

## London, Edinburgh and Dublin



### Day One

Arrive at London Heathrow Airport and board your private coach for transfer to your hotel. Once you have checked-in, families will have the rest of the day free to settle in & relax, explore the area near your hotel, and have dinner.

**London Eye Ride & 4D Experience** - The EDF Energy London Eye offers breathtaking views of London from high above the River Thames. See Big Ben towering above the Houses of Parliament, follow St. James Park as it sweeps down to Buckingham Palace. Relax in one of the 32 high-tech glass capsules and enjoy the London skyline as it revolves over 30 minutes. The London Eye 4D Experience is a ground-breaking 3D film lasting just under 4 minutes with in-theater effects, such as wind, bubbles, and mist, to make your experience 4D.

### Day Two

**Changing The King's Life Guard at Horse Guards Parade** - The King's Life Guard, mounted on immaculately groomed horses with swords drawn and breastplates shining in the sun, can be seen at Horse Guards, named after the troops who have protected the Sovereign since the Restoration of King Charles II. The King's Life Guard change on Horse Guards Parade, which was originally the courtyard in the middle of Henry VIII's Royal Palace of Whitehall, and is now the ceremonial parade ground used for royal and ceremonial events throughout the year.

**Performance at Spitalfields Market**, one of London's finest Victorian market halls, is set in an historic location in the heart of the city and one of the crown jewels of East London. They offer regular free events, including lunchtime concerts, festivals, tango classes, fashion shows and much more.



**Warner Bros. Studio Tour London** - Warner Bros. Studio Tour London provides an amazing opportunity to explore the magic of the Harry Potter™ films – the most successful film series of all time. This unique walking tour takes you behind-the-scenes and showcases a huge array of beautiful sets, costumes and props. It also reveals some closely guarded secrets, including facts about the special effects and animatronics that made these films so hugely popular all over the world. Then sip frothy Butterbeer in the backlot, in the shadow of iconic sets such as the Knight Bus and Privet Drive.

Dancers and their families will enjoy some free time this evening for dinner, shopping or explore another area of London.

### Day Three

**London Dance Programme ½ Day Workshop** - offers programmes for people all over the world to come to London and train at its top 3 studios: Pineapple Dance Studios, Danceworks and Studio 68. An experience programme and professional programme allows dancers of all levels and styles the opportunity to train with some of the best talent in the world. Customised programmes and individual support lead to a once in a lifetime experience.

While the dancers are participating in their workshop, families can spend the exploring some of the many museums, shops, or parks that London has to offer.

**Dinner** in London's West End Theatre District followed by a **West End Musical** featuring show-stopping dances.

## Day Four

**Community or School Performance Opportunity** - such as KIDSCOMPANY Arches II Center (an afterschool club for inner city underprivileged U16s), Children's Hospital at The Royal London Hospital, Sylvia Young Theater School, Sion-Manning RC Girls School

Half day **Guided Tour of London** with Step-Off Guide (Stops to see Piccadilly Circus, St. Paul's Cathedral, Leicester Square, Buckingham Palace, Kensington Palace, Princess Diana Memorial at Hyde Park & drive by Downing Street, the British Museum & Harrods



**Mamma Mia! The Party Dinner Show** - Feel transported to the island of Skopelos to dance, dine and have the time of your life! As the sun sets, you'll take your seats at Nikos' family-run taverna where you'll enjoy a delicious four-course Greek meal before dancing the night away at a glittering ABBA disco. Meet Nikos, Kate, Adam, and Konstantina as they navigate family life in the taverna, all as the sun sets over the Mediterranean. Find yourself lost in a fabulous world as a warm, romantic and funny story is performed all around you. Explore the glorious decor, which served as the backdrop to the iconic movies, and now dazzles guests.

## Day Five

**Tower of London** - one of London's most popular and iconic tourist attractions. Built by William the Conqueror in the early 1080s the Tower's role has been as a fortress, palace, and prison. There is so much to see at the Tower including the Crown Jewels, The Medieval Palace, 'Yeomen of the Guard', the Ravens, Henry VIII's armour, instruments of torture in Lower Wakefield Tower and the Traitors Gate.

**Sightseeing Lunch Cruise on the River Thames** - While you enjoy a delicious two course lunch, we'll take you on a relaxed mini voyage through the heart of London. To accompany your meal our fully stocked bar is certain to have something tempt your palette too. And when you've finished your dessert, you can take a stroll on deck to round off your Riverdays experience. Along the way, you'll pass such sights as the first Roman crossing of the River Thames, the tallest building in Europe, the Shard, a full-size reconstruction of the Golden Hinde, Sir Francis Drake's 16th century warship, a breath-taking vista of the glistening skyscrapers of Canary Wharf, London's financial district; and a close-up of a genuine WWII warship, the HMS Belfast. Cruises last one hour and forty-five minutes which gives you plenty of time to enjoy both the view and the company!

After lunch, families will have some free time - head over to **Convent Garden**, a vibrant, must-see destination for anyone who enjoys shopping, theatre, restaurants, bars, history, and culture. Things to see in and around Covent Garden include the London Transport Museum, the Royal Opera House, Somerset House and Covent Garden Market.

**Dinner at Preto Brazilian BBQ** in the West End, followed by a **West End Musical, or a Dance or Ballet Show**

## Day Six

**Train from London to Edinburgh** - Private Transfer to London Kings Cross Train Station where you will board the train for Edinburgh Waverly Train Station & private transfer to your Edinburgh Hotel to check in



Photo by Ross Findlay on Unsplash

After you arrive, spend some time settling into your hotel, or head down to the **Royal Mile** - the main street in the Old Town. It's full of shops and is an interesting area to wander around, and a great place to have dinner on your own before meeting for our evening activity.

**Real Mary Kings Close Tour** - buried deep beneath Edinburgh's Royal Mile. The city's deepest secret; a warren of hidden streets that has remained frozen in time since the 17th Century. The Real Mary King's Close is a warren of underground streets and spaces. It can be a strange concept to understand – back in the 1600's, Mary King's Close and neighbouring Closes were at the heart of Edinburgh's busiest and most vibrant streets, open to the skies and bustling with traders selling their wares to the Old Town's residents. Find out why this street finds itself underground 400 years later?

## Day Seven

**Performance at Grassmarket Public Square** - Nestled in the heart of Edinburgh's historic Old Town, with stunning views of Edinburgh Castle, the Grassmarket is one of the most picturesque and lively areas of the city. A paradise of independent merchants, designers and artisans, the area is home to an array of high-quality gift, clothing and homeware shops and an assortment of bars, restaurants, and cafes to suit all tastes and budgets. Its colourful Victoria Street is thought by many Potter fans to have served as the inspiration for London's magical shopping thoroughfare, Diagon Alley.



**Wizard Afternoon Tea at The Cauldron** - A bewitching afternoon tea experience where you use working magic wands to brew interactive teas and taste fantastical treats. It's a feast for all the senses!

**OR**

**Edinburgh Afternoon Tea Experience** - Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea on a vintage Routemaster bus tour, and cruise past city landmarks including Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace as you sample fresh scones, sandwiches, and tea. We've got a tour for everyone including kids!

**Edinburgh Castle** – It occupies the summit of an ancient plug of volcanic rock towering 260ft above the city it dominates, and is visible for tens of miles in every direction. No fairy-tale castle, this is the real thing, an uncompromisingly defensive structure that seems to grow organically out of the living rock beneath it. Over the centuries Edinburgh Castle has been continuously adapted to meet the military needs of the day. And over the centuries its strength has been tested on no fewer than thirteen occasions, successfully or unsuccessfully, by siege or by stealth. Its story has helped shape the nation's story. Battles and sieges were fought over it, royalty lived and died within its walls, and countless generations have been and inspired by it. Edinburgh Castle is a world famous icon of Scotland and part of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site.

**Performance at Edinburgh Castle** – Hospital Square - an outside location in front of the National War Museum of Scotland

## Day Eight



**3-hour Sightseeing Firth of Forth cruise with stop at Inchcolm Island** - 1½ hour sightseeing boat tour downriver towards Inchcolm Island. During the cruise you have the option of sitting comfortably in our heated saloon or enjoying the fresh air on our open top deck. Commentary is provided during the trip to the island to point out the local landmarks as we pass them. The Maid then docks briefly at Inchcolm Island, to disembark passengers who wish to explore, before continuing round to the south side of the island where you will be treated to spectacular views of Inchcolm Abbey. On the return journey to the Hawes Pier, the skipper will keep you informed of the wildlife that can be seen such as: Puffins; Guillemots; Razorbills; Eider ducks;

seals and the occasional dolphin or porpoise. There have even been sightings of Minke whales and Killer whales near the bridges in the last few years so you never know what you might see.

**Ceilidh Dance Workshop** at Dance Base - Scotland's National Centre for Dance in Grassmarket. We're proud to support work across Scotland from our purpose-built studios in the heart of Edinburgh's Old Town. Our centre caters for dancers of all ages and abilities. Our four world-class studios provide dancers with excellent facilities and an inspiring environment in which to dance.

## Day Nine

Day trip to **The Highlands** with a **Performance** at the **Falkirk Wheel Visitors Center** - Scotland's most exciting example of 21st century engineering, The Falkirk Wheel is the World's only rotating boat lift - lifting boats 115 ft which links the Forth and Clyde Canal with the Union Canal.

**Boat Ride on the Falkirk Wheel** - The 50-minute journey lifts the boat up to join the Union Canal 35m above and sails smoothly from The Falkirk Wheel onto the Union Canal.

