



Ireland & Scotland

September 3 - 14, 2024

Edinburgh Castle

*Hosted by:
Gene Van Galder*



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Day 1: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 • Depart USA

Our Emerald Isle adventure takes us on a trans-Atlantic flight from Chicago to Shannon, Ireland.

Day 2: Wednesday, September 4, 2024 • Clifden

Upon arrival in Shannon, we clear customs and meet our coach and driver. We begin our scenic adventure with a drive through Ireland's emerald-green countryside to the Cliffs of Moher on the west coast. Included in our visit to the breathtaking landscapes is the Cliff's Exhibition where we learn the story of the cliffs and the seabirds they protect. Next, we drive through the Burren, an eerie landscape filled with rock formations, monuments and boulders. We arrive at our hotel in time to relax before dinner. **D**

Day 3: Thursday, September 5, 2024 • Clifden

After breakfast, we explore the unspoiled island of Inishmore in the Aran Islands, ranked as one of the world's top island destinations by National Geographic. The islands are breathtaking, wind-blown, and spectacular! We'll see historic Celtic churches, sacred sites and ruins, and perhaps learn to speak some Gaelic. Wear your walking shoes as that is our main mode of transportation while on the island (although you may choose to rent a bike). After our sightseeing, we take the ferry back to the mainland and investigate more of Connemara, Galway Peninsula and the small town of Clifden. **B, D**

Day 4: Friday, September 6, 2024 • Killarney

Following breakfast, we stop at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. While the castle contains furniture and paintings from the 15th and 16th centuries, the park consists of 25 acres of reconstructed farmhouses, cottages and shops from the 19th century. There is even a tiny village with a blacksmith, pub and post office. We drive through Limerick, Ireland's third largest city before stopping in Adare, Ireland's prettiest village with thatched cottages and colorful gardens on the wooded banks of the River Maigue. We continue south to Killarney, making stops along the way to explore more of the beautiful Emerald Isle. **B, D**

Day 5: Saturday, September 7, 2024 • Killarney

This morning we travel along one of the most scenic roads in the world: the Ring of Kerry. Sites such as Ladies View, McGillicuddy's Reeks, Waterville and Cahersiveen come to life as we negotiate narrow, winding roads with unforgettable views. In the afternoon, we explore Killarney National Park before returning to Killarney on a jaunting cart, an open horse-drawn carriage. Dinner tonight is on our own. Perhaps tonight is a night for an informal pub crawl! **B**



Day 6: Sunday, September 8, 2024 • Dublin

Our journey proceeds as we travel to Dublin. The first stop includes a visit to Blarney Castle. Of course, you will want to kiss the Blarney Stone and acquire the "gift of eloquence." Next, we see the Rock of Cashel, also known as St Patrick's Rock. Towering over the town from its perch on a 200-foot-high outcrop of limestone, the Rock was once the seat of the Kings of Munster. It was visited by St. Patrick in 450 A.D. and by Brian Boru, the last great High King of Ireland. Today the impressive stone walls enclose a round tower, the Cathedral, a 12th century Romanesque chapel, high crosses and other structures. **B, D**

Day 7: Monday, September 9, 2024 • Dublin

This morning our local guide takes us on a city tour of Dublin to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral, home of Ireland's largest and most beautiful organ as well as the burial site of Jonathan Swift. We also visit the famed Trinity College, Ireland's oldest college founded in 1592 by England's Queen Elizabeth I. While at the college, we see the Old Library that houses the Book of Kells, the ancient Latin manuscript of the four gospels dating back to the year 800. The remainder of the day is free to explore Dublin on our own. Options include a visit to Dublin Castle or the Natural History Museum, shopping on Grafton and O'Connell Streets or simply relaxing in the arts and entertainment area of Temple Bar. This evening, we have dinner in the heart of Dublin at Oliver St John Gogarty's Irish Pub. **B, D**

Day 8: Tuesday, September 10, 2024 • Glasgow Area

Today we drive north and stop to visit the Titanic Museum in Belfast. Then we board a ferry to Cairnryan. From here we again board the coach and drive to our hotel in the Glasgow area. We have dinner and overnight. **B, D**

