



ENGLAND, IRELAND AND WALES



*Educational
Tours*

→ *Discover the Global Classroom*

9 or 11 DAYS

England, Ireland and Wales

England • Wales • Ireland



Number of overnight stays in parentheses. This tour may also be reversed.

Program Fee includes:

- Round-trip airfare
- 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (9 with extension)
- Complete European breakfast and dinner daily
- Full-time EF Tour Director
- 2 sightseeing tours led by licensed local guides: London • Dublin
- 3 sightseeing tours led by your tour director: Oxford • Stratford • Ring of Kerry
- 1 EF walking tour: London
- 8 visits to special attractions: Brasenose College • Anne Hathaway's cottage Shakespeare's birthplace • Welsh castle *Book of Kells* • St. Patrick's Cathedral Blarney Castle • Bog Village Museum

OPTIONAL:

Windsor Castle

WITH EXTENSION:

 All of the above PLUS:

- 1 sightseeing tour led by your tour director: Connemara
- 1 visit to a special attraction: Bunratty Castle and Folk Park



Get a feel for three distinct countries—from the sleek skyline of London to the rugged coastline of Ireland.

Day 1 Flight

Overnight flight to Great Britain • Spend the night flying across the Atlantic.

Day 2 London

Arrival in London • Touch down in London, Europe's largest city. After clearing customs, you are greeted by your EF Tour Director, who will remain with you throughout your stay.

EF walking tour of London • Stroll through the heart of London on our EF walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. These shadowy waters gave the city its name, which derives from Llyn-Dyn, Celtic for "city of the lake." Walk along the Strand and see the spot considered to be London's geographic center; all measurements of distances to London end here. Enter Trafalgar Square and pause at Nelson's Column, built to commemorate his 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Continue on to Leicester Square, where duelists once fought to the death. Then saunter through London's tiny Chinatown. Your walk ends at chic Covent Garden, where you'll enjoy watching street performers (or "buskers") amuse the lively crowds. (The exact walking route may vary, depending on your hotel location and the day's other activities.)

Day 3 London

Guided sightseeing of London • A local guide leads you on a panoramic tour of London. Begin in Grosvenor Square, which is sometimes called "Little America" because it's the site of the U.S. embassy and the house where Eisenhower once lived. Continue to

Hyde Park Corner, located at the southeast corner of Hyde Park, one of London's largest parks. At bustling Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big-city displays, before heading to Trafalgar Square. Pass Speaker's Corner, where anyone with something to say is invited to speak his or her mind. Snap a photo of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London's South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and London Bridge. Stroll across the Millennium Bridge for an orientation of St. Paul's Cathedral, the magnificent 17th-century Baroque church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Finally, witness a London tradition—the Changing of the Guard (subject to scheduling).

Optional excursion to Windsor • Opt to visit Windsor for a guided tour of the Royal Family's retreat. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, the castle has undergone many renovations over the past 800 years, as each new monarch has added a tower here and a wing there. Legend holds that the castle's Round Tower was built on the site where King Arthur sat with his Knights of the Round Table. Priceless objects reside in the State Apartments, ranging from paintings by Rubens and Holbein to Henry VIII's sword and suit of armor. Time permitting, visit Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St. George's Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs, including Henry VIII and Charles I. (Please note that St. George's Chapel is closed on Sunday mornings for church services.) On the rare occasion that Windsor Castle is closed, you'll instead visit Henry VIII's extravagant retreat at Hampton Court.



Learn before you go
www.eftours.com/pbs

Day 4 Oxford • Stratford • North Wales

Tour director-led sightseeing of Oxford •

Travel through the Chiltern Hills to ivy-draped Oxford. A mecca of learning for more than 800 years, Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Alumni include 14 prime ministers, and former President Bill Clinton spent a term here as well. Walk through the peaceful quads and cloisters of Brasenose College, and gaze up at the town's "dreaming spires."

Tour director-led sightseeing of Stratford •

"It is something, I thought, to have seen the dust of Shakespeare." Discover what inspired Washington Irving's famous words as you tour Stratford-upon-Avon, where Shakespeare was born, raised and buried. Step back into the Elizabethan age as you visit the half-timbered home in which the Bard was born, as well as see the old-fashioned English gardens and orchard of Anne Hathaway's cottage, a picturesque thatched farmhouse where Shakespeare's wife spent her childhood.

Arrival in North Wales • Continue across the border to the Llangollen region in North Wales, where you'll spend the night.

Day 5 North Wales • Dublin

Transfer to Dublin • Pass through the scenic mountains and valleys of Snowdonia National Park in North Wales. Next, you will visit either Beaumaris Castle, a fortification dating from the 13th century that once guarded the Menai Straits, or Conwy Castle, Edward I's medieval masterpiece. Then ferry across the Irish Sea to Dublin, city of James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde and W.B. Yeats.

