

ACTION TOURS

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Welcome to our 2023 brochure, with even more exciting tours to choose from, including a number of new itineraries and new hotels! Established in 1992, we have 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 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 150 years in the travel industry, reflecting the company's extensive knowledge on 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.



Gower

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.

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



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Kylemore Abbey



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.



Achill Island

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Giant's Causeway

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; Antrim Coast scenic drive and the delightful scenery of Co. Down.

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 Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion, morning tea 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 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.

*Another option is to include the **NEW Game of Thrones visitor centre** – call for more details.*

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 including tea & scones

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £379
May to Sep: Prices from: £389



Hillsborough Castle

Northern Ireland
Embrace a Giant Spirit

Northern Ireland's Tapestries & Thrones

A rare opportunity to take tea at Hillsborough Castle, the Queen's official residence, explore delightful Glenarm Castle Gardens, discover Belfast and uncover the history of Irish linen.

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: There's a treat in store today with a rare visit to the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion and gardens including the majestic throne room, morning tea will be served. Explore Hillsborough town itself with its Georgian architecture and visitor centre with an original courtroom exhibit. Finish the day with a tour of the **Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum**, a short distance away.

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 Botanical Gardens, Ulster 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.

*Another option is to include the **NEW Game of Thrones visitor centre** – call for more details.*



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 morning tea
- Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum ➤ Glenarm Castle Gardens
- Welcome tea/coffee & shortbread at hotel ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £362



Antrim Coast

Antrim's Coast & Castles

A real treat lies in store with this new tour on the spectacular Antrim Coast. Enjoy excellent cuisine and stunning scenery in the comfort of a converted castle.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Catch the ferry from Cairnryan to Belfast, and head on to the Ballygally Castle Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Regarded as one of the finest coastal drives in Europe, the Antrim Coast Road passes spectacular scenery centred round the nine Glens of Antrim. Intense volcanic activity created the unique landscape of intricately shaped basalt columns at the **Giant's Causeway**, whilst a more romantic legend is that the giant Finn MacCool laid a path across the sea to his lady-love in Scotland. Lunch can be taken here before continuing to **Bushmills**, to visit the oldest distillery in the world.

Day 3: Head south to **Carrickfergus Castle**, one of Northern Ireland's most striking monuments and whether you approach it from land, sea or air, it greets all visitors with its strength and menace. Continue to Belfast, situated at the mouth of the River Lagan, which is a handsome city reflecting the wealth it enjoyed during the Industrial Revolution. A tour of the city will take in such sights as the Botanical Gardens, Queen's University and the Waterfront Hall.

Day 4: A rare treat today with a visit to the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion, morning tea will be served, before time to enjoy the stunning gardens and grounds. 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 visitor centre reflecting the life of Ireland's patron saint, with his grave reputed to be in the adjoining Cathedral grounds.

Day 5: Travel to Belfast for the late morning ferry to Cairnryan.

*Another option is to include the **NEW Game of Thrones visitor centre** – call for more details.*

Ballygally Castle Hotel

★★★★

Beautifully located on the Antrim Coast, this unique hotel dates back to 1625 and has its own resident ghost.

- 54 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Giant's Causeway ➤ Carrickfergus Castle
- Hillsborough Castle – guided tour and morning tea

May to Sep: Prices from: £444



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 ➤ Leisure facilities
- Belleek Pottery ➤ Ulster American Folk Park
- Blessingbourne Estate (including tea & scones)

May to Sep: Prices from: £449



Carlingford

NEW!

Ireland's North & South

This fabulous New Tour is based in Dundalk which is an excellent base from which to explore Ireland's two capital cities.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel from either Cairnryan or Holyhead and make your way to Dundalk for a 4 night stay at the lovely Ballymascanlon House Hotel.

Day 2: This morning, we travel to **Belfast**, Northern Ireland's capital. Begin with a **guided tour** through the city's four quarters, taking in the many highlights of the city. This afternoon either enjoy free time to explore the city for yourself, or include a visit to one of the leading attractions such as Titanic Belfast or Ulster Folk & Transport Museum.

Day 3: Today there's a treat in store with a rare visit to the Queen's official residence in Northern Ireland, **Hillsborough Castle**. After a guided tour of this elegant mansion, including the majestic throne room, morning tea will be served. After free time will be given to explore the extensive grounds. From here it's a short drive to **Downpatrick** where you could visit the **St Patrick Centre** and the cathedral, the official burial site of Ireland's Patron saint.

OR Day 3: Today make your way to the nearby coastal town of **Carlingford**, a previous winner of Ireland's European Destination of Excellence, and one of the country's best-preserved medieval villages. From here take the 15 minute ferry journey across Carlingford Lough from Greenero to Greencastle and continue to Newcastle passing through traditional fishing villages overlooked by the mighty Mountains of Mourne.

Day 4: This morning, we travel to Ireland's capital city of **Dublin**, steeped in history and buzzing with energy.

Day 5: After breakfast, head to Dublin or Belfast for free time before your return sailing home.



Ballymascanlon House Hotel ★★★★★

Located half way between Dublin and Belfast, this fabulous family owned hotel is run with pride and dedication.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Guided tour of Belfast City
- Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £309



The Corrib Princess

NEW!

Ireland's Northern Jaunt

Treat yourself to an 8 day tour of Ireland's middle and top side combining city, coast and countryside from Galway to Donegal, the Causeway & Antrim coastlines to Belfast.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Travel east across Ireland, breaking your journey at **Athlone**, home to the famous Irish tenor John McCormack before continuing onto Galway for your 2 night stay at the Menlo Park Hotel, on the outskirts of the city.

Day 3: Spend free time in **Galway**, famous for its maritime history and boasting a full calendar of festivals and events. This afternoon, enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a lovely **lake cruise aboard the Corrib Princess**, with a full commentary and tasty tea and scones.

Day 4: Depart Galway and make your way north with time to explore **Connemara National Park** with its wild ponies and mountain scenery a stop can be made at Clifden before heading on to Donegal for a 2 night stay.

Day 5: 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.

Day 6: The adventure continues today with a journey over to the north coast and the chance to visit the **Giant's Causeway** with its impressive Visitor Centre. From here, follow the Antrim Coast Road with its stunning ocean views to arrive in Belfast for a 2 night stay.

Day 7: A day exploring the city of Belfast with City Hall, the Opera House, Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, the Victorian Crown Liquor Saloon and Titanic Belfast.

Day 8: Head to Belfast for your return crossing home.

NB: If a driver's free day is required, Day 5 in Donegal would be ideal or we could arrange coach hire and a Belfast Guided Tour on Day 7.



