

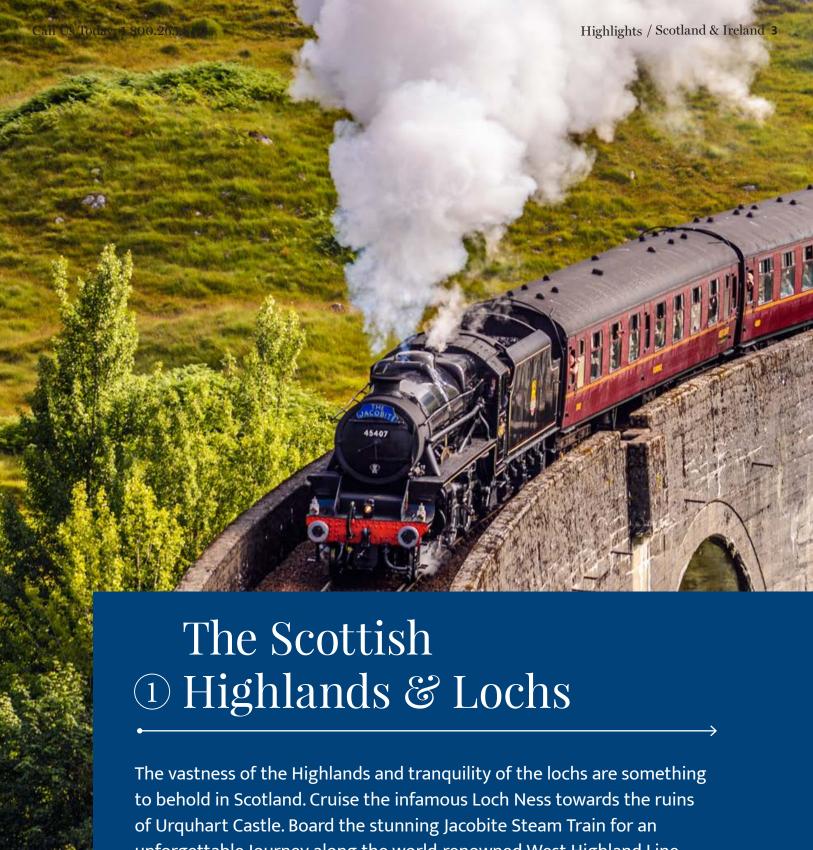
A Land Journey

17 Days

\$13,590 CAD
All inclusive from, per guest, double occ

September 10 to 26, 2021





unforgettable Journey along the world-renowned West Highland Line. Witness the majesty of "the three sisters" from the village of Glencoe, before cruising Loch Lomond.









## DEPART FOR EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their checkin. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flight to Scotland. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to embrace your Journey.

#### **Overnight Flight**





#### WELCOME TO EDINBURGH

On arrival in Edinburgh, we are met by our local Blue Badge Scottish guide who takes us on a panoramic tour of the city. Following lunch at a local restaurant, we check in to our hotel. This evening, join us for a casual welcome dinner at our hotel. (L,D)

Kimpton Charlotte Square, Edinburgh (2 nights)

#### **EXPLORING EDINBURGH**

Built on extinct volcanoes atop an inlet from the North Sea, we explore one of the United Kingdom's most famous cities. To begin our day, we tour Her Majesty The Queen's former floating palace, the 126-metre-long Royal Yacht Britannia. We then tour Edinburgh Castle, the dominating 11<sup>th</sup>-century fortress that is visible from almost everywhere throughout Edinburgh. Following lunch, enjoy free time in the afternoon at your leisure, to visit such sights as the Royal Mile. In the evening, swap stories of your time in this delightful city with your fellow guests over a casual dinner in a local restaurant. (B,L,D)





#### THE HIGHLANDS & INVERNESS

We start our day by travelling through stunning scenery to the impressive Scone Palace whose grounds are renowned throughout the world. Once the capital of the Picts, it has been the seat of parliaments and the crowning place of the Kings of Scots. We tour an outstanding collection of antiques, paintings and rare artifacts. Following lunch in a country house, we explore the grounds of the moving Culloden Battlefield, site of the final battle in 1746 between the Jacobite army, and the British government. The interactive visitor centre features many well-kept artifacts from both sides of this conflict. Finally we check in to our hotel in Inverness before enjoying dinner at our hotel. (B,L,D)

Kingsmill Hotel, Inverness (1 night)

