



Landscapes of Scotland & Ireland with Colonial Heritage Travel Club

16 days | May 26 2026—Jun 10 2026

Centuries of history sprinkled across timeless landscapes? That's just part of Scotland and Ireland's allure. And from the rolling expanse of the Scottish Highlands to the wild, wave-lashed Irish coast, this comprehensive tour will show you just how easily these two countries sweep visitors off their feet. Breathe in sea breezes and grassy, fresh air as you zigzag from elegant Edinburgh to the Cliffs of Moher, even popping into Northern Ireland for a spell.



Your tour package includes

- 14 nights in handpicked hotels
- 14 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liquor tasting
- 1 food tasting
- 10 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 ferry transfer

Included highlights

- Edinburgh Castle
- Inveraray Castle
- Western Highlands
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum
- Titanic Belfast Museum
- Irish Farm visit
- Cliffs of Moher
- Dingle Peninsula
- Blarney Castle
- St. Patrick's Cathedral

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/zcl-chtravelclub | 720-579-4573 | chtravelclub@gmail.com

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16 days

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

Edinburgh → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh

Welcome to Scotland! Relax and get settled into your hotel in Edinburgh today, then meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers as you enjoy a welcome drink this evening.

Day 3: Free day in Edinburgh

Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner

Enjoy a free day in Edinburgh, then gather with your group at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 4: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh

Included meals: breakfast

Nestled between the rivers Almond and Esk, Edinburgh emerges from a series of hills and rocky ridges, earning its nickname "the Athens of the North." Get to know the Scottish capital in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant neoclassical and Georgian architecture in New Town. The ornate sandstone and granite structures surrounding oasis-like gardens and green spaces became a model for European urban planning.
- Contrast New Town's grace with Old Town's rustic Royal Mile, which runs between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace—the official residence of British monarchs in Scotland. Here, you'll cross moody, narrow streets and alleys, known as "closes," flanked by brooding stone buildings and timeworn cathedrals.
- Pass the towering Sir Walter Scott monument—paying homage to the Ivanhoe and Rob Roy scribe—one of the largest sculptural tributes to an author in the world.
- Ascend Castle Rock and enter Edinburgh Castle. Standing on an extinct volcano at the

top of the Royal Mile, it houses the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone—in use since the 13th century coronating the monarchs of England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom.

Looking to be swept away by the wild romance of the Scottish Borders region? Add an outing to your itinerary and join fellow literature lovers for a quest to the home of Sir Walter Scott and the Gothic ruins of Melrose Abbey.

Prefer to see more of Edinburgh? Use your free afternoon in the city to go back and wander the winding streets of Old Town. If you're feeling adventurous, perhaps consider a spooky stroll through the tunnels that weave underneath the city. Of course, there's always tucking into a booth in a cozy cafe and lingering over tea and shortbread.

Please note: The order of today's activities are subject to change.

+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

Scottish Highlands → 2 nights

Day 5: Transfer to the Scottish Highlands

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

From Edinburgh, head northwest into the famed Scottish Highlands, making a few stops as you go.

- Drive through The Trossachs, one of Scotland's two national parks, and pass by Loch Lomond—the largest lake on the island of Britain by surface area.
- Leave your bus at majestic Inveraray Castle, seat of the Duke of Argyll, leader of Clan Campbell, since the 18th century. Surrounded by gardens, this country estate was one of the first built in the Gothic Revival style, and you'll get to explore both with a local guide leading the way.

After a day full of sightseeing, stretch your legs at your hotel before rejoining your group in the evening for an included dinner.

Please note: Entrance to Inveraray Castle is seasonal and only available from April–October. If it's closed, your group will instead visit nearby Ardkinglas House—a classy country estate built in the Scots baronial style on over 12,000 acres of park land.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of the Western Highlands

Included meals: breakfast

Ready for even more scenery? Leave your hotel for a day of guided sightseeing across the Western Highlands.