Various ★★★★★ and ★★★★★ hotels

Tour Includes:

- 7 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Lake cruise aboard the Corrib Princess
- Giant's Causeway

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £519
May to Sep: Prices from: £539



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 Bray for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: A day exploring Co. Wicklow could start with a visit to the lovely village of Enniskerry and Powerscourt Estate, 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.

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.



Royal Hotel ★★★
A delightful hotel situated in the heart of the Victorian seaside resort of Bray.

- 124 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Complimentary tea/coffee & biscuits on arrival
- › Live Entertainment on 1 night › Leisure facilities
- › Complimentary glass of wine with dinner on final night
- › Coastal rail journey › Tour Guide & tea/scones
- › 6 singles – no supplement (exc Jul & Aug)
- › River Liffey cruise › Return Ferry

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £329
May to Sep: Prices from: £339



Malahide Castle



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, including the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens, Malahide Castle, and Belvedere House.

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 for an included visit of Malahide Castle & Gardens for a 45 minute guided tour (keep an eye out for the 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 our included 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 › Return Ferry › Welcome Tea/coffee
- › Tea/Coffee and cream scones › Live music in the bar on 1 night
- › Irish Coffee making class (in restaurant after dinner one evening)
- › Guided tour of Malahide Castle & Gardens
- › Guided tour of the Irish National Stud & Japanese Gardens
- › Entrance to Belvedere House & Gardens

Apr: Prices from: £389
May to Sep: Prices from: £419



Altamont Gardens

Carlow & Kilkenny Cracker

A perfect short break at Celtic Carlow's excellent Seven Oaks Hotel, with Altamont's garden delights, a road-train trip tour in Kilkenny and musical entertainment on two nights.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Tonight's Entertainment: Traditional Irish Music in the hotel bar.

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 city 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.

Tonight's Entertainment: Candlelit Dinner Dance at the hotel.

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 2 nights
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £339
May to Sep: Prices from: £349

NEW!



Birr Castle Demense

Ireland's Hidden Heartlands

This new tour is ideally placed to visit all the wonders this area has to offer including Athlone, Galway and the Burren.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry to Dublin and 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 County 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. From here 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 Loughrea 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 it 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 Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre
- Leisure & Spa Facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £329



Copper Coast

Waterford's Copper Coast inc Kilkenny

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: £306



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: Travel to Fishguard for the ferry to Rosslare and continue to Waterford for 3 nights at the 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 (at both hotels) › Kilkenny Road Train
- › Foynes Flying Boat Museum including an Irish coffee

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £399
May to Sep: Prices from: £419



Bantry Bay

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.

Please note that space is also available at the Westlodge Hotel in Bantry.



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: £339
May to Sep: Prices from: £359



Foynes Flying Boat Museum

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 for plenty of 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 & Oct: Prices from: £419
May to Sep: Prices from: £439



Killarney Jaunting Cars

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 tippie 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: £359
May to Sep: Prices from: £419



Dingle Peninsula

Delightful 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 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: £319
May to Sep: Prices from: £349



Cliffs of Moher



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 Cahir 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 & Oct: Prices from: £339
May to Sep: Prices from: £366



Kylemore Abbey



Galway & Connemara

This classic tour to Galway combines the vibrant, artistic 'City of Tribes' with the wilderness of Connemara, elegant Kylemore Abbey and a relaxing lake cruise on Lough Corrib.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel by ferry to Rosslare, and on to an overnight stay in the centre of Waterford.

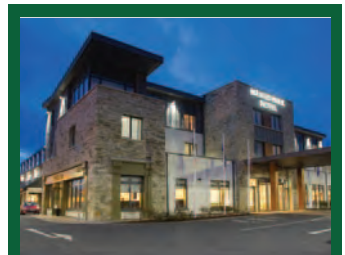
Day 2: If time allows why not include a quick visit to the Waterford Crystal Visitors Centre or the Museum of Treasures that charts the city's fascinating history from the Viking invasion. Then travel north via Tipperary and Limerick to Galway for a 3 night stay at the Menlo Park Hotel, on the outskirts of the city.

Day 3: Spend free time in **Galway**, famous for its maritime history and boasting a full calendar of festivals and events. This afternoon, enjoy one of the highlights of the tour, a lovely **lake cruise aboard the Corrib Princess**, with a full commentary and tasty tea and scones.

Day 4: Explore **Connemara National Park** with its wild ponies and mountain scenery and head on to the thriving town of Clifden. Visit the idyllic **Kylemore Abbey**, a neo-gothic castle with an immaculate Victorian walled garden, which makes an excellent addition to the day.

Day 5: From Galway travel east across Ireland, breaking your journey at Athlone, home to the famous Irish tenor John McCormack or head to Dublin for free time in the city before continuing to your last overnight stay on the outskirts of Dublin.

Day 6: After breakfast, travel by ferry from Dublin to Holyhead and head for home.



Menlo Park Hotel ★★ ★ ★

This award-winning hotel in Galway combines old-fashioned hospitality with a modern touch.

- 70 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry
- Lough Corrib Cruise ➤ Kylemore Abbey

May to Sep: Prices from: £429



Westport

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**. 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: £349
May to Sep: Prices from: £389



NEW!

Donegal

Enchanting Donegal & the Giant's Causeway

This lovely Donegal tour takes us to the top of Ireland where the countryside is spectacular. We include a visit to the world famous Giant's Causeway.

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 the town of Ballybofey in Co Donegal for a 3 night stay.

Day 3: Today we have included a visit 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.

Day 4: A full day excursion around Co. Donegal, starts at **Glenveagh National Park** with a visit to its romantic lakeside castle and gardens. The North West contains an official Gaeltacht region with proud cultural traditions and a strong musical heritage - local artists include Clannad, Enya, Westlife and Daniel O'Donnell. The surrounding coastal scenery is breath taking with some of the world's tallest sea cliffs. Alternatively, spend a day in **Donegal town** 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.

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.



Kee's Hotel ★★★★★

Family-owned since 1892, this award winning hotel in the Finn Valley oozes with style and character from a bygone era.

- 53 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry ➤ Giant's Causeway
- Belleek Pottery ➤ Tea/coffee & biscuits on arrival (Donegal)
- Drinks reception on one evening & nightly entertainment (Donegal)
- Leisure facilities (Donegal)

May to Sep: Prices from: £389



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 magnificent Lissadell House and 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 on the banks of the Garravogue River, with its art galleries and literary heritage.

Day 3: Sligo was crowned the 'Land of Heart's Desire' by WB Yeats, and the beauty of this region explains why he displayed such passion for his homeland. Begin with a visit to **Lissadell House**, an elegant Regency mansion with striking interiors and galleries set in beautiful grounds offering sweeping views of Sligo Bay, then finish with a drive around Lough Gill to find Parkes Castle.

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
- Lissadell House ➤ Slieve League Tour
- Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £419



Donegal



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.

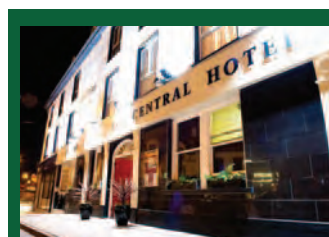
Day 2: Head through historic Co. Meath, home to the High Kings of Ireland in the 12th Century, and onto Enniskillen. Continue to **Belleek Pottery** for a tour of the factory that has produced delicate Parian china since 1857. Arrive in Donegal for a 3 night stay.

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: A full day excursion around Co. Donegal, starts at **Glenveagh National Park** with a visit to its romantic lakeside castle and gardens. The North West contains an official Gaeltacht region with proud cultural traditions and a strong musical heritage - local artists include Clannad, Enya, Westlife and Daniel O'Donnell. The surrounding coastal scenery is breath taking with some of the world's tallest sea cliffs.

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 ➤ Glenveagh Castle & Gardens
- Belleek Pottery ➤ Nightly entertainment (Donegal)
- Leisure facilities (Donegal)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £349
May to Sep: Prices from: £369



Glenveagh Castle



Giant's Causeway

Ireland's Coasts & Castles

Explore Ireland's magnificent northern coastline from the cliffs and coves of Co. Antrim to the spectacular seascapes of Co. Donegal, together with some truly romantic castles!

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, beginning with a trip to **Glenveagh Castle**. It lies half hidden in woodland at the edge of a lake in a protected national park that is home to the largest herd of red deer in Ireland. Head on to the dramatic west coast then down through the Blue Stack Mountains 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 commercial centre of Letterkenny.

- 120 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 5 nights DBB ➤ Return Ferry ➤ Giant's Causeway
- Glenveagh National Park Visitor Centre, castle tour & transfers
- Leisure facilities (Letterkenny)

Apr: Prices from: £379
May to Sep: Prices from: £389

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 trip 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 (Buncrana)

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £344
May to Sep: Prices from: £359



Ring of Kerry

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.



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 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.



Tour Includes:

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

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £659
May to Sep: Prices from: £739



Ireland's Grand Parade - St Patrick's Day Specials

Join the festival atmosphere on the biggest day in Ireland's calendar, **St Patrick's Day**, on 17th March when the nation revels in all things Irish. Pageantry, carnivals and free entertainment are on show across Dublin and do not miss the crowning event, the St Patrick's Festival Parade. You will be entertained by an awesome display of creative talent as the parade snakes its way through the centre of the city. International and Irish marching bands join performers, dancers and street theatre to present a wonderful spectacle. *If you prefer, celebrate the occasion in other Irish destinations, including Waterford and Killarney. Call us for details and prices.*

Royal Hotel ★★★

A delightful hotel situated in the heart of the Victorian seaside resort of Bray.

- 124 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB
- Farewell drink
- Entertainment on 1 night
- Leisure facilities
- Return Ferry

Mar: Prices from: £269



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 in your tour)
- 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 night DBB
- Return Ferry
- Nightly entertainment
- Free drink with dinner each night
- Jaunting car ride
- Boat Cruise on Lough Leane

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £319



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 city 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 city 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: £286



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 commercial 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

Isle of Man

18 • ISLE OF MAN



Peel



MAP LOCATION

- 1 Irresistible Isle of Man
- 2 Rail-A-Way on the Isle of Man
- 3 Spring & Autumn Special

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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: Take the ferry from Heysham to Douglas for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Board the **Steam Railway** as it carries you through the Manx countryside to the popular resort of Port Erin. If you wish, 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 journey 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**, stopping at '**Royal**' **Ramsey**, before travelling across the island to Peel. Sitting grandly at the mouth of the harbour is an attractive resort complete with castle, flat sandy beach, harbour, heritage centre and smoked kipper factory. Make time to visit **Tynwald Hill, home of the 1000 year old Manx Parliament.**

Day 5: After breakfast, return by ferry to Heysham and continue your 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: £309
May to Sep: Prices from: £359



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: £359



Spring & Autumn Special

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. Then 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: £312

England



Windsor Castle



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Alnwick Garden

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: £235



Durham

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.

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

Tour Includes:

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

May to Sep: Prices from: £308



Ullswater

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, visit the **historic market town of Kendal**.

Day 4: Full steam ahead to 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 see page 37 for a Turkey & Tinsel tour at the Cumbria Grand Hotel.

Cumbria Grand Hotel ★★ ★

Set in 20 acres, this charming 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 • Coach parking

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: £278
May to Sep: Prices from: £304



East Lancashire Railway

Ribble Valley & Lancashire Life

Full steam ahead to Lancashire for a guided tour of the Ribble Valley, a nostalgic steam train ride and the elegant resort of Southport.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Be captivated and enlightened on a **full or half day Ribble Valley & Pendle coach guided tour**, whilst enjoying the wonderful Lancashire scenery. If you choose to have a half day tour, then make the most of the afternoon by visiting the **historic market town of Clitheroe** or experience mill shopping at its best at **Oswaldtwistle Mills**, which has over 100 unique retailers, plus its own sweet factory, museum and garden centre.

Day 3: Visit the **world famous Bury Market**. For over 500 years, Bury has had a market and today it is a unique shopping experience and the biggest in the North West with 370 stalls. Take a nostalgic trip back in time and remember the sights, sounds and smells of a bygone era on a single journey through the Irwell Valley on the **East Lancashire Railway** from Bury to Rawtenstall.

Day 4: 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 5: Time to head for home.



Preston Leyland Hotel

★★★★

Modern hotel in Leyland, ideally placed to explore all of Lancashire's secrets.

- 93 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- East Lancashire Railway
- Full or half day Ribble Valley & Pendle guided tour

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £249



Leeds-Liverpool Canal

The Pennine Explorer

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

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 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 ➤ Entertainment on 1 night
- 6 singles - no supplement ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £258



Harewood House

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 **Emsay & 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.

Please see page 36 for a 'Fizz & Fayre' tour at the Cairn Hotel.



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:

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

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £248
May to Sep: Prices from: £282



North Yorkshire Moors Railway

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 36 for a Christmas themed Yuletide break to York and Castle Howard.

Best Western 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: £275



Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre

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 **Dambuster's connections** and its unique Kinema in the Woods, before continuing to 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. Alternatively, you could visit the **Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre**, where you can experience the atmosphere of a bomber airfield, complete with its own Lancaster bomber 'Just Jane'. 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 ➤ Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre or Lincolnshire Aviation Heritage Centre
- Entertainment on 3 nights ➤ 6 singles - no supplement

Mar, Apr & Oct: Prices from: £183
May to Sep: Prices from: £205



Chatsworth House

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: £279



Liverpool

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.



Mercure Liverpool Atlantic Tower Hotel ★★★

In the very heart of the city 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: £275



Port Sunlight

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. Enjoy 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, or visit a much cherished Victorian family home and its lovingly created gardens at **Arley Hall**. 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 or Arley Hall & Gardens
- Port Sunlight Museum & coach guided tour ➤ Ness Botanic Gardens

May to Sep: Prices from: £315



Shrewsbury River Cruise

Welsh Borders Steam & Cruise

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

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Shrewsbury 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: 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 4: Spoil for choice, and what a choice! You could visit the historic market town of Ludlow; the spectacular Ironbridge Gorge; 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 5: Time to head for home.



Mercure Shrewsbury Albrighton Hall Hotel & Spa ★★★★★

Stunning manor house hotel set in landscaped gardens and grounds 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 facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £309



Severn Valley Railway

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: 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 4: 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 5: Time for home.

Please see page 37 for a Turkey & Tinsel tour at the Buckatree Hall Hotel.

Buckatree Hall Hotel ★★☆☆

Country house hotel in a peaceful rural location.

- 62 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Telford Hotel & Golf Resort ★★★★★

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

- 114 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Severn Valley Railway
- Blists Hill Victorian Museum ➤ Shrewsbury River Severn Cruise
- Entertainment on 2 nights (Buckatree Hall Hotel)
- Leisure & Spa facilities (Telford Hotel)

May to Sep: Prices from: £285



Warwick Castle

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 Leicester 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: £296



Sudeley Castle

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: £307



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; 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 37 for a Turkey & 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: £279



Burghley House

Rutland's Riches & Elizabethan Grandeur

Experience stunning attractions including England's greatest Elizabethan House, an inspiring garden, beautiful Stamford and a Rutland Water cruise.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: "The finest scene between London and Edinburgh" is what Sir Walter Scott said of **Stamford, a Georgian town of immense charm with over 600 listed buildings**, which has been used many times as a filming location. Also featured in many films is **Burghley House, which is one of the largest and grandest houses of the Elizabethan age**. It is home to extensive collections, many fine rooms, the garden of surprises and landscaped parkland.

Day 3: Rutland maybe the smallest county in the UK, but it boasts a rich history! The pretty **historic market town of Oakham** is home to an impressive Norman castle and the Rutland County Museum, a treasure trove of captivating exhibits. Head to **Barnsdale Gardens**, the UK's largest collection of individually designed gardens, which was created by the much-loved late BBC Gardeners' World presenter, Geoff Hamilton, before enjoying a **relaxing afternoon cruise on Rutland Water**, one of the largest man-made lakes in Europe.

Day 4: The choice is yours! You could visit the cathedral city of Peterborough and enjoy a trip on the Nene Valley Railway, visit the lovely historic town of Oundle with its many listed buildings and specialist shops or get a real 'taste' of Leicestershire in Melton Mowbray, famous for its pork pies and stilton cheese, before visiting Belvoir Castle, the family home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland.

Day 5: Time for home.



Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel ★★★

Modern and spacious hotel, near Corby, ideally placed to explore Rutland's riches.

- 86 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Burghley House
- Barnsdale Gardens
- Rutland Water Cruise

May to Sep: Prices from: £269



Cambridge

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.

Huntingdon Marriott Hotel ★★★★★

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

NEW!

Tour Includes:

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

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £286



Norfolk Broads

Norfolk Broads Steam & Cruise

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 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 Her Majesty the Queen. 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. If you prefer, 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

Tour Includes:

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

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £288



Lavenham

Suffolk's 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 the Marks Tey Hotel 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 unspoiled beach dotted with fishermen's huts and charming historic high street. This afternoon, enjoy a **relaxing cruise along the beautiful and scenic River Deben**, which makes a lovely way to round off your holiday.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.



Marks Tey Hotel ★★★

Ideal for exploring Suffolk, it has modern facilities and an indoor swimming pool.

- 110 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 4 nights DBB › Lavenham Guildhall
- › Guided tour of Suffolk Villages › Deben River Cruise
- › Welcome drink on arrival › Leisure facilities

May to Sep: Prices from: £301



Windsor Cruise

Royal Windsor & Glorious Wisley

Discover the majesty of Windsor, enjoy a relaxing cruise on the 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 Rothschilds.

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: £339



Kent & East Sussex Railway

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: £285

NEW!

Broadstairs

Captivating Kent Coast

Experience the wonderful coastal villages and towns of Kent and relax on a journey on one of the world's smallest railways.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Excursion to the **historic Cinque Port town of Hythe**. Stroll along the Victorian promenade and the beautiful long beachfront with stunning views of the English Channel and visit the unique, independent shops on the high street, before enjoying a nostalgic single journey trip on '**Kent's Mainline in Miniature**', the **Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway**, across scenic Romney Marsh to the unique Dungeness shingle headland. 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 historic city of **Canterbury** with its atmospheric old streets, medieval walls and cathedral, which is now a World Heritage Site, before continuing to the East Kent Coast where you could visit **Broadstairs, a quintessential seaside town** which was Charles Dickens' favourite seaside resort or the **ancient medieval town of Sandwich**, which is idyllic, rustic and a true hidden gem.

Day 4: The choice is yours. Head to White Cliffs Country to visit the pretty coastal town of Deal and the beautiful Walmer Castle and Gardens or explore 2000 years of history and the Secret Wartime Tunnels at Dover Castle, but don't forget to take a poignant moment to reflect at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne. Alternatively, explore the wonderful historic spa town of Royal Tunbridge Wells, with its elegant architecture and colonnaded 18th century walkway known as the Pantiles, before visiting Sissinghurst Castle Gardens, one of the world's most celebrated gardens, or enjoying a nostalgic train journey on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

Day 5: Time for home.

Tour Includes:

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



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

NEW!

May to Sep: Prices from: £289



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.



Best Western Lansdowne Hotel ★★★★★

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

- 102 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

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

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £293
May to Sep: Prices from: £309



Shanklin

Southsea, Chichester & the Isle of Wight

Stroll along Southsea seafront, visit the historic cathedral city of Chichester and enjoy a relaxing harbour cruise or a trip to the Isle of Wight.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Enjoy a leisurely stroll in the gardens and along the Promenade in **Southsea**, home to a castle and the D-Day Museum & Overlord Embroidery. Visit 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 or for something more modern, take a panoramic trip up the 170ft high Spinnaker Tower.

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**, or if you prefer, head to the **historic town of Arundel**, with its impressive castle, cathedral, beautiful listed buildings and old-world charm.

