



EducationFirst

*College Study  
Tours*

**THE BRITISH ISLES  
ENGLAND, IRELAND  
& WALES**

# THE BRITISH ISLES | ENGLAND, IRELAND & WALES

In England, Ireland and Wales, the bindings of history, culture and geography are as strong as King Arthur's sword—but the complexities that separate them are what will earn you a seat saved at a local pub.

As you zip across the spectacular landscapes that knights and nobility spent centuries battling for, it all comes into focus. Try not to blink as you see where ties were broken and kingdoms were defended in turreted castles, and the medieval churches that were so important

to the Irish War of Independence. Learn where blood was spilt by the occupying English in Dublin, and where decisions were made soon after in far-off London.

In greener-than-green Ireland and Wales' Snowdonia National Park, the legendary "gift of the gab" won't make Irish and Welsh any easier to pronounce—or read, for that matter—but your adventure will leave you fluent in everything British Isles.



### Day 1: Fly to Ireland

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Shannon.

### Day 2: Shannon | Killarney

**Arrive in Shannon:** Welcome to the Emerald Isle, where the greens are greener and the history is rich and full. After clearing customs, you'll meet your Tour Director and travel to Killarney (literally, "church of sloes"), where you'll spend the night. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to explore the town on your own.

### Day 3: Killarney

**Ring of Kerry:** Traverse the Ring of Kerry and encounter Ireland's famed mystical beauty. This stunning coastal route wraps around the Iveragh Peninsula. Here you can experience everything from the Old Monastery to unspoilt beaches to Killarney National Park. On your visit, take in magnificent views of the Atlantic Ocean and the placid Lakes of Killarney. You'll also pass by the misty peaks of Macgillycuddy's Reeks. This range reaches its zenith at Carrauntoohil, Ireland's tallest mountain.

**Bog Village:** Check out the Bog Village, a winner of the prestigious National Heritage Award. Wander through a recreation of an Irish village from the early 1800s as costumed guides demonstrate the way of life that prevailed in 19<sup>th</sup>-century rural Ireland.

### Day 4: Killarney | Dublin

**Blarney Castle:** At this medieval fortification, join the Castle's visitors in kissing the Blarney Stone, which is said to grant the gift of eloquence.

**Rock of Cashel:** Set on rolling Irish hills, the Rock of Cashel—the former seat of the Kings of Munster—is home to a stunning array of medieval architecture. Be sure to check out Cormac's Chapel and the Round Tower.

**Travel to Dublin:** Head to Dublin, the largest city in Ireland. Once your group arrives, refuel with a hearty Guinness stew dinner before turning in for the night.

### Day 5: Dublin

**Sightseeing tour of Dublin:** Experience Ireland's capital, scenically situated between Dun Laoghaire and Howth Head's rocky peaks. On your sightseeing tour, you'll pass by Phoenix Park and the presidential residence before continuing to bustling O'Connell Street. When you ride through Dublin's elegant Georgian squares, ask about the colorful doors lining these streets.

**Trinity College:** Playwright Samuel Beckett and satirist Jonathan Swift studied at Trinity College, your next stop. In the Old Library you'll view the Book of Kells. Irish monks created this calligraphic manuscript more than 1,000 years ago.

**St. Patrick's Cathedral:** Explore the Gothic arches and spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral, whose presence honors the patron saint of Ireland.

### Day 6: Dublin | North Wales

**Welsh castle:** Take a ferry ride to Holyhead, where you will visit either Beaumaris Castle or Conwy Castle.

**Continue through Snowdonia:** Tonight, travel across the lush greenery and icy blue lakes of Snowdonia National Park.

### Day 7: Stratford | Oxford | London

**Stratford-upon-Avon:** Tour the half-timbered house that is Shakespeare's birthplace. Continue to Anne Hathaway's Cottage, a picturesque farmhouse where the Bard's wife spent her childhood. The Cottage grounds include a classic English garden that boasts a variety of colorful flowers.

**Oxford:** Explore the world's oldest university town and take in the spired city that generations of great thinkers called home. Centuries-old Oxford is the alma mater for many notable figures, including British prime ministers Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher.

**Travel to London:** Make your way to cosmopolitan London, where you'll spend the night.

### Day 8: London

**Sightseeing tour of London:** From Big Ben to the Houses of Parliament, Great Britain's royal tradition and rich history greet you at every turn. Admire the city's architectural marvels, like the Baroque domes and spires of St. Paul's Cathedral, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century church designed by Sir Christopher Wren. Check out the lively five-way intersection at Piccadilly Circus as well as the urban greenery of Hyde Park. You may even get a chance to witness the ceremonial Changing of the Guard. Cap off your tour beside the River Thames and snap photos of the Tower of London.

👉 **Windsor Castle:** On your trip to this former fortress, see priceless objects in the State Apartments, like paintings by Rubens and Holbein. Encounter the Gothic splendor of St. George's Chapel and the final resting place of monarchs like Henry VIII and Charles I. Take a look into the miniature world of Queen Mary's Dolls' House, where castle items are replicated in 1/12th scale—including a working lighting system and functional plumbing. Those who do not join the excursion will enjoy free time in London.

### Day 9: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

### 👉 2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

#### Day 9: Stonehenge and Bath

**Stonehenge and Bath:** Discover the United Kingdom's most mysterious landmark on your visit to Stonehenge. This configuration of massive boulders seems to rise out of nowhere on the misty hills of Wiltshire. Before returning to London, you'll also visit the acclaimed Roman baths, built by the Romans in the 1st century to enjoy the hot springs. Today, these baths remain the finest Roman ruins in Britain. Those who do not participate on the optional excursion will enjoy a free day in London.

#### Day 10: London

**Free day in London:** London is yours to explore as you see fit. Grab some friends and browse new and vintage wares at Notting Hill's Portobello Market or simply relax in one of the many green spaces the city has to offer. Alternatively, get lost in the Tate Modern's stunning collections of contemporary art.

#### Day 11: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

## INCLUDED ON TOUR:

 Round-trip flights on major carriers

 Full-time Tour Director

 Land and water transportation

 Hotels with private bathrooms

 Light breakfast daily; 5 local dinners or 6 with extension

 **Sightseeing tours**  
Dublin; London; Ring of Kerry; Stratford; Oxford; *With extension: Stonehenge and Bath*

 **Entrances**  
Bog Museum; Blarney Castle; Book of Kells at the Trinity College Library; St. Patrick's Cathedral; Welsh Castle; Shakespeare's birthplace; Anne Hathaway's cottage; *With extension: Stonehenge; Roman Baths*

 **Optional**  
Windsor Castle

— the easiest ways to —

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