



## Scotland & Ireland with Marah Walsh

Tentative Date: **June 4-21, 2028**

18 days

Centuries of history sprinkled across timeless landscapes? That's just part of Scotland and Ireland's allure. On this culinary-infused journey, you'll wind your way from elegant Edinburgh through the misty Scottish Highlands and vibrant Glasgow, then cross into Ireland to explore Belfast, Sligo, County Clare, County Kerry, and Galway. Along the way, indulge in chocolate tastings, farm visits, and a guided seaweed and coastal food experience that reveals the surprising role seaweed has played in Irish culture. With every bite and breathtaking view, this tour blends rich flavors, local traditions, and unforgettable scenery into one delicious adventure.



Pricing and Reservations: <https://forms.gle/aCFiWwAAXMC3qkKQA>

### Your tour package includes

- 16 nights in handpicked hotels
- Breakfast daily
- 9 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liquor tasting
- 4 food tastings
- 8 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 ferry transfers

### Included highlights

- Edinburgh Castle
- Scottish Ceilidh
- Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier
- Glencoe
- Island of Mull dairy farm visit
- Isle of Skye
- Stirling & Glenveagh Castles
- Giant's Causeway
- Arigna Mining Experience
- Rathbaun farm visit
- Cliffs of Moher
- Kylemore Abbey

### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills or stairs.

**Contact Marah Walsh for more details**

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# Scotland & Ireland with Marah Walsh

18 days

## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

## Edinburgh → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Scotland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner—and maybe ask those who took the pre-trip extension what they thought of their time in London.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh & Scottish Ceilidh

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Nestled between the rivers Almond and Esk, Edinburgh emerges from a series of hills and rocky ridges, earning its nickname “the Athens of the North.” Get to know the Scottish capital in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant neoclassical and Georgian architecture in New Town. The ornate sandstone and granite structures surrounding oasis-like gardens and green spaces became a model for European urban planning.
- Contrast New Town's grace with Old Town's rustic Royal Mile, which runs between Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood Palace—the official residence of British monarchs in Scotland. Here, you'll cross moody, narrow streets and alleys, known as “closes,” flanked by brooding stone buildings and timeworn cathedrals.
- Pass the towering Sir Walter Scott monument—paying homage to the Ivanhoe and Rob Roy scribe—one of the largest sculptural tributes to an author in the world.
- Ascend Castle Rock and enter Edinburgh Castle. Standing on an extinct volcano at the top of the Royal Mile, it houses the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone—in use since the 13th century coronating the monarchs of England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom.

Enjoy a special evening of Scottish tradition as

you witness an authentic ceilidh, an age-old Scottish celebration. Sit down to an included dinner and be serenaded by a band playing Scottish folk tunes while you dine. As the evening winds down, dancers take to the stage to perform a series of traditional dances. Then, cap it all off by joining the company on stage to try the steps for yourself.

*Please note: The order of today's activities are subject to change.*

## Scottish Highlands → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to the Scottish Highlands

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Today's journey into the Scottish Highlands begins with a visit to the Iain Burnett Highland Chocolatier, where a guided tasting introduces you to award-winning artisan chocolates crafted with single-origin cocoa and fresh Scottish ingredients. The experience is rich and indulgent, offering insight into the delicate pairing of flavors and textures.

Afterward, you'll enjoy free time in the charming town of Pitlochry, known for its scenic beauty and relaxed atmosphere, before continuing on to the dramatic landscapes of Glencoe. The day ends with your arrival in Fort William, where your hotel awaits amid the rugged Highland surroundings. Freshen up in your room before reconvening for tonight's included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 5: Sightseeing tour of the Island of Mull

*Included meals: breakfast, liquor tasting, tasting*

Ready to explore one of Scotland's wildest gems? Leave your hotel for a full-day adventure on the Island of Mull, named by *Lonely Planet* as a top spot to “Go Wild.”

- Transfer two hours to Lochaline, then board the ferry to Fishnish for a scenic crossing to Mull. Head north to Tobermory, a colorful fishing village nestled along the harbor, where you might spot otters and eagles in their natural habitat.
- Visit Sgriob-ruadh Farm—home to a dairy, distillery, and the Glass Barn—for a tasting and tour. Learn about the farm's ethos of family, island life, and sustainability.