Day 4: The **Isle of Wight** beckons and is only a short ferry crossing away. Explore the coasts and curiosities of this island, perhaps visiting Shanklin, Sandown, Godshill, Alum Bay, the Needles, Queen Victoria's Osborne House or enjoy a train ride. Alternatively, you could stay in Hampshire and visit King Alfred's ancient capital of England - the cathedral city of Winchester; the historic town of Bishop's Waltham or head to Alresford, a lovely Georgian town, for a nostalgic trip on the Mid-Hants Railway, also known as the Watercress Line.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



Best Western Royal Beach Hotel ★★★

Proudly situated on Southsea's promenade, this lovely Victorian hotel is opposite the beach.

- 124 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Chichester Harbour Cruise or the Isle of Wight return ferry
- 12 singles - no supplement

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £289



Beaulieu

Hampshire - Steam, Gin & the New Forest

Experience historic Hampshire, a nostalgic railway, Jane Austen heritage, a gin distillery and 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 and health spa.

- 90 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

NEW!

Tour Includes:

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

Apr to Sep: Prices from: £295



Poole Harbour

Poole & the Jurassic Coast

With a wonderful coastline, relaxing harbour cruise and nostalgic train ride, this tour to delightful Dorset is a real treat.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Explore the Isle of Purbeck, including the **Georgian market town of Wareham**, once a stronghold for King Alfred the Great and onto the lovely **Victorian seaside resort of Swanage**, which marks the Eastern end of the Jurassic Coast. Enjoy a wonderful journey through the Purbeck countryside with an included **trip on the Swanage Railway** with stunning views of the ruins of Corfe Castle en route.

Day 3: Enjoy a scenic drive along **Dorset's 'Jurassic Coast'**, a natural World Heritage Site containing 185 million years of the Earth's history and visit the **coastal resort of Weymouth** with its long sandy beach and picturesque harbour. If time allows, you could visit Athelhampton House & Gardens or the Swannery at Abbotsbury. Alternatively, **visit Dorset's historic county town of Dorchester**, the birthplace of the famous author and poet, Thomas Hardy or head to the popular seaside resort of Bournemouth.

Day 4: 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 5: Sadly, it's time for home.



Poole Quay Hotel ★★ ★

With stunning views over Poole Harbour, this hotel is located on Poole Quayside.

- 70 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

➤ 4 nights DBB ➤ Swanage Railway ➤ Poole Harbour Cruise

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £298
May to Sep: Prices from: £322



Bristol

Wonderful Wells, Brunel's Bristol & Serene Somerset

Discover England's smallest city, the beautiful Mendip Hills, the spectacular Cheddar Gorge and the Somerset Coast.

Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: The **wonderful city of Bath**, a protected World Heritage Site, is full of architectural wonders. Don't miss the Royal Crescent, Pulteney Bridge which is lined with tiny shops, the Roman Baths, Pump Room and Sally Lunn's House. Alternatively, head to Longleat, and discover one of the most beautiful stately homes in Britain and its famous safari park.

Day 3: Head to the Somerset Coast today and visit either **Weston-Super-Mare**, a seaside resort with a fabulous beach and new pier, or Clevedon, a beautiful Victorian town with a grade 1 listed Pier, ornamental gardens and a relaxing Promenade. This afternoon, head to **Oakham Treasures**, which will give you an uplifting trip down memory lane with its vast and unique collection of memorabilia.

Day 4: In **Wells**, step out from your lovely, historic hotel and explore England's smallest city, on Wednesday market day. With its cobbled streets, medieval architecture, compact historic centre, magnificent cathedral and unique moated Bishop's Palace, there is plenty to see and do in this wonderful city. This afternoon, head the short journey to mystical **Glastonbury** or the spectacular setting of Cheddar Gorge, home to some breath taking caves. If based in **Bristol**, explore this captivating city with its historic landmarks, heritage, harbour side attractions including Brunel's SS Great Britain, its cathedral and the St Mary Redcliffe Church, one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country.

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

Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel ★★★★★

In the heart of Bristol, opposite the famous St Mary Redcliffe Church, this hotel has leisure facilities.

- 275 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

NEW!

Best Western Plus Swan Hotel ★★★★★

This historic hotel sits in the heart of Wells, directly opposite the magnificent west front of Wells Cathedral.

- 49 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms

Tour Includes:

➤ 4 nights DBB ➤ Oakham Treasures

Bristol: Apr to Oct: Prices from: £286
Wells: Apr & Oct only: Prices from: £322



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 Bridgwater or Tiverton 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 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.

Mercure Bridgwater Hotel

★★★★

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

- 119 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

NEW!

Best Western Tiverton Hotel

★★★

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

- 69 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Horse-drawn canal trip ➤ West Somerset Railway

May to Sep: Prices from: £311



Torquay

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 36 for a 'Cosy Break' tour and page 37 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: £252
Jun to Sep: Prices from: £287



Bournemouth

Dorset All Inclusive

Discover the delights of Dorset with this all-inclusive package by the seaside! **Bournemouth** is an all year round resort with a wealth of attractions. Visit Poole, with its quayside and old town; the wonderful New Forest and the historic cathedral city of Salisbury.

Highlights include:

- Packed lunch or one course hot buffet lunch on 3 days
- Inclusive drinks 6pm-9pm each evening, on selected brands
- Entertainment on a minimum of 2 nights

Please note that a 'European Cruise' and a 'Turkey & Tinsel' tour are also available at this hotel.

Suncliff Hotel ★★★

Situated on the East Cliff in Bournemouth, it has an indoor pool.

- 114 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

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

Mar: Prices from: £209



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 37 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: £219



Harrogate

Harrogate 'Fizz & Fayre'

Enjoy a festive 'Fizz & Fayre' break in the heart of the beautiful Yorkshire spa town of **Harrogate**. Excursions could include Haworth and Bronte Country, the market towns of Skipton and Knaresborough, and the cities of Leeds and York during their Yuletide festivities.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine drinks reception
- Festive themed mini afternoon tea and a glass of festive fizz
- Nightly entertainment

Cairn Hotel ★★★

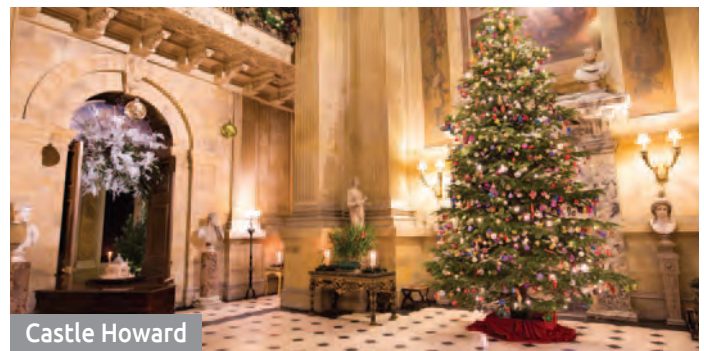
Charming Victorian hotel in Harrogate with period features and private gardens.

- 135 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £239



Castle Howard

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.

Best Western 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: £189



Lake District Turkey & Tinsel

Enjoy a festive Turkey & Tinsel break on the edge of the Lake District National Park, in the **genteel Edwardian resort of Grange-over-Sands**, with its quaint cafes, promenade and ornamental gardens. Excursions could include spectacular scenic circular tours of the Lake District incorporating some of its many picturesque and historic villages and towns.

Highlights include:

- Glass of bubbly or sherry on day of arrival
- Jumbo Christmas Quiz
- Nightly themed entertainment

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

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £219



Shropshire Turkey & Tinsel

Discover the delights and some pre-Christmas festive cheer on this Turkey & Tinsel tour at the Bucktree Hall Hotel in **scenic Shropshire**. You could visit Shrewsbury, arguably the finest Tudor town in England, Bridgnorth, Much Wenlock and Ludlow, with over 500 listed buildings.

Highlights include:

- Tea/coffee and mince pies on arrival at the hotel
- Christmas themed dinner menu on one evening
- New Year's Eve gala dinner on one evening
- Themed entertainment on three nights

Bucktree Hall Hotel ★★

Country house hotel in a peaceful rural location.

- 62 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Inclusions as above

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £215



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
- Bucks Fizz served before dinner on 'New Year's Eve'
- Visit from Santa • Nightly themed entertainment

Bells Hotel & Country Club ★★

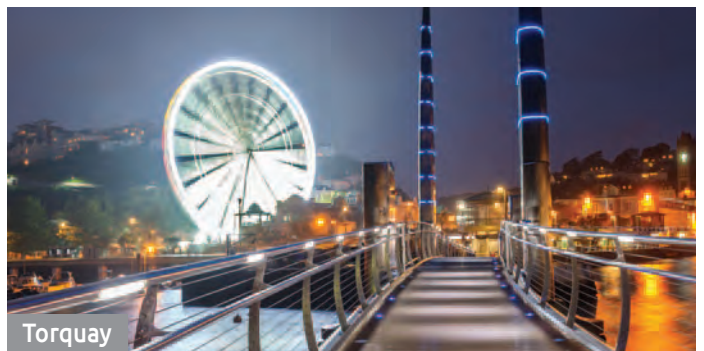
A warm welcome is assured at this lovely hotel in Coleford.

- 53 Bedrooms • Ground floor bedrooms • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

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

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £235



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 36 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: £225

Wales



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Tenby

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Snowdonia

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 or Abergele 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 41 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

The Kinmel Hotel ★★★

Set in the heart of the beautiful North Wales Coast with leisure facilities and a spa, close to Abergele.

- 42 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

NEW!

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 (Celtic Royal Hotel)
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £295
May to Sep: Prices from: £325



Ffestiniog 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 or Abergele 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 41 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

The Kinmel Hotel ★★★

Set in the heart of the beautiful North Wales Coast with leisure facilities and a spa, close to Abergele.

- 42 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

NEW!

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB
- Ffestiniog Railway
- Welsh Highland Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights (Celtic Royal Hotel)
- Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £320
May to Sep: Prices from: £350



Vale of Rheidol Steam 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.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



The Metropole Hotel

★★★★

In the heart of Llandrindod Wells, it has been owned by the same family for over 100 years.

- 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: £315
May to Oct: Prices from: £329



Gower

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: £290



Cardiff

Cultural Cardiff & the Royal Mint

Cardiff is far more than just a city break, with its vibrant bay area, imposing Castle, heritage and historic local attractions.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Cardiff for a 3 night stay.

Day 2: Familiarise yourself with the fascinating city of **Cardiff**, the Welsh Capital, on an enjoyable and informative **two hour coach guided tour** of the city, the bay, the Barrage and Penarth seafront, before returning to your hotel, from where you will be able to explore the history and culture of the city and its numerous attractions for yourself.

Day 3: See the heads and hear the tales, at **the Royal Mint Experience**. Go behind the scenes and see the processes that put the pounds and pennies in our pockets. Discover some surprising stories and fascinating facts about the craftsmanship that goes into each miniature work of art, and follow the journey of a coin, from a blank to a bank. If time allows, why not visit the St Fagans National History Museum, one of Europe's foremost open-air museums and Wales's most popular heritage attraction. Set in over 100 acres of parkland and with over 40 historic buildings and wonderful gardens, you can really feel the rich history of Wales and its people. Alternatively, visit the Victorian Dyffryn House with its beautiful 55 acre Grade 1 registered Edwardian gardens and its stunning collection of intimate garden rooms, formal lawns and arboretum.

Day 4: Time to head for home.

Please note that this tour can be extended to a 4 night stay, if required.



Holiday Inn Cardiff City Centre ★★

Excellent central location, close to the castle and perfect for exploring this captivating city.

- 157 Bedrooms
- Lift

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB
- Two hour coach-guided tour of Cardiff
- The Royal Mint Experience

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £205



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: £199



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
- Nightly entertainment

The Cliff Hotel & Spa ★★

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

- 73 Bedrooms
- Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➢ Inclusions as above ➢ Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £240