Day 6 Dublin

Guided sightseeing of Dublin • For a city of only 1 million people, Dublin has offered the world a disproportionately large number of great literary works. See what inspired writers such as Joyce, Beckett and Yeats during your guided tour of Ireland's capital, scenically situated between Dun Laoghaire (pronounced "dun leery") and the rocky peaks of Howth Head. Pass by the residence of the president of Ireland as you journey through Phoenix Park. Continue down O'Connell Street, a wide, tree-lined avenue named for one of Ireland's most famous nationalists. Ride past the banks of the River Liffey to the 800-year-old St. Patrick's Cathedral, built to honor the patron saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the country in the 5th century. Jonathan Swift once served as dean of St. Patrick's

Cathedral. Then see the famous doors of Dublin as you ride through the city's elegant Georgian squares. You'll also pass an ancient Viking site (the Vikings founded Dublin in the 9th century).

Book of Kells • Your tour also includes a visit to Trinity College, established by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592 (alumni include Samuel Beckett and Jonathan Swift). In the Long Room of the Old Library, view the illuminated 8th-century *Book of Kells*, written by Irish monks and found buried in the ground in 1007. You'll also see a harp that originally belonged to the famous Irish king Brian Boru.

Day 7 Dublin • County Kerry

Visit to Blarney Castle • First stop today is Blarney Castle. To reach the legendary stone and to receive the "gift of the gab," you'll have to climb the steps of the castle, lean backward under the parapet wall and kiss the stone upside-down. You'll also see the ancient ruins of the Rock of Cashel. Founded by a follower of St. Patrick, the Rock was once a stronghold for Brian Boru and other Irish kings.

Overnight in County Kerry • Transfer to County Kerry, where you'll spend the night.

Day 8 County Kerry

Transfer via Killarney • Travel through the Killarney region, gateway to the Iveragh Peninsula.

Ring of Kerry • Experience the mystical beauty of Ireland as you journey the 112 miles around the Iveragh Peninsula, better known as the Ring of Kerry. Encounter magnificent

views of the Atlantic Ocean, the Lakes of Killarney and Macgillycuddy's Reeks (the tallest mountains in Ireland) as you traverse one of Europe's most spectacular coastal routes.

Bog Village • In Glenbeigh, visit the Bog Village. Wander through a re-creation of an Irish village from the early 1800s as costumed guides demonstrate the way of life that prevailed in 19th-century rural Ireland.

Day 9 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with your transfer to Shannon, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

EXTENSION

Day 9 Burren • Galway

Visit to Bunnratty Castle • Alternatively, your group can plan to extend its stay two days. In Limerick, visit Bunnratty Castle. Built in 1425, Ireland's best-restored medieval estate boasts stunning tapestries and furnishings showcasing the splendor of the medieval era. On the castle's grounds, you can stroll through the Folk Park, an authentic re-creation of a 19th-century rural Irish village.

Transfer via the Burren and the Cliffs of Moher • Travel by way of the Coastal Road to the Burren, an otherworldly region of limestone rock and wildflowers. Later, view the spectacular Cliffs of Moher towering 750 feet above the Atlantic.

Arrival in Galway • Arrive in Galway, City of Tribes. For 400 years, Galway was an independent city-state—as recently as the 19th century, local citizens were still in the habit of set-

Catch a glimpse of some of the furrier members of the local population.



ting their watches 40 minutes behind Dublin time. Today, Galway is the cultural and artistic capital of Ireland's west coast—as well as one of the best places to hear traditional music. Its decidedly bohemian atmosphere, along with its seaside location, lend the town a lively, amiable air that has made it especially popular with students, writers and artists. Feed the swans that gather at the bank of the River Corrib and look for the traditional red-sailed boats that ply Galway Bay. Be sure to peek down Bowling Green. Nora Barnacle, wife of James Joyce and model for Molly Bloom, spent much of her life here.

Day 10 Galway • County Clare

Excursion to Connemara • It's been said that going to Connemara is a little like going to the moon—so rocky and surreal is its landscape. As you travel through this haunting, windswept region, you may indeed feel as if you have landed on another world, where heather grows wild in the cracks of jagged rocks and twisting roads circle low hills and peat bogs. Here, the ancient language of Irish is spoken, and many of Ireland's oldest traditions are still adhered to. Visit Maam Cross, a wild bog where sheep farmers and pony festivals are common sights among this lake-filled vicinity, and also Spiddal, known for its homemade Aran sweaters and handicrafts.

Free time in Galway • Enjoy free time to explore Galway. Maybe you will wander the shops and cafés, check out the live music scene or head to Salthill, Galway's seaside resort filled with arcades, discos and a fairground. Later, transfer to County Clare for the night.

Day 11 Home

Return home • Your tour director assists with your transfer to Shannon, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions.

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Educational Tours