- Begin with a stroll through Oban. Known as the seafood capital of Scotland, this harbor town of just over 8,000 people occupies a quiet, quaint stretch of shore along the Firth of Lorn. Together with your group, make the short hike up Battery Hill to McCaig's Tower—a Roman-style stone structure that envelops a well-tended lawn. (The real draw? Sweeping views of Oban Bay, beautifully framed by the tower's many arches.)
 - Roll past lochs, through glens, and over bens (as mountains are called in Scots Gaelic) en route to Glencoe. Stop in Glencoe—a village of fewer than 400 people and the site of a 1692 massacre of a Scottish clan by members of government forces. Learn about the area and the infamous ambush, and why Clan MacDonald was attacked by the Scottish army in the first place.
 - From the old battleground, make your way to the eco-friendly Glencoe Visitor Centre, a cultural history exhibit that's nestled in the breathtaking surroundings of the Glencoe Valley. Glean even more context about that infamous day in the 17th century and try to grasp how it could happen in such peaceful environs.
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Glasgow → 1 night

Day 7: Whiskey distillery, transfer to Glasgow & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting

Bid the Highlands farewell and head south, stopping at a local distillery along the way. Take a tour to learn about one of Scotland's greatest gifts to the world—whisky (without the "e!")—and see how the good stuff's made. No visit to a distillery would be complete without a tasting, so before you go, sit down and sample some malted Scotch.

Then, continue to Glasgow—Scotland's biggest

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city and the U.K.'s cultural and creative capital. Before calling it a day, set off on a sightseeing tour of “the Dear Green Place” (a sobriquet drawn from the direct translation of the city’s Gaelic name) with a local as your guide.

- Pass the Burrell Collection—a museum that boasts more than 9,000 pieces of medieval art, ancient Chinese artifacts, and more—and admire the buildings of the University of Glasgow. Founded in 1451, it’s the fourth oldest in the English-speaking world and one of four Renaissance-era universities still operating in Scotland today.
- Stop outside the city’s medieval cathedral—the oldest cathedral on the Scottish mainland and the oldest building in all of Glasgow—for photos of its Gothic spires and facades.
- Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Opened in 1870 as Glasgow’s first municipal museum, it features substantial exhibitions of everything from European portraiture to Egyptian antiquities.

Please note: On some departures, the Whisky Tasting may take place on day 5 in the Scottish Highlands.

Belfast → 2 nights

Day 8: Ferry to Belfast

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Make your way to the village of Cairnryan—a hamlet of just 142 residents on the shores of Loch Ryan—and board a ferry bound for the Northern Irish capital of Belfast. (Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom; the Republic of Ireland, with its capital in Dublin, is its own country.) Once you’ve crossed the Irish Sea, transfer to your hotel and get your land legs back under you. Then, sit down for an included dinner with your group before calling it a night.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Belfast

Included meals: breakfast

Northern Ireland’s largest city, seafaring Belfast possesses a long, proud history—one that you’ll dip into today. With help from a local guide, take a tour and get to know it from a unique perspective.

- Glimpse the patinated domes and sculpted walls of Belfast’s City Hall, where local leaders have met since the beginning of the

20th century. Then, move on to the Grand Opera House. Completely restored in the early 2020s, the almost 130-year-old building still hosts an assortment of performances, from ballet to comedy.

- As you walk Belfast’s streets, let your guide educate you on the city’s past—from its origins in the Bronze Age and rise as an international seaport to its role in the vicious sectarian conflict known around the world as “the Troubles.”
- Take a break from walking and talking to enter the Titanic Belfast museum. The infamous vessel was built in the city’s shipyards by local manufacturers Harland & Wolff, and this exhibit highlights its history, from hopeful conception to doomed maiden voyage.

Catch a glimpse of geometric perfection this afternoon by adding an outing to the Giant’s Causeway. Stepping down into the sea, this UNESCO World Heritage Site consists of some 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the supposed remnants of an encounter between two mythical giants.

If you’d rather enjoy some alone time, pop into St. George’s Market—the last surviving covered Victorian market in the city—and browse the wares of more than 300 vendors.

+ Giant’s Causeway

Galway → 2 nights

Day 10: Galway via County Meath

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

This morning, cross the land border into the Republic of Ireland and strike out for Galway. En route, pay a visit to a working farm for an in-depth look at Irish country life. Herding sheep, baking brown bread, preparing scones and tea: Enjoy a taste of some of these traditions before hitting the road again.