Scotland

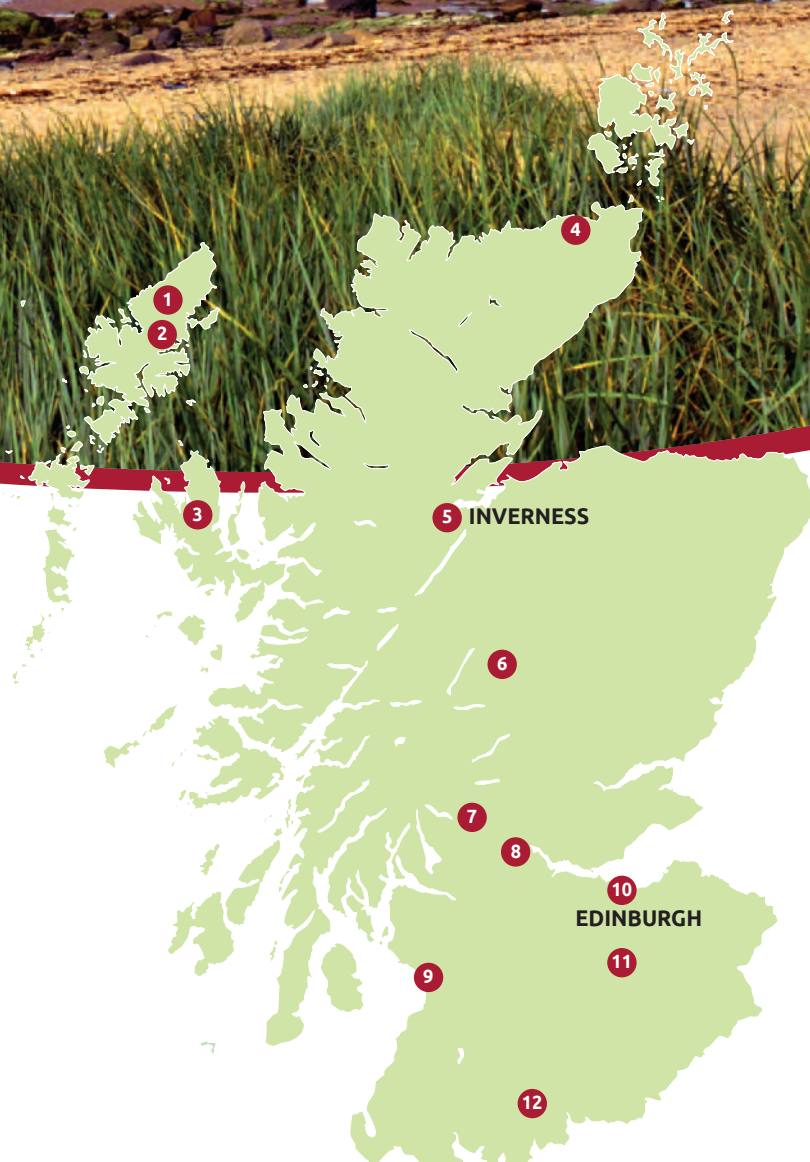
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Isle of Arran

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Isle of Lewis

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 Gearrannan 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: £649



Isle of Skye

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 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 Gearrannan 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: £571

NEW!



Dunvegan Castle

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: £393
May to Sep: Prices from: £429



The Italian Chapel

Orkney & the 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, 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 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 Caithness Horizons, a fascinating museum that tells the story of this region's past and present; 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 a visit to the famous landmark, **John O'Groats**.

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.

- 41 Bedrooms

Castletown Hotel ★★★

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

- 28 Bedrooms

Tour Includes:

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

May to Sep: Prices from: £459



Dunrobin Castle

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: £335
May to Sep: Prices from: £377



Jacobite Steam Train

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 or 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. 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: £409
Oct: Prices from: £359



Glenturret Distillery

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 to Sep: Prices from: £259
Oct: Prices from: £247



Forth Boat Cruise

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, Royal Mile, Princes Street 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: £305



Culzean Castle

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: £265



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.



Tinto Hotel

★★★

Traditional hotel set in 5 acres of grounds, near Biggar.

- 39 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Barony Castle Hotel

★★★★

Manor House hotel with an indoor pool, near Peebles.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Doubletree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood Hotel

★★★★

Luxury hotel with an indoor pool, near Cumbernauld.

- 148 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- › 2 nights DBB + 1 night BB
- › Admission to Edinburgh Tattoo
- › Leisure facilities (Barony Castle + Westerwood)

Aug: Prices from: £289



Abbotsford House and Gardens

Scottish Borders Scenic Beauty

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, this striking hotel certainly makes you feel you're in Scotland.

- 78 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Abbotsford House & Gardens or Traquair House
- Floors Castle & Gardens ➤ Tea/coffee & shortbread on arrival
- Leisure & spa facilities

Apr, May, Sep & Oct: Prices from: £299
Jun to Aug: Prices from: £329



Logan Botanic Garden

Undiscovered Secrets of Dumfries & Galloway

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 the First World War in the biggest munitions factory in the world or Gretna Green, home to the Famous Blacksmiths Shop.

Day 2: 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, or alternatively, visit **Drumlanrig Castle & Gardens**, where you can discover over 600 years of family history and the many treasures on display. Take time to **discover Dumfries**, home to Robert Burns Centre located in the town's 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**, which is Scotland's most exotic garden. Here, you can discover botanical treasures from around the world, located close to Scotland's most southerly point. Return to Dumfries through the Galloway Forest Park and along 'The Queen's Way'.

Day 4: Excursion past Sweetheart Abbey and along the coast with views over the Solway Firth, before arriving in the **picturesque harbour town of Kirkcudbright**, with a colourful blend of medieval, Georgian and Victorian buildings and now 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.

Holiday Inn Dumfries ★★★★★

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

- 71 Bedrooms
- Lift • Coach parking

NEW!

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

May to Sep: Prices from: £255

Europe



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NEW!

Budapest

Danube River Cruise

A Danube cruise is the perfect way to explore one of Europe's most iconic rivers, the beauty of which was famously honoured by the Austrian composer Strauss when he wrote his celebrated waltz, The Blue Danube in 1866. On this fabulous cruise visits will be made to Vienna, Budapest and Bratislava - names that conjure up images of a glorious, splendid and romantic past. These fabulous cities are from a bygone era when the Habsburg dynasty ruled central Europe. The Empire may be long gone, but these Imperial Cities will dazzle you with their charm and fascinate you with their history.



Suggested Itinerary:

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

Day 2: Travel to Austria today, arriving in **Linz** where you join your vessel, the **MV Esmeralda**. Enjoy a Welcome Cocktail prior to dinner on board.

Day 3: Our boat departs Linz before breakfast as you enjoy a full day cruising on the Danube. Plenty of time to relax and admire the passing scenery. The ship arrives in Vienna in the early evening.

Day 4: After breakfast spend the day exploring **Vienna**, the capital of Austria. Six centuries of Imperial Habsburg rule have left an incredible mark on Vienna, which is noted for its art, culture, architecture and coffee shops. Lying in the Danube Valley at the foot of the Vienna Woods, the city offers many wondrous sights. This evening the cruise vessel departs for an overnight sailing to Budapest.

Day 5: We arrive in **Budapest** this morning. Free time to explore this stunning city known as the Pearl of the Danube. Buda and Pest are contrasting halves with the old quarter of Buda and the more modern Pest. Eight bridges span the Danube River linking the two halves to each other. Visit some of the fine sights which are reminders of the city's imperial past under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. This evening your cruise vessel departs for Bratislava.

Day 6: Spend the morning relaxing on board as your cruise ship will arrive in **Bratislava** around lunchtime. This afternoon is free for you to enjoy this wonderful city.

Day 7: Our ship will cruise early morning making its way to **Durnstein** in Austria, with time to relax and enjoy the scenery. Upon arrival free time to stroll through this wonderful medieval town which is overlooked by the ruins of the castle where in 1192 King Richard I of England was held captive by the Duke of Austria during his return from the crusades.

