



Education First

Educational Tours

The British Isles

12 days | Summer 2019





Educational Tours

The British Isles

Included on tour



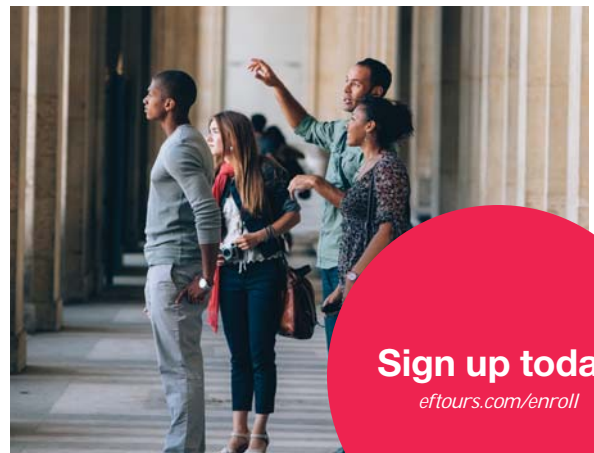
Round-trip flights on major carriers; full-time Tour Director; weShare, EF's personalized learning experience; hotels with private bathrooms; breakfast daily; dinners days 2-3, 5, 7, 9-11

Sightseeing: London; Edinburgh; Derry; Belfast; Dublin

Entrances: Kensington Palace; London Eye; Edinburgh Castle; Rosslyn Chapel; St. Patrick's Cathedral; Book of Kells; Irish Folklore evening; Titanic Belfast; Giant's Causeway Visitor Center

Overnight stays:

London (3)
Edinburgh region (2)
Belfast (2)
Dublin (2)



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Your itinerary

Day 1: Fly to England

Board your overnight flight to London!

Day 2: London

Arrive in London

Ranging from the North Sea in the east to the playing fields of Eton in the west, London covers an area of some 620 square miles and is home to over 8 million people. Prepare to observe the stunning architecture, vibrant street life and royal majesty of this bustling metropolis.

Walking tour of London

Stroll through the heart of London on your Tour Director-led walking tour, which begins along the banks of the River Thames. As you walk along the ancient embankment, note that 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 from which all distances to London are measured. Enter Trafalgar Square, where you're sure to meet the world's most famous pigeons, and pause at Nelson's column, a symbol of Britain's once unrivaled naval power. Continue on to Leicester Square and end your walk at chic Covent Garden, where 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 tour of London. At Piccadilly Circus, the intersection of five busy streets, check out the bright lights and big city displays before heading to Trafalgar Square built to commemorate Admiral Nelson's 1805 victory in the Battle of Trafalgar. Snap a photo of the Houses of Parliament and continue along London's South Bank for views of the famous Tower of London and Tower Bridge. View 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 in front of Buckingham Palace. *(Subject to scheduling and season)*

Optional Guided excursion to Windsor Castle

This half-day guided excursion to the town of Windsor features a visit to Windsor Castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the preferred retreat of British monarchs for over 900 years and is still in use by the royal family. While there, take a look at the Royal Apartments, the setting of regal festivities. Also see the castle's collection of historical treasures, including the queen's porcelain and Henry VIII's suit of armour. Queen Victoria loved to entertain at Windsor, but ultimately ended up in seclusion within the castle mourning the death of her beloved Albert. Visit, too, Queen Mary's Dolls' House and St. George's Chapel, final resting place of many monarchs-including Henry VIII and Charles I. *(If the royal family is in residence, some of the Royal Apartments may be closed. On the rare occasion that Windsor Castle is closed, you'll instead visit Henry VIII's extravagant retreat, Hampton Court.)* Upon your return to London you'll pass by Runnymede; here on the Thames King John was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, guaranteeing that royal power could not overrule basic human rights.

Day 4: London

Visit Kensington Palace

The palace has been a royal home for over 300 years and continues to be a private residence for members of the royal family today. Enjoy a visit to the opulent State Apartments and the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection.

Exploration time in London

Enjoy free time in London. You might wish to visit the original Hard Rock Café or Madame Tussaud's Chamber of Horrors, take a cruise down the Thames, or browse through the countless stores along Oxford Street. Or, perhaps you'd like to visit the fascinating, hands-on exhibits of London's Natural History Museum.

Ride the London Eye

Built to celebrate the millennium, the world's largest Ferris wheel offers you the chance to take it all in at once. In its short existence the London Eye has become the most popular UK visitor attraction, with over 3.5 million visitors a year.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Day 5: London | Edinburgh region

Travel by train to Edinburgh

Travel to Edinburgh and admire the rolling hills and dazzling seascapes that surround the Scottish capital. The entire city is built on a series of extinct volcanoes providing an almost lunar environment complemented by varied and subtle architecture.