Arrive in Galway, Ireland’s cultural heart, where your Tour Director will take the lead on a walking tour of the city’s highlights.

- Stroll past a trio of Galwegian icons: Lynch’s Castle, a castle-turned-bank that dates to the 16th century; the rustic home of “Ireland’s most prestigious theatre (troupe),” the Druid Theatre Company; and John F. Kennedy Memorial Park, a popular greenspace better known to locals (and the world) as Eyre Square.
- Get a grasp of Galway’s Norman history by viewing its medieval walls—12th-century

fortifications that once encircled the city—and the Spanish Arch. First erected in 1584 as an extension of Galway’s protective walls, its name alludes to the Spaniards who moored their ships and lived in the area.

- Peruse authentic Claddagh (said “CLA-da”) rings in a local shop. Steeped in legend and symbolism, these pieces of jewelry have been produced in their current guise—two hands clasping a crowned heart—since at least 1700 and are inextricably linked to Galway.

Wrap up your day with a free evening in the city. Galway’s famous for its traditional music scene; for a stomping, clapping good time, head to the nearest pub and let the sounds of Gaelic song wash over you.

Day 11: Free day in Galway

Included meals: breakfast

Up next: a full day in Galway, all to yourself. Early risers should head for the Long Walk, a not-so-long row of color-blocked houses just past the Spanish Arch. Their seaside location and vibrant aesthetics make for a great photo op—especially at sunrise.

Then, enjoy the freedom of an unstructured schedule, or fill your day with an excursion. If you love architecture and vistas plucked out of a fantasy novel, you’ll want to take up our visit to Kylemore Abbey and Connemara National Park. + Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

County Kerry → 2 nights

Day 12: County Kerry via the Burren, Cliffs of Moher & Bunnratty Castle

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Resume your journey through the Emerald Isle today—but before going to County Kerry, redefine “taking the scenic route” and trace Ireland’s Atlantic coast for a detour into County Clare.

- Pass through the Burren. Distinct from the lush greens that typify the rest of the Irish landscape, greys dominate this limestone plateau, punctuated by bursts of wildflowers. Botanists will surely delight in this journey: More than 70% of Ireland’s flower species grow here.
- Walk along the Cliffs of Moher. Perched along Ireland’s west coast, these weathered promontories extend for about five miles and are marked by jagged rock formations and

abundant birdlife. Walking close to the cliffs' edge can be a thrilling, if dizzying experience, but rest assured knowing that the views from their well-maintained walking paths are just as electrifying.

- Cut inland and visit the 15th-century Bunratty Castle tower house. Explore its grounds at your leisure during a self-guided tour and absorb all the medieval history you can.

Stops completed, continue your southwesterly drive into County Kerry, where you'll check into your hotel and settle in for the night.

Day 13: Dingle Peninsula & Killarney National Park

Included meals: breakfast

From your base in County Kerry, depart on a drive over the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula—the westernmost region of the country and a stronghold of Irish language and culture. Soak in the scenery as you go, making some stops along the way.

- Motor down Slea Head Drive, a ring road that's part of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way tourism trail. Bask in the power of the crashing ocean as you pause for photo ops at Coumeenole Beach, Slea Head, and Dunbeg Fort.
- Enter the Gallarus Oratory: Overlooking the harbor at Ard na Caithne (a beautiful bay pronounced "ARD-na-CAHN-ya"), this early-Christian chapel catches the eye with its unique slanting form.

After free time for lunch in the town of Dingle, head to vast, lake-filled Killarney National Park for a photo stop at Ross Castle—the 15th-century ancestral home of Clan O'Donoghue. (Yes, there are clans in Ireland, too!)

Finally, end your epic journey by returning to your hotel and resting up for tomorrow's trip to Dublin.

Dublin → 2 nights

Day 14: Dublin via Blarney Castle

Included meals: breakfast

Leave County Kerry behind, rumbling toward the capital city of Dublin. But before you arrive, you'll make a pit stop at yet another Irish icon on the drive there.