# LOCH NESS, FORT AUGUSTUS & EILEAN DONAN CASTLE

Today our local blue badge guide leads us on a peaceful cruise of the mysterious Loch Ness, Scotland's deepest loch and the fabled home of the Loch Ness Monster - who is said to be lurking in the deep black waters. Containing over 37 kilometres of freshwater, Loch Ness runs from Loch Dochfour to Fort Augustus, and is bordered by picturesque villages such as Foyers and Dores. We stop to explore the ruins of Urquhart Castle, a former royal castle with a dramatic Scottish history. We then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant in Fort Augustus at the Caledonian Canal. Following lunch we admire the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Eilean Donan Castle, perched beautifully on a tidal island in the middle of three lochs. Discover the castle's turbulent history on our visit, before retiring to our hotel in Portree, on the Isle of Skye. (B,L,D)

The Bosville Hotel, Portree (1 night)





#### WEST HIGHLAND RAILWAY & OBAN

Following a short, scenic drive and ferry crossing, we board the stunning Jacobite Steam Train for an unforgettable Journey along the world-renowned West Highland Line. Admire the stunning, mountainous scenery and the world-famous Glenfinnan Viaduct, a Victorian construction featured in the Harry Potter film series. We then arrive in Oban, the seafood capital of Scotland, best known for the colourful houses along its horseshoe bay and the prominent McCaig's Tower. We arrive in Oban, with time to freshen up before we dine in a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Perle Oban Hotel & Spa, Oban (2 nights)

#### **ISLE OF IONA & IONA ABBEY**

Today we travel to the Isle of Iona and Iona Abbey, founded by St. Columba in the 5<sup>th</sup> century.

The island is farmed largely by traditional methods. The National Trust for Scotland works in partnership with its tenant farmers to ensure that rare species, such as the corncrake, are conserved. For many centuries, Iona has been an island of special significance for all Christians. In AD 563, Columba and his followers arrived here from Ireland to spread the gospel in Scotland and the north of England. The restored medieval abbey continues to hold daily services today and St Oran's Chapel and Reilig Odhram is reputed to be the burial place of 48 kings of Scotland, including Macbeth.

The abbey is the last resting place of 50 Scottish Kings, as well as the cradle of Christianity in Scotland. (B,L,D)





# GLENCOE, TROSSACH NATIONAL PARK & LOCH LOMOND

Our day begins with a drive to the village of Glencoe, a glen of volcanic origins, with a population of only 374! Glencoe is known for the endless expanse of the Glencoe Valley, and the majestic ridges of the Bidean nam Bian mountain, called "the three sisters". We arrive in the town of Luss in time for lunch. Following lunch we board a cruise of Loch Lomond, to take in the sights of Trossachs National Park, including 30 islands, crumpled hills, and sleepy forests. Finally, we arrive in Glasgow and check in to our hotel in time to enjoy dinner. (B,L,D)

**Bythswood Square, Glasgow (3 nights)** 

# ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE & CULZEAN CASTLE

This morning we learn all about the celebrated bard Robert Burns with a visit to his birthplace museum, and the 5,000 artifacts and manuscripts contained within. Burns was a 17<sup>th</sup>-century poet and lyricist, the pioneer of the Romantic movement, and for many of the Scottish diaspora around the world, was a way to feel a connection to their homeland. Following lunch at a local restaurant (with haggis offered for those who dare), we stroll around the Culzean Castle and Country Park, weaving in and out of 40 buildings and decadent cliff-top castle that make up this exemplary Scottish estate. Take note of the many hidden follies throughout the property, as well as the walled garden, the grand oil paintings, and the sweeping Oval Staircase. In the evening we return to our hotel in Glasgow for dinner. (B,L,D)





#### **EXPLORING GLASGOW**

Our day today is devoted to Glasgow antiquity, as we browse the collections in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and the People's Palace. The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum hosts 22 exhibits ranging from Renaissance art, to animals and ancient Egypt, in its west-end location on the banks of the River Kelvin. On the east-side of the city, the People's Palace, located amongst the Glasgow Greens, explores the city's social history through the years, in the form of engaging photographs, prints and film. Following lunch in a local brew pub, this afternoon is at your leisure to relax or explore this world-class city. You may choose to visit the Glasgow Cathedral, George Square, or one of many other unique attractions. Dinner this evening will be served at an upscale local restaurant. (B,L,D)

#### DUBLIN, IRELAND

We fly to Dublin this morning from Inverness to begin our exploration of the Emerald Isle. Dublin has lots of Viking history, fabulous food and is officially the friendliest locale in the world! Our local guide and friendly coach driver regal us in this famous Irish hospitality. We are introduced to the city before lunch and check-in to our hotel. Some free time is given to relax or explore on your own before a three-course dinner at the Brooks Hotel. (B,L,D)

**Brooks Hotel, Dublin (2 nights)** 





#### **DUBLIN & THE BOOK OF KELLS**

We begin our tour of this lovely Irish town at St. Patrick's Cathedral which was founded in 1191 and is the largest church in Ireland. Continuing our visit, we see Dublin Castle, City Hall and the lively Temple Bar. Our final stop of the morning is Trinity College and the Old Library to see the Book of Kells, a stunningly beautiful manuscript containing the Four Gospels. Following lunch, we tour the Guinness storehouse. The Journey ends in the Gravity Bar on the top floor with a pint of Guinness and the best view in the city! This evening, join us for a traditional Irish meal that includes Irish Folklore, storytelling, and live traditional music. (B,L,D)

#### **ADARE & KILLARNEY**

This morning, enjoy a lovely drive to the village of Adare, regarded as Ireland's most picturesque village. Situated on the River Maigue, Adare is steeped in history dating back to 1200 AD and has been the subject of many rebellions, wars and conquests, leaving behind a legacy of historical monuments. Following lunch, we continue to Killarney where we check in to our hotel. (B,L,D)

**Great Southern Killarney, Killarney (2 nights)** 





#### RING OF KERRY

Cinematic sea views, secluded white-sand beaches, and mountains shrouded in mist, The Ring of Kerry has earned its reputation as one of the most beautiful regions in Ireland. The scenic route passes through lively villages with bustling pubs, charming bookshops, and pretty cafés. A visit is not complete without seeing the village Bog and Sheep Dog Trials. We stop for lunch at the Smugglers Inn and free time to wander in the lovely village of Sneem. Tonight, enjoy a casual walk to dinner at Cellar One in Killarney. (B,L,D)

#### THE CLIFFS OF MOHER

Today is a day of dramatic scenery, friendly locals and historic venues. We visit The Burren, where huge pavements of limestone called 'clints' with vertical fissures called 'grikes' and views that are truly spectacular create a mysterious atmosphere. Enjoy lunch with the Cassidy Family who have long family roots in the Burren. Then, we continue to the Cliffs of Moher, which are simply stunning. At over 200 metres high, one can easily view the cliffs, the Aran Islands, Galway Bay, the Twelve Pins, and the Maum Turk Mountains to the north in Connemara, and Loop Head to the south. (B,L,D)

Park House, Galway (2 nights)



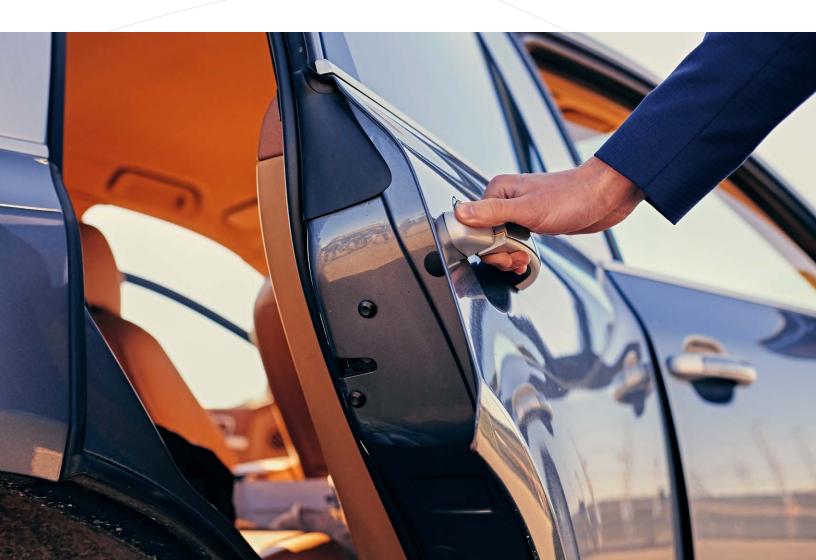


#### **KYLEMORE ABBEY TOUR**

Enjoy the breathtaking coastal landscape of Connemara, situated at the very edge of Europe on the west coast of Ireland. It is surely one of the most beautiful, unspoilt places in Ireland. From the rugged Twelve Bens mountain range in the north through lake-rich Roundstone Bog to the golden beaches reaching out into the Atlantic Ocean. Then we tour Kylemore Abbey and explore over six acres of Victorian Walled Gardens. Our delicious farewell lunch, held at the splendid Renvyle House, is the perfect opportunity to share memories of our Journey. Enjoy an evening at your leisure and dinner in a restaurant of your choice. (B,L)

## **HOME**

We bid our Irish friends a fond Gaelic Blessing "Na h-uile la gu math duit" (May all your days be good), before boarding our flight home. Guests arriving at the Toronto airport are greeted and assisted to their private car home. (B)



# Signature Inclusions on this Journey

In addition to our essentials, your Journey includes our following Signature Inclusions:



#### 24/7 Professional Journey Manager

- Will travel with you from Canada and handle every detail
- In addition to knowledgeable local guides



#### Memorable Private Excursions

- Private excursions crafted by our team
- All sightseeing & entrance fees included



#### Private Car Pick-up Service

 Within a 200-kilometre radius, let your Journey begin in elegant comfort with a private chauffeured car to the airport



#### Generous Tips & Gratuities

• For the porters, local guides, hotel staff & many more, paid by us on your behalf

#### Our essentials included with your Journey:

- 15 nights in outstanding hotels
- Most meals included
   (14 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 12 dinners)
- Round-trip airfare from Toronto with Aer Lingus
- · Regional flight with Aer Lingus
- All taxes as well as port & service charges
- "Whisper" radios included for use during excursions

- Flights from select Canadian gateways for only \$100
- Other gateways & travel classes available
- Porterage for one piece of luggage per person
- Complete information & assistance leading up to your departure
- Branded overnight carry-on or backpack



#### Day 2-4

# KIMPTON CHARLOTTE SQUARE HOTEL, EDINBURGH

Overlooking one of Edinburgh's prettiest private garden squares, the Charlotte Square Hotel consists of seven interconnecting Georgian townhouses in the heart of the New Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With rooms inspired by the golden age of travel, this stunning hotel offers genuine Scottish hospitality.









#### Day 4-5

# KINGSMILL HOTEL, INVERNESS

The Kingsmills Hotel is a fabulous 4-star luxury hotel in Inverness. Set in the beautiful Scottish Highlands, it offers a variety of extremely luxurious rooms, impeccable dining options and good old-fashioned Scottish hospitality to all our guests.









#### **Day 5-6**

## THE BOSVILLE HOTEL, PORTREE

Featuring only 20 guest rooms, this converted cottage opposite the harbour is a welcoming, small-town accommodation like those described in the best slice-of-life novels. You will feel right at home atop the luxury bedding in the intimate guest rooms, or enjoying a drink sitting by the original cast-iron stove.







#### **Day 6-8**

## PERLE OBAN HOTEL & SPA, OBAN

Perle Oban is a luxury hotel & spa located in the center of Oban that boasts beautiful views over the harbour. Combining Victorian charm and modern style, these bright guest rooms have all the amenities you would expect, including a Bose speaker, flatscreen television, and rain showerhead: wonderful complements to the relaxing services of the onsite spa.







#### Day 8-11

# **BLYTHSWOOD SQUARE, GLASGOW**

This splendid, landmark property, commands one side of Blythswood Square, a lovely green space in the centre of the city of Glasgow. With elegant bedrooms, an award-winning spa and endless green space, this is Glasgow's premier hotel.







#### Day 11-13

## **BROOKS HOTEL, DUBLIN**

A designer boutique hotel in Dublin city centre, Brooks Hotel is a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World and has been voted one of the 100 Best Places to Stay in Ireland in the Bridgestone Guide for the past 3 years. This sophisticated hotel features luxurious rooms and personalized service, as well as a restaurant with a bar and café lounge.







#### Day 13-15

## GREAT SOUTHERN KILLARNEY, KILLARNEY

From its distinctive architecture to its effortless service and genuine hospitality, the Great Southern Killarney has been an iconic retreat for over 160 years. Recently restored to its former greatness, the hotel is uniquely situated on six acres of beautiful gardens and stands proudly as Killarney's Premier Historic Hotel.









#### Day 15-17

## PARK HOUSE HOTEL, GALWAY

In central Galway, the Park House Hotel blends the warmth and personality of a boutique hotel with 4-star luxury. It offers an awardwinning restaurant and air-conditioned rooms that are decorated in warm colours, natural wood furnishings and luxurious fabrics. This elegant hotel truly has a lot of charm.









# All-Inclusive Fares

Double Occupancy \$13,590

Single Occupancy \$16,590

Prices are per guest in CAD, all taxes included.