Day 8: This morning the ship will cruise early morning making its way to **Melk**. Option here to join a local coach and enjoy a guided tour of the beautiful Benedictine Abbey overlooking the town of Melk. This evening enjoy the on board Captain's Farewell Dinner.

Day 9: Time to depart after breakfast. You will disembark in Linz and make your way back to your overnight hotel on dinner, bed and breakfast basis.

Day 10: After breakfast continue north to the port of Calais and your return crossing back to the UK.

An option is available for your passengers to book excursions directly with the cruise company – call us for details.

North Sea Ferry and Eurotunnel options also available – call us for details.



MV Esmeralda

This river cruise ship is perfect from which to enjoy your cruise. It has a spacious lounge, bar area, restaurant and sundeck. There is a small lift to both passenger decks and a stair lift to the sun deck. All cabins are outward facing and comfortably equipped with lower twin beds and private facilities.

Tour Includes:

➤ 2 overnights in hotels on dinner, bed & breakfast basis

During the cruise:

- 7 nights on board with lunch, dinner and breakfast
- Welcome Cocktail ➤ Afternoon tea and biscuits daily
- Evening entertainment on at least 2 nights
- Captain's Farewell Dinner ➤ Return Ferry

May to Sep: Prices from: £836

NEW!



Cochem

Germany's Rhine & Mosel Cruise

Combine the highlights of Germany's most famous rivers, the Rhine and Mosel, on one fabulous cruise. The magnificent River Rhine is Europe's longest waterway which traverses or borders no fewer than six countries, but it is the section between Koblenz and Mainz which seems to capture everyone's dream of Germany's most beautiful scenery. Marvel at the diverse countryside through which the river flows including fairytale castles, half-timbered houses and the multitude of vineyards in Germany's most famous wine growing area. In contrast you have the Mosel River known as the little sister to the mighty River Rhine. This meandering river is one of the most picturesque and unspoiled river valleys in Europe.



Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Depart the UK to Calais and travel to the German city of **Cologne** where you join **MV Prinses Christina** before your evening meal.

Day 2: Today we cruise down the Rhine to the **walled town of Andernach** arriving after lunch. Free time to stroll through this attractive town and along its riverside promenade.

Day 3: Today we cruise down the Rhine, and at Koblenz join the beautiful Mosel river. We continue through a number of locks along the river and spectacular Mosel Valley until we reach the old town of Cochem. A firm favourite with tourists the beautiful town of **Cochem** with its cobbled streets and half-timbered houses, it is overlooked by the impressive Reichsburg Castle in neo-Gothic style, which is said to be Sleeping Beauty's castle.

Day 4: We head back up onto the Rhine and continue to the town of **Boppard** for our next stopover. Situated on the largest loop in the River Rhine, known as the Bopparder Hamm, this town is also known as the 'Jewel of the Rhine'. From Boppard take the chair lift up to the Gedeonseck from the summit there is a fine view of the loop in the Rhine.

Day 5: The ship will travel through the impressive Rhine Gorge today passing around the famous Lorelei Rock and making its way along the most scenic section of the River Rhine and onto the lovely town of Rudesheim. **Rudesheim** is famous for the lively taverns and wine cellars situated on the tiny alley, the Drosselgasse. Numerous options are available here from wine tasting, Siegfried's mechanical music museum or take a chair lift up to the imposing monument of the Niederwald Memorial which gives magnificent views of the town and surrounding valley.

Day 6: We head back up towards the Rhine and stop at the walled city of **Koblenz**. For the best views opt to take the cable car trip up to Ehrenbreitstein Fortress which overlooks the city.

Day 7: We depart Koblenz and cruise along the river to **Konigswinter** for a morning visit before departing at lunch time. Arrival in Cologne is in the afternoon.

Day 8: **After breakfast** we bid farewell to our captain and crew and disembark for the return journey to Calais, Dover and home.

An option is available for your passengers to book excursions directly with the cruise company – call us for details.



MV Prinses Christina

This river cruise ship offers the ultimate in comfort where everything on board has been designed to make your cruise as comfortable as possible. The elegant lounge has picture windows offering panoramic views of the passing scenery. There is a bar / lounge, an elegantly furnished restaurant and a large partially covered sun deck. All cabins have twin beds, shower, toilet and satellite TV.

Tour Includes:

- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- 7 nights full board with lunch, dinner (with choice) and breakfast
- Welcome drink and Captain's dinner during your cruise
- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard
- Visits to Cologne, Andernach, Cochem, Boppard, Rudesheim, Koblenz and Konigswinter
- 2 nights entertainment during your cruise
- Porterage from coach to cabins (in & out)
- Single cabin for your driver on the lower deck
- 3 sole occupancy cabins with no supplement

Jun to Sep: Prices from: £639



St Wolfgang

Austrian 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 Mirabel 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 › Return Ferry
- › 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 › Leisure facilities
- › 1 hour tour on the hotel's own 'slow train'

May to Sep: Prices from: £489



Kirchberg

Austrian Tirol

The Tirol 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, St Johann or Riebergbrunn or take the chairlift up into the mountains.

Day 4: The capital of the Tirol, **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, and a cream-and-pistachio palace built under Maria Theresa from the mighty Austrian-Hungarian empire days, 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 › Return Ferry › 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)

May to Sep: Prices from: £TBC



Keukenhof

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 See 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.

Eurotunnel, North Sea Ferry or Hook of Holland Ferry options available – call us for details.

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
- Return Ferry
- Entrance to Keukenhof Gardens
- Up to 20 singles available
- 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

Apr & May: Prices from: £309



Zuid-Limburgse steam train

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 freely 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: £299



Sirmione

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 famous 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: £429
May, Jun & Sep: Prices from: £449



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 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 ★★★★★

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: £539



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.

Eurotunnel or 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
- 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: £229



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 & 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: £249



Luxembourg's Autumn Colours

Embedded in a landscape typical of the Ardennes – rolling hills and heavily wooded valleys, this area of Luxembourg is a delight in the autumn, with its magnificent scenery and riot of colours. Our base for this tour is **Vianden** which has charmed visitors for many years. The narrow paved lanes, the gothic churches, the ramparts and fortified towers of this small medieval town are dominated by the impressive castle. To get the most out of your visit we have included a **walking tour of Vianden**.

Summer packages and 4 night options are also available at this hotel.

Hotel Belle-Vue ★★★

A modern ecological hotel heated by solar energy, close to the chair lifts, Victor Hugo Museum and the impressive castle in Vianden.

- 55 Bedrooms • Lift

Tour Includes:

- 3 nights DBB (choice menu)
- One evening of live music/entertainment
- Return Ferry

Oct & Nov: Prices from: £319



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: £229

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