Now one of the country's most famous tourist sites, Blarney Castle was first built in 1210, then rebuilt in 1446 as a stronghold of the local MacCarthy of Muskerry dynasty. Today, you'll set foot within this famed fortress, exploring its dungeon, court, and battlements—and

completing a popular quest. Originally added as a defensive structure, the mythical Blarney Stone supposedly grants all who kiss it "the gift of gab." Stretch out over the parapet, give this limestone slab a smooch, and see if the stories are true.

Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Dublin

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Settled by the Gaels and disputed over centuries by the Vikings and Anglo-Normans, Dublin traces its history back more than 1,300 years. Today, you'll peel back some of its layers on a comprehensive tour, led by a local expert.

- Stop in Phoenix Park, the largest enclosed public park in any European capital city. First established as a royal hunting ground by government decree in 1662, this 1,750-acre greenspace today houses the country's presidential residence.
- Pass by St. James's Gate Brewery, the legendary 260-year-old brewery behind Guinness dry stout. More than 50 million barrels ship out of the plant each year, making it the world's most prolific producer of stout-style beers.
- Walk through Old Dublin, then step into St. Patrick's Cathedral, the country's largest church. Founded in 1191, it serves as the national cathedral for the Church of Ireland, and its arresting Gothic architecture befits a building of its stature.
- Traverse Dublin's city center, passing 17th-century St. Stephen's Green as you go. Afterward, take some time to admire the Georgian architecture of Merrion Square. Another garden area in the heart of Dublin, it's been called home by some of Ireland's foremost writers—Oscar Wilde and W.B. Yeats among them.
- See the dignified facade of Trinity College—Ireland's oldest university—and embark on a walking tour of its hallowed grounds.

Fill your afternoon with an excursion out into County Wicklow and pay a visit to gorgeous Glendalough, the well-preserved ruins of a once-influential abbey. Or, if you'd prefer some free time, head down to the shores of the River Liffey and breathe in the ambiance of the lively Temple Bar district.

This evening, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.

+ Glendalough

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home and reminisce with new friends one last time.

Flight Home

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Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: grouptoursite.com/tours/zel-chtravelclub | 720-579-4573

Day 4: Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

\$109/\$119* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)

Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Then, continue to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The author designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today, it serves as a museum for Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders Abbeys. Please note: Due to renovation projects, groups will visit Dryburgh Abbey through the end of 2024. Dryburgh is regarded as the most peaceful of the four Borders Abbeys, thanks to its location within the woods along the River Tweed.

Day 9: Giant's Causeway

\$95/\$105* (6 hours, departure time varies)

Pay a visit to the rugged Giant's Causeway, a series of naturally formed basalt columns. The hexagonal pillars, which you can walk on, are 60 million years old and originated as volcanic lava. A colorful local legend says that the mythical giant Finn McCool built the walkway so that he could cross the sea to Scotland. Please note: Rain gear is recommended for this excursion.

Day 11: Kylemore Abbey & Connemara National Park

\$89/\$99* (9 hours, departs in the morning)

Make your way to the island village of Cong, situated on the border of counties Galway and Mayo. Stroll through the town's charming streets, catching glimpses of nearby Ashford Castle. Then, continue to Kylemore Abbey, a Benedictine convent founded in 1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle. Here, you'll have time to explore the abbey's interior and its walled Victorian gardens. After free time for lunch on your own, take a scenic drive through the Irish countryside, passing Connemara National Park. Make photo stops in the Inagh Valley and at the Maam Cross before returning to Galway.

Day 15: Glendalough

\$55/\$65* (5 hours, departure time varies)

County Wicklow has some of the wildest and most spectacular mountain scenery in Ireland, as well as many of the country's most important historic sites. Journey through Wicklow's captivating landscapes to Glendalough, which became famous throughout Europe as a center of Christian learning. Saint Laurence O'Toole became the Abbot of Glendalough in 1154 and worked to bring the Irish Church closer to the Roman Church. You'll learn more about O'Toole, who went on to become the Archbishop of Dublin, and his work in Glendalough as you visit St. Kevin's Cross, the remains of the sixth-century cathedral, and the remarkable Round Tower. Your Tour Director will lead you on a tour of the site, and then you'll enjoy free time.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms