch (on your own) we may travel to **Neist Point** for a walk out to the lighthouse at the most westerly point on Skye. Alternatively a visit to **Dunvegan Castle**, ancient ancestral seat of the Clan McLeod, may be possible. We return to our hotel in Portree in the late afternoon where we enjoy a free evening in the village.

**OVERNIGHT: TONGADALE HOTEL, PORTREE (B)**

### October 9th - Touring - Edinburgh

We travel south from Skye stopping first at the famous stronghold **Eilean Donan Castle**, used in the film "Highlander", set at the head of three (3) lochs as protection against Viking raiders. Continuing east through the rugged mountains of **Kintail** including the splendor of the Five Sisters, we drive down through **Glen Garry** past Britain's highest mountain, **Ben Nevis**, then onto **Fort William** for lunch. In the afternoon we will explore spectacular **Glencoe**, scene of the infamous massacre of the Clan Macdonald in 1692, before stopping in **Killin** for refreshments beside the Falls of Dochart, arriving into Edinburgh at around 7:00 pm. Join your fellow travelers for dinner tonight in the hotel.

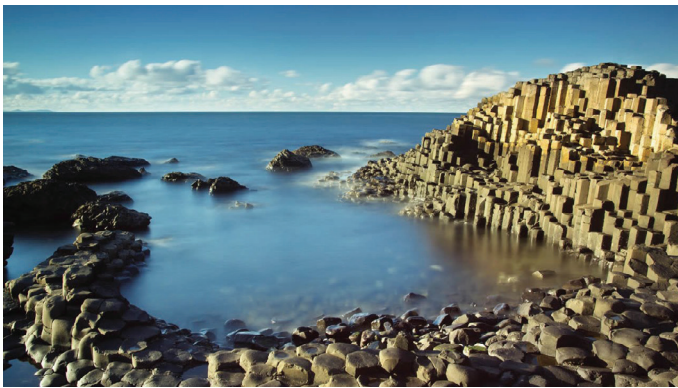
**OVERNIGHT: IBIS HOTEL ROYAL MILE, EDINBURGH (B)**



### October 10th Edinburgh - Belfast - Bushmills

Transfer to Edinburgh Airport for our flight to Belfast. We'll depart at 1:25pm and arrive 2.30pm. Upon arrival we'll meet our driver as well as **Ken Martin** a blue badge certified guide of Belfast. Embark on a sightseeing tour of the city. Belfast is an attractive city today but has many remnants of its troubled past. We visit notable sights including the **Peace Wall** and other landmarks that give us an inside look into the history of the Northern Ireland troubles. Continue north through Ballymena to **Bushmills** for our two night stay at the beautiful **Bushmills Inn**. Join your fellow travelers for dinner in the hotel restaurant.

**DINNER & OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN (B,D)**



### October 11th - Giant's Causeway & Bushmills Distillery

Today we visit the **Giant's Causeway and Museum**. Marvel at the volcanic columns formed over 60 million years ago and hear the ancient fables of the Causeway - N. Ireland's premier tourist attraction. Geologists explain that these hexagonal columns were formed 60 million years ago when lava solidified but Irish mythology claims that Finn McCool was paving his way across to Scotland. We'll tour **Bushmills Distillery** - founded in 1608 this is the oldest licensed distillery in the world. Here you will see the entire distillation process and also get to sample the product! Return to our hotel where the evening is free to experience more of Bushmills with plenty of local restaurants to choose from.

**OVERNIGHT: BUSHMILLS INN (B)**

### October 12th - DUBLIN

Depart for Dublin City and visit **Trinity College** and the famous **Book of Kells**, an 8th century illuminated manuscript of the gospels and see the Old Library. Rest of the day is free to explore the city. In Dublin we say "Don't just sightsee, Explore!"... and there's no better way to explore Dublin city than on the famous green Hop on Hop off tour bus (included). We've been bringing visitors to all of Dublin city's top attractions since 1988 and we're masters at showing you the best Dublin city has to offer. Of course most visitors to Dublin city want to visit the big bus tour attractions like the **Guinness Storehouse**, **Trinity College** and the **Book of Kells**, **Kilmainham Gaol**, **The Wax Museum** and **Dublin Zoo**, but in Dublin we also like to show you the city's hidden gems like the **Little Museum of Dublin**, **EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum**, **The Irish Rock and Roll Museum Experience**, the **Jeanie Johnston**, **Teeling Whiskey Distillery**, **Marsh's Library** beside **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, and many more. Tonight enjoy dinner on your own before the final overnight stay in Dublin.

**OVERNIGHT: TRINITY CITY HOTEL (B)**

### October 13th - DUBLIN - Tour ends

After breakfast transfer takes you to Dublin Airport for the return flight home. **American Airlines flight 209** departs at 1.35pm and arrives **Chicago 4pm**. Transfer to **American Airlines flight 3015** departing 8pm and arriving 1030pm local time. You will clear customs and US immigration at Dublin which ensures US arrival is very simple. Enjoy ample dutyfree shopping at the airport before your take off.



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