

T O U R S F O R 2 0 2 4

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Welcome to our 2024 brochure! We have been very busy over the last twelve months sourcing more new hotels than ever before, to give you even more choice from the ever expanding tour itineraries and packages we are proud to have put together for you to choose from. Established for over 30 years, we have since built up an excellent reputation for being the leading tour wholesaler in creating quality packages to Ireland, and this product quality has developed and expanded over the years to include excellent and innovative packages throughout the UK, the Isle of Man and Europe as well.

Our ability to create a bespoke itinerary and the willingness to research and plan a tour in detail has helped set us aside from our competitors. Our team has a combined experience of over 180 years in the travel industry, reflecting the company's extensive knowledge in group travel. We have established a very strong reputation for providing an efficient, personal and friendly service with a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the Coach Travel industry. Working closely with all our suppliers and carrying out regular hotel inspections, means we know our products inside out. Our high level of repeat custom is testament to our many satisfied clients and we are most definitely small enough to care, but big enough to manage!

We sincerely hope you enjoy looking through our brochure and we hope you will find something of interest, but if you are looking for something or somewhere a little different, please do get in touch as our team has a wealth of expertise in creating bespoke tours, so give us a call and experience the difference!

All the best from Ruth and Aidan (Joint General Managers) and the Action Tours Team.

Why choose Action Tours?

- Friendly, efficient, reliable and highly experienced team
- Hotels are carefully selected and quality controlled
- Emergency assistance 24 hours / 7 days a week
- Free single room for your driver (min of 25 pax)
Help will be given, if possible, for low pax numbers
- Tailor-made tours and itineraries
- Complimentary marketing support with images and itineraries
- No deposit required
- Peace of mind

**Guaranteed
Exchange
Rates
Available**

We would like to thank all the regional tourist boards, hotels and visitor attractions that have supplied photographs in this brochure.

Special Notes: The prices detailed in this brochure are for guidance only, include VAT at the current rates and were calculated on the basis of the exchange rate quoted at the time of going to print. Accordingly, there may be some variation in the prices so for an updated quotation, please contact us. E & O E.

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Scotland



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Isle of Harris

Hebridean Experience

Marvel at a striking mix of landscapes from golden sands to mountains and moonscapes on the wonderful Outer Hebrides.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head into Scotland to your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Take the ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis and if time, explore Stornoway's town, harbour, marina and Lewis Castle, before continuing to the Cabarfeidh Hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 3: Explore the **Isle of Lewis**, home to the Callanish Stones, one of the finest prehistoric sites in Scotland, the historic Broch at Carloway and the Garrannan Blackhouse Village, which consists of traditional thatched croft houses. *A local guide and/or coach hire on Lewis can be arranged, if required.*

Day 4: Harris beckons today with its ever-changing kaleidoscope of striking landscapes. Visit **Tarbert**, home to the Harris Tweed Shop and a distillery. Travel via stunning coastal beaches to the 16th century **St Clement's Church at Rodel**, before boarding the ferry from Leverburgh to Berneray and continue to the Dark Island Hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 5: Explore the islands of **Benbecula and Uist**, home to 'Our Lady of the Isles' 30ft high statue, and call in at the Kildonan Craft Shop and Museum for a tantalising insight into island life. Alternatively, you could head to Eriskay, of 'Whisky Galore' fame for the ferry across to Barra and experience the beauty of this small island, where the BBC TV series 'Tales of an Island Parish' was filmed. *A local guide on Uist can be arranged, if required.*

Day 6: Board the ferry from Lochmaddy to Uig on the Isle of Skye and continue onwards to your overnight hotel in Fort William.

Day 7: Homeward bound.

Please note that entrance fees to attractions on Lewis, are not included in the prices shown.



Cabarfeidh Hotel ★★★★★
Rightly known as 'Stornoway's finest hotel', experience a genuine warm island welcome.

- 46 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 6 nights DBB
- › All ferry crossings

May to Sep: Prices from: £735



Dunvegan Castle

Lewis & Skye Hebridean Highlights

Enjoy some of the most spectacular coastal scenery imaginable on the Hebridean islands of Lewis and Skye and their unique heritage.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head into Scotland to your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Take the ferry from Ullapool to Stornoway on the Isle of Lewis and if time, explore Stornoway's town, harbour, marina and Lewis Castle, before continuing to the Caladh Inn or the Cabarfeidh Hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 3: Explore the **Isle of Lewis**, home to the Callanish Stones, one of the finest prehistoric sites in Scotland, the historic Broch at Carloway and the Garrannan Blackhouse Village, which consists of traditional thatched croft houses. *A local guide and/or coach hire on Lewis can be arranged, if required.*

Day 4: Head south into **Harris to Tarbert** for the ferry to Uig on the **Isle of Skye**. Depending on the ferry time, you could either explore Tarbert with its Harris Tweed Shop and distillery or the Skye Museum of Island Life, a preserved township of thatched cottages, before continuing via the Trotternish Peninsula, famous for its spectacular geological features and past the Old Man of Storr on your way to the Dunollie Hotel at Broadford for a 2 night stay.

Day 5: Travel via the Cuillin Hills into the heart of the **Isle of Skye** and enjoy a visit to **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**, the seat of the Clan MacLeod and the oldest continually occupied castle in Scotland. This afternoon, you could visit the island's 'capital', Portree, with its Aros Centre and picturesque natural harbour or enjoy a wee dram at Talisker Distillery.

Day 6: Don't miss a photo opportunity at Eileen Donan Castle, before reluctantly heading for home.

Please note that entrance fees to attractions on Lewis, are not included in the prices shown.



Dunollie Hotel ★★★
Set by the waterside of Broadford Bay on Skye, with wonderful sea views.

- 84 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 5 nights DBB
- › All ferry crossings
- › Dunvegan Castle & Gardens

May to Sep: Prices from: £589



Isle of Skye

Magical Isle of Skye

This wonderful tour to the magical and inspiring Isle of Skye will take your breath away, with its scenery, landscapes and rich history.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head into Scotland to your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Head through the majestic Scottish Highlands, maybe stopping for some sightseeing, a loch cruise, a visit to a historic castle or a wee dram en route, before arriving on the **magical and inspiring Isle of Skye** and continuing to the Dunollie Hotel at Broadford for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Travel via the Cuillin Hills into the heart of the **Isle of Skye** and enjoy a visit to **Dunvegan Castle & Gardens**, the seat of the Clan MacLeod and the oldest continually occupied castle in Scotland. This afternoon, you could visit the island's 'capital', Portree, with its Aros Centre and picturesque natural harbour or enjoy a wee dram at Talisker Distillery.

Day 4: The choice is yours! You could head to the North of the island to the Skye Museum of Island Life, a preserved township of thatched cottages, before returning via the Trotternish Peninsula, famous for its spectacular geological features and past the Old Man of Storr. Alternatively, you could head to the South of the island and visit Armadale Castle, Gardens & Museum of the Isles, where you can explore lovely gardens set around the romantic castle ruins and immerse yourself in history and discover the epic story of Clan Donald.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time to leave the Isle of Skye, but don't miss a photo opportunity at Eileen Donan Castle, before heading for your overnight hotel.

Day 6: Time for home.



Dunollie Hotel ★★ ★

Set by the waterside of Broadford Bay on Skye, with wonderful sea views.

- 84 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB
- Dunvegan Castle & Gardens

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £425
May to Sep: Prices from: £459



Castle of Mey

© VisitScotland - Kenny Lam

Orkney & Scotland's Far North

Discover the hidden gems of this magical and mystical region, with awe-inspiring visits to Orkney and the Castle of Mey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head north into Scotland to your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Marvel at spectacular Highland scenery before arriving in Thurso, Britain's most northerly mainland town, for a 3 night stay. If time allows en route, why not include a visit to the magnificent Dunrobin Castle & Gardens, with its spectacular coastal setting.

Day 3: Enjoy the highlight of the tour, a voyage of discovery through time itself on a coach guided tour, with a local guide, of the magical **Orkney Islands**. Here, you will have the chance to see the **World Heritage sites** of Skara Brae, the Standing Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar, plus Scapa Flow, the Churchill Barriers, the Italian Chapel and the Island's capital, Kirkwall, with its magnificent Cathedral.

Day 4: Explore **Thurso**, home to the North Coast Visitor Centre with its museum telling the story of Caithness from the geological period through to the present day and visit the **Castle and Gardens of Mey**, once the much-adored home of the Queen Mother, who saved it from ruin in 1952. With glorious views across the Pentland Firth towards Orkney, the castle is kept as it was when the Queen Mother was in residence. No visit to this region would be complete without popping by to see **John O'Groats**, the iconic location with jaw-dropping scenery.

Day 5: Relax and enjoy the stunning Highland scenery en route to your overnight hotel.

Day 6: Time for home.

Please note that entrance fees to attractions on Orkney, are not included in the prices shown.

Pentland Hotel ★★ ★

Located in the heart of Thurso, this popular family-run hotel uses the freshest local Caithness produce.

- 46 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms

Castletown Hotel ★★ ★

Family-run hotel in the centre of Castletown, it is ideally located for your visit to the Far North.

- 28 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry to Orkney
- Guided Tour of Orkney
- Castle & Gardens of Mey

May to Sep: Prices from: £484



Highlands, Railways & Dolphins

A wonderful Scottish Highlands tour with spectacular scenery, a memorable rail journey and a chance to see dolphins!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Beaulieu for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a memorable trip on one of the world's most scenic rail journeys on the **Kyle Line, the 'Great Highland Railway Journey'**. The train weaves its way through the Highlands and down to the Kyle of Lochalsh, close to the Isle of Skye. Crystal clear lochs mirror the forests and mountains on this wonderful journey. The views from the carriage windows are worth the fare alone, but the experience is thankfully repeated on the return to Beaulieu by coach.

Day 3: The choice is yours. Head over the Cromarty and Dornoch Firths to Dornoch, with its 13th century cathedral, and onto the spectacular **Dunrobin Castle** with its fairytale spires, turrets and one of Britain's oldest continuously inhabited houses. Alternatively, enjoy a wonderful circular tour of Wester Ross to the harbour village of **Gairloch** and **Inverewe Garden**, a historic botanical garden famous for its exotic plants and one of the most beautiful gardens in Scotland. If a day of rest is required, explore Beaulieu and head to Inverness on the local train.

Day 4: Experience an **unforgettable boat cruise on the Moray Firth** for a chance to see the world's most northerly population of Bottlenose Dolphins, along with other marine wildlife including seals and otters. Visit **Inverness**, the 'Capital of the Highlands', a thriving city with its historic Old Town, bustling centre and riverside setting, or if you prefer, head to the leafy Victorian spa town of Strathpeffer or enjoy a wee dram and tour at the Glen Ord Distillery.

Day 5: Time for home.



The Priory Hotel ★★

Experience true Highland hospitality at this lovely hotel situated in the village square of Beaulieu.

- 39 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Kyle Line rail journey
- Moray Firth boat cruise
- Dunrobin Castle or Inverewe Garden

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £365
May to Sep: Prices from: £403



Strathspey Railway

© The Strathspey Railway - Jonathan Gourlay

Great Highland Railways & the Jacobite

Enjoy the beautiful Spey Valley and rail journeys on the Jacobite Steam Train and the heritage Strathspey Railway.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Kingussie for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: All aboard the **Jacobite Steam Train**, regarded as one of the world's greatest rail journeys, on a return journey between Fort William and Mallaig and follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter along the route used by the Hogwarts Express. From views of mighty Ben Nevis, your memorable journey leads past the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar, and over the famous 21 arch **Glenfinnan viaduct** - a truly magical experience!

Day 3: The choice is yours. Relax and explore **Kingussie**; 'Monarch of the Glen' country which was filmed entirely in the upper Spey Valley; the Highland Folk Museum (free admission) at Newtonmore, which gives an insight into Highland life from the 1700's to the 1950's; head to the lovely town of Grantown-on-Spey and onto the Speyside Malt Whisky Trail or enjoy another rail journey on the Keith & Dufftown Railway or the Cairngorm Mountain Railway. Alternatively, head to Inverness, the 'Capital of the Highlands' and experience dolphins on an unforgettable boat cruise on the Moray Firth.

Day 4: Head to **Aviemore**, which is surrounded by beautiful Highland scenery in the majestic Cairngorms National Park. Towering mountains, sparkling lochs and magical forests surround this bustling town, making it a popular year-round destination. This afternoon, enjoy a heritage railway journey and travel back in time to a bygone era of steam on the **Strathspey Railway**.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Duke of Gordon Hotel

★★★

A historic Victorian hotel with a true Highland welcome in the heart of Kingussie.

- 68 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Jacobite Steam Train return journey
- Strathspey Railway ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights

May to Sep: Prices from: £459
Oct: Prices from: £402



Jacobite Steam Train

© Paul Tomkins Scottish Viewpoint



Tobermory

Jacobite Steam & Cruise

Spectacular Highland scenery awaits on one of the world's most famous rail journeys and along the most infamous of Lochs.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Fort William for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: All aboard the **Jacobite Steam Train**, regarded as one of the world's greatest rail journeys, for a return journey between Fort William and Mallaig and follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter along the route used by the Hogwarts Express. From views of mighty Ben Nevis, your memorable journey leads past the deepest freshwater loch in Britain, Loch Morar, and over the famous 21 arch **Glenfinnan viaduct** - a truly magical experience!

Day 3: Excursion to **Inverness**, the 'Capital of the Highlands' with its host of historic buildings or **Fort Augustus**, a lovely town where the Caledonian Canal meets Loch Ness, before a wonderfully relaxing **one hour cruise on Loch Ness** (longer cruise options available) under the shadow of the ruins of Urquhart Castle and maybe catch a glimpse of Nessie! If time allows, why not visit the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Relax and explore **Fort William**, enjoy a cruise along Loch Linnhe, experience stunning views on Nevis Range, Britain's only Mountain Gondola or venture further afield and travel to the lovely resort of Oban. If you wanted to incorporate another scenic rail journey, then why not include a trip on the Kyle line between Dingwall and the Kyle of Lochalsh, as the views from the windows are worth the fare alone!

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Alexandra Hotel ★★★

Traditional and characterful Victorian hotel in the heart of Fort William.

- 93 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Jacobite Steam Train return journey
- Loch Ness Cruise ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £509

Oban & the Isles of Mull and Iona

Experience Scotland's mountains, lochs and glens, the resort of Oban and the enchanting and tranquil islands of Mull and Iona.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Oban for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Relax on the ferry from Oban to Craignure on the enchanting **Isle of Mull**. Head north west to visit the **colourful harbour town of Tobermory**, home to a distillery and famous as the setting for the TV series Balamory or head south west via Glen More to Fionnphort, to board a foot passenger only ferry for the short crossing to the tranquil Isle of Iona. Discover its Abbey (admission not included) and the burial place of Scottish Kings. Although a tiny island, Iona is full of history and heritage, with Christianity at its heart.

Day 3: Free day to explore the **coastal resort of Oban**, which is known as the 'Gateway to the Isles'. Stroll along the Esplanade, watch the ships come and go, visit McCaig's Tower which overlooks the town, enjoy a wee dram at the distillery and visit the War & Peace Museum. If you wish, why not head across the 'Atlantic Bridge' to the idyllic setting of Seil Island.

Day 4: Today, the choice is yours. Head to Fort William, which is one of the Highland's major resorts in a dramatic setting on the shore of Loch Linnhe and lying under the shadow of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, and why not experience stunning views on Nevis Range, Britain's only Mountain Gondola. Alternatively, head south and visit the picturesque harbour village of Tarbert and the coastal garden at Arduaine or visit the breathtaking Isle of Gigha and its Achamore Gardens.

Day 5: Head for home.



Royal Hotel ★★★

In the heart of Oban, it is a traditional Victorian hotel with plenty of character.

- 91 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry to the Isle of Mull
- Return Ferry to the Isle of Iona (optional extra)
- Entertainment on 2 nights

Apr, May & Oct: Prices from: £314
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £408

NEW!



Glamis Castle

Discover Dundee, Glamis Castle & St Andrews

Discover the fascinating city of Dundee, the childhood home of the late Queen Mother and enjoy a walking tour of the famous historic town of St Andrews.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Dundee for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Full day to explore the **city of Dundee**, a dynamic and compact city. Not only is it a UNESCO City of Design, but it is also home to the V&A Dundee located on the historic waterfront, the only V&A museum outside of London; Discovery Point and RRS Discovery where you can experience life in the Antarctic with Captain Scott and his crew; HMS Unicorn, one of the world's most remarkable historic ships; Verdant Works, which tells the story of jute which was synonymous with Dundee and try to spot the famous Beano characters in statue form.

Day 3: Head to the **charming and historic town of Kirriemuir**, known as the Gateway to the Glens, which is perhaps best known as the birthplace of JM Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, whose childhood home has been carefully restored as a museum. Continue to the **picturesque village of Glamis**, home to a Gin Bothy, before visiting **Glamis Castle**, the legendary setting of Shakespeare's Macbeth, which was the childhood home of the late Queen Mother.

Day 4: Travel over the Tay Bridge and onto the Fife Coastal Route to the **historic town of St Andrews**. Scotland's world famous Home of Golf, it is also home to the oldest university in Scotland, a cathedral, medieval streets and gorgeous traditional buildings and these are all brought to life on a **2 hour walking guided tour**. Walk in the footsteps of golfing legends, royals, heretics who were burned at the stake, famous cats and those who live in St Andrews today. Continue along the stretch of Fife Coast known as the East Neuk to the **pretty, historic fishing villages of Crail and Anstruther**.

Day 5: Time for home.

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Glamis Castle
- Two hour walking guided tour of St Andrews ➤ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £349



Loch Katrine Cruise

© Flickr - Magnus Hagdorn

Famous Loch Cruises & Distilleries

Be inspired, discover breath taking views, relax on loch cruises and enjoy wee drams, in the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Aberfoyle for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head into the **charming village of Aberfoyle**, and be sure to visit the Scottish Wool Centre, with its outdoor free animal shows, luxury clothing and whisky & food hall. **Callander** is home to the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitor Centre and a fascinating toy museum. Head to **Loch Katrine for a wonderful one hour cruise**, before continuing via the lovely scenery over Duke's Pass and through the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.

Day 3: **Loch Lomond** is quite simply one of Scotland's most inspiring lochs. Visit Balloch, an enchanting town on the southern shores of the loch, home to the Loch Lomond Shores Visitor Centre. Sit back and relax on a **wonderfully scenic one hour Loch Lomond cruise**, before heading to the lovely village of Luss, which was famously the location in the Scottish TV series 'Take the High Road'. This afternoon, **enjoy a wee dram and tour at the 'picture postcard' Glengoyne Distillery**.

Day 4: Explore the **city of Stirling**, once the ancient capital of Scotland, its Old Town and its castle, which is considered to be one of the grandest of all Scotland's castles, or if you prefer, head to **Dunblane** and visit the town's medieval Cathedral. This afternoon, head north into Perthshire to the historic tourist town of Crieff, where we include a visit to **Scotland's oldest working distillery, the Glenturret, for a tour and tasting**. Return to Aberfoyle via Loch Earn and Loch Lubnaig.

Day 5: Return home.



Rob Roy Hotel ★★★

This relaxed and informal hotel in Aberfoyle, has been welcoming groups for many years.

- 103 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Loch Katrine Cruise ➤ Loch Lomond Cruise
- Glengoyne Distillery Tour ➤ Glenturret Distillery Tour
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ 5 singles – no supplement

May & Oct: Prices from: £275
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £287

NEW!



Stirling

Stirling – the Gateway to the Scottish Highlands

The compact and bustling historic city of Stirling sits at the proud centre of Scotland’s heartlands amongst rolling hills and lowland greenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Stirling for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Full day to explore the **city of Stirling**, once the ancient capital of Scotland, and to get you acquainted, we have included a **2 hour walking guided tour**. Discover Stirling’s Old Town with its medieval streets and walk in the footsteps of Mary Queen of Scots, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce whilst you hear the tales of battles, kings and queens who shaped this city and Scotland itself. Why not visit the Castle, perched on its rocky crag overlooking miles of scenery in every direction, which is arguably Scotland’s grandest, and the cosmopolitan modern Stirling as well, with its speciality shops and cafes.

Day 3: Head to **Dunblane** and visit the medieval Cathedral, which dates back to the 12th century. There are riverside walks along the banks of the Allan Water, whilst the centre of Dunblane exudes an old world charm all of its own. Continue to the popular town of **Callander**, home to the Rob Roy and Trossachs Visitor Centre and a fascinating toy museum.

Day 4: The choice is yours! You could head into the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park for a wonderful and relaxing cruise on Loch Katrine or Loch Lomond; visit a local distillery or enjoy a nostalgic journey along the shores of the River Forth on the Bo’ness & Kinneil Railway, visit the Kelpies, the world’s largest equine sculptures, which tower 100 feet over the Forth & Clyde Canal, before a trip on the unique Falkirk Wheel, the world’s first and only rotating boat lift.

Day 5: Time for home.



Stirling Highland Hotel ★★★★★

NEW!

Set in the heart of Stirling, this hotel is a charming Victorian building with a rooftop observatory, which perfectly reflects the rich heritage of the area.

- 96 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Two hour walking guided tour of Stirling’s Old Town
- Leisure facilities

Jun to Sep: Prices from: £325



The Kelpies

Firth of Forth Steam & Cruise

Experience a nostalgic rail journey, a Firth of Forth boat trip, the unique Falkirk Wheel and the inspiring city of Edinburgh.