**Scottish Highland Games** (date dependent May through Sept) - Built around traditional Highland sports such as the caber toss, tug o' war and the hammer throw, a Highland games event also includes Highland dancing and music, and lots of family fun such as food and craft stalls and games. Many events will also involve livestock events, parades and even best-dressed pet competitions. Some Highland games continue into the night with more music gigs, ceilidhs and discos. **Performance Opportunity**

**Overnight stay at a Castle** - Where better to stay when visiting Edinburgh than in a historic Castle? We have a variety of Castle hotels to choose from, all within a short driving distance of Edinburgh.

**Group Welcome Dinner at your Castle Hotel**

## Day Ten

Scottish Breakfast at your hotel followed by an activity at your hotel or nearby town. Some examples include:

- **Falconry Demonstration** - Our experienced falconers can provide an insight into the working practices of falconry, together with displays and hands-on experience.
- **Nae Limits Outdoor Activity Centre** - There's nae limit to the fun with water rafting, cayonying, tubing, quad biking, aqaulining, cliff jumping, paintball and clay pigeon shooting. The Wee Limits Adventure Academy for 5 to 12-year-olds gives little ones the chance to participate in activities.
- **Blair Castle** - with its rich history stretching back to Mary Queen of Scots through to the Civil War, the Jacobite cause to the disaster of Culloden. The Castle dates back to 1269 and has been the location of many political struggles over the centuries. Today, it's varied past is reflected all around each of the 30 rooms on display. You can embark on a Castle Tour, visit the gift shop or check out the gardens and grounds.
- **Stylish Highland Fashion** - Visit The House of Bruar for an insight into one of the UK's most well-known Scottish country clothing specialists. The brand is known for its exceptionally high quality, fine cashmere and traditional tweeds as well as its Knitwear Hall.
- **Cocoa Black Chocolatier & Patisserie, Peebles** - Luxury chocolatier and patisserie by Ruth Hinks (UK World Chocolate Master). Relax and enjoy luxury chocolate, cakes and patisserie in the chocolate boutique or book into the Chocolate & Pastry School.
- **Rosslyn Chapel** - One of Scotland's most beautiful heritage attractions, Rosslyn Chapel is a medieval treasure in stone. Rosslyn Chapel came to worldwide prominence through The Da Vinci Code, a novel written by Dan Brown.

After lunch, take a private coach transfer to Edinburgh airport for your flight to **Dublin** and then transfer to your Dublin hotel to check-in and relax and have dinner on your own.

**Irish Dance Party** - consists of fun Irish dancing lessons fused together with live, world class, Irish music and dance performances by the hosts. A musician will host & MC the event, singing Irish songs & playing Irish instruments, explaining the history of the songs, music, instruments & dances in a fun and humorous way. There are also dancers who will performance for the group and teach the group 3 Irish dances.

## Day Eleven

**Guided Walking Tour of Dublin** - See Gate Theatre (where Orson Wells started his career), O'Connell Street and the General Post Office (where the iconic revolution of 1916 started). Then go via some quirky side streets (including the head-office of Riverdance!) to reach Temple Bar and the former Viking & Medieval Quarter (and Christ Church Cathedral) before turning around towards Dublin Castle and Trinity College. The guide can advise where else to see in your own time.

**River Liffey Cruise** - Experience the heart of historic Dublin from the scenic vantage point of the River Liffey, with wonderful guides to entertain and inform you. This 45-minute boat tour travels along the River Liffey, in the centre of Dublin, just as the Vikings did in their longships upon their first arrival in Dublin over 1,000 years ago.

**Performance at a local school or hospital** - a great way to give back to the community

## Day Twelve

**Dublin Zoo** - As one of the world's oldest and most popular zoos, the 70-acre park in the heart of Dublin is home to some 600 animals in an environment where education and conservation combine for an exciting and unforgettable experience. **Performance Opportunity**

**Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship** - The original Jeanie Johnston made 16 emigrant journeys to North America between 1847 and 1855, carrying over 2,500 people with no loss of life. The ship is an authentic replica, built in Tralee, Co. Kerry. It has sailed to North America and to various points in Europe

**Group Dinner at The Church** - a wonderfully restored 17th century former Church steeped in history. Today the Church welcomes patrons from all over the world & locals alike to experience the very best of Irish Hospitality in one of the world's most unique settings in the very heart of Dublin City Centre. **Free Traditional Irish Music & Dancing Show**

## Day Thirteen

Private coach transportation from the hotel to Dublin airport for your flight home.

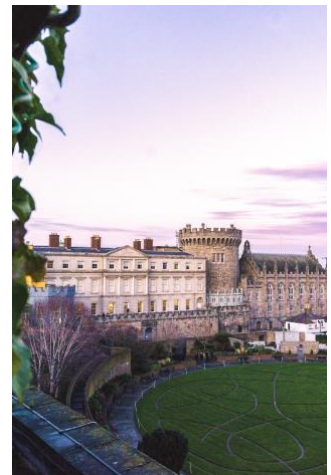


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