- See how cheese and spirits are made, explore the botanical garden, and enjoy a tasting in the cozy Coo J'N Bar.
- Enjoy free time to visit the Mull Museum or the Marine Visitor Center before returning to Fishnish for the ferry back to Oban. Then transfer by bus to your hotel in Fort William.

## Isle of Skye Region → 2 nights

### Day 6: Ferry to Isle of Skye

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Continue through the Highlands today, where after some free time in Mallaig, you'll hop aboard a ferry and sail through the Inner Hebrides, an otherworldly place that's home to some of the country's most spectacular landscapes. Once you've settled into your hotel in the Isle of Skye Region, join your group for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Isle of Skye

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend today exploring Scotland's second-largest island by bus, immersing yourself in nature as you drive along dramatic coastlines, through jagged mountains, and across lush moorlands.

- Cross the Sligachan Old Bridge. Built in the 1810s to cross the Sligachan River, this stone span supposedly sits over enchanted waters. (Legend has it that if you stick your face in the current for seven seconds, then let it dry naturally, the fairies of the river will grant you eternal beauty.)
- Continue northward onto the Trotternish Peninsula, stopping for a full-frame view of the Old Man of Storr. At just over 2,300 feet tall, this famous rock formation is the defining feature of the Trotternish landslip.
- Enjoy free time to explore the town of Portree, the main village of the island, complete with its fair share of colorful harbor houses, delicious food, and quaint independent shops. We recommend an early dinner: This meal's on your own today, so be sure to eat your fill of the local fare before boarding the bus back to your hotel.

Pricing and Reservations: <https://forms.gle/aCFiWwAAXMC3qkKQA>

## Glasgow → 1 night

### Day 8: Glasgow via Stirling Castle

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel through the picturesque Scottish countryside and stop for a self-guided walking tour of Stirling Castle, where King James VI once lived. Then, continue to Glasgow for a tour with a local guide.

- Admire the buildings of the University of Glasgow. Founded in 1451, it's the fourth-oldest institution of higher learning in the English-speaking world and one of four Renaissance-era universities still operating in Scotland today.
- View the 18th-century George Square and its monuments and catch a glimpse of the River Clyde.
- Stop outside the city's medieval cathedral—the oldest cathedral on the Scottish mainland and the oldest building in all of Glasgow—for photos of its Gothic spires and facades.
- Visit the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Opened in 1870 as Glasgow's first municipal museum, it features substantial exhibitions of everything from European portraiture to Egyptian antiquities.

Tonight, gather with your groupmates for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

## Belfast → 1 night

### Day 9: Ferry to Belfast & Giant's Causeway

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Make your way to the village of Cairnryan—a hamlet of just 142 residents on the shores of Loch Ryan—and board a ferry bound for the Northern Irish capital of Belfast. (Northern Ireland is part of the United Kingdom; the Republic of Ireland, with its capital in Dublin, is its own country.) Once you've crossed the Irish Sea, spend your day exploring the northern coast of Ireland to admire some of the dramatic landscapes.

- Catch a glimpse of geometric perfection today during an outing to the Giant's Causeway. Stepping down into the sea, this UNESCO World Heritage Site consists of some 40,000 interlocking basalt columns, the supposed remnants of an encounter between two mythical giants.
- Stop by the Carrick-a-Rede-Rope Bridge, featured in the hit tv show *Game of Thrones*.

After checking in and freshening up at the hotel, sit down for an included dinner with your group this evening before calling it a night.

## Sligo → 2 nights

### Day 10: Sligo via Glenveagh National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel to Sligo today, passing through some of Northern Ireland's most scenic countryside. Along the way, stretch your legs with a stop at Glenveagh Castle, nestled in the heart of Glenveagh National Park. Take a peaceful walk along the lake, surrounded by dramatic hills and quiet woodlands, and enjoy the chance to enter Glenveagh Castle to explore its elegant interiors and storied history on your own. Afterward, continue on to the charming town of Sligo, known for its literary heritage and coastal beauty. Get settled into your room before gathering together with your group for tonight's included dinner, served with your choice of beer or wine.

### Day 11: Arigna Mining Experience & Carrick-on-Shannon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Ready for a day of local history and riverside charm? Set out for a day of sightseeing in County Roscommon and County Leitrim.