Suggested Itinerary:

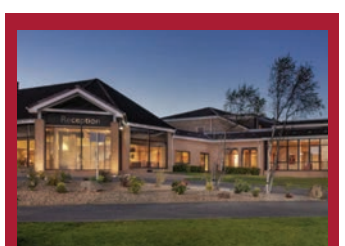
Day 1: Travel to Cumbernauld for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy an unforgettable boat cruise on the **Firth of Forth** with spectacular views of the road and rail bridges, before heading to **Scotland’s historic capital city of Edinburgh** with time to explore its imposing Castle, Princes Street, the Royal Mile and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. For a panoramic snapshot view of the city, why not hop on one of the many open top sightseeing buses.

Day 3: Step back in time and enjoy a truly memorable journey along the shores of the River Forth on the **Bo’ness & Kinneil Railway**. Take time out to visit the gift shop and the Museum of Scottish Railways. Well worth a visit, are **the Kelpies**, the world’s largest equine sculptures, which tower 100 feet over the Forth & Clyde Canal, before enjoying an afternoon trip on the unique **Falkirk Wheel**, an amazing feat of engineering and the world’s first and only rotating boat lift.

Day 4: Visit the **historic city of Stirling**, with its Old Town and Castle, which was once the residence of Scottish Kings. This afternoon, you could tour through the Trossachs National Park, visit Callander which is home to the Rob Roy & Trossachs Visitor Centre and enjoy a wonderful Loch Katrine cruise. Alternatively, you could head to the Perthshire town of Crieff and enjoy a wee dram at Glenturret, Scotland’s oldest working distillery.

Day 5: Time for home.



Doubletree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood Hotel ★★★★★

This prestigious hotel, near Cumbernauld, has its own indoor pool, spa facilities and golf course.

- 148 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Firth of Forth boat cruise
- Bo’ness & Kinneil Railway
- Falkirk Wheel ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £335



Edinburgh Tattoo

Edinburgh Tattoo

Experience one of the world's most spectacular shows, the Edinburgh Tattoo, which is staged at the awe-inspiring Edinburgh Castle.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to your hotel in Scotland for a 3 night stay.

Day 2: Full day to explore Scotland's majestic capital, before the evening performance of the **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo**, to give it its full title, which is a truly remarkable and internationally acclaimed event. This thrilling and moving experience, against the world famous backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, will incorporate the unforgettable music of the massed pipes and drums, the massed military bands, as well as imaginative graphics, state-of-the-art lighting, singers, dancers and many other performers from around the world. The show is finally brought to an emotional and poignant close each evening, as the Lone Piper, high on the castle ramparts, plays a haunting lament.

Day 3: The choice is yours! You could explore the Scottish Borders; the beautifully restored UNESCO World Heritage Site of New Lanark; the mysterious 15th century Rosslyn Chapel; the historic city of Stirling and enjoy a wonderful cruise on Loch Katrine or take a nostalgic ride on the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, before visiting the Kelpies and enjoying a unique trip on the Falkirk Wheel.

Day 4: Sadly, it's time for home.

Tattoo tickets are based on the yellow seating areas in 2-5 or 12-15 and are subject to availability.



Tour Includes:

- 2 nights DBB + 1 night BB
- Admission to Edinburgh Tattoo
- Leisure facilities

Aug: Prices from: £316



Traquair House

Scottish Borders Scenic Discovery

Discover a rich cultural heritage with stately homes, historic castles and picturesque villages in the wonderfully scenic Scottish Borders.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Scottish Borders for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: You will soon discover that lovely little towns on the banks of the River Tweed are not an unusual occurrence in the glorious Scottish Borders, so why not visit the lovely, artsy and genteel Borders town of **Peebles**. After time for lunch, head to the wonderfully picturesque setting of **Abbotsford House and Gardens**, which was the inspirational home of Sir Walter Scott, or if you prefer, visit **Traquair House**, Scotland's oldest inhabited house.

Day 3: Head to Scotland's capital city of **Edinburgh**, which is steeped in history and seamlessly blends old and new, with time to explore the imposing Castle, Royal Mile, Princes Street and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the official Scottish residence of the Queen. Alternatively, visit the mysterious 15th century Rosslyn Chapel or travel to the impressive cotton mill village of New Lanark, which is now a beautifully restored UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 4: Visit the picturesque town of **Kelso**, full of architectural and historic interest and regarded as one of the region's most charming towns with its cobbled streets, elegant Georgian buildings and French-styled cobbled market square. This afternoon enjoy a visit to the **stately home of Floors Castle**, the largest inhabited castle in Scotland with its collection of fine art, porcelain, tapestries, grand rooms and wonderful gardens.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Barony Castle Hotel ★★★★★

Set in a 25 acre estate, near Peebles, and home to the Great Polish Map of Scotland, this striking hotel certainly makes you feel you're in Scotland.

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Floors Castle & Gardens (not Apr or Oct)
- Abbotsford House & Gardens or Traquair House
- Tea/coffee & shortbread on arrival ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £334



Isle of Arran

Isle of Arran & the Ayrshire Coast

Visit Arran - 'Scotland in Miniature', which is one of Scotland's most beautiful islands, and the wonderful Ayrshire Coast.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Irvine or Troon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: It is easy to see why the **Isle of Arran** is often referred to as 'Scotland in Miniature', with its constantly changing landscape of highland glens and rugged mountains alongside sweeping sandy bays and picturesque coastal villages. Enjoy a scenic excursion around the island, experience some of Arran's many unique and independent retailers, enjoy a wee dram at the island's distillery or visit Brodick Castle & Gardens, before the late afternoon return ferry.

Day 3: Enjoy the Ayrshire Coast at its best with a visit to the spectacular coastal setting of **Culzean Castle**, a Robert Adam 18th century masterpiece, before spending time in the lovely resort of Troon. Alternatively, visit **Alloway** and the **Robert Burns Birthplace Museum**, which consists of Burns Cottage, where the poet was born, a collection of his life and works, Burns Monument, Statue House & Gardens, the Auld Kirk and the Brig o' Doon bridge.

Day 4: The choice is yours. You could visit the Isle of Bute, a beautiful and peaceful island haven, which is home to the Victorian resort of Rothesay and Mount Stuart, Britain's most spectacular Victorian Gothic Mansion with its stunning and mysterious interiors and 300 acres of gloriously maintained gardens and grounds. Alternatively, you could visit Dumfries House, one of Britain's best kept heritage secrets or head to the cosmopolitan city of Glasgow.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Riverside Lodge Hotel

★★★

This modern hotel near Irvine, offers a contemporary feel.

- 128 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

South Beach Hotel ★★★

Family-run hotel, close to the beach in the seaside town of Troon.

- 32 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry to the Isle of Arran
- Culzean Castle or Robert Burns Birthplace Museum
- Entertainment on 2 nights

May to Sep: Prices from: £275



Drumlanrig Castle

Dumfries & Galloway's Undiscovered Secrets

Explore this often overlooked corner of Scotland, with its rugged coastline, tranquil lochs, picturesque harbours, beautiful gardens and stately homes.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Dumfries for a 4 night stay, but en route, why not visit the Devil's Porridge Museum, for a remarkable story of the people who worked during WWI in the biggest munitions factory in the world.

Day 2: Visit **Drumlanrig Castle & Gardens**, where you can discover over 600 years of family history and the many treasures on display or alternatively visit **Dumfries House** at Cumnock, one of Britain's best kept heritage secrets. Designed in the 1750's by the Adam Brothers and saved for the nation in 2007 by HRH Prince Charles, it has sumptuous interiors and a unique collection of Thomas Chippendale furniture. Discover **Dumfries**, home to the Robert Burns Centre, located in a 18th century watermill and Burns House, where Scotland's national poet, spent the last years of his life.

Day 3: Explore the Rhinns of Galloway, with its **historic harbour village of Portpatrick and Logan Botanic Garden**, Scotland's most exotic garden. Discover botanical treasures from around the world, close to Scotland's most southerly point. Return through the Galloway Forest Park and along 'The Queen's Way'.

Day 4: Excursion past Sweetheart Abbey and along the Solway Coast, before arriving in the **picturesque harbour town of Kirkcudbright**, with a colourful blend of medieval, Georgian and Victorian buildings and home to some lovely artists' galleries and studios. Head north and travel round the shores of Loch Ken, before returning to Dumfries or alternatively, why not visit the spectacular gardens at Threave.

Day 5: Time for home.

Mercure Dumfries Cargenholt House

NEW!

★★★★

Set in serene countryside close to historic Dumfries, this hotel only opened in 2023.

- 61 Bedrooms • Coach parking
- Ground floor bedrooms

Holiday Inn Dumfries ★★★

Located on the 100 acre Crichton Estate, it blends state of the art facilities with traditional Scottish hospitality.

- 71 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Cairndale Hotel ★★★

A characterful hotel with leisure facilities, a short stroll from Dumfries town centre.

- 91 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Drumlanrig Castle or Dumfries House
- Logan Botanic Garden ➤ Leisure facilities (Cairndale Hotel)

May to Sep: Prices from: £259

England



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Bamburgh Castle

Back in 'Tyne' in Newcastle & Northumbria

Visit the vibrant city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, an extraordinary garden, a spectacular castle and the inspirational Holy Island.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Newcastle for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy Northumbria's unspoilt beauty and stunning coastline on today's excursion along the North Northumberland Heritage Coast. Visit the wonderful **Holy Island, also known as Lindisfarne**, which is home to a Priory and a Castle and only accessible at low tide via a causeway, and the picturesque village of **Bamburgh with its spectacular coastal castle**.

Day 3: Explore the **vibrant city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, with some of England's finest Georgian architecture, its famous bridges over the River Tyne, a stunning Quayside setting and quirky shops of Grainger Town or if you prefer, a half day coach guided tour of the North East's hidden treasures could be arranged, but don't forget to call at the Angel of the North. **Alternatively, head south to the medieval city of Durham** with its magnificent Castle and Cathedral, and enjoy a one hour relaxing cruise in the heart of the city.

Day 4: Excursion to the **historic town of Alnwick** in the heart of Northumberland, home to an impressive castle, which featured in the Harry Potter films. Enjoy a visit to **Alnwick Garden**, which is one of the world's most extraordinary, contemporary gardens, with its Rose Garden, Serpent Garden, Poison Garden and Grand Cascade. If time allows, why not head to the Northumberland Coast, which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with its beaches and quiet bays, and visit the picturesque village of Alnmouth and harbour town of Amble.

Day 5: Time for home.



Copthorne Hotel Newcastle ★★★★★

Located on the Quayside in the heart of the city, all rooms have river views.

- 156 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Alnwick Garden
- Bamburgh Castle

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £258



Bowes Museum

Discover Durham & Beamish

Experience the history and heritage of the city of Durham and the living museum of the north at Beamish.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Co. Durham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the captivating **medieval city of Durham**, the jewel in the crown of an extraordinary county and a wonderful place to explore with ancient winding streets packed with history, culture and stunning architecture, including the magnificent Norman Castle and Cathedral. Why not include a visit to Crook Hall, a beautiful Grade 1 listed medieval manor house and explore its gardens, described by Alan Titchmarsh as a "tapestry of colourful blooms" or enjoy a one hour relaxing river cruise through the city offering great views of the bridges, Cathedral and Castle.

Day 3: Scenic excursion through the **Durham Dales**, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, via Weardale through to Alston and via Teesdale to the market town of **Barnard Castle**, with its ever-popular Wednesday market. After lunch, enjoy a visit to the historic **Bowes Museum**, a spectacular French-style Chateau with ornate gardens, which is home to the exquisite Silver Swan.

Day 4: Step back in time at **Beamish**, where the past is brought vividly to life. Nestling in 300 acres of beautiful countryside, visit Pockerley with its stunning manor house and railway, and take a tram ride through a real Edwardian market town with its painstakingly and lovingly rebuilt houses and shops. You can also visit Home Farm, wander around the Pit Village and enjoy a ride on an old carousel.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Beamish Open Air Museum
- Bowes Museum ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £327

Radisson Blu Hotel Durham ★★★★★

Wonderfully located in the heart of the city overlooking the river, with leisure facilities.

- 207 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

The Redworth Hall Hotel ★★★★★

Set in 150 acres of landscaped gardens and grounds, this atmospheric hotel has excellent leisure facilities.

- 143 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking



Lake Windermere

Lake District Steam & Cruise

Be inspired by the Lake District's famous breath taking scenery, nostalgic steam train journeys and relaxing lake cruises.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Grange-over-Sands or Kendal for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Take a wonderfully scenic trip through the heart of the Lake District to the ever-popular North Lakes tourist town of **Keswick**, under the shadow of Skiddaw, before continuing to England's most beautiful lake, **Ullswater, for a cruise on a 'steamer'** from Pooley Bridge to Glenridding. Return via the narrow, but beautiful Kirkstone Pass.

Day 3: Enjoy a one-way steam train journey through the beautiful Leven Valley on the **Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway**, before boarding a **delightful cruise along Lake Windermere**, England's largest lake, from Lakeside to Bowness-on-Windermere. **Bowness** is popular all year round and people come here to sail on the lake or just to relax and savour the atmosphere and the town's delightful setting. If time, spend time in the **historic market town of Kendal**.

Day 4: Full steam ahead to the Western Lake District for a nostalgic trip back in time on the **Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway**, affectionately known by the locals as 'La'al Ratty'. Enjoy a return trip on Lakeland's oldest and longest railway from the delightful coastal village of Ravenglass through two glorious valleys to the foot of England's highest mountains. If time, call in to the market town of **Ulverston**, which is home to the Laurel & Hardy Museum or alternatively, explore the genteel Edwardian resort of **Grange-over-Sands** and the wonderful Holker Hall & Gardens.

Day 5: Time to return home.

*Please note that space is also available at **The Grange Hotel and The Netherwood Hotel & Spa in Grange-over-Sands** – please ask for details.*

Cumbria Grand Hotel ★★ ★

Set in 20 acres, this Victorian hotel in Grange-over-Sands has stunning views over Morecambe Bay.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Riverside Hotel ★★ ★

Enjoying a peaceful riverside location in Kendal, this former tannery has a range of leisure facilities.

- 58 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Lake Ullswater Cruise ➤ Windermere Lake Cruise
- Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway ➤ Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights (Cumbria Grand Hotel)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £339
May to Sep: Prices from: £359



Settle - Carlisle Railway

The Pennine Explorer

Discover the Yorkshire-Lancashire border with a relaxing cruise on a traditional canal barge and a wonderful train journey through some wonderful scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Lancashire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a classic rail journey on the **Settle to Carlisle Railway**, which is considered the most scenic rail journey in England as it winds through moorland scenery and over the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct. Alternatively, you could explore the historic town of **Haworth**, popular for its close ties with the famous Bronte Sisters and home to the Bronte Parsonage Museum, before following in the tracks of the 'Railway Children' at the **Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**, which, in 2018, celebrated 50 years since it re-opened.

Day 3: Travel into Yorkshire to **Skipton** for its ever-popular Wednesday market. Stall holders and shoppers barter with each other along the high street close to the town's impressive medieval castle. Join in the fun, pick up a bargain and explore this lovely market town, before taking to the water on an historic **relaxing cruise along the Leeds-Liverpool Canal**.

Day 4: Why not experience an enlightening and informative half or full day Pendle Witches and Ribbles Valley coach guided tour and hear all about the mystical legends of these fascinating and beautiful areas of Lancashire. If you prefer, visit the historic market town of Clitheroe, a mill shopping experience at Boundary Mill or Oswaldtwistle Mills, or enjoy another rail journey with the East Lancashire Railway or the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Mercure Dunkenhalgh

Hotel & Spa ★★ ★★

Historic hotel mixing wonderfully the grandeur of a 700 year old building with modern facilities.

- 175 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Settle to Carlisle or Keighley & Worth Valley Railway
- Leeds-Liverpool Canal Cruise ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £275



Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway

Harrogate & the Yorkshire Dales

The floral spa town of Harrogate, a heritage railway and stunning scenery, all await you in the wonderful Yorkshire Dales.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Harrogate for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Circular tour through the **picturesque Yorkshire Dales** with a photo opportunity at the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct before continuing to the lovely market town of **Hawes**, home to the Wensleydale Creamery, made famous by Wallace & Gromit. Enjoy an authentic heritage rail trip today on the **Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway**, the **Wensleydale Railway** or a **tour at the Black Sheep Brewery**.

Day 3: Spoilt for choice today. Visit the cathedral city of Ripon and Newby Hall and Gardens; the historic city of York; Haworth and Bronte Country; Thirsk and Herriot Country or Skipton and a canal cruise. Alternatively, visit the small village of Esholt, home to the original Woolpack Pub, where Emmerdale used to be filmed and the charming town of Otley, the setting for Emmerdale's 'Hotton'.

Day 4: Discover the **spa town of Harrogate**, renowned for its floral beauty, with its Victorian Pump Room, Royal Baths, curiosity shops and beautifully manicured gardens. Discover **Harewood House**, one of Yorkshire's treasure houses and its award winning gardens or **the amazing RHS Garden at Harlow Carr**, which is ablaze with colour and interest all year-round. Afternoon tea at Betty's would be the perfect way to end your holiday.

Day 5: Time for home.



Cedar Court Hotel ★★★

In the heart of Harrogate, overlooking the pristine Stray parkland.

- 100 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Cairn Hotel ★★★

Charming Victorian hotel in Harrogate, with period features.

- 135 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- Wensleydale Railway, Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway or the Black Sheep Brewery
- Harewood House or RHS Garden Harlow Carr
- Entertainment on 2 nights (Cairn Hotel)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £304



Castle Howard

York, Castle Howard & Heartbeat Country

Experience the ancient city of York, a river cruise, Yorkshire's finest historic house and a nostalgic rail journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to York for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover **Castle Howard**, one of England's grandest Baroque mansions and the perfect setting for the hit TV series 'Brideshead Revisited'. Set within 1,000 acres of breathtaking landscape, enjoy lavishly decorated rooms, stunning architecture, idyllic gardens and lakeside walks. Continue to Yorkshire Lavender or via Sutton Bank to the **traditional market town of Thirsk**, which was home for the famous vet and author James Herriot.

Day 3: Start the day in **York** with a **relaxing cruise along the River Ouse**. Within York's towering medieval walls is a heart of rich and colourful character, with its history recorded in the streets, buildings and museums gathered around the mighty Minster. Discover as many of the treasures and architectural gems this remarkable city has to offer, its cobbled streets, the famous Shambles and the National Railway Museum.

Day 4: Explore Heartbeat Country with a wonderful nostalgic trip on the **North Yorkshire Moors Railway** as featured on the recent TV series, a visit to the **historic coastal town of Whitby**, with its famous cliff-top Abbey and the small village of Goathland, which was 'Aidensfield' in the Heartbeat TV series, whilst the railway station here was used as 'Hogsmeade' in the Harry Potter films.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home.

Please see page 28 for a Christmas themed Yuletide break to York and Castle Howard.

Burn Hall Hotel ★★★

Wonderful Victorian country house hotel, set in 8 acres, near York.

- 94 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Queens Hotel ★★★

On the banks of the River Ouse in the heart of York.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- York River Cruise
- Castle Howard
- North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- Entertainment on 1 night (Burn Hall Hotel)
- 8 singles - no supplement (Burn Hall Hotel)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £281



Lincoln

Lincolnshire Coast & Countryside

Experience the best of Lincolnshire with historic towns and villages, a thriving seaside resort and 'Bomber County' heritage.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Skegness for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit the delightful village of **Woodhall Spa** with its **Dambusters connections** and its unique Kinema in the Woods, before continuing to the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre**, where you can experience the atmosphere of a bomber airfield, complete with its own Lancaster bomber 'Just Jane'. Alternatively, you could visit the **Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre**. Enjoy exhibitions and an enlightening guided tour of the hangar where these historic aeroplanes are meticulously maintained. If time, call in at the antiques town of Horncastle or Louth, the historic capital of the Wolds.

Day 3: Excursion to the heart of the dramatic fenland to a **gem of a market town**, Boston, which is immersed in history and dominated by its 14th century St Botolph's Church whose high tower is locally known as 'The Stump'. Continue to **Spalding**, famous as the centre of the UK flower industry, with its elegant Georgian terraces and tree-lined river walks, and visit the Springfield's Outlet Shopping Centre and award-winning Festival Gardens.

Day 4: Relax and explore **Skegness**, one of Britain's first seaside resorts, where large Victorian houses in leafy avenues lead to an amazing array of floral gardens, its grand promenade and wonderful beaches. If you prefer, why not head to the nearby Batemans Brewery or further afield to the **ancient city of Lincoln**, whose cathedral towers majestically overlook the city and its many other historic attractions including a Norman castle and charming medieval and Georgian houses.

Day 5: Time for home.



The Royal Hotel ★★ ★

In quiet, spacious grounds, this Victorian hotel in Skegness is close to the seafront and town centre.

- 70 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre or Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre
- › Entertainment on 3 nights › 6 singles – no supplement

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £205



Crich Tramway Museum

Peak District Delights

Explore England's first National Park, known for its breath taking views, historic houses, pretty villages and unique customs.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Derbyshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Ashbourne**, with its winding cobbled streets and more than 200 listed buildings including historic almshouses and handsome Tudor and Georgian heritage or the elegant spa town of **Buxton**, renowned for its Georgian and Victorian architecture and The Crescent. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to the **Crich Tramway Village**, where you can step back in time on a journey through the history of trams, or take a trip on the **Ecclesbourne Valley Railway**, Derbyshire's longest heritage railway.

Day 3: Discover the delightful town of **Bakewell**, with its medieval stone bridge, quaint courtyards and famous for its Bakewell Pudding. Continue to the picturesque '**plague village**' of **Eyam**, before heading to the magnificent and stately **Chatsworth House**, with over 30 rooms and art collections in the house and 105 acres of wonderful gardens.

Day 4: Don't forget to try and visit one of the regular Well Dressings; Matlock Bath, set in the beautiful gorge of the River Derwent; Haddon Hall, a gem of a medieval and Tudor manor house; the beautifully situated village of Castleton; the market town of Chesterfield, famous for its 'Crooked Spire'; the National Memorial Arboretum or enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Upper Peak Forest Canal.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Derby Mickleover Hotel

★★★★★

Stylish and contemporary hotel with leisure facilities, close to Derby and the Peak District.

- 99 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking



Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Chatsworth House & Gardens
- › Crich Tramway Village or Ecclesbourne Valley Railway
- › Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £292



Mersey Cruise

Liverpool Highlights & River Explorer

Discover Liverpool's glorious maritime history, magnificent architecture, a 'Ferry across the Mersey' and the elegant resort of Southport.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Liverpool for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **fascinating two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool** and marvel at the history, heritage and architecture of this vibrant city. Explore Liverpool, a UNESCO World Heritage City, with its two cathedrals and an historic waterfront including the Albert Dock, the largest collection of Grade I listed buildings in Europe, Tate Liverpool, Maritime Museum, Beatles Story and Pier Head, home to the affectionately titled Three Graces and the magnificent Royal Liver Building. To round off your day, **enjoy a River Explorer cruise on a 'Ferry across the Mersey'**.

Day 3: Head to the coast and visit the **traditional and elegant seaside resort of Southport**, which has become known as 'England's Classic Resort'. Its architecture, parks, gardens, promenade and the UK's oldest iron pier, reflect its historical heritage, whilst Lord Street, with its tree-lined boulevards, wide pavements and iron canopies, is recognised as one of the most elegant shopping areas in England. If time allows, why not visit the unique antiques and collectables experience at Bygone Times in Eccleston.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Spend more time exploring Liverpool or alternatively, travel through the Mersey Tunnel to the charming 19th Century village of Port Sunlight, visit the wonderful Ness Botanic Gardens, the Anderton Boat Lift or head to the historic walled city of Chester, with its cathedral and unique 700 year old shopping rows.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Hard Days Night Hotel ★★★★★

NEW!

The world's only Beatles themed hotel, offers a unique experience in the very heart of the city.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Lift

Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel ★★★★★

Overlooking Liverpool's world famous waterfront and iconic Liver Building.

- 225 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Two hour coach guided tour of Liverpool
- River Explorer Cruise – a 'Ferry across the Mersey'

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £305



Chester

Charming Cheshire & the Wirral Peninsula

Fall in love with Chester, Cheshire & the Wirral Peninsula with its history, heritage, wonderful gardens and uplifting attractions!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Chester for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Full day in **Chester** to explore all this wonderful historic city has to offer. To start your day, enjoy a **relaxing half hour cruise along the River Dee**, before discovering Chester's remarkable cathedral with Europe's finest example of medieval carvings; the unique 700 year old Rows galleries of shops; the largest Roman Amphitheatre in Britain and the most complete City Walls in Britain. If time allows, why not hop on and off an open top sightseeing bus.

Day 3: Visit the **medieval market town of Nantwich**, with its atmospheric streets, medieval timbered buildings, antique and craft shops, before enjoying a **lift and river boat trip at the Anderton Boat Lift**, a Victorian masterpiece of waterway engineering built to connect the River Weaver and the Trent & Mersey Canal. Alternatively, you could cross the border into North Wales to Llangollen for a horse-drawn canal boat trip and a journey on a heritage railway.

Day 4: Head to the **Wirral Peninsula**. First stop is the **historic and idyllic garden village of Port Sunlight**, which was built in the late 19th century by Lord Lever as a home for his soap factory workers. Today, it is home to a museum, parks, a world-class art gallery and all this **can be discovered on a coach guided tour**. Next stop is the **traditional resort of New Brighton**, which was created by a Liverpool merchant, before continuing to the **wonderful Ness Botanic Gardens**, with over 64 acres of stunning gardens to explore.

Day 5: Time for home.



The Queen at Chester Hotel ★★★★★

A grand Victorian hotel opposite Chester Railway Station and within walking distance of the city centre.

- 134 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Chester River Cruise
- Anderton Boat Lift and river trip ➤ Ness Botanic Gardens
- Port Sunlight Museum & coach guided tour

May to Sep: Prices from: £347
Oct: Prices from: £327



Llangollen Railway

Welsh Borders Steam & Cruise

Where Shropshire meets Wales, enjoy a relaxing horse drawn canal cruise, a steam train ride through the Dee Valley and a boat trip along the River Severn.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shropshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Shrewsbury is one of England's finest medieval market towns with over 600 listed buildings including many black & white half-timbered Tudor buildings. Sit back and relax on a 40 minute cruise along the River Severn, before exploring this lovely town which was the birthplace of Charles Darwin. Shrewsbury is home to a Norman castle, an Abbey and The Quarry, which at its heart lies The Dingle, a floral masterpiece designed by the famous gardener Percy Thrower.

Day 3: Spoilt for choice, and what a choice! You could visit the historic market town of Ludlow; the spectacular Ironbridge Gorge; the traditional market town of Oswestry; the wonderful Hodnet Hall Gardens; the magnificent Powis Castle and Gardens or enjoy a nostalgic steam train journey on the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway or the Severn Valley Railway.

Day 4: Cross the border into Wales and explore the picturesque town of Llangollen with the River Dee running through its heart. Experience the peace and tranquillity of an included horse-drawn canal boat trip along the Llangollen Canal, now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy Llangollen's wealth of independent shops and take a stroll along Victoria Promenade, before a nostalgic trip back in time through the Dee Valley on the Llangollen Railway.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Lion Quays Resort

★★★★

NEW!

Set in Shropshire countryside on the picturesque banks of the Llangollen Canal, with excellent leisure and spa facilities.

- 82 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa

★★★★

Manor house hotel set in landscaped gardens overlooking an ornamental lake.

- 87 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Llangollen Railway
- › Horse-drawn Llangollen Canal trip
- › Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise › Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £325



Shrewsbury River Cruise

Shropshire & the Severn Valley

Visit Shropshire, with its remarkable heritage, a memorable train journey, the gourmet town of Ludlow and a lovely river cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shropshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a unique and leisurely 40 minute cruise in Shrewsbury along the famous and very picturesque River Severn loop. Shrewsbury, the birthplace of Charles Darwin, is arguably the finest Tudor town in England and is home to an abbey, many black & white half-timbered Tudor buildings and an imposing castle.

Day 3: The spectacular Ironbridge Gorge is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy visiting Blists Hill, an open air museum, where townsfolk in traditional dress re-enact life in an authentic Victorian community; the village of Ironbridge and the famous 'Iron Bridge' itself. If time allows, visit Much Wenlock, a medieval town with close ties to the modern Olympics and home to the remains of a 12th century Priory. Alternatively, head into Wales to the picturesque town of Llangollen, for a horse-drawn canal boat and a trip through the Dee Valley on the Llangollen Railway.

Day 4: Full steam ahead for a classic rail journey on the Severn Valley Railway between Bridgnorth, which is a 'twin town' linked together by its own remarkable Cliff Railway, and Kidderminster. Head to the historic market town of Ludlow, often referred to as the perfect historic town, with over 500 listed buildings and a castle at its heart, or Church Stretton, the only town in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Day 5: Time for home.

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort

★★★★

Set in its own grounds, this lovely hotel has excellent leisure facilities.

- 114 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa

★★★★

Manor house hotel set in landscaped gardens overlooking an ornamental lake.

- 87 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Severn Valley Railway
- › Blists Hill Victorian Museum
- › Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise › Leisure & spa facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £341



Bourton-on-the-Water

Cheltenham, Tewkesbury & the Cotswolds

Explore Regency Cheltenham, medieval Tewkesbury, a heritage railway journey and the charming Cotswolds towns and villages.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cheltenham for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit **Cheltenham**, England's most complete Regency town whose town houses, characterised by intricate ironwork balconies and painted stucco facades, line the historic Promenade, squares and terraces. Enjoy a trip on the **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway** through the heart of the Cotswolds from Cheltenham to the wonderful **honey-coloured village of Broadway**.

Day 3: Discover the **picturesque medieval town of Tewkesbury** on Wednesday market day. Rich in timber-framed buildings, Tewkesbury has a long and fascinating history as well as being home to a famous Abbey. This afternoon, visit **Sudeley Castle**, once the home of Katherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of Henry VIII, and its award-winning gardens or the rural **TV presenter Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, where you can experience a stunning diversity of animals, rare breeds a farm safari tractor ride and changing demonstrations which follow the farming cycle.

Day 4: Enjoy a scenic tour of the honey-coloured limestone towns and villages of the Cotswolds. Visit **Bourton-on-the-Water**, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'; **Stow-on-the-Wold**, with its many fine antique shops and the wonderful historic village of Chipping Campden. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to **Hidcote Manor Garden**, where you can discover one of the country's great gardens, with its magnificent vistas and dazzling arrays of plants and flowers.

Day 5: Time for home.



Delta by Marriott Cheltenham Chase ★★★★★

Situated at the foot of the Cotswold Hills, this stylish and contemporary hotel has an indoor swimming pool.

- 122 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
- Sudeley Castle & Gardens or Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park
- Hidcote Manor Garden ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £345



Dean Forest Railway

Wye Valley & the Royal Forest of Dean

Experience this magical borderland on a scenic river cruise, a relaxing train ride and visits to historic towns.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Coleford in the Royal Forest of Dean for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Cross the border into Wales to the **Georgian market town of Monmouth**, famous for its unique 13th century Monnow Bridge, before returning to England for a **relaxing cruise along the River Wye** from Symonds Yat West, which has long been one of the most spectacular stretches of the Wye Valley. If time allows, explore Coleford itself or enjoy the bowling and golf facilities at your hotel.

Day 3: Follow the twists and turns of the **Wye Valley** for a coffee break and photo opportunity at the magnificent ruins of Tintern Abbey, before continuing to the historic walled border town of **Chepstow**, which is dominated by the oldest surviving stone castle in Britain, on the banks of the River Wye. Return into the delightful Royal Forest of Dean for a relaxing round trip on the **Dean Forest Railway**, where a cream tea could be included, if required.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Why not enjoy a full or half day guided tour of the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean; visit the Dean Heritage Centre; head into Herefordshire to the historic cathedral city of Hereford, the market town of Ross-on-Wye, Ledbury with its 'black & white' timber-framed buildings or discover the secrets of traditional cider making on a Weston's Cider guided mill tour. Alternatively, why not head to Regency Cheltenham or Gloucester, with its cathedral and Victorian docks.

Day 5: Time to head for home.

Please see page 28 for a Turkey and Tinsel tour at this hotel.



Bells Hotel & Country Club ★★★

A warm welcome is assured at this lovely hotel with golf and bowling facilities.

- 53 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ River Wye Cruise ➤ Dean Forest Railway
- Welcome drink on arrival ➤ Entertainment on 3 nights
- 6 singles - no supplement ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £295



Stratford-upon-Avon

Warwickshire & Shakespeare Country

Relax on a cruise in Shakespeare country and step back in time to an age of elegance, romance and treachery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Warwickshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sights and ambience of **Stratford-Upon-Avon**, a town synonymous with William Shakespeare. Walk in Shakespeare's footsteps at the house where he was born and grew up, and head off on the self-guided heritage trail. His influence is everywhere and there are also cafes, shops and riverside gardens to enjoy. This afternoon, board the 'Countess of Evesham' for an included gentle **relaxing cruise and cream tea on the River Avon**.

Day 3: Discover a wealth of treasures in the **charming historic town of Warwick**, home to secret gardens, a magnificent castle - Britain's greatest medieval experience, and the Lord Leycester Hospital, a group of timber-framed buildings dating mainly from the 14th century. Continue to the fashionable and **elegant town of Royal Leamington Spa**, home to the Royal Pump Rooms and the Grade II listed Jephson Gardens. Alternatively, a full day guided tour of Shakespeare Country and the Heart of England could be arranged.

Day 4: Head to the **ancient market town of Henley-in-Arden**, with its unspoilt historic high street, before continuing to **Kenilworth Castle and its Elizabethan Gardens**, which have been restored to their former glory, before exploring the **historic town of Kenilworth** itself. Alternatively, you could visit Coughton Court, a fine Tudor estate owned by the Throckmorton family since 1409, with an absorbing history linked to the Gunpowder Plot and a conspiracy to assassinate Elizabeth I.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Chesford Grange Hotel

★★★★

Historic and characterful hotel set in 17 acres of tranquil gardens and woodland, near Kenilworth.

- 205 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Kenilworth Castle & Gardens
- › Stratford-upon-Avon Boat Cruise with cream tea
- › Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £340



Bletchley Park

Codebreakers & Cambridge

Visit the home of the famous World War 2 codebreakers and discover a land of lazy waterways and majestic cathedrals.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Huntingdon or Cambourne for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Once Britain's best kept secret, **Bletchley Park, the 'Home of the Codebreakers'**, is today a unique heritage site and tourist attraction set within an atmospheric Victorian estate nestled in peaceful parkland. Explore and experience the top-secret world of iconic WW2 codebreaking huts and blocks, where codebreaking successes helped to save countless lives by shortening WW2 by about two years.

Day 3: Enjoy a morning **panoramic coach guided tour of the famous university city of Cambridge**, before exploring the historic centre, the renowned Fitzwilliam Museum or maybe take a leisurely punt along the River Cam. Admire the wonderful architecture and majestic college buildings, and explore quaint passages set around the historic market place.

Day 4: The choice is yours! Saddle up for the attractive market town of Newmarket, watch the racehorses exercise on the famous gallops and if you wish, visit the National Horseracing Museum or enjoy a tour of the National Stud. The city of Ely is rich in history, charm and beauty and its magnificent Cathedral is known locally as the 'Ship of the Fens'. Alternatively, you could visit the historic airfield and museum of aviation history at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, or head north to Peterborough and enjoy a trip on the Nene Valley Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.

Delta by Marriott Huntingdon ★★★★★

Modern hotel with leisure facilities ideally located for exploring Cambridgeshire.

- 150 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Cambridge Belfry Hotel & Spa ★★★★★

Set in a lakeside location, this modern, relaxing hotel is only seven miles from Cambridge.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Bletchley Park
- › Guided tour of Cambridge
- › Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £319



Sandringham House

Norfolk Broads & Sandringham House

What better way to experience Norfolk than with a Broads cruise, a nostalgic railway and a stately home.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Norwich for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the **North Norfolk Heritage Coast** to the wonderful Georgian market town of Holt, where you board 'The Poppy Line', for a **heritage steam train ride** with stunning views of the Norfolk countryside and coastline through to **Sheringham**, a traditional seaside town which grew up around its old fishing village. Continue to the lovely **coastal resort of Cromer**, famous for its pier and tasty crabs or the wonderful harbour town of Wells-next-the-Sea.

Day 3: Travel to Wroxham or Horning, where you board your boat for a **relaxing cruise on the Norfolk Broads**. Today, you could also enjoy a trip on the narrow gauge Bure Valley Railway or head into **Norwich**, which is said to be the most complete medieval city in Britain with over 1,500 historic listed buildings, two cathedrals, an imposing Norman castle and is famed as the home of Colman's Mustard.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice, you could explore the **Sandringham Estate**, the much-loved Norfolk retreat of the Royal Family. The magnificent stately house is set in stunning landscaped gardens, and remains very much as it was in Edwardian times. If time allows, visit the resort of Hunstanton, historic King's Lynn or pop into Norfolk Lavender. Alternatively, visit the unspoiled and historic seaside resort of Wells-next-the-Sea and the spectacular **Palladian Mansion at Holkham Hall**, with its restored Victorian kitchen and walled gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.

Holiday Inn Norwich ★★★

Ideally located for touring Norfolk, this modern hotel is on Ipswich Road.

- 119 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Holiday Inn Norwich City ★★★

Modern hotel, close to Norwich city centre.

- 150 Bedrooms
- Lift

Dunston Hall Hotel ★★★★★

Elizabethan-styled hotel in acres of parkland, south of Norwich.

- 169 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Norfolk Broads Cruise
- Poppy Line Steam Railway ➤ Sandringham Estate or Holkham Hall
- Leisure facilities (Holiday Inn Norwich + Dunston Hall)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £299



Aldeburgh

Suffolk – Tranquil Villages & Coast

It's easy to see why some of England's most famous painters were inspired by Suffolk's picturesque villages and unspoilt coastline.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Suffolk for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a **guided tour of Suffolk's pastel-coloured towns and villages**, whose timber-framed houses and thatched roofs make this area so unique. Visit **Sudbury**, home to Gainsborough's attractive townhouse which is now the birthplace museum and gallery of Thomas Gainsborough, one of Britain's greatest painters; **Long Melford** and **Lavenham**, where we include a visit to its **historic Guildhall**, which now contains exhibitions of local history.

Day 3: Be inspired and enjoy a slower pace of life, with visits to nearby **Dedham**, home to the Munnings Art Museum and an art & craft centre, and **East Bergholt**, picturesque villages associated with the artist John Constable. This afternoon, why not enjoy a nostalgic visit to the Tiptree Jam Shop, Tea Room and Museum (free admission) or if you prefer, continue to Beth Chatto Gardens or Colchester, officially Britain's oldest recorded town, home to Roman remains, a huge Norman castle keep and timber-framed cottages.

Day 4: Excursion to Suffolk's Heritage Coast and the **pretty coastal town of Aldeburgh**, with its unspoilt beach dotted with fishermen's huts and charming historic high street. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing cruise along the beautiful and scenic Deben or Waveney River**, a lovely way to round off your holiday.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Ufford Park Hotel

★★★

NEW!

This golf and spa hotel is set in 120 acres of historic parkland, a short drive from the quaint market town of Woodbridge.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Stoke by Nayland Hotel

★★★★

NEW!

Set in 300 acres of countryside, this golf and spa hotel is close to the Suffolk/Essex border.

- 80 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Lavenham Guildhall
- Guided tour of Suffolk Villages
- Deben or Waveney River Cruise ➤ Leisure & spa facilities

Apr, May & Oct: Prices from: £339
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £359



Windsor Cruise

Royal Windsor & Glorious Wisley

Discover the majesty of Windsor, enjoy a relaxing cruise on the River Thames and visit the wonderful RHS garden at Wisley.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Gerrards Cross in Buckinghamshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Crowned by stunning Windsor Castle, the largest and oldest inhabited castle in the world and official residence of Her Majesty The Queen, the wonderful **Royal town of Windsor**, has a rich mix of history, culture and heritage. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing two hour cruise along the River Thames** with excellent views of Windsor Castle and Eton College.

Day 3: Head to the rather special and flagship garden of the **Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley**, where you could very easily spend a full day. Wisley can rightly claim to be one of the finest gardens in the world and is a place full of inspiration, with its spectacular floral displays, the Wild Garden, the Model Gardens and the state-of-the-art Glasshouse.

Day 4: Spoilt for choice today. You could explore the many wonders, museums and attractions of London and hop on a sightseeing bus or two. Alternatively, you could head to the city of spires at Oxford; the cathedral city of St Albans; the lovely town of Henley-on-Thames which enjoys an international reputation as home of the world's greatest rowing regatta; the spectacular baroque Hampton Court Palace and its magnificent gardens, the Jacobean Hatfield House and Garden or the Renaissance-styled Waddesdon Manor, once the country home of the Rothschild's.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



The Bull Hotel ★★★★★
Historic and characterful hotel in Gerrards Cross, combining warm hospitality and modern comforts.

- 150 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Windsor River Thames Cruise
- RHS Wisley

May to Sep: Prices from: £365



RHS Wisley

A Royal River, Towns & Gardens to Remember

Explore a magical part of the mighty Royal River Thames from historic Windsor to grand riverside homes, glorious Wisley and the emotive Poppy Factory.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the leafy suburb of Shepperton for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Visit the bustling market town of **Kingston upon Thames** and explore the busy marketplace, independent shops and enjoy a rest at one of the lovely riverside cafes and restaurants. Alternatively, head to majestic Hampton Court Palace for an insight into the Royal Court of Henry VIII. This afternoon, travel to Kew and the wonderful **Poppy Factory**, where you can see how veterans still make Royal and regimental wreaths by hand today. Learn more about the centre's great work, have a go at making your own poppy, and enjoy an afternoon tea-break with fresh cakes from the in-house bakery.

Day 3: Head to the flagship garden of the **Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley**, where you could easily spend a full day. One of the finest gardens in the world, this is a place full of inspiration, with spectacular floral displays, a Wild Garden, Model Gardens and the state-of-the-art Glasshouse. Make sure you allow time for a tasty treat from the great choice of eateries too.

Day 4: Head to the **National Trust site of Runnymede & Ankerwycke**, the charming Thames side location that witnessed King John's historic sealing of the Magna Carta over 800 years ago. Take time to view the memorials, before boarding your nearby cruise upstream towards wonderful **Windsor**, travelling through the **Castle grounds** themselves. On arrival, enjoy time to browse the great shops and cute cafes or visit the main attraction of Windsor Castle itself.

Day 5: Time to head for home.



Holiday Inn Shepperton ★★★★★ **NEW!**
Set in leafy grounds near the River Thames, this modern hotel offers bright, well-appointed bedrooms and an indoor swimming pool.

- 185 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Windsor River Thames Cruise
- RHS Wisley ➤ Poppy Factory with tour & tea/coffee
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £345



Hever Castle

© 2023 Hever Castle Ltd

Historic Kent - the Garden of England

Steeped in history and heritage, discover the essence of this region with its perfect blend of city, coast and countryside.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Kent for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the wonderful historic **spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells**, with its elegant architecture and the pretty colonnaded 18th century walkway known as the Pantiles, which are now home to specialist shops and open-air cafes. This afternoon, enjoy a visit to either the enchanting **Hever Castle & Gardens**, which was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, or the wonderful manor house and gardens at **Penshurst Place**, one of England's oldest family homes.

Day 3: Nestling against the banks of the River Medway, historic **Rochester** is home to England's second oldest cathedral, its tallest Norman castle and a host of connections to the writer Charles Dickens. Continue to the magnificent **Leeds Castle** and discover the glorious 900 year old story of the remarkable survival of a moated medieval castle or enjoy a nostalgic train journey on the **Kent & East Sussex Railway**, through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to the historic city of **Canterbury** with its atmospheric old streets, medieval walls and cathedral, which is now a World Heritage Site. Continue to the pretty coastal town of Deal, the ancient medieval town of Sandwich or Faversham, a charming town with nearly 500 listed buildings. Alternatively, you could enjoy a themed 'Call the Midwife' guided tour at Chatham Historic Dockyard; visit Broadstairs, Charles Dickens' favourite seaside holiday resort or Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, one of the world's most celebrated gardens.

Day 5: Time for home.



Bridgewood Manor Hotel

★★★★

Offering a peaceful setting for exploring Kent, this hotel near Chatham, also has an indoor pool.

- 100 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Hever Castle & Gardens or Penshurst Place & Gardens
- Kent & East Sussex Railway or Leeds Castle ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £309



NEW!

Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway

© 2023 RH&DR

Kentish Men & Coastal Gems

Uncover the hidden story of Kent's coastal villages and towns, from secret smugglers to royal connections and the poignant memories of both World Wars.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Kent for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Discover the **historic Cinque Port of Hythe**, from its promenade to unique high street shops, before enjoying a nostalgic journey on '**Kent's Mainline in Miniature**', the **Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway**, across Romney Marsh to Dungeness, the eerie home to a host of artists and the 'listening walls' built for early signs of enemy aircraft. Continue into East Sussex, to the **picturesque town of Rye**, with its cobbled streets, historical buildings and past links to smuggling.

Day 3: Head to the fascinating Isle of Thanet, home to 16 beautiful bays and beaches, with a scenic drive to **Margate**, home to a thriving artistic community and setting for many famous film locations. Continue to genteel **Broadstairs**, Charles Dickens' favourite seaside resort with its picture perfect sweeping bay, topped by Bleak House itself, or experience the **Royal Port of Margate** with its grand harbour, and visit the longest wartime tunnels in the UK where residents took refuge and lived underground just steps away from the beautiful golden beach.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to White Cliffs Country to the pretty coastal town of Deal and beautiful Walmer Castle and Gardens, and take a poignant moment to reflect at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. Alternatively, discover the ancient medieval Cinque Port town of Sandwich, a hidden gem, with quayside walks and cute shops or head to the historic city of Canterbury with its atmospheric old streets, medieval walls and cathedral.

Day 5: Time for home.

Best Western Plus Burlington Hotel

NEW!

★★★★

A grand Victorian seaside hotel, beautifully refurbished, set in Folkestone's elegant West End just steps from the lovely Leas Promenade.

- 59 Bedrooms
- Lift

Ashford International Hotel

★★★★

Tucked away in the heart of leafy green Kent, this modern hotel has excellent leisure facilities and spa.

- 179 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
- Leisure & spa facilities (Ashford)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £305



Bluebell Railway

Eastbourne & the Bluebell Railway

Explore Sussex with its stunning coastlines, genteel resorts, countryside, heritage, wonderful gardens and nostalgic railways.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Eastbourne for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore **Eastbourne**, with its award-winning seafront, famous Carpet Gardens, Napoleonic fortress, harbour, boat trips, 1930's bandstand, Victorian Pier and relax in one of the beach huts or deckchairs. Visit the nearby, iconic and natural beauty spot at Beachy Head, the UK's highest chalk sea cliff. If you prefer, visit the seaside resort of Hastings, with its castle remains, a preserved Old Town and the steepest funicular railway in Britain.

Day 3: Excursion to the **historic town of Lewes**, which boasts a castle and the Anne of Cleves House, or the vibrant and colourful **Regency resort of Brighton**, where you can experience the heritage of the Royal Pavilion and take a trip up Britain's highest observation tower outside London, the Brighton i360. This afternoon, enjoy a **nostalgic trip back in time on the famous Bluebell Railway**.

Day 4: Excursion to the **historic town of Battle**, home to an Abbey and where the famous battle took place in 1066 or the **Cinque Port town of Rye**, with enchanting cobbled streets and beautifully preserved buildings from medieval, Tudor and Georgian times. Visit **Pashley Manor Gardens**, an award-winning, quintessential English garden, with a sumptuous blend of romantic landscaping, fountains and colourful displays or enjoy a nostalgic train journey through the Rother Valley on the **Kent & East Sussex Railway**.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



The Lansdowne Hotel ★★ ★

This traditional, imposing and family-run hotel is located on Eastbourne's sea front.

- 102 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Tea/coffee on arrival ➤ Bluebell Railway
- Pashley Manor Gardens or Kent & East Sussex Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ 8 singles - no supplement

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £329
May to Sep: Prices from: £349



NEW!

Southsea to Ryde Hovercraft

Hampshire Island Hopping & a 'Ticket to Ryde'

Hayling Island has a rich military history and is perfectly situated to visit maritime Portsmouth, charming Chichester, enjoy a harbour cruise and a unique hovercraft adventure!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Hayling Island for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a trip across the Solent today on the **world's only year round passenger hovercraft service**, whisking you from the shoreline at **Southsea** to the charming resort of **Ryde on the Isle of Wight**, with plenty of time to explore this quaint seaside town at leisure. Why not make this unique experience extra special with an additional **Meet the Pilot Experience** (not available in August) with a tour of the craft and a private Hovercraft demonstration on board.

Day 3: Nestled at the foot of the South Downs, visit the cathedral city of **Chichester** on market day. Cosmopolitan, fashionably elegant and unashamedly quirky, Chichester is made for exploring with its ancient circular walls, unique nooks and crannies. This afternoon, enjoy a relaxing and scenic **Chichester Harbour Cruise on a new boat, a solar-powered catamaran**.

Day 4: Explore the historic waterfront city of **Portsmouth** which is home to the unique Mary Rose Museum and other Historic Dockyard attractions, including HMS Victory and the Royal Naval Museum. For something more modern, take a panoramic trip up the 170ft high Spinnaker Tower with afternoon tea for a special treat. If time, enjoy a leisurely stroll in the gardens and along the Promenade in **Southsea**, home to a castle and the D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Chichester Harbour Cruise
- Hovercraft return crossing between Southsea and Ryde
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £289



Langstone Quays Resort ★★ ★

NEW!

Located in the Chichester Harbour Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on Hayling Island, this hotel offers a stunning harbour-side setting.

- 148 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

NEW!



Ryde

© Flickr - Simon Haytack

A Romantic Ryde on the Isle of Wight

With soaring cliffs, sandy beaches and bustling resorts, this charming island has been popular with holiday makers for centuries, plus a beloved haven for Queen Victoria.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Portsmouth for a short ferry crossing, and on to the resort of Ryde for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience a nostalgic trip back to the golden age of steam on the **Isle of Wight Steam Railway** in beautifully restored carriages, for a view of the Island's unspoilt countryside. Continue to the charming village of **Godshill**, with its thatched cottages, boutiques and tea rooms. Alternatively, visit the resort of **Ventnor** with its lush tropical gardens or **Shanklin**, with time for a wander through its quaint Old Village with thatched cottages and seaside gift shops.

Day 3: Explore your coastal location in the bustling resort of **Ryde**, with a traditional pier and promenade, boutiques, great cafes and restaurants. The railway and bus stations are both close by to help explore the island or for something a little different, **why not hop on the unique and amazing Hovercraft service** which can whisk you across the Solent to Southsea in just 10 minutes!

Day 4: Walk in the footsteps of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with a visit to the former royal residence of **Osborne House**. Explore the stately interiors and beautiful grounds leading down to the sea, with its own Swiss cottage imported for the royal children to play house in. This afternoon, continue to the lovely and unspoilt **West Wight**, from the charming port of **Yarmouth**, to the famous **Needles Landmark** – the most iconic scene on the island, and for the brave perhaps a closer view on the chairlift down to Alum Bay with its multi-coloured sand cliffs and beach below.

Day 5: Homeward bound.

The Royal Esplanade Hotel

★★★

A grand Victorian hotel on Ryde seafront, close to shops, eateries and public transport from buses to trains and hovercraft!

- 70 Bedrooms
- Lift

NEW!

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Welcome tea/coffee on arrival
- Return Ferry crossing Portsmouth-Fishbourne
- Isle of Wight Steam Railway return journey ➤ Osborne House
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ 8 singles – no supplement

May to Oct: Prices from: £355



Bombay Sapphire Distillery

© Flickr - John Nuttall

Hampshire - Steam, Gin & the New Forest

Experience historic Hampshire, a nostalgic railway, Jane Austen heritage, an iconic gin distillery & the New Forest.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Hampshire for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the historic streets of King Alfred's ancient capital of England, **Winchester**. Visit the Great Hall and King Arthur's Round Table, a fully restored working water mill and Winchester Cathedral, where Jane Austen is buried. Based at Laverstoke Mill, the **Bombay Sapphire Distillery** is in a conservation area with over 1000 years of history. The distillery showcases the care, skill and artistry behind every drop of Bombay Sapphire, and allows you to discover the flavours of the botanicals which make this gin so unique.

Day 3: Head to **Alresford**, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the **Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line**, through the lovely Hampshire countryside to Alton. This afternoon, you could visit nearby Jane Austen's House Museum at Chawton, where she did the majority of her mature writing and which still retains the charm of a village home or head to the **historic town of Bishop's Waltham**, which was selected by the bishops from Winchester Cathedral as the site of their palace in the 12th century.

Day 4: Excursion to the **wonderfully scenic New Forest National Park**, with its wild horses, picturesque towns and villages, idyllic glades and historic woodland. We include a visit to **Beaulieu, home to the National Motor Museum, Palace House & Gardens, Beaulieu Abbey and World of Top Gear**, with unlimited rides on the Monorail and veteran bus. Alternatively, you could visit the award-winning Exbury Gardens or head to the characterful historic city of Salisbury, home to a magnificent cathedral with England's tallest spire.

Day 5: Head for home.

Hampshire Court Hotel

★★★★

This modern hotel, near Basingstoke, has an indoor pool.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Norton Park Hotel ★★★★★

Set in 54 acres of beautiful parkland, close to Winchester.

- 165 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Beaulieu ➤ Bombay Sapphire Distillery
- Mid-Hants Railway – 'Watercress Line'
- Leisure & spa facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £313



Bournemouth

Best of Bournemouth – Coast & Country

Bournemouth's seven miles of sandy beaches need no introduction, but add a great new hotel, a harbour cruise and picture perfect New Forest for an amazing holiday!

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Bournemouth for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Spend today exploring the beauty and wildlife of the picturesque **New Forest**, and look out for the wild ponies as you admire the chocolate box scenery. Perhaps include a visit to Beaulieu, home to the National Motor Museum, Palace House & Gardens, an Abbey and World of Top Gear, or for a serene stop, try the beautiful 18th century ship-building village of Buckler's Hard. After a wander by the carefully preserved houses, perhaps add a visit to the museum, café and hotel or head down to the shore for a cruise along the beautiful Beaulieu River itself.

Day 3: Discover **Poole's bustling Quayside** with its views, shops and cafés, the historic old town or if you prefer, travel the short distance to the picturesque ancient town of Wimborne Minster. This afternoon, enjoy the natural beauty of **Poole Harbour**, the second largest natural harbour in the world, on a relaxing and refreshing **cruise around the harbour and its islands**.

Day 4: Enjoy a free day to explore all that **Bournemouth** has to offer. Relax by the sea, visit the nearby Italian style Victorian villa which is now the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum, browse the town centre shops for souvenirs or take an open top bus tour for a bird's eye view! For something more traditional, enjoy fish & chips and an ice cream on the pier, or try your luck with some traditional arcade games.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time for home today.

Please ask for details of a 'Winter Warmer' tour in March and please see page 29 for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour at this hotel.

Mercure Bournemouth Queens Hotel ★★★★★

NEW!

This classic hotel's major refurbishment offers a wonderful balance of comfort and beautiful décor, close to the popular East Cliff.

- 109 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Welcome tea/coffee on arrival
- Poole Harbour Cruise ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £255



Dartmouth Steam Railway

www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk

The English Riviera & South Devon

South Devon beckons with classic seaside resorts, a stunning steam train journey and picturesque Dartmoor scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Torquay or Paignton for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Excursion to the historic, **maritime city of Plymouth**, famous for Sir Frances Drake, who apparently finished a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, before heading out to sea and defeating the Spanish Armada. Return on a picturesque journey through the heart of the **Dartmoor National Park**, famous for its ponies and stunning scenery.

Day 3: From Paignton, board a **steam train along a stunning stretch of coastline** to Kingswear, from where you catch the **foot passenger ferry to the historic maritime town of Dartmouth**, with its ancient narrow streets, boutique shops and art galleries. In the afternoon, you could enjoy spectacular views of castles, the Britannia Royal Naval College, Sir Walter Raleigh's Boathouse, Greenway Quay and the estate of the late Dame Agatha Christie, on a one hour circular harbour/river cruise from Dartmouth or continue to the historic town of Totnes.

Day 4: Soak up the atmosphere, the parks, the gardens and all that **Torquay and Paignton** have to offer or alternatively, travel to **Brixham**, a traditional fishing port with a beautiful harbour. Here you will find pretty colour-washed cottages, narrow, winding streets that overlook the harbour, rows of colourful craft and a replica of the Golden Hind, the vessel in which Sir Francis Drake circumnavigated the globe.

Day 5: Reluctantly, it's time for home.

Please see page 28 for a 'Cosy Break' tour and page 29 for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour at the Headland Hotel, Torquay.

Headland Hotel ★★★★★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Queens Hotel ★★★★★

Lovely, welcoming hotel close to Paignton's town centre and seafront.

- 75 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway
- Foot passenger ferry from Kingswear ➤ Entertainment on 3 nights
- Leisure facilities ➤ 6 singles - no supplement

Apr, May & Oct: Prices from: £263
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £299



Horse-drawn Canal Trip

Devon & Somerset Steam & Cruise

Visit two of the most beautiful and scenic counties in Britain, whilst relaxing on a cruise and a nostalgic train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Tiverton or Bridgwater for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Tour through the delightful **Exmoor National Park** to the unique **medieval village of Dunster** which has over 200 listed buildings (tight bend in village may not be suitable for some longer coaches), before continuing to the coastal resort of **Minehead**. Enjoy a nostalgic steam train ride through the glorious Somerset countryside on the **West Somerset Railway**, the longest steam heritage railway.

Day 3: Explore the historic **market town of Bridgwater**, which has fine architecture and a rich legacy as a port and centre of commerce, or the **ancient market town of Tiverton**, which sits in a delightful setting on the banks of the River Exe, before watching the world go by very peacefully along the idyllic Grand Western Canal on the last **horse-drawn barge trip** in the South West - a little bit of 'heaven' in Devon!

Day 4: If based in Bridgwater, you could head to the coast and visit **Minehead, Burnham-on-Sea or Weston-super-Mare**, or head inland to mystical **Glastonbury** and explore **Wells**, England's smallest city, with its cobbled streets, magnificent cathedral and unique moated Bishop's Palace. If based in Tiverton, you could head to the captivating and stylish **Regency resort of Sidmouth**, situated on the Jurassic Coast, England's first natural World Heritage Site, before continuing to the seaside resort of Exmouth, where artists and poets have been inspired over the centuries, for a relaxing River Exe circular cruise, with live commentary on the sights, history and wildlife of the surrounding area.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Tiverton Hotel ★★★

Offering a warm West Country welcome, it is ideally located for touring Devon and Somerset.

- 69 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Mercure Bridgwater Hotel ★★★★★

This modern hotel is set in the heart of historic Bridgwater.

- 119 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Horse-drawn canal cruise
- West Somerset Railway

May to Sep: Prices from: £319



Minehead

NEW!

Minehead & the Somerset Coast

Explore the scenic Somerset Coastline and Exmoor National Park on this lovely new tour, along with a nostalgic train journey through the glorious countryside.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Minehead for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head along the coast into North Devon where Exmoor meets the sea to the **small rural town of Lynton and the coastal village of Lynmouth**, otherwise known as England's 'little Switzerland'. Take a relaxing walk along the coastline in Lynmouth or take a trip up to Lynton on the famous Lynton & Lynmouth funicular Cliff Railway, which is the highest and the steepest totally water powered railway in the world. If time allows, continue to the resort of Ilfracombe, with its picturesque historic harbour, dramatic cliff-top scenery, stunning beaches and coves including the famous Tunnels Beaches.

Day 3: Enjoy a nostalgic steam train ride from Minehead to Bishops Lydeard through the glorious Somerset countryside on the **West Somerset Railway**, the longest steam heritage railway, before heading back towards Minehead by coach to the unique **medieval village of Dunster** which has over 200 listed buildings and an impressive castle.

Day 4: Free day to explore the lovely coastal resort of **Minehead** with its coastal path, beaches and beautiful coastline. You could take a boat trip from its historic harbour, enjoy a relaxing stroll or watch the world go by on the seafront or in the flower-filled Blenheim Gardens. There is also a 14th Century church to explore, as well as the tree-lined Avenue to visit the lovely selection of tea rooms, pubs and independent shops.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Northfield Hotel

★★★

NEW!

Located on the lower slopes of North Hill in Minehead, in nearly 2 acres of landscaped gardens, it has wonderful scenic views of the coastline.

- 30 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ West Somerset Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights
- 6 singles – no supplement

May & Oct: Prices from: £330
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £382



Fistral Beach

Taste of Cornwall

'Spring' into Cornwall with this fantastic Taste of Cornwall package! With wonderful sea views overlooking Fistral Beach in a quieter part of **Newquay**, the Fistral Beach Hotel offers excellent accommodation and leisure facilities.

Highlights include:

- Cornish Cream Tea on arrival
- Pre-dinner glass of Cornish cider on first evening
- 5-course taster menu with some of the best seafood Cornwall has to offer with a glass of Camel Valley sparkling wine on Thursday evening
- Live entertainment on 2 nights

Fistral Beach Hotel ★★★★★

Overlooking Fistral Beach away from the bustle of Newquay.

- 71 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- Leisure facilities

Feb & Mar: Prices from: £325



York

Yuletide York & Castle Howard

Visit **York** for a unique Yuletide experience with its narrow cobbled streets, medieval buildings, historic Shambles and magnificent Minster, which all help create a magical festive atmosphere in one of Europe's most charismatic cities. Experience the magic of Christmas at **Castle Howard**. This enchanting home with its lavishly decorated rooms and stunning architecture, will be adorned with elegant decorations, whilst magnificent Christmas trees, decked with hundreds of baubles and lights, lead the way through the dramatic interiors, beautifully lit by fire and candlelight.

Burn Hall Hotel ★★★

- 94 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Queens Hotel, York ★★★★★

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB
- Castle Howard
- 8 singles - no supplement (Burn Hall Hotel)

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £199



Torquay

English Riviera Cosy Break

Enjoy a late winter/early spring tour to the English Riviera and discover the delights of Torbay with this 'Cosy Break'. Experience the charming seaside resorts of **Torquay** and Paignton, maybe a trip on the Dartmouth Steam Railway, the historic towns of Totnes and Dartmouth and the maritime city of Plymouth.

Highlights include:

- Welcome tea/coffee and drinks reception
- Bingo with tea/coffee & biscuits on one afternoon
- Entertainment on 3 nights

Please see page 29 for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour at this hotel.

Headland Hotel ★★★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement
- Leisure facilities

Mar: Prices from: £229



Wye Valley Turkey & Tinsel

Enjoy some pre-Christmas festive cheer on this Turkey & Tinsel tour to the scenic **Wye Valley & the Royal Forest of Dean**. You could visit the cathedral city of Hereford, the historic towns of Monmouth and Chepstow, Gloucester Quays Victorian Christmas Market, Regency Cheltenham and Bristol's German Christmas Market.

Highlights include:

- Meet & greet with mulled wine and mince pies • Visit from Santa
- Bucks Fizz served before dinner on 'New Year's Eve'
- Entertainment on 3 nights

Bells Hotel & Country Club ★★★★★

A warm welcome is assured at this lovely hotel in Coleford.

- 53 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £245



NEW!

Eastbourne

Eastbourne Holly & Mistletoe

Discover the delights and some pre-Christmas festive cheer on this Holly & Mistletoe tour at the very popular Lansdowne Hotel on Eastbourne's seafront. Take time out to relax in the seaside resort of **Eastbourne**, plus you could visit the historic town of Lewes and the vibrant and colourful Regency resort of Brighton.

Highlights include:

- Complimentary tea/coffee on arrival
- Traditional Christmas Dinner on second night
- Christmas themed in-house entertainment on 2 nights
- Live entertainment on 2 nights

The Lansdowne Hotel ★★ ★

This traditional, imposing and family-run hotel is located on Eastbourne's sea front.

- 102 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 8 singles - no supplement

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £265



Bournemouth Turkey & Tinsel

Enjoy a festive Turkey & Tinsel break on the Dorset coast, in the popular seaside resort of **Bournemouth**. Excursions could include a picturesque trip through the wonderful New Forest, a visit to Poole with its quayside and old town and the historic cathedral city of Salisbury, but don't forget to spend some time exploring Bournemouth itself.

Highlights include:

- Welcome tea/coffee & mince pies on arrival
- Traditional Christmas Dinner on one night
- Glass of Prosecco with dinner on one night
- Nightly entertainment

Please ask for details of a 'Winter Warmer' tour in March at this hotel.

Mercurie Bournemouth Queens Hotel ★★ ★★

NEW!

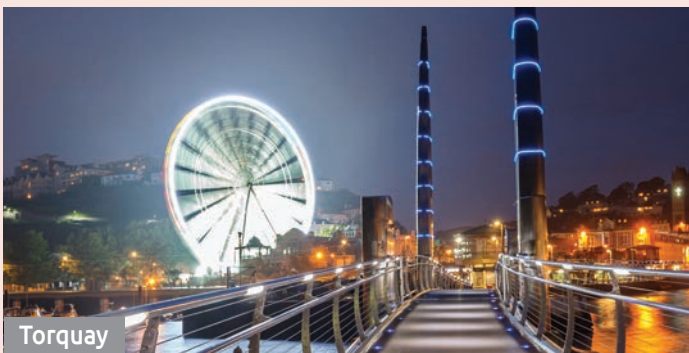
Classic hotel near to East Cliff.

- 109 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £235



Torquay

English Riviera Turkey & Tinsel

Surround yourself in the warmth of Christmas spirit and discover the delights of Torbay and the English Riviera with this Turkey & Tinsel themed break. Experience the charming seaside resort of **Torquay** and Paignton lit up for Christmas, the historic towns of Totnes and Dartmouth with their individual shops and the maritime city of Plymouth.

Highlights include:

- Welcome tea/coffee & biscuits and drinks reception
- Afternoon quiz on one day
- Visit from Santa and gift
- Entertainment on 3 nights

Please see page 28 for a 'Cosy Break' tour at this hotel.

Headland Hotel ★★ ★

Formerly the Russian Royal Family's home in Torquay, it sits majestically looking out to sea.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- 6 singles - no supplement
- Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £235



Cornish Turkey & Tinsel and complimentary bar

Enjoy a festive Turkey & Tinsel break in Cornwall, along with a complimentary bar, on selected brands, each evening in the hotel. With wonderful sea views overlooking Fistral Beach in a more relaxing part of **Newquay**, the Esplanade Hotel offers excellent leisure facilities.

Highlights include:

- Sherry reception with mince pies
- Visit from Santa
- Traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings on one evening
- Complimentary bar, 6pm-9pm each evening, on selected brands
- Nightly entertainment

Please ask for details of a Cornish All Inclusive tour based at this hotel.

Esplanade Hotel ★★ ★★

Overlooking Fistral Beach away from the bustle of Newquay.

- 90 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £319

Wales

30 • WALES



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Anglesey

Snowdonia, Anglesey & Puffin Island Cruise

Discover the spectacular scenery of the Snowdonia National Park, a heritage rail journey and the wonderful coastline of Anglesey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Caernarfon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head to **Anglesey** and explore the quaint, historic streets of Beaumaris, with its 17th century Courthouse and 13th century moated castle, as well as enjoy a 90 minute cruise via the Menai Straits to **Puffin Island**, a bird sanctuary home to a wide variety of wildlife. If time allows, visit Llanfair PG or the hidden gardens at Plas Cadnant. Alternatively, enjoy a **full day guided tour of Anglesey**, wrapped around by 125 miles of sandy beaches and soaring rocky cliffs. Renowned for its wildlife and maritime history, there are sleepy fishing villages, hidden coves, stately homes, picturesque gardens, ancient religious places of worship and megalithic monuments to behold on this island of wonders.

Day 3: Enjoy an excursion into the **heart of Snowdonia to the lovely village of Llanberis**, where you could visit the National Slate Museum and step back in time to uncover the secrets of slate. This afternoon, enjoy either a narrow gauge steam train ride on the **Llanberis Lake Railway** or head to the summit of Snowdon, weather permitting, on the **Snowdon Mountain Railway**.

Day 4: Explore the medieval walled town of **Caernarfon** with its mighty 13th century castle or you could board a train for a single journey on the Welsh Highland Railway through the spectacular Snowdonia National Park. Alternatively, visit the historic town of Conwy and wander 'around the world in 80 acres' at Bodnant Garden.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please see page 33 for a 'Winter Warmer' tour at the Celtic Royal Hotel.



Celtic Royal Hotel ★★★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Puffin Island/Menai Straits Cruise or Guided Tour of Anglesey
- Llanberis Lake Railway or Snowdon Mountain Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £309
May to Sep: Prices from: £345



Welsh Highland Railway

Great Little Trains of North Wales

Enjoy memorable journeys on the Welsh Highland and Ffestiniog Railways through Snowdonia's stunning scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Caernarfon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the **medieval walled town of Caernarfon**, with its mighty 13th century castle, and enjoy a single journey on the **Welsh Highland Railway** through the spectacular **Snowdonia National Park** scenery to Beddgelert, before continuing by coach to the historic harbour town of **Porthmadog**, which has no less than three narrow gauge railway stations.

Day 3: Excursion into the very heart of Snowdonia to **Llanberis**, which is home to the fascinating National Slate Museum and two narrow gauge railways, one which could take you on a relaxing trip around the lake and one which could take you to the very summit of Snowdon. Continue through the 'Pass of Llanberis' to the delightful village of **Betws-y-Coed**, which literally means 'sanctuary in the wood'.

Day 4: Marvel at the wonderful scenery on a memorable nostalgic rail trip on the famous **Ffestiniog Railway**, which offers a magical combination of spectacular landscape and historic railway. Explore the harbour town of Porthmadog or the resort of Criccieth, with its two beaches separated by a spectacular headland castle or alternatively, why not visit the unique Italianate village of Portmeirion, where the cult 1960's TV series 'The Prisoner' was filmed.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Please see page 33 for a 'Winter Warmer' tour at the Celtic Royal Hotel.



Celtic Royal Hotel ★★★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Ffestiniog Railway
- Welsh Highland Railway ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £338
May to Sep: Prices from: £374



Vale of Rheidol Railway

Heart of Wales Steam & Cruise

Experience an elegant Victorian spa town, a scenic train journey, a relaxing canal cruise and the beautiful and unspoilt Elan Valley.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llandrindod Wells for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Escape to **Elan Valley and its visitor centre**, a world away from normal life, for a **coach guided tour** of this beautiful and unspoilt area made even more compelling by the dams and reservoirs which together create a wonderful living landscape. Home to the National Cycle Collection, explore **Llandrindod Wells**, whose towers and ornate ironwork reflect its heyday as a Victorian spa town.

Day 3: Head to the Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the **Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth**, which is home to beaches, a lovely Promenade, a funicular railway, castle ruins and the National Library of Wales, and enjoy an unforgettable and nostalgic journey through some wonderful scenery on the **Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge steam railway**.

Day 4: Experience the beautiful and diverse scenery of the **Brecon Beacons National Park**, including **Brecon**, with its medieval cathedral and narrow streets full of craft and antique shops, and a **relaxing cruise through a lock and over an aqueduct on the historical Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**, a fantastic feat of engineering which was built before roads and railways. A buffet lunch or cream tea can also be included, if required. Alternatively, you could visit **Hay-on-Wye**, which has become a world famous second-hand book centre.



The Metropole Hotel

★★★★

This lovely family-owned hotel is in the heart of Llandrindod Wells.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Vale of Rheidol Railway ➤ Brecon Canal Cruise
- Elan Valley Visitor Centre & coach guided tour
- Entertainment on 1 night ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr: Prices from: £334
May to Oct: Prices from: £342



St Davids

Pembrokeshire Coastlines & Tenby

Experience stunning sea views, Britain's only coastal National Park, an enchanting castle and the seaside resort of Tenby.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Cliff Hotel & Spa, near Cardigan for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Surrounded by some of the finest coastline in Europe is **St Davids**, the **smallest cathedral city in Britain** and a popular location for pilgrims and artists alike. Adjacent to its 12th century cathedral stand the magnificent ruins of the medieval Bishop's Palace. Enjoy a visit to **enchanting Picton Castle**, near Haverfordwest, which is a half fortified manor house and half medieval castle, set in 40 acres of stunning gardens.

Day 3: Excursion through the **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park** to **Tenby**, one of the UK's finest coastal holiday resorts, which has retained its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour and beautiful beaches. Tenby is steeped in ancient history and surrounded by an imposing medieval stone wall. If time allows, continue to the picturesque seaside village of Saundersfoot, with its historic harbour.

Day 4: Visit the lovely market town of **Cardigan**, with its unspoilt townscape and rich heritage, before continuing through the picturesque Teifi Valley to the **National Wool Museum**. Let the story of wool, once the most important industry in Wales, weave its magic in this unique working museum. Alternatively, head north to the Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth and take a nostalgic journey on the Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge steam railway.

Day 5: Sadly, it's time to head for home.

Please note that we can offer 'House Party' packages at this hotel in February/March and please see page 33 for a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour at this hotel.



The Cliff Hotel & Spa ★★★

This lovely hotel near Cardigan, has stunning sea views and cliff-top walks.

- 76 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Picton Castle & Gardens
- National Wool Museum ➤ Entertainment on 3 nights
- Leisure facilities

Apr, May, Jun & Oct: Prices from: £303
Aug: Prices from: £357



Tenby

Gower Peninsula & Tenby

Discover Britain's first 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', the resort of Tenby, a wonderful garden or a nostalgic train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llanelli or Carmarthen for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sheer beauty of the Gower today with a visit to the **Gower Heritage Centre**, which offers crafts, a watermill and a museum, but most of all enjoy a **coach guided tour of the Gower Peninsula**. Ensure you visit the **picturesque Victorian seaside village of Mumbles**, with its boutiques, galleries and potteries, and if time allows call in to the regenerated Swansea Bay and Maritime Quarter, home to the National Waterfront Museum.

Day 3: Excursion into Pembrokeshire to the **historic seaside resort of Tenby**, with its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour and beautiful beaches. Alternatively, you could try something completely different and head into the southern foothills of the Brecon Beacons to Penderyn Distillery, home of the one and only single malt Welsh Whisky or enjoy spectacular scenery on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

Day 4: Explore **Carmarthen, the oldest town in Wales**, with its popular Wednesday outdoor market, medieval lanes and Georgian buildings. This afternoon the choice is yours, as you could enjoy a nostalgic heritage train journey on the **Gwili Steam Railway** or visit the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**, which has been voted 'No 1 garden to visit in Wales' by BBC Gardeners' World, with its stunning range of themed gardens and the world's largest single-span glasshouse, plus it's also home to the British Bird of Prey Centre.

Day 5: Head for home.

The Diplomat Hotel & Spa ★★★

A family-run hotel near Llanelli, it combines warm hospitality, with style and sophistication.

- 50 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Ivy Bush Royal Hotel ★★★

Set in the heart of Carmarthen, it combines old world charm with modern facilities.

- 70 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Gower Heritage Centre and Guided Tour
- National Botanic Garden of Wales or Gwili Steam Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Leisure facilities (Diplomat Hotel)

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £302



Snowdonia

Snowdonian Winter Warmer

Spectacular Snowdonia scenery awaits on this Winter Warmer package based at the excellent Celtic Royal Hotel in **Caernarfon**. Visit the elegant Victorian seaside resort of Llandudno and explore the Snowdonian towns and villages.

Highlights include:

- Punch or mulled wine reception on arrival day
- Tea/coffee and mince pies on one afternoon
- Christmas dinner on one evening
- Indoor Treasure Hunt
- Entertainment on three nights

Celtic Royal Hotel ★★★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Inclusions as above ➤ Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £209



Pembrokeshire Coastlines Turkey & Tinsel

Wonderful sea views await at the Cliff Hotel, close to the historic town of Cardigan where the counties of Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion meet. Visit Cardigan, the seaside resort of Tenby and St David's, the smallest cathedral city in Britain.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine and mince pies
- One hours free use of the spa, per person per day
- 50% discount on selected drinks between 6pm and 9pm each evening
- Christmas and New Year themed dinners
- Entertainment on three nights

The Cliff Hotel & Spa ★★★

This lovely hotel near Cardigan, has stunning sea views and cliff-top walks.

- 76 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Inclusions as above ➤ Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £255

Isle of Man

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Irresistible Isle of Man

The Isle of Man is a hidden treasure in the Irish Sea that's ideal for group tours. This popular tour combines heritage sites, coastal resorts and a visit to the capital.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry, Heysham to Douglas for 4 nights.

Day 2: Board the **Steam Railway** as it carries you through the Manx countryside to the resort of Port Erin. You could visit **Cregneash Folk Village**, an historic chapter in island life. At the **Sound Cafe** and Visitor Centre, there are wonderful views of the Calf of Man, home to colonies of sea birds and diverse marine life. On the return to Douglas why not visit **Castletown** to see Castle Rushen and the Old School House.

Day 3: Spend the morning exploring the island's capital, **Douglas**, home to the award-winning Manx Museum. After lunch you could visit the iconic **Lady Isabella (Laxey Wheel)**, the world's largest working waterwheel and the island's most famous icon. You could also catch the mountain railway up to the summit of Snaefell.

Day 4: Follow the Isle of Man's **famous TT course**. Head to '**Royal**' **Ramsey**, a working harbour town. A detour could be made to Jurby, to visit the **Isle of Man Motor Museum**, which is housed on a former RAF base. It has grown into a must see destination for fans of two, four (and more) wheeled vehicles. Continue to Peel, an attractive resort sitting grandly at the mouth of the harbour, complete with castle, sandy beach, heritage centre and smoked kipper factory. Time permitting, why not visit Tynwald Hill, home of the 1000 year old Manx Parliament.

Day 5: Ferry to Heysham and journey home.

Empress Hotel ★★★

An elegant hotel enjoying a central location on the promenade in Douglas.
• 102 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Return Ferry
- Isle of Man Steam Railway to Port Erin

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £339
May to Sep: Prices from: £399



Rail-A-Way on the Isle of Man

Explore the Isle of Man from top to bottom on its heritage trains & trams. This popular tour is a wonderful way to discover the island's countryside, coast and attractions whilst travelling on its fabulous heritage railways.

Railway journeys included:

Isle of Man Steam Railway – Experience the Age of Steam with a journey along the stunning South coast from Douglas to Port Erin.

Manx Electric Railway – A scenic journey up the East Coast with numerous choices between a one-way journey from Ramsey to Laxey, or Laxey to Douglas or a return journey between Douglas and Laxey.

Snaefell Mountain Railway – Enjoy the climb to the island's highest point aboard the Snaefell Mountain Railway.

The little trains package can be based at any of our featured hotels. Call us for details and prices.



Rutland Hotel ★★★

Promenade hotel enjoying stunning sea views over Douglas Bay.
• 64 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Return Ferry
- Rail Journeys as shown above
- Entertainment

May to Sep: Prices from: £379



Spring & Autumn Specials

Here's something special for your Spring or Autumn programme! An island adventure offering excellent value for money, this popular seasonal special package based in the centre of Douglas at either the Chesterhouse Hotel or Rutland Hotel brings you coast, countryside and curiosities, plus musical entertainment on 2 nights.

Spend your days exploring the capital Douglas, the harbour towns of Peel and Port Erin and a host of heritage sites including the Laxey Wheel, Rushen Abbey and Cregneash Folk Park. A visit could be made to the Isle of Man Motor Museum which has rapidly grown into a must see destination for fans of two, four (and more) wheeled vehicles.

Relax at your hotel in the evening with fine food and entertainment, and seeing as the Bee Gees were born on the island, the music should be good!



Rutland Hotel ★★★

• 64 Bedrooms • Lift

Chesterhouse Hotel ★★★

• 67 Bedrooms • Lift

Both hotels are perfectly positioned to explore Douglas seafront and town centre.

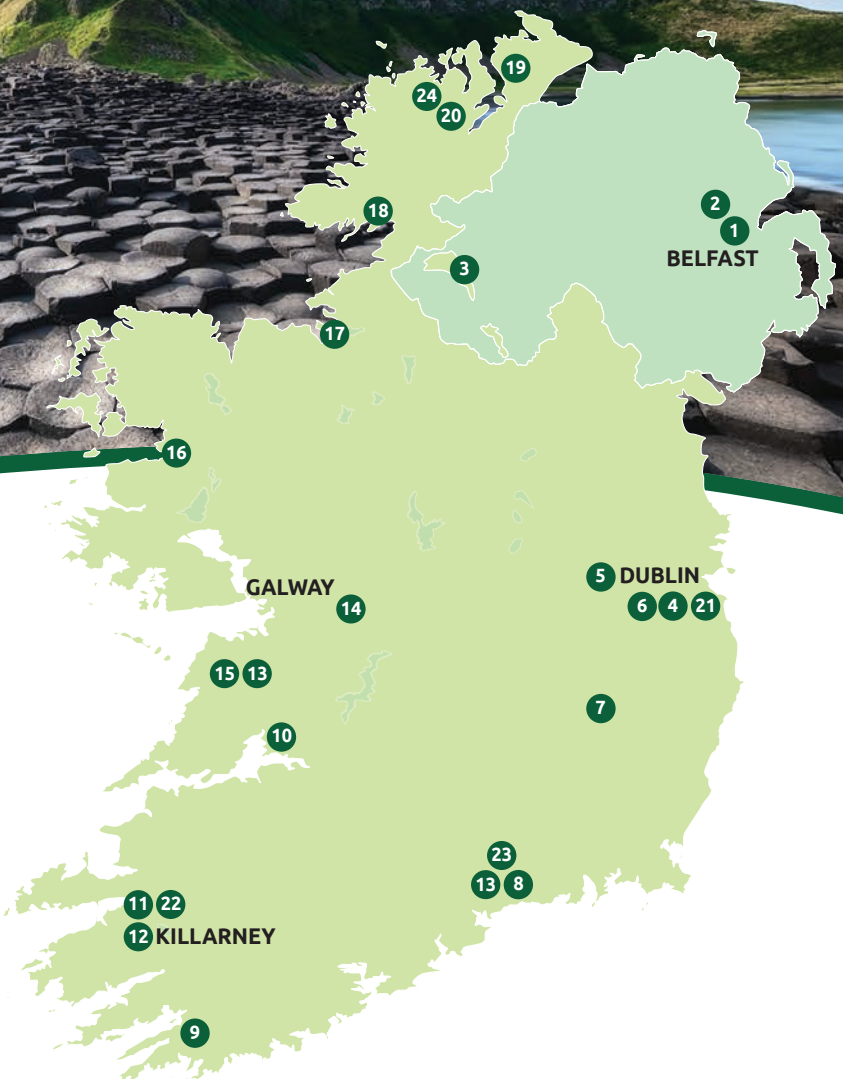
Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Return Ferry
- Entertainment on 2 nights

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £319

Northern Ireland & Ireland

The Irish already know how good Ireland is, but now it's your turn to discover this fabulous country! Layered with thousands of years of history, dressed in magnificent scenery and inhabited by the friendliest people, Ireland is a destination not to be missed from your tour programme. UK citizens visiting Ireland will continue to enjoy free movement in accordance with the Common Travel Area arrangements in place, which means that passports are NOT required when travelling to Ireland by sea.



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Grand Tour of Ireland

A once in a lifetime visit to the Emerald Isle! Enjoy the opportunity to see Ireland from top to bottom, from the Antrim Coast & the Giant's Causeway, Donegal and Galway to fabulous Killarney & the Ring of Kerry.



Ring of Kerry

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Head to **Belfast** for a 2 night stay, either via Holyhead & Dublin or from Cairnryan.

Day 2: We recommend a Guided City Tour to explore Northern Ireland's buzzing capital city that stands on the banks of the River Lagan, and where history's most famous ship RMS Titanic was built.

Day 3: Drive the breathtaking **Antrim Coast Road** to the world famous **Giant's Causeway**. Continue along the scenic north coast and then down via Derry to Donegal for 2 nights.

Day 4: Either enjoy a free day in **Donegal** town with its castle, abbey ruins, traditional shops and boat trip around the bay, or drive through glorious Glenveagh National Park to the Atlantic Coast.

Day 5: Leave Donegal and our journey pauses at Mullaghmore where Lord Mountbatten died in a bomb explosion in 1979. Continue into **Galway** with a short stop to explore the city known as the 'City of Tribes' which has a fascinating, cultural and maritime history, before arriving in **Ennistymon**, Co. Clare for your next 2 nights.

Day 6: Today discover the **Cliffs of Moher** and the **Burren**. You could include a Cliffs of Moher Cruise or visits could be made to the Burren Visitor Centre and the official Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre for breath taking views 700 feet above the Atlantic Ocean.

Day 7: You'll find the medieval masterpiece of Bunratty Castle en route to **Limerick**, birthplace of broadcasting legend Terry Wogan and actor Richard Harris or visit **Adare** and the Foynes Flying Boat Museum before

reaching Killarney, your base for the next 3 nights.

Day 8: Enjoy a free day in **Killarney**, where you can ride on a traditional jaunting car and a pleasure cruise on Lough Leane. Muckross House is delightful, and once played host to Queen Victoria.

Day 9: The **Ring of Kerry**, with its magnificent coast and countryside, is the best known scenic drive in Ireland. The Beara and Dingle peninsulas offer excellent alternatives and the scenery is equally spectacular; each can easily be reached from Killarney.

Day 10: It's a short drive to **Co. Cork**, with the chance to kiss the Blarney Stone or visit Cobh Harbour, the final port of call for RMS Titanic. Head north to Co. Tipperary, with its imposing fortress, the Rock of Cashel, and on to the Fair City of Dublin with a host of landmarks, shops and eateries to suit all tastes and appetites. Enjoy a final overnight close to Dublin.

Day 11: All aboard the Dublin ferry for your return journey to Holyhead, and home.

***OPTION:** If South Wales is your preferred route home, why not spend your final overnight in Waterford or Wexford instead, allowing more time to explore Ireland's southern coast - the choice is yours.*

If you require a Weekly Rest Period for your driver during this tour, we can arrange coach hire, so call us for details and prices.



Donegal Castle

Tour Includes:

- 10 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Entertainment (Killarney)
- Leisure facilities (Killarney)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £TBC
May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Antrim Coast

Northern Ireland
Embrace a Giant Spirit

The Best of Northern Ireland

Our popular five day tour to Northern Ireland brings you Belfast, the birthplace of Titanic; the Giant's Causeway & the Antrim Coast and the delightful Hillsborough Castle, Northern Ireland's Royal Residence.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from either Cairnryan or Holyhead, and make your way to Belfast for a 4 night stay at the Stormont Hotel.

Day 2: Northern Ireland's capital **Belfast** has become increasingly popular as a touring destination for groups. Begin with a **guided tour through the city's four 'quarters'**, taking in the many highlights including City Hall, Queens University, the Opera House and the Botanic Gardens. This afternoon, either enjoy free time to explore the city for yourself or pre-book a visit to one of the leading local attractions such as Crumlin Road Gaol, Titanic Belfast or the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

Day 3: For one of the most remarkable ocean drives take the **Antrim Coast Road** with its unspoilt views of the Irish Sea and Glens of Antrim. Arrive at the **Giant's Causeway**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** famous for its unique volcanic stone pillars and shrouded in folklore and fairy tales.

Day 4: A rare treat today with a visit to the Royal Residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion, tea & scones will be served, before time to enjoy the stunning gardens and grounds or explore Hillsborough town itself with its Georgian architecture. Head south into the Ards Peninsula where winding roads and white cottages create a landscape in miniature, before continuing to Portaferry, a little fishing village at the tip of the peninsula, opening to **Strangford Lough**. Take the ferry to Strangford and onto **Downpatrick**, home to a dedicated visitor centre reflecting the life of Ireland's patron saint, with his grave reputed to be in the grounds of the adjoining Cathedral.

Day 5: Time for the return ferry either from Belfast or Dublin, and your journey home.

Stormont Hotel ★★★★★

A stylish hotel in Belfast, opposite the grounds of the Parliament Building.

- 105 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Giant's Causeway ➤ Guided Belfast City Tour
- Hillsborough Castle – guided tour and tea & scones

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £429
May to Sep: Prices from: £439



Hillsborough Castle

Northern Ireland
Embrace a Giant Spirit

Northern Ireland's Royal Heritage

A rare opportunity to take tea at Hillsborough Castle, the King's official residence, explore delightful Glenarm Castle Gardens and discover the delights of Belfast.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Catch the ferry from Holyhead or Cairnryan, and head on to the Dunadry Hotel near Antrim for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A rare treat today with a visit to the King's official residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion, tea & scones will be served, before time to enjoy the stunning gardens and grounds or explore Hillsborough town itself with its Georgian architecture. Head south into the Ards Peninsula where winding roads and white cottages create a landscape in miniature, before continuing to Portaferry, a little fishing village at the tip of the peninsula, opening to **Strangford Lough**. Take the ferry to Strangford and onto **Downpatrick**, home to a dedicated visitor centre reflecting the life of Ireland's patron saint, with his grave reputed to be in the grounds of the adjoining Cathedral.

Day 3: A day in the fascinating and industrious city of **Belfast** offers a wide range of attractions to suit all tastes. Choose from City Hall, the Botanic Gardens, the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Titanic Belfast, Crumlin Road Gaol and the National Trust owned Crown Liquor Saloon and many more.

Day 4: Head up through the Glens of Antrim to visit the delightful **Walled Garden at Glenarm Castle**. Originally designed to supply produce for the castle table, the garden is now filled with exciting flowers and specimen plants adding great colour to this charming setting. Continue along the Antrim Coast Road for magnificent sea views.

Day 5: Ferry from Belfast or Dublin, and complete the journey home.



Dunadry Hotel ★★★★★

Once home to paper and linen mills, this elegant hotel has a fascinating past.

- 83 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Hillsborough Castle – guided tour and tea & scones
- Glenarm Castle Gardens
- Welcome tea/coffee & shortbread at hotel ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £TBC



Fermanagh Lakelands

Ireland's Hidden Treasure – the Fermanagh Lakelands

This landscape of crystal clear lakes adorned with islands and peninsulas makes the perfect retreat, whilst staying in an elegant 18th century manor house and enjoying a sunset dinner cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Take the afternoon ferry from Holyhead to Dublin, and continue onto your overnight stay.

Day 2: Spend this morning exploring **Dublin** before heading north through the ancient landscapes of Navan and Cavan, to the lakeland county of Fermanagh for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: This morning we head to the lovely **Blessingbourne Country Estate** for a guided tour of the house and gardens with its fascinating history, by the lady of the manor. We finish the tour with tea and homemade cakes. This evening, enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a **sunset dinner cruise on lovely Lough Erne**.

Day 4: Relax in the hotel before a visit to the **Ulster American Folk Park**, one of the country's major museums. Here you'll experience the epic story of Ireland's emigration from the thatched cottages of Ulster to the American Frontier, brought to life through costumed re-enactments. This afternoon, visit **Belleek Pottery**, Ireland's oldest pottery having produced delicate Parian china for over 150 years.

Day 5: **Enniskillen** is built on a natural island between Upper and Lower Lough Erne. Include a visit to its prominent castle, home to the Royal Fusiliers or discover a collection of arts and crafts boutiques in the Buttermarket. Travel back to Dublin for a final overnight.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin back to Holyhead and home.



Manor House Country Hotel ★★★★★

A stunning hotel which was a former manor house, combining traditional elegance with modern facilities in Killadeas.

- 81 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Sunset dinner cruise ➤ Entertainment on one night
- Belleek Pottery ➤ Ulster American Folk Park
- Blessingbourne Estate including tea & scones ➤ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £499



Powerscourt Estate

Ireland's Glorious Gardens

Co. Wicklow, known as the 'Garden of Ireland', is home to some stunning gardens from the formal grandeur of Powerscourt to the natural beauty of Mount Usher on the banks of the River Varty.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Holyhead for the ferry to Dublin, and on to Enniskerry for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A leisurely day with free time after breakfast to explore the lovely village of Enniskerry before your included visit to the **Powerscourt Estate**, considered one of the world's greatest gardens, with international collections, ornate statuary, inspired designs and magnificent views of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Day 3: Head to the **Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens**, the country's horse breeding centre which has recently had an investment of over three million. A guided tour of the paddocks, stables and the new interactive museum reveals the secrets of its success, while contained within the grounds are the Japanese Gardens established in 1900 at the height of the Edwardian penchant for Orientalism. From horses to horticulture, this is one of Ireland's true treasures.

Day 4: Start with a scenic drive through the **Wicklow National Park**, with its forests and heather-topped hills and travel through Roundwood and Laragh to Glendalough, an ancient monastic site established by St Kevin. Continue on to the Vale of Clara and Avoca, which was the setting for the popular BBC series 'Ballykissangel'. Home to the **Avoca Handweavers**, set in the beautiful gardens of an old estate, visitors can watch weavers at work. Alternatively, make your way to **Mount Usher Gardens** designed in the Robinsonian style with over 5000 species set in peaceful riverside surroundings.

Day 5: Wave goodbye to Ireland on the morning ferry back to Holyhead and home.

Summerhill House Hotel

★★★★★

This former country house, situated in the picture-postcard village of Enniskerry, is now a lovely hotel enjoying panoramic views of the Wicklow Mountains.

- 55 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Welcome drink ➤ Table quiz questions
- Powerscourt Estate ➤ Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- Avoca Handweavers or Mount Usher Gardens ➤ Return Ferry

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £429



Japanese Gardens



Ireland's Ancient East including Dublin

This tour is based at the stunning Johnstown Estate and is ideally situated from which to explore Ireland's capital city of Dublin and some hidden gems in the area.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel on the ferry to Dublin, and onto Enfield for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head to the **Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens** - from horses to horticulture, this is one of Ireland's true treasures. Continue to the seaside resort of Malahide where you could include a visit of Malahide Castle & Gardens and look out for the resident ghosts and Lord Milo Talbot's magnificent walled garden.

Day 3: Excursion to Ireland's capital city of **Dublin**, steeped in history and buzzing with energy. Explore some of its many attractions including the cathedral, castle, museums and art galleries, parks, cafes, restaurants and many shops. This afternoon, why not visit the Guinness Storehouse, home to Ireland's famous stout and the country's number one visitor attraction. Visitors are treated to a free drink in the rooftop Gravity Bar with its panoramic views of the city.

Day 4: Travel to **Belvedere House & Gardens**, a magnificent 160 acre lakeside estate with a fully restored Georgian Villa, Victorian Walled Garden and 18th century parkland. In the afternoon, we return to the hotel for an afternoon tea including tea/coffee and cream scones.

Day 5: Head to Dublin for the sailing to Holyhead and home.



Johnstown Estate ★★★★★

Developed around an 18th-century Georgian rural residence, this luxury hotel mixes the elegance of the old world with contemporary comforts.

- 126 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Welcome Tea/Coffee
- Tea/Coffee and cream scones
- Irish Coffee making class (in restaurant after dinner one evening)
- Live music in the bar on 1 night
- Guided tour of the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- Entrance to Belvedere House & Gardens ➤ Return Ferry

Apr: Prices from: £TBC
May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



DART Train

Dublin & Wicklow 'River & Rail'

Our popular themed break to the East Coast brings you an exciting look at Ireland's seaside, city and countryside with a guided scenic rail journey, river cruise and entertainment.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Holyhead for the ferry to Dublin, and on to Enniskerry for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A day exploring Co. Wicklow could start with a visit to the lovely Powerscourt Estate situated opposite the hotel and considered one of the world's greatest gardens, with international collections, ornate statuary, inspired designs and magnificent views of Sugarloaf Mountain. Continue through the **Wicklow National Park** to the enchanting monastic site at Glendalough and return to the hotel.

Day 3: Begin today with a journey on **Ireland's oldest railway**, following the coast from Bray to Dublin. Accompanied by a local tour guide you'll enjoy a panorama of city, coast and countryside as the DART train carries you to the seaside resort of Malahide, where tea and scones will be served. This afternoon, you could include a visit to Malahide Castle.

Day 4: What better place to begin your day in **Dublin** than on the River Liffey, with a **boat cruise through the heart of the capital**. A detailed commentary brings the city's history to life as you discover some of the major landmarks including Ha'penny Bridge and Customs House. Enjoy a free afternoon in Dublin's many galleries, museums, shops and cafes.

Day 5: Wave goodbye to Ireland on the morning ferry back to Holyhead and home.



Summerhill House Hotel ★★★★★ **NEW!**

This former country house, situated in the picture-postcard village of Enniskerry, is now a lovely hotel enjoying panoramic views of the Wicklow Mountains.

- 55 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Welcome drink
- Table quiz questions ➤ Coastal rail journey
- Tour Guide & tea/scones ➤ River Liffey cruise ➤ Return Ferry

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £429



Kilkenny Castle



Carlow & Kilkenny Cracker

A perfect short break at Celtic Carlow's excellent Seven Oaks Hotel, with Altamont's garden delights and a visit to the 'Tidiest Town in Ireland' – beautiful Kilkenny.

Suggested Itinerary:

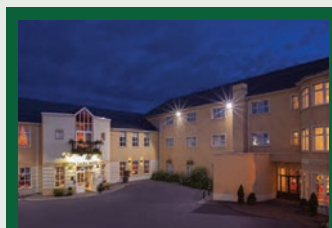
Day 1: Travel by ferry to Dublin, before a short journey to Carlow for a 3 night stay.

Day 2: Time to explore **Carlow**, a peaceful riverside town boasting a strong Celtic heritage, with its cathedral, courthouse, museum and Visual Arts Centre. After lunch discover **delightful Altamont Gardens**, one of the most romantic settings in Ireland. It's a charming blend of formal and informal styles, with an impressive rose collection and a parade of ancient oaks leading to an Ice Age Glen.

Day 3: For many people **Kilkenny** is the greatest town in Ireland, a medieval time capsule built around its magnificent castle and recently named Ireland's Tidiest Town. Get your bearings and see the sights aboard the **local road train** before free time to explore this wonderful city on your own.

Day 4: Leaving Carlow today, either spend time exploring the many highlights of Co. Kildare or travel on to Dublin for a day in Ireland's absorbing capital city. Indulge in sightseeing, shopping or the many museums and galleries on offer before heading on to your final overnight stay close to the city.

Day 5: Catch the morning ferry back to Holyhead and head for home.



Seven Oaks Hotel ★★★★★

A lovely, independently-owned hotel retaining its old world character.

- 89 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Return Ferry
- › Kilkenny Road Train › Altamont Gardens
- › Entertainment on the Monday night
- › Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £359
May to Sep: Prices from: £369



Dunbrody Famine Ship

Waterford's Triple Crown

A short break to Ireland's South East for three of the best with Viking Waterford, Co. Wexford and the stunning medieval town of Kilkenny.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to South Wales for the ferry crossing to Rosslare, and travel to Waterford for a 4 night stay at the Dooley's Hotel.

Day 2: Waterford was established by the Vikings in the 9th Century and has become the capital of Ireland's sunny South East. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this historic city, visit the city's museums and the world-famous Waterford Crystal and its visitor centre. Alternatively, take the Copper Coast route through a national Geo-park with fine ocean views and fishing villages, whilst the walled gardens at Lismore Castle and the Jameson Whiskey Experience near Midleton may also tempt you!

Day 3: Co. Wexford has so much to discover. The JFK Arboretum is a permanent memorial to America's assassinated president with a wonderful international collection of trees and shrubs. In nearby **New Ross**, you will find the **Dunbrody Famine Ship** and the Ros Tapestry which is an intricately woven history of Ireland's past and a fascinating curiosity.

Day 4: Kilkenny is a well-preserved medieval town, popular with tourists and with many original features. The best way to initially explore Kilkenny and its historic sights is on an included ride on a **Kilkenny Road Train**. Sit back and relax as it makes its way through the narrow streets to reveal the abbey, cathedral and many other highlights. This afternoon, explore the town and the castle for yourself.

Day 5: Morning ferry back to South Wales and head for home.



Dooley's Hotel ★★★

A very popular, family-run hotel offering excellent service in the centre of Waterford.

- 113 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Return Ferry › Welcome drink
- › Musical entertainment on one night
- › Dunbrody Famine Ship › Kilkenny Road Train

May to Sep: Prices from: £379



Garnish Island

Bantry & the Gulf Stream Coast

Explore West Cork's coast and countryside while staying in the charming harbour town of Bantry. Take a boat trip to Garnish Island and visit Mizen Head, Ireland's southernmost point.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Catch the afternoon ferry from Holyhead to Dublin, and stay overnight close to the city.

Day 2: Head down to **Bantry** via Co. Kildare with its rich pastures and record-breaking racehorses, and Co. Tipperary with its heritage towns and historic sites. Enjoy a 3 night stay at the Maritime Hotel in the centre of Bantry, perfectly placed for exploring the region's highlights.

Day 3: Bantry is a popular fishing harbour renowned for its mussels and watched over by the Georgian splendour of Bantry House with its panoramic views of the bay. Take the pretty drive down to the coast at **Mizen Head** and try to spot Fastnet Rock, known as 'Ireland's Teardrop'.

Day 4: The gorgeous scenery of **Beara Peninsula** is steeped in myth and legend. The Ring of Beara coastal route passes traditional fishing villages and sandy bays round to Bantry Bay. At Glengarriff, catch the **ferry to Garnish Island** to find its idyllic Italianate garden.

Day 5: Discover more of Ireland's southern shores as you travel east via Cork and Youghal towards Waterford. If time allows, follow the Copper Coast route between Dungarvan and Tramore for more superb ocean views. From Waterford head on to Wexford for an overnight stay conveniently situated within easy reach of Rosslare Port.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry to South Wales and complete your journey home.



Maritime Hotel ★★★★★

This hotel offers stylish, contemporary accommodation overlooking Bantry Bay.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Bantry Bay boat trip and Garnish Island
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £419
May to Sep: Prices from: £439



Bunratty Castle

Shannon's Flying Boats & Whiskey Floats

An Irish break to the Tipperary and Shannon regions packed with inclusions - Waterford, Old Midleton Distillery, Bunratty Castle, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, a scenic lake cruise and Dublin.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from South Wales to Rosslare and on to Waterford for an overnight stay.

Day 2: Journey along the south coast to the **Old Midleton Distillery**, established in the 17th Century and still producing today. Tour this beloved heritage site and take the taste challenge to distinguish between Irish, Scottish & American whiskeys. Pop into **Cork**, before continuing to the Lakeside Hotel in Killaloe, your base for the next 3 nights.

Day 3: Travel into Co.Clare to find **Bunratty**, where options include a visit to its fabulous medieval castle and 19th Century folkpark where costumed actors bring the museum to life; Durty Nelly's pub and the Blarney Woollen Mills. Follow the north shore of the Shannon to Killimer for the ferry to Tarbert and continue to the fabulous **Foynes Flying Boat Museum** for an absorbing chapter in aviation history, and a new Maritime Museum exploring the River Shannon past and present. Irish coffee was invented here, so we have **included an Irish coffee** before we head back to the hotel.

Day 4: Spend the morning exploring the city of **Limerick** with its galleries, museums and King John's Castle. This afternoon, board the Spirit of Killaloe at nearby **Lough Derg for a scenic cruise on Ireland's 'pleasure lake'**, part of the River Shannon watercourse and whose shores lie in three counties: Clare, Galway and Tipperary.

Day 5: Travel via Nenagh and Kildare to Dublin with time to explore the sights and shop for essential souvenirs. Overnight close to the city centre.

Day 6: Ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.

Lakeside Hotel ★★★★★

A stunning, family-run, independent hotel in Killaloe, with landscaped gardens on the edge of Lough Derg.

- 43 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Nightly entertainment (Killaloe) ➤ Old Midleton Distillery
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum including an Irish Coffee
- Lough Derg Cruise ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £489
Oct: Prices from: £469



Dingle Peninsula

Kingdom of Kerry & Dingle Bay

This amazing value for money tour is a great alternative to Killarney. Staying in the charming market town of Castleisland at the delightful family run River Island Hotel, you are just 20 minutes away from Killarney.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry from South Wales to Rosslare, and head on to Waterford for an overnight stay at Dooley's Hotel located on the quayside in the centre of town.

Day 2: Travel on to **Co. Cork**, home of the legendary Blarney Castle where it's possible to kiss the Blarney Stone in search of the gift of eloquence. Continue into Co. Kerry and on to the market town of **Castleisland**, your base for the next 3 nights.

Day 3: Today the choice is yours. Spend the day in Killarney with its many excellent tourist attractions, or if the sun's shining discover more of Co. Kerry's beautiful scenery. The Ring of Kerry and Beara Peninsula are both well worth exploring.

Day 4: A full day on the **Dingle Peninsula**. Enjoy a scenic tour of this precious Irish landscape with ancient beehive huts surrounded by an intricate coastline - a region that has captivated poets, writers and filmmakers for generations. This afternoon we include a **scenic boat cruise around Dingle Bay**.

Day 5: From Kerry, travel up to **Dublin** with time to get a good taste of Ireland's cosmopolitan capital with excellent sightseeing, museums and galleries, shops and cafes to enjoy. Take a final overnight stay close to the city centre.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and continue your journey home.



River Island Hotel ★★★
A family-run hotel at the heart of Castleisland, a typical Kerry market town.

- 52 Bedrooms
- Lift

Exclusive to Action Tours

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry ➤ Dingle Bay Boat Cruise
- Nightly entertainment (Castleisland)
- Free drink with dinner (Castleisland)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £TBC
May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Killarney

Killarney & the Ring of Kerry

Still one of our most popular Irish tours offering a 4 star hotel in the centre of Killarney, nightly entertainment, a traditional jaunting car ride & lake cruise, and the spectacular Ring of Kerry.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Take the ferry from South Wales to Rosslare, and overnight in Wexford or Waterford.

Day 2: Allow time to explore the Viking City of **Waterford** with its impressive collection of museums and the visitor centre at Waterford Crystal, or head west into Co. Cork, with the chance of a tippale at Old Jameson's Whiskey Distillery; a taste of Titanic history at Cobh Harbour or a kiss of the Blarney Stone, before arriving in **Killarney** for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Of the many highlights to enjoy on a free day in Killarney, a **traditional jaunting car ride** through the National Park followed by a **scenic lake cruise** are two of the best. A regular winner of Ireland's Tidy Town competition, Killarney is a great place to explore, whilst nearby Muckross House, a handsome hunting lodge with a royal history, is well worth a visit.

Day 4: For many visitors, the **Ring of Kerry** is the highlight of this tour. Formed during the last ice age, this picturesque peninsula with its traditional villages, lush countryside and ocean views, makes it a wonderful coastal drive.

Day 5: From Killarney it's possible to visit the beautiful thatched cottages at Adare, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park or the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, before arriving in Dublin for your final overnight stay.

Day 6: Catch the morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and complete the journey home.



Killarney Towers Hotel ★★★★★

A superbly appointed hotel with a great reputation and occupying a prime position in Killarney.

- 182 Bedrooms
- Lift

Exclusive to Action Tours

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Nightly entertainment (Killarney)
- Jaunting car ride ➤ Lake cruise ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £459



Cliffs of Moher

Ireland's Coast to Coast

This two-centred coast to coast tour explores both the south east and west of Ireland, including Waterford, Kilkenny, Foynes Flying Boat Museum and Galway.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from South Wales to Rosslare and continue to Waterford for a 3 night stay at Dooley's Hotel - welcome drink included.

Day 2: Head to the well-preserved medieval town of **Kilkenny**, overlooking the River Nore. The **Kilkenny road train** is the best way to explore, so sit back and relax as it makes its way through the narrow streets to reveal the abbey, cathedral and other highlights.

Day 3: Free day to explore **Waterford**, the oldest city in Ireland, founded by the Vikings and home to the world famous Crystal Factory and the Museum of Treasures.

Day 4: Travel to the West Coast of Ireland. Enjoy a visit to the **Foynes Flying Boat Museum**, which recalls the nostalgic era when Foynes became the centre of the aviation world between 1937 and 1945, followed by an Irish coffee. Continue to the Falls Hotel, Ennistymon for the next 3 nights where you have a drink with dinner.

Day 5: Enjoy the hotel's excellent leisure facilities or take a stroll through the grounds that include a delightful cascading waterfall. There are also numerous options from a cruise under the Cliffs of Moher to the official **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre** for breath taking views above the Atlantic Ocean.

Day 6: Full day to **Galway City**, once a humble fishing village but now Western Ireland's adopted capital or explore the Burren Visitor Centre where the natural history of this enchanting region is revealed; visit Doolin, before following the dramatic coastal route around Ballyvaughan Bay.

Day 7: Head to Dublin for the ferry to Holyhead and home.

Dooley's Hotel ★★★

A very popular, family-run hotel in the centre of Waterford.

• 113 Bedrooms • Lift

Falls Hotel ★★★★★

Former manor house overlooking the river.

• 144 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 6 nights DBB (3 in Waterford + 3 in Ennistymon) ➤ Return Ferry
- Entertainment on two evenings (1 in each hotel)
- One free drink per person with dinner on first evening (both hotels) ➤ Kilkenny Road Train
- Foynes Flying Boat Museum including an Irish coffee

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £469
May to Sep: Prices from: £489



Athlone

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

This tour is ideally placed at the lovely 4 star Lough Rea Hotel to visit all the wonders this area has to offer.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry to Dublin and travel to your base overlooking Lough Rea for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Travel east to **Athlone** in Co. Westmeath, strategically sited on the crossing point of the Shannon, Ireland's largest river. Spend the morning exploring Athlone, known as the 'Gateway to the West'. After lunch, make your way south to Birr Castle Demense, and visit their award winning gardens or why not take a cruise along the River Shannon and Lough Rea, where you can enjoy some of the most beautiful unspoiled scenery in all of Ireland.

Day 3: Full day tour to **Galway City**, once a humble fishing village and now Western Ireland's adopted capital. Enjoy the buzzing café culture in Eyre Square, visit the cathedral and museums or watch the salmon fishermen on Lough Corrib.

Day 4: From the sheer drop of the Cliffs of Moher into the Atlantic to the stark moonscapes of the Burren, northern Co. Clare is a must for all visitors to this region. Call at the **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre** or the **Burren Visitor Centre** for an introduction to the Burren, a large limestone cap stretching for miles. From here, head to Doolin for lunch, known as the music capital of Ireland. This afternoon, travel via Lisdoonvarna, where the famous match making festival takes place in September. Follow the dramatic coastal route where on a clear day you can spot the Aran Islands, make your way around Black Head and Ballyvaughan Bay before returning to Lough Rea and your hotel.

Day 5: After breakfast make your way east with a short visit to Dublin before your afternoon return sailing and your journey home.



Lough Rea Hotel & Spa ★★★★★

With an impressive location this hotel offers superb state-of-the-art facilities and stylish accommodation.

• 91 Bedrooms
• Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Return Ferry
- Entrance to the Burren or the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £379
May to Sep: Prices from: £419



Galway

Western Ireland's Coastal Delights inc Galway

The West of Ireland in all its glory including a sea cruise under the mighty Cliffs of Moher, an ocean drive, a visit to Galway, and the changing landscapes of the Burren.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from Holyhead to Dublin and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Head through the rich pastures of Kildare, home to the Irish National Stud, lyrical Limerick and Bunratty, home to Ireland's oldest pub Durty Nelly's, before arriving in Ennistymon for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Morning at leisure to enjoy the excellent leisure facilities at the hotel or take a stroll through the attractive grounds that include a delightful, gently cascading waterfall or head to the **Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre** for breath taking views above the Atlantic Ocean. After lunch, there's a real treat in store with a **Cliffs of Moher Cruise**, which travels beneath the mighty sea cliffs standing over 700 feet above the ocean. They are home to the largest colony of nesting sea birds in Ireland, including puffins, guillemots and razorbills. Don't forget to keep an eye out for the diverse range of marine life including seals, dolphins and even basking sharks.

Day 4: Full day tour to **Galway City**, once a humble fishing village and now Western Ireland's adopted capital. Enjoy the buzzing cafe culture in Eyre Square, visit the cathedral and museums or watch the salmon fishermen on Lough Corrib.

Day 5: From Co. Clare it's not a long way to Tipperary and a visit to Caher heritage town with its well-preserved castle built on a rocky island on the River Suir. Continue to Waterford for time in Ireland's oldest city before a final overnight close to Wexford.

Day 6: Ferry from Rosslare to South Wales, and home.



Falls Hotel ★★★★★

This former manor house overlooking the river provides a haven of peace and tranquillity in Ennistymon.

- 144 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry ➤ Welcome drink with dinner
- Entertainment on 1 night ➤ Cliffs of Moher Cruise
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £419



Achill Island

Charming Connemara inc Westport & Achill Island

Award-winning Westport on the edge of Clew Bay is surrounded by magnificent scenery and provides excellent opportunities for tours to Connemara, Galway City and stunning Achill Island.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from Holyhead to Dublin and onto your overnight.

Day 2: Travel via Mullingar, Longford and Strokestown Park House, a 19th century estate containing the Irish National Famine Museum, to the Castlecourt Hotel in **Westport** for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Scenic day tour to **Connemara** for breath taking views of the islands and Croagh Patrick, Ireland's Holy Mountain. Continue through the haunting beauty of the Doo Lough Valley, to the picturesque village of Leenane, overlooking Killary Harbour and at the start of Ireland's only fjord. You could visit **Kylemore Abbey**, a neo-gothic castle mirrored in its own lake, which was originally owned by a millionaire and is now run by Benedictine nuns or at **Killary Harbour**, enjoy a picturesque cruise on the sheltered waters.

Day 4: Enjoy a full day excursion around Magical Mayo. Follow the shores of Lough Conn and Lough Cullen onto **Achill, Ireland's largest island** (recently used as a filming location for the Oscar nominated film 'The Banshees of Inisherin'). This is a rugged, unspoilt and spectacular region of Ireland dominated by Slievemore Mountain that rises dramatically to the north. At Achill Sound join the famous circular 'Atlantic Drive' which is a stunning journey.

Day 5: From Westport, call in at the **National Museum of Country Life** set in the grounds of Turlough Park House and surrounded by magnificent gardens. Complete the journey to Dublin for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and then home.

Entertainment at the Castlecourt Hotel includes live music each evening plus other events such as cookery demonstrations, historical talks, quizzes and bingo.

Castlecourt Hotel ★★★★★

A family-run hotel in Westport, well known for its great facilities and entertainment.

- 148 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Daily activities & entertainment at the hotel
- National Museum of Country Life ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £389
May to Sep: Prices from: £409



Slieve League

Sligo & the Wild Atlantic Way

Our tour to Ireland's North West offers a slice of the Wild Atlantic Way at Sligo and Donegal including Europe's tallest sea cliffs at Slieve League.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry crossing from Holyhead to Dublin and an overnight stay close to the city.

Day 2: Drive up through Cavan and Navan into the fabulous Fermanagh Lakelands before arriving in Sligo for a 3 night stay. Free time to explore this pretty town, with its art galleries and literary heritage.

Day 3: Morning at leisure in **Sligo** town which rests on the banks of the River Garavogue in a quiet haven protected from the wild Atlantic Ocean by a series of peninsulas. After lunch enjoy an excursion along Glencar Valley, in the shadow of Benbulbin. Continue around the lake to emerge onto the high road towards Enniskillen, turning off to the lovely village of **Dromahair**. See the remarkable ruin of the 16th century Creevelea Friary, the last Franciscan foundation before the suppression of monasteries. Follow the north shore of the lough, passing Parke's Castle before returning to the hotel.

Day 4: Make your way to **Donegal** with free time to explore this lovely town. Why not visit the ruined Abbey of the Four Masters, Donegal Castle, on the banks of the River Eske, or try on some Irish tweeds at Magee's. This afternoon, we enjoy the highlight of your tour with a trip up to the viewpoint on **Slieve League** to see these incredible sea cliffs soaring 2000ft above the Atlantic – a truly wild and wonderful sight!

Day 5: From Sligo to Dublin via Carrick-on-Shannon, where a leisurely river cruise could make a delightful finale to your tour. Continue to the capital for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.



Sligo Park Hotel ★★★★★

This superb and elegant hotel is located just 2km from Sligo town.

- 136 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Slieve League Tour ➤ Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £479



Dungloe

Delightful Donegal Bay

A tour based in the heart of Donegal town with visits to Glenveagh National Park, the Atlantic Coast and Ireland's oldest pottery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from Holyhead to Dublin and an overnight stay close to the city.

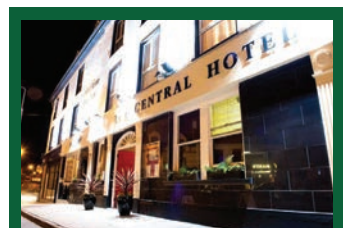
Day 2: Head through historic Co. Meath, home to the High Kings of Ireland in the 12th Century, and onto Enniskillen. Continue to **Belleek Pottery** for a tour of the factory that has produced delicate Parian china since 1857. Arrive in Donegal for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Spend a day in **Donegal** exploring the ruined Abbey of the Four Masters and Donegal Castle on the banks of the River Eske, or try on some Irish tweeds at Magee's. After lunch why not take a scenic cruise around Donegal Bay.

Day 4: Full day excursion around Co. Donegal, beginning with a drive through **Glenveagh National Park** under the shadow of imposing Mount Errigal and continue via Bloody Foreland (known locally as the Hill of Blood). Make your way to the attractive village of **Meenaleck** where lunch could be taken in **Leo's Tavern** where traditional Irish Music is played. From here, continue to Dungloe town which is the famous venue for the annual Mary of Dungloe Festival and the birthplace of Daniel O'Donnell, before returning to Donegal.

Day 5: Head back down to Dublin, Ireland's capital city, for free time shopping, sightseeing or more live entertainment from the street performers and buskers at Temple Bar. Overnight nearby.

Day 6: Morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.



Central Hotel ★★★

Family-run hotel overlooking the main square in Donegal.

- 115 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry ➤ Belleek Pottery
- Nightly entertainment (Donegal) ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £409



Giant's Causeway

The Causeway Coaster

This exciting tour takes you to the top of Ireland and the stunning Northern shores where we have included a visit to the world famous Giant's Causeway, plus guided tours of Derry and the Inishowen Peninsula.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Holyhead to Dublin, and overnight accommodation.

Day 2: Drive north through the counties of Meath, Louth and Monaghan to Tyrone. Enjoy the beauty of the lake scenery that surrounds Enniskillen or the wooded landscape of The Sperrins before arriving in **Buncrana** for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Today's guided tour starts with a scenic drive around the **Inishowen Peninsula** to Malin Head, the northernmost point in Ireland. Next to **Derry** on the banks of the River Foyle, the only completely walled city in Ireland and enjoying its recent status as UK City of Culture.

Day 4: Explore Donegal, beginning with a drive through the **Glenveagh National Park** under the shadow of imposing Mount Errigal. The county is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean on three sides, providing spectacular sea views as you drive along its coastline. The west of Donegal has a significant Gaeltacht (Irish speaking) region where customs, traditions, skills and language have been preserved for centuries.

Day 5: Today depart the hotel and make your way to the world famous **Giant's Causeway**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** famous for its unique volcanic stone pillars and shrouded in folklore and fairy tales. Head to Belfast for an overnight stay.

Day 6: Catch the ferry to Cairnryan and home.



Inishowen Gateway Hotel ★★★

A modern hotel in Buncrana with panoramic sea views over Lough Swilly and the fabulous beach.

- 80 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Full Day Guided Tour of Inishowen & Derry
- Giant's Causeway ➤ Entertainment on 2 nights (Buncrana)
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £389
May to Sep: Prices from: £409



Dunluce Castle

Coasts of Co. Donegal

Explore Ireland's magnificent northern coastline from the cliffs and coves of Co. Antrim to the spectacular seascapes of Co. Donegal.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Ireland from Holyhead or Cairnryan and complete the journey to your very own castle by the sea and an overnight stay at the Ballygally Castle Hotel.

Day 2: Begin today with one of the most rewarding coastal drives in Ireland as you travel up the Antrim Coast to the legendary **Giant's Causeway**. Discover Dunluce Castle, precariously perched on a cliff edge, before heading to Co. Donegal for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: A day in **Donegal** can include a visit to the well-preserved castle, abbey ruins or the shops and cafes in the town's 'Diamond', followed by a water-bus boat trip around the bay. Alternatively, head to Co. Sligo, eulogised in the poetry of WB Yeats.

Day 4: Discover the delightful coast and countryside of Co. Donegal. Start your day with a drive through **Glenveagh National Park** under the shadow of imposing Mount Errigal and continue via Bloody Foreland (known locally as the Hill of Blood). Make your way to the attractive village of **Meenaleck** where lunch could be taken in **Leo's Tavern** where traditional Irish Music is played. From here, continue to Dungloe town which is the famous venue for the annual Mary of Dungloe Festival and the birthplace of Daniel O'Donnell, before returning to Letterkenny.

Day 5: Take the opportunity to visit Belleek Pottery, the oldest working pottery in Ireland, before arriving in Enniskillen on the edge of Upper and Lower Loch Erne. Head to Trim crowned by its striking Norman Castle used in the film 'Braveheart' and continue to the outskirts of Dublin for your overnight stay.

Day 6: Morning ferry from Dublin to Holyhead, and home.



Clanree Hotel ★★★★★

A modern hotel on the outskirts of the centre of Letterkenny.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Giant's Causeway ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £444



Dublin's Black Beauty

Our new short break to Dublin combines admission to the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens with a visit to the Guinness Storehouse, the home of Ireland's famous stout and Ireland's No.1 International Visitor Attraction.

Suggested Excursions:

- Dublin & Guinness Storehouse (included)
- Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens (included)
- Scenic drive along Wicklow Way or Dublin city guide

Talbot Hotel Stillorgan ★★★★★

An extensive refurbishment programme has completely transformed this property into a cosmopolitan and vibrant hotel.

- 150 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB
- Return Ferry
- Guinness Storehouse & Free Drink
- Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £TBC
May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Waterford

Wonders of Waterford - a fabulous seasonal short break

Staying in the historic city of Waterford you'll discover hidden gems in this lovely part of Ireland. To make the most of your stay we have included a **guided tour of Waterford** and a visit to **Waterford Crystal**. Visit **Kilkenny**, which is for many people the greatest town in Ireland. It is a medieval time capsule built around its magnificent castle and to help you get your bearings and see the best of the town we have included a trip **aboard a local road train**.

Hotel inclusions: Glass of wine, beer or soft drink with dinner each night and Musical Entertainment on 2 nights.

Dooleys Hotel ★★★★★

A very popular family run hotel offering excellent service in the centre of Waterford.

- 113 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Hotel inclusions as above
- Guided Tour of Waterford
- Waterford Crystal
- Kilkenny Road Train

Mar, Apr & Oct: Prices from: £359



Muckross House

Kingdom of Kerry Special

This amazing value for money tour is a great alternative to Killarney. Staying in the charming market town of Castleisland at the delightful family run River Island Hotel, you are just 20 minutes away from Killarney.

Suggested Excursions:

- Ring of Kerry
- Tralee & the Dingle Peninsula
- Killarney - Jaunting Car Ride & Lake Cruise (included)
- Muckross House, Gardens & Traditional Farm

River Island Hotel ★★★

A family-run hotel at the heart of Castleisland, a typical Kerry market town.

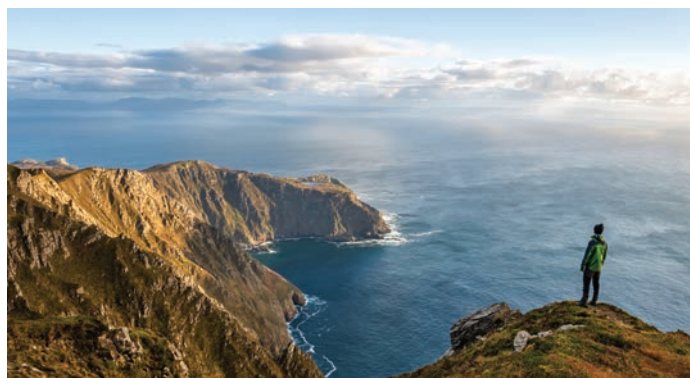
- 52 Bedrooms
- Lift

Exclusive to
Action Tours

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Nightly entertainment
- Free drink with dinner each night
- Jaunting car ride
- Boat Cruise on Lough Leane

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £TBC
May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Letterkenny Winter Warmer

Replace the winter blues on this off season northern coastline special to Co. Donegal and explore everything this wonderful corner of Ireland can offer, whilst staying at the excellent 4* Clanree Hotel at Letterkenny.

Highlights include:

- Welcome drink
- Glass of wine or soft drink with dinner each night
- Live musical entertainment on 2 nights

Clanree Hotel ★★★★★

A modern hotel on the outskirts of the centre of Letterkenny.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 3 or 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above
- Leisure facilities
- Return Ferry

Feb, Mar, Oct & Nov: Prices from: £239

Europe



Lake Garda

MAP LOCATION

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Achensee Cog Railway

Austria's Lakeside Charm & Tyrolean Trains

Lake Achen is the largest lake in the stunning Tyrol region of Austria. The area is also famous for its 'Little Trains' and scenic cruises which showcase the very best of this picture perfect area.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Travel through Germany to **Achenkirch** for a 6 night stay.

Day 3: Enjoy breath taking scenery over the Gerlos Pass to the spectacular **Krimml Waterfalls**. Continue to the fashionable resort of **Kitzbühel** to take in its glorious setting and browse lovely boutiques.

Day 4: Experience a journey on **Europe's oldest cog railway** as your nostalgic steam train takes you on the steep and scenic journey from Jenbach to Seespitz on the opposite side of Lake Achen. Continue to the ancient city of **Rattenberg** to explore at your own pace. Don't miss the superb Café Hacker for some of the best apple strudel you will find which has been served and loved here since 1774.

Day 5: Free day to relax. Perhaps visit the **Sixenhof Museum** depicting life on the lake in the 1800's or take the nearby boat to enjoy the best of Lake Achen. You may want to visit the popular resort of **Pertisau** to explore the setting for the famous Chalet School children's books.

Day 6: The capital of the Tyrol, **Innsbruck**, lies on a river at the foot of the Karwendel Alps, which form an impressive backdrop to its attractive traffic-free streets, ideal for discovering treasures like the famous Golden Roof, the beautiful Hofburg Palace, and the Hofkirche, a masterpiece of Renaissance church architecture.

Day 7: Board the nostalgic **Ziller Valley steam train** for a scenic journey to the wonderful resort of **Mayrhofen**. Time to sit and take in the views, shop for some traditional souvenirs or perhaps consider a cable car ride!