Day 9: Wednesday, September 11, 2024 • Inverness Area

Today we head north along Loch Lomond and Glencoe to Fort William, where we can view Ben Nevis. At 4,406 feet, it is the highest mountain in the British Isles, and the vistas are breathtaking. We continue to Fort Augustus, located at the southern edge of Loch Ness, where we board a vessel and do our own searching for Nessie, the friendly, but elusive, resident monster. **B, D**

Day 10: Thursday, September 12, 2024 • Edinburgh

A full day of sightseeing and exploration awaits us. We begin by discovering the area of the savage clans and roving barbarians, including a visit to the Culloden Battlefield. We learn about the Jacobite movement, the rise and demise of the clan system, local homes and battlegrounds, and discover many clues to the Celtic and non-Celtic ancestors of the Highlanders. Then, we drive



Bunratty Castle

through the Grampian Mountains in the Highlands and venture down into the Cairngorms National Park, the largest in Britain. It covers almost 2,300 miles of beautiful and unspoiled countryside including wild moorlands, soaring mountain peaks, granite Ice Age glacier heaves, and spectacular valleys, rivers and lochs (lakes) as well as a huge variety of wildlife. We take a break to enjoy Afternoon Tea. We arrive in Edinburgh in time for dinner. **B, D**

Day 11: Friday, September 13, 2024 • Edinburgh

This morning we enjoy a panoramic tour of Edinburgh, a beautiful city, often referred to as the "Athens of the North!" Highlights will include the Walter Scott Monument, the elegant Prince's Street, architectural wonders, plus much more! We have an inside tour of Edinburgh Castle, with its foreboding ramparts and walls, amazing city views, Crown jewels, and the siege gun, Mon's Meg. The afternoon is open for options, an opportunity to visit museums or Queen Elizabeth II's Yacht "Britannia", explore botanical gardens or the zoo, or perhaps shop for that special "Scottish Tweed." This evening we celebrate a "Spirit of Scotland evening" with dinner as our journey through Ireland and Scotland comes to an end. **B, D**

Day 12: Saturday, September 14, 2024 • Return

We transfer to the airport with memories of a lifetime from another GVG Tours adventure. **B**

Abbreviations for Meals

B=Breakfast, D=Dinner



TOUR COST: \$5,499

per person, double occupancy

Single Occupancy = \$6,299

with a minimum of 15 participants

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare** (Chicago to Shannon, return from Edinburgh) and related taxes, fees and fuel charges (*estimated at \$1,425*) Seat assignment fees may be in addition.
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in moderate 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, except as noted below

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- End of tour gratuity for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date. Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From Final payment due date until 31 days before departure, a \$500 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 30 days prior to departure will receive no refund.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: GVG Tours, Inc., Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



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Ireland & Scotland

Please register me for:

- GVIS24:** Sept. 3 - 14, 2024 • \$5,499
Per person, double occupancy
land & est. air from ORD
- Single Occupancy • \$6,299

Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Best practice is to include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: (required by airline) Male Female

Dietary Needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Best practice is to include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: (required by airline) Male Female

Dietary Needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** _____

Work phone/cell: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed Twin Beds

Roommate name: _____ **OR Single supplement:** Yes No

Travel Insurance (please check one)

Price is 7.2% of tour cost

- I wish to purchase Travel Guard insurance and have included the premium with my deposit.
- I wish to decline the travel insurance offered through Travel Guard.

Deposit Payment Information (please check one)

- Enclosed is my \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). **Make check payable to Ed-Ventures, Inc.**
- Please charge \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable) to my Discover/MasterCard/Visa.

Credit Card Number: _____ **Exp. Date:** _____

Card ID Code:* _____ **last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card*
If calling in your number, please provide the last 4 digits of your card number, and sign that we have permission to run it.

_____ Initial to acknowledge you understand that Federal law prohibits the carriage of certain hazardous materials in your luggage or on your person aboard aircraft and could result in a fine or imprisonment. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 4.11.23. By signing below, I understand that price changes are possible at the time of final invoicing, due to exchange rates, an increase in carrier charges, fuel costs, taxes and tariffs, and the number of passengers traveling in the group. I agree to the terms and conditions of this tour.

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ **Date:** _____



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