- Begin with a visit to the Arigna Mining Experience, where you'll embark on an underground tour through former working coal tunnels. Follow in the footsteps of generations of miners as you descend into the mountain, learning about their challenging lives, examining authentic tools they used, and understanding the industry's significant impact on the local community.
- Continue on to Carrick-on-Shannon, a lively town along the River Shannon. Enjoy free time to stroll the waterfront, browse local shops, or relax in one of the cafés before returning to your hotel.

## County Clare → 2 nights

### Day 12: County Clare via Rathburn Farm & Cliffs of Moher

*Included meals: breakfast*

Begin your morning with a visit to Rathbaun Farm, where the timeless rhythms of rural Irish life continue much as they have for generations on this traditional working farm set amid the verdant countryside.

- Meet your welcoming farm hosts who'll introduce you to authentic Irish farm life through hands-on demonstrations and engaging stories that bring centuries-old agricultural traditions to life.
- Roll up your sleeves and learn the art of making traditional Irish scones using a cherished family recipe passed down through generations, then savor the warm, freshly baked results with a cup of tea.
- Observe skilled demonstrations of rural crafts and farming techniques as your hosts share insights into sustainable practices that have sustained this land for centuries.
- Interact with the farm's friendly animals and ask questions about daily operations, seasonal activities, and how modern innovations blend with time-honored traditions on this quintessential Irish farm.
- Gain a deeper appreciation for Ireland's agricultural heritage and the vital role family farms continue to play in preserving both the landscape and cultural identity of the countryside.

This afternoon, trace Ireland's Atlantic coast as you detour into County Clare and prepare to be left breathless by its arresting terrain.

- Pass through the Burren. Distinct from the lush greens that typify the rest of the Irish landscape, greys dominate this limestone plateau, punctuated by bursts of wildflowers. Botanists will surely delight in this journey: More than 70% of Ireland's flower species grow here.
- Walk along the Cliffs of Moher. The typifying feature of Ireland's west coast, these weathered promontories extend for about five miles and are marked by jagged rock formations and abundant birdlife. Walking close to the cliffs' edge can be a thrilling, if dizzying experience, but rest assured knowing that the views from their well-maintained hiking trails are just as electrifying.

End the evening at your hotel in County Clare where you'll have free time to relax and unwind.

### Day 13: Free day in County Clare

*Included meals: breakfast*

If you'd prefer to spend your free day at your leisure in County Clare, consider visiting the charming village of Ennistymon, where you can stroll past the scenic cascades of the River Inagh and explore local cafés and artisan shops. Or, head to Kilrush to wander through the Vandeleur Walled Garden, a peaceful retreat filled with

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vibrant plant life and quiet walking paths. For a coastal escape, the seaside town of Lahinch offers a relaxed atmosphere with a long beach promenade, perfect for watching surfers or enjoying a casual bite with views of the Atlantic.

+ Aran Islands

## County Kerry → 2 nights

### Day 14: County Kerry via Dingle Peninsula

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Resume your journey through the Emerald Isle today to County Kerry. Depart on a drive over the dramatically rugged terrain of the Dingle Peninsula—the westernmost region of the country and a stronghold of Irish language and culture. Soak in the scenery as you go, making some stops along the way. Motor down Sleah Head Drive, a ring road that's part of Ireland's Wild Atlantic Way tourism trail. Bask in the power of the crashing ocean as you pause for photo ops at Coumeenole Beach, Sleah Head, and Dunbeg Fort.

Check into your hotel a little later on before enjoying an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

### Day 15: The Ring of Kerry & Killarney National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

Set out for a drive along the Ring of Kerry, a 112-mile coastal route that winds around the Iveragh Peninsula and covers some of Ireland's most spectacular scenery. Expect your breath to catch with every rugged mile of coastal vistas and windswept beaches.

- Pass the pristine Lakes of Killarney in Killarney National Park and gaze across Dingle Bay. On a clear day, the lakes' mirror-like surfaces reflect the surrounding forests and hills.
- Don't blink! You won't want to miss the ever-changing views, cycling between mountains, beaches, and the open waters of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Visit Derrynane for a guided seaweed and coastal food experience. Learn about the rich history of seaweed use—from gunpowder to medicine, firefighting to brewing—and how it has shaped local culture since the time of early Irish settlers. You'll even discover how seaweed contributes over half the world's oxygen.
- Explore the quaint villages that line the

route—places like Sneem, the “knot in the ring” replete with candy-colored storefronts. (Why the interesting nickname? Sneem's Irish name, An tSnaidhm, directly translates to “the knot.”)