Day 8: Travel to overnight hotel.

Day 9: Home via Calais and Dover.

Hotel Fischerwirt ★★★

This very popular family run hotel sits next to the lovely shores of Lake Achen.

- 50 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 8 nights DBB ➤ Welcome schnapps
- 3 course evening meal with choice of menu + tea/coffee
- Coffee & cake one afternoon ➤ Live entertainment one evening
- Zillertalbahnen Steam Train one way journey
- Achensee Cog Railway one way journey ➤ Return Ferry

May to Oct: Prices from: £539



Hallstatt

Austria's Lakes & Mountains

Fresh mountain air & stunning scenery awaits on this tour to Austria with day trips to St Wolfgang, Mondsee and the 'Sound of Music' city, Salzburg.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Travel to Austria today, arriving at your destination.

Day 3: Free day in Hipping with your **included train and boat trip**. First we join the little train down to the lake of Attersee, with time for a cruise on the north part of the lake before returning by train to the village. Free time in the afternoon for you to relax in the hotel.

Day 4: First head to the Spa town of **Bad Ischl**, home to Emperor's and Composer's. You could visit the lovely Kaiser Villa which is situated here where the Emperor Franz Joseph spent most of his summers. It was also where he signed the declaration of war against the Kingdom of Serbia, signalling the start of WW1. In the afternoon we make our way to the World Heritage Site of **Hallstatt** said to be the prettiest of all the villages in the area.

Day 5: **Salzburg** is one of Europe's most enchanting cities and is known as the Sound of Music city. Key attractions include Mozart's birthplace, the Mirabell Palace and the magnificent Hohensalzburg Fortress.

Day 6: The beautiful Lake District today. Visit **Mondsee** and its church, used for the wedding scene featured in The Sound of Music film before heading to the Lake of Wolfgangsee and **St Wolfgang**, another stunning village set on the shores of the lake and home to the famous White Horse Inn.

Day 7: Depart Austria today and travel north to your final overnight.

Day 8: Travel back to Calais then Dover and home.

Hotel Lohninger-Schober

★★★

Situated close to St. Georgen im Attergau, this family-run hotel has established a reputation for a warm welcome.

- 100 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Tram from Hipping to Attersee and return
- Boat Cruise on Lake Attersee ➤ Welcome drink
- Choice buffet menu (including salad and dessert buffet)
- Themed buffet or BBQ on 1 night
- 1 hour tour on the hotel's own 'slow train'
- Leisure facilities ➤ Return Ferry

May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Innsbruck

Austria's Tyrolean Treat

The Tyrol in Austria is a region of exceptional beauty. Soaring snow-capped mountains smile down on lush green valleys and picture postcard villages.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: From Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Travel through Germany to Kirchberg for a 5 night stay.

Day 3: Free day to explore the lovely village of **Kirchberg**. Relax by the lake and visit its bars, quaint cafés and selection of shops. Kirchberg is a beautiful spot for walking or why not catch the train to Kitzbuhel or St Johann or take the chairlift up into the mountains.

Day 4: The capital of the Tyrol, **Innsbruck**, lies on a river at the foot of the Karwendel Alps, which form an impressive backdrop to its attractive traffic-free streets, ideal for discovering treasures like the Goldenes Dachl, the Hofburg, a cream-and-pistachio palace built under Maria Theresa from the mighty Austrian-Hungarian empire days and the Hofkirche, a masterpiece of Renaissance church architecture.

Day 5: Cruise day, so make your way to **Achensee**. On arrival, enjoy a **2 hour lake cruise** where we have coffee and cakes included. In the afternoon make your way to the ancient city of **Rattenberg**.

Day 6: The scenic highlight of your tour today, as you take the **spectacular Grossglockner road**. This magnificently engineered highway runs from nearby Bruck to Heiligenblut and offers views over mountain peaks and glaciers - a truly memorable journey. Climbing to a height of over 8,000 feet you reach the base of Austria's highest mountain, the Grossglockner (toll payable locally) at 12,460ft. The awesome Pasterze glacier spreads out before you.

Day 7: We depart Austria and head north to our overnight hotel.

Day 8: To Calais for the ferry to Dover and home.



Hotel Zentral ★★★★★

This superb hotel is situated in the centre of Kirchberg.

- 85 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Welcome drink
- 4 course evening meal with choice of main course from 2nd night in resort ➤ Tea/Coffee after dinner each evening
- Achensee Cruise (including coffee & cake on board) ➤ Return Ferry

May to Sep: Prices from: £559



NEW!

Bruges

Belgium's Battlefields and Bruges

On this tour we visit the medieval city of Bruges and the beautiful town of Ypres, which during the First World War was reduced to ruins.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Dover to Calais and on to Mouscron to the Hotel & Aparthotel Alizé Mouscron for your 3 night stay.

Day 2: You could begin with a visit to the In Flanders Field Museum located within the Cloth Hall in the centre of **Ypres**. The Cloth Hall was for a time the largest building in Europe and has been painstakingly rebuilt after its complete destruction during the First World War. In the afternoon why not take a guided tour of some of the key battlefield sites of the Ypres Salient. At 8pm each evening the Last Post is played at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres an expression of the Belgian people's gratitude to those who died for their country's freedom.

Day 3: A visit to the medieval city of **Bruges**. Take a horse-drawn cab ride through the cobbled streets, visit one of the major art galleries or museums and stock up on some luxurious Belgian chocolates. *Alternatively, this tour can also serve as a base for a WW1 commemorative tour and can include entrance to the In Flanders Fields Museum and a guided tour of the nearby battlefields. This hotel is ideally situated to cover another option for a battlefields tour to Arras.*

Day 4: Retrace your steps to Calais for the return ferry to Dover, and home.

Hotel Alizé Mouscron

★★★★★

Modern hotel with well-equipped bedrooms and a good location for visiting WW1 Battlefields, Ypres and Bruges.

- 58 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking



Tour Includes:

- 3 nights BB ➤ Return Ferry
- Tea/coffee making facilities in the bedrooms

May to Oct: Prices from: £TBC



Keukenhof Gardens

Holland in the Springtime – Dutch Bulbfields

Enjoy a delightful spring break with a distinctive Dutch flavour visiting the magnificent, world-famous Keukenhof gardens. This tour also includes a trip through time by steam tram and museum boat.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from Dover to Calais and onto Holland to the Utrecht/Amersfoort area for a 3 night stay at the Kontakt der Kontinenten Hotel.

Day 2: Head north to Hoorn and board the **famous tram** for our included journey which travels through the lovely Dutch countryside to Medemblik. During the journey you will be served coffee and a local pastry. On arrival you have free time to explore Medemblik with its beautiful historical centre before boarding the **museum ship Friesland for our included cruise to Enkhuizen**. From here make your way home across the Houtribdijk - a 27km dike, built between 1963 and 1975, it crosses what used to be the Zuider Zee and is now the IJsselmeer, the largest inland lake in Western Europe. Look out for the radio station half way, before joining a polder 'Flevoland' which is reclaimed land from the sea.

Day 3: Full day excursion to and through the Dutch Bulbfields and your included visit to the **Keukenhof Gardens**, named 'The Greatest Flower Show on Earth', with over 70 acres of parkland and 10 miles of walkways. Admire a vast collection of hundreds of thousands of flowers displayed in the beautifully landscaped gardens, which adorn the estate.

Day 4: To Calais for the ferry to Dover and home.



Kontakt der Kontinenten

★★★

A former mission house and monastery, ideally situated near to Utrecht and Amersfoort.

- 125 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 3 nights DBB (3 course dinner with choice of main course)
- › Free tea & coffee in the hotel lounge 24/7
- › Entrance to Keukenhof Gardens
- › One way trip on the Tram Train from Hoorn to Medemblik (including coffee and pastry on board)
- › Cruise on the museum ship from Medemblik to Enkhuizen
- › Return Ferry
- › Up to 20 singles available

Apr & May: Prices from: £349



Maastricht

Crossroads of Europe – Valkenburg

Your base for this popular tour is the medieval town of Valkenburg, a hidden treasure in Holland. We have included a fabulous package for your customers to make the most of this lovely area.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Ferry from Dover to Calais then on to Valkenburg for your 4 night stay.

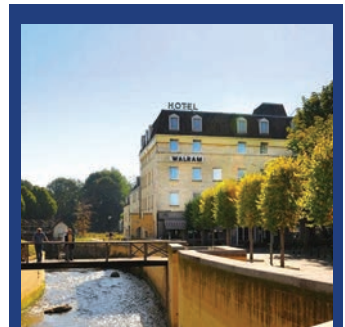
Day 2: We have **included a guide for today's tour**. We start with the historic spa town of **Aachen**, in Germany. We then head for Vaals, in South Eastern Holland, where a stop will be made at **Dreilandereck** where Germany, Holland and Belgium meet at the viewpoint in the wooded hills outside of Aachen. Free time here for lunch before driving through Belgium to visit the American Cemetery at Margraten.

Day 3: Today we board the **Zuid-Limburgse steam train** for a wonderful journey from Simpelveld to Valkenburg, travelling through the beautiful countryside of Limburg. The train returns to Valkenburg early in the afternoon and the rest of the day is yours to explore this lovely town. **Valkenburg**, a fashionable fortified town nicknamed 'Marltown' is situated in the hilly Dutch province of Limburg. The town's attractions include a castle, catacombs, museums, a casino plus numerous bars, cafes and shops.

Day 4: After breakfast, we travel the short distance to **Maastricht**, one of the oldest cities in Holland. On arrival we have included a **boat trip on the river** before allowing time to explore the city at your leisure.

Day 5: Back to Calais for the ferry to Dover, and home.

North Sea Ferry options available – call us for details.



Hotel Walram ★★★

A 3-star superior hotel situated beside the river in the centre of Valkenburg close to the cafes, bars and restaurants.

- 106 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB (choice menu)
- › Welcome drink
- › Guided three countries tour
- › Steam train journey
- › Boat trip in Maastricht
- › Leisure facilities
- › Return Ferry

May, Jul & Sep: Prices from: £409



Monte Carlo

Italy – Diano Marina & the Riviera of Flowers

Situated on the warm Mediterranean Gulf Stream, the Italian Riviera combines the very best of a classical sightseeing tour with the pleasures of a relaxing beach holiday.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel in the Dijon area.

Day 2: Drive into Italy arriving in Diano Marina for your 5 night stay.

Day 3: Day at leisure in **Diano Marina**, known as the 'jewel' of this region. Set in a wide sweeping bay with safe sandy beaches, it offers elegant shops, restaurants and cafes along its palm fringed promenade.

Day 4: Full day to **Monte Carlo** and **Monaco**. The atmosphere here is both big city and miniature operatic. Monaco refers to the principality, located high on the rock, where you will find the Royal Palace, the church where Princess Grace is buried, the famous Oceanographic Museum and the old town. Down from the rock you find the newer 19th-century area of Monte Carlo made famous by the Grand Prix motor race. *(A guide can be booked for this excursion at an extra cost).*

Day 5: Take the coastal road to **San Remo**, capital of the 'Riviera of Flowers', famous for its casino, palm trees and festivals. It is said to be the Riviera's most glittering and cosmopolitan resort awash with shops and elegant boutiques.

Day 6: Enjoy another free day to relax. Visit the beautiful **medieval village of Dolceacqua**, with its maze of narrow streets or head to **Allassio**. This former feudal town which belonged to the monks of nearby Isola Gallinara is now one of Italy's most popular holiday centres. The town's muretto (little wall) has hundreds of ceramic tiles reproducing the signatures of famous visitors.

Day 7: Make your way to your overnight hotel in France.

Day 8: Home via Calais and Dover.

Hotel Bellevue ★★★★★

Stunning hotel in Diano Marina, it has an excellent position backing onto the sea with its own private beach.

- 78 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Choice menu in Italy
- Last night typical Mediterranean style dinner with farewell drink
- Porterage at resort hotel ➤ Private beach
- Coach parking with shuttle bus service for the driver
- Leisure facilities ➤ Return Ferry

May, Jun, Sep & Oct: Prices from: £549



Lake Garda

Italy's Stunning Lake Garda

Italy's largest lake stretches sixty miles from the mountainous north to the low-lying land around the southern tip at Desenzano. Its shores are dotted with fascinating old towns, castles and picturesque villages.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Dover for your short channel crossing to Calais and onto your overnight hotel in France.

Day 2: Depart after breakfast and travel through Bavaria and Austria to arrive in Riva del Garda at the excellent Hotel Sole in time for dinner.

Day 3: Free day to relax and enjoy **Riva del Garda**.

Day 4: The **Italian Dolomites**, or 'pale mountains', are a breath taking mountain range. With a mixture of Italian and Austrian architecture, the Dolomites are said to be one of the most scenic regions in Italy.

Day 5: Spend a day exploring Lake Garda. Along its shores lie pretty villages such as Sirmione, **Malcesine** and **Bardolino**. **Sirmione**, at the southern tip of the lake, is set in a picturesque headland jutting into the lake.

Day 6: Another free day in **Riva del Garda** or why not visit the stunning city of **Verona**, which is rich in history and culture and is also the setting for Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Take time to visit the famous balcony or wander around the beautiful market piazzas and shops, or visit the Amphitheatre, where famous operas are held during the summer months.

Day 7: Depart after breakfast and enjoy the Alpine views en route back to your overnight hotel.

Day 8: Depart the hotel after breakfast and make your way to Calais for your return sailing.



Hotel Sole ★★★★★

This hotel is ideally situated in the centre of Riva del Garda with stunning views over the lake and the piazza.

- 63 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Choice of Dinner Menu in Italy
- Welcome drink (at resort hotel) ➤ Gala dinner on one evening
- Porterage at resort hotel ➤ Return Ferry

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £489
May, Jun & Sep: Prices from: £509



Dolomites

Dramatic Dolomites & Dazzling Lakes

The stunning Dolomites are one of Italy's scenic highlights, and your delightful hotel on the shores of beautiful Lake Molveno offers the best Italian hospitality.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel.

Day 2: Depart after breakfast and travel through Bavaria and Austria to arrive in lovely Lake Molveno.

Day 3: The **Italian Dolomites** are a breath taking mountain range of dramatic peaks, and no visit would be complete without a scenic drive through the stunning scenery. For an extra special experience why not add a journey on the special '**Castles Train**' from Mezzolombardo to Caldes for a unique view of the picture perfect scenery.

Day 4: Enjoy a free day to explore the town, relax by the lake or take a swim in the hotel pool with the mountains as your backdrop. Your included Dolomiti card gives you free travel on local buses and reduced entrance to museums. Why not take the stunning cable car ride up to the panoramic terrace 1350 metres above the lake!

Day 5: Take the beautiful journey south through the ancient Tenno Valley to the amazing **Riva del Garda** on Italy's largest lake. Browse the many shops and eateries, enjoy a gelato by the lake or take a boat ride to nearby Limone for a water's eye view of the stunning shores.

Day 6: Travel to the capital of the South Tyrol today. Beautiful **Bolzano** shows its Austrian history in the architecture and scenery. Enjoy time to see the cathedral, pretty piazzas and perhaps visit the museum which is home to the 5,300 year old body of 'Otzi the Iceman' found in 1991 in the local mountains.

Day 7: Depart after breakfast and enjoy the Alpine views en route back to your overnight hotel.

Day 8: Home via Calais and Dover.

Hotel Alle Dolomiti ★★★★★
This excellent family run hotel with an outdoor pool is in a great position near the town and overlooking the stunning lake.

• 40 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Welcome drink (at resort hotel)
- Choice of Dinner Menu in Italy from 2nd night onwards
- Candlelit dinner on one evening ➤ Afternoon tea & biscuits daily
- Local Dolomiti card for free transport and reduced attractions
- Porterage at resort hotel ➤ Return Ferry

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £499
May to Sep: Prices from: £509



Tossa de Mar

Catalonia & the Charming Costa Brava

Located between the stunning city of Barcelona and the French border, the ancient fishing village of Tossa de Mar has become one of the most popular and scenic resorts on the famous Costa Brava.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Dover to Calais and onto your overnight hotel in France.

Day 2: Travel onto Spain to the Costa Brava, home for the next 7 nights.

Day 3: Free day to relax and enjoy the wonderful amenities in your hotel and pretty resort.

Day 4: A visit to the Costa Brava would not be complete without a tour to the vibrant city of **Barcelona**. A guided coach tour is a good way to get your bearings in a city full of stunning architecture and famous buildings including the unfinished masterpiece Church of the Sagrada Familia. Make sure you allow enough free time to wander the world famous Las Ramblas promenade with its traditional cafes, and the narrow alleyways, boutiques and tapas bars of the medieval quarter.

Day 5: Head to the nearby city of Girona and explore the labyrinth of narrow medieval streets. Whether you are a history buff, shopper or foodie there is something for everyone in this picturesque city.

Day 6: Enjoy a free day in your lovely resort, and the town's popular market day (Thursday) with the chance to grab a bargain.

Day 7: Why not travel to the popular resort of **Blanes** today, known as the gateway to the Costa Brava. Take time to enjoy a stroll along the 4km of sandy beach. From here continue to another popular resort, **Lloret de Mar**. Enjoy some free time before returning to the hotel.

Day 8: Enjoy your last relaxing day in resort making use of the hotel's great facilities – take a dip in one of the 4 pools and enjoy a drink at one of the 4 bars!

Day 9: Travel to overnight hotel.

Day 10: Home via Calais and Dover.

Golden Bahia de Tossa ★★★★★

This popular hotel is ideally situated in the centre of Tossa de Mar close to the beach and old town.

• 380 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 2 overnights on BB ➤ 7 nights DBB at resort hotel
- Buffet meals including wine & water with dinner
- Entertainment every evening at resort hotel
- Daytime program in resort hotel and use of leisure facilities
- Porterage at resort hotel ➤ Return Ferry

Apr, Sep & Oct: Prices from: £439



NEW!

Het Loo Palace

Going Dutch Singles Tour

With more and more demand for single rooms on holidays, we have created this new tour which has an exciting mix of included attractions. Visits include the **Arnhem Airborne Museum** to learn more about the Second World War battle which inspired the film 'A Bridge Too Far', or the magnificent **Het Loo Palace** and Gardens used by the Dutch Royal Family up until 1975 and now open to the public. On another day we include a ride on the famous **tram from Hoorn to Medemblik** before visiting the delightful village of **Volendam**, the prettiest and most popular old fishing village where locals still wear traditional costume. We also include a visit to a **cheese and clog makers**.

Kontakt der Kontinenten Hotel ★★★

A former mission house and monastery, ideally situated near to Utrecht and Amersfoort.

- 125 Bedrooms • Coach parking
- Lift • 30 singles available

Tour Includes:

- › 3 nights DBB
- › Arnhem Airborne Museum or Het Loo Palace & Gardens
- › Steam tram journey
- › Visit to Cheese & Clog makers
- › Return Ferry

Jul & Aug: Prices from: £339



Dutch Turkey & Tinsel

Enjoy a festive Turkey & Tinsel package at this popular hotel situated in the centre of the lovely Dutch town of **Valkenburg**.

Highlights include:

- 2 hour free bar in the hotel each evening;
- Small box of chocolates, welcome drink and 3-course set buffet dinner;
- Christmas Eve: complimentary drink, 3-course dinner, visit from Santa and tea, coffee and cake;
- Christmas Day: 4-course turkey dinner with complimentary drink followed by music night;
- New Year's Day: 4-course gala dinner with complimentary drink, champagne and local pastry followed by live entertainment.

Hotel Walram ★★★

A 3-star superior hotel situated beside the river in the centre of Valkenburg close to the cafes, bars and restaurants.

- 106 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB
- › Inclusions as above
- › Leisure facilities
- › Porterage
- › Return Ferry

Nov: Prices from: £269



Valkenburg

Holland House Party

Your base for this shoulder season package is the medieval town of **Valkenburg**, a hidden treasure of Holland. You will be staying at the very popular Hotel Walram situated in the centre of this lovely Dutch town. Highlights include a two hour free bar in the hotel each evening, plus a welcome drink, pre-dinner party, music night and free entrance to Valkenburg casino.

Hotel Walram ★★★

A 3-star superior hotel situated beside the river in the centre of Valkenburg close to the cafes, bars and restaurants.

- 106 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB
- › Welcome drink
- › Pre-dinner party
- › Music night
- › 2 hours free bar daily
- › Free entrance to casino
- › Leisure facilities
- › Porterage › Return Ferry

Mar & Oct: Prices from: £259



Valkenburg Christmas Market

Three Countries Christmas Markets - Valkenburg

Popular in Europe since the Middle Ages, these Christmas markets remain a huge attraction. Not just a chance to do some Christmas shopping, they have their own unique character and atmosphere especially in the evening when the gluhwein flows and the sausages sizzle. Experience the fairy-tale setting of the **Valkenburg Christmas Market** with its distinctive illuminated caves and passageways and visit other nearby and excellent **Christmas markets in Germany and Belgium**. Staying at the popular Hotel Schaepekens, you are just a short walk from the picturesque town of Valkenburg.

Hotel Schaepekens ★★★

Situated in its own grounds close to the town of Valkenburg.

- 130 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 3 nights DBB
- › Choice buffet dinner
- › Entertainment
- › Porterage › Return Ferry
- › 4 night packages also available

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £TBC

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