## Galway → 2 nights

### Day 16: Transfer to Galway & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

After a free morning, arrive in Galway, then let your Tour Director take the lead on a walking tour of the city's highlights.

- Stroll past a trio of Galwegian icons: Lynch's Castle, a castle-turned-bank that dates to the 16th century; the rustic home of “Ireland's most prestigious” troupe, the Druid Theatre Company; and John F. Kennedy Memorial Park, a popular green space better known to locals (and the world) as Eyre Square.
- Get a grasp of Galway's Norman history by viewing its medieval walls—12th-century fortifications that once encircled the city—and the Spanish Arch. First erected in 1584 as an extension of Galway's protective walls, its name alludes to the Spaniards who moored their ships and lived in the area.
- Peruse authentic Claddagh (said “CLA-da”) rings in a local shop. Steeped in legend and symbolism, these pieces of jewelry have been produced in their current guise—two hands clasping a crowned heart—since at least 1700 and are inextricably linked to Galway.

### Day 17: Kylemore Abbey, Connemara National Park & farewell pub dinner

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, farewell dinner*

As your journey through Ireland draws to a close, make your way to the enchanting island village of Cong, situated on the picturesque border of counties Galway and Mayo where three lakes converge amid ancient forests. Here, enjoy free time to stroll through the town's charming streets lined with stone cottages and medieval ruins, catching glimpses of the nearby 13th-century Ashford Castle with its imposing gray stone towers and meticulously manicured grounds that once hosted royalty and now stands as one of Ireland's most prestigious hotels. Then, continue on to Kylemore Abbey, a magnificent Benedictine convent founded in

1920 on the grounds of Kylemore Castle, a romantic neo-Gothic masterpiece built in 1868 as a testament to a wealthy businessman's love for his wife, its dramatic silhouette reflected perfectly in the waters of Lough Pollacappul.

- Take time to explore the abbey's interior with its restored period rooms showcasing Victorian craftsmanship and the small Gothic church built in loving memory of Margaret Henry, as well as the award-winning walled Victorian gardens spanning six acres with precisely geometric flowerbeds, glass houses, and carefully tended heritage plants that have been faithfully restored to their 1870s splendor.
- After free time for lunch on your own, take a scenic drive through the Irish countryside, passing Connemara National Park, one of the country's most beautiful and unspoiled places with its mosaic of bogs, heaths, grasslands and woodlands dominated by the quartzite peaks of the Twelve Bens mountain range.
- Make photo stops in the Inagh Valley where sheep dot emerald hillsides beneath craggy mountains and placid lakes mirror the ever-changing Irish sky, and at the iconic Maam Cross with its traditional thatched cottage made famous by “The Quiet Man” film before returning to Galway's colorful medieval streets.

This evening, raise a glass in celebration of your journey during a festive farewell dinner at a local pub, complete with traditional Irish music to send you off in true Irish style.

## Flight Home

### Day 18: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Shannon airport for your flight home.

## Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price.

### Day 13: Aran Islands

From \$129.00 . Visit the link above for pricing info. (9 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)  
Board a ferry across Galway Bay for a guided tour of Inis Mór, one of the three remote Aran Islands. These islands represent an outpost of Irish culture that has remained essentially unchanged over the past few centuries—the Aran Islanders still speak Gaelic and rely on fishing and farming to make a living. Local crafts produced here include hand-knit “fisherman” sweaters. While you're here, you'll visit the ruins of Dún Aonghasa, a prehistoric fort, and enjoy an included lunch at a restaurant on the island. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs from April through October. It involves a fair amount of walking over somewhat rugged terrain. Travelers should be accustomed to moderate physical activity. This excursion is weather-dependent, and weather conditions may also result in a rough sea crossing.



Pricing and Reservations: <https://forms.gle/aCFiWwAAXMC3qkKQA>

**Contact Marah Walsh for more details**

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\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. Go Ahead Tours accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at <https://www.goaheadtours.com/about/terms>.