Walking tour of Edinburgh

Edinburgh provided the setting for *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stroll through Charlotte Square, pass by the homes of Alexander Graham Bell and Robert Louis Stevenson, and view a monument to Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. From here, cross to the Royal Mile to learn more about this charming city's history.

Day 6: Edinburgh region

Guided sightseeing of Edinburgh

Today, enjoy a sightseeing tour that offers panoramic views of Edinburgh's New Town, constructed in the 18th century during a time of rapid expansion, known as the “Scottish Enlightenment.” See Charlotte Square, the center of New Town, then pass by the homes of Alexander Graham Bell and Robert Louis Stevenson, and view a monument to Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. Visit Calton Hill, which offers splendid views of the Firth of Forth to the Lomond Hills of Fife. Pass the Palace of Holyroodhouse, still the Royal Family's official residence in Scotland, and the city's monument to Lord Nelson.

Visit Edinburgh Castle

Situated atop an extinct volcano, the castle is the enduring symbol of Scotland's capital and home to many of the nation's storied events. Ownership of the fortress changed hands on numerous occasions over the centuries, from Scottish to English and back again. Mary, Queen of Scots, gave birth in the castle to James VI of Scotland, who would later rule England as James I. Enter the castle through the Esplanade and see the Stone of Scone, the coronation stone that was returned to Scotland in 1997 after 700 years of English possession. You'll also see tiny St. Margaret's Chapel, the oldest part of the castle, dating back to the 11th century.

Visit the Rosslyn Chapel

Visit this mysterious chapel, whose interiors are lavishly decorated with rich stone carvings. Originally designed in 1446 by founder Sir William St. Clair to be part of a large church, Rosslyn developed after his death into a much smaller, yet still grand homage to the art of the stonemason. Because of the chapels association with the Knights Templar, some believe the Holy Grail has been hidden within its walls. Learn the tragic story behind the Apprentice Pillar, and seek his face, and that of his grieving mother in the carvings.

Exploration time in Edinburgh

Enjoy some free time this afternoon in Edinburgh. For a glimpse at Scotland's literary history, stop in to the Writers' Museum and see exhibits on Sir Walter Scott and Robert Burns. Or, spend some time browsing Edinburgh's chic and eclectic shops.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Day 7: Edinburgh region | Liverpool region

Travel via the Lake District to Liverpool

Travel through the emerald green landscapes of the Lake District en route to Liverpool, England, taking in picturesque views of farmland, forests, hills and brooks as you go. The maritime city of Liverpool is known for its imports and exports such as sugar, spice, and tobacco pale, as well as being the home to one of the world's most famous bands, the Beatles!

Day 8: Liverpool region | Dublin

Travel by ferry to Dublin

Arrive in literary Dublin, one-time home of James Joyce, George Bernard Shaw, Samuel Beckett, and W. B. Yeats! Dublin is also the setting for Joyce's *Ulysses*, one of the 20th century's greatest literary works. In recent years Dublin has also developed as one of Europe's busiest entertainment centers.

Walking tour of Dublin

Join your Tour Director for a stroll through "Dublin's fair city." Originally a Viking settlement, Dublin is situated on the banks of the River Liffey, which divides the city north and south. Keep an eye out for Dublin's famous Georgian-era (18th century) architecture as you stroll through the city. Walk down the brick-lined Grafton Street, the city's premier shopping street; visit the striking greenery of St. Stephen's Green, simply called Stephen's Green by local Dubliners; and make your way through Temple Bar, Dublin's hippest neighborhood.

Dinner is not included this evening.

Day 9: Dublin

Guided sightseeing of Dublin

Begin your tour of the Irish capital by viewing some of Dublin's celebrated Georgian squares. From here you will visit St. Patrick's Cathedral to see the beautiful interior and pay tribute to the patron saint of Ireland. You will then head past the Post Office, site of the 1916 rebellion, before continuing along the banks of the River Liffey. Continue your visit in Phoenix Park which houses the residence of the President of Ireland. Your tour of Dublin concludes with a visit to the city's renowned Trinity College where playwright Samuel Beckett and satirist Jonathan Swift studied, and where you'll view the *Book of Kells*. Irish monks create this calligraphic manuscript over 1,000 years ago.

Exploration time in Dublin

Take some time to explore the city by the Liffey on your own. You may wish to re-visit Trinity College, any of the city's fine museums or the James Joyce Centre. Stroll through Dublin's artsy Temple Bar area or down Grafton Street-Dublin's most popular and liveliest destinations for shopping and entertainment.

Irish Folklore evening

Experience a great Irish tradition tonight when you attend the Irish Folklore Evening. Complete with typical Irish food and classic dancing, you are sure to get a unique insight into Irish culture during this evening's festivities.

Day 10: Dublin | Belfast

Travel to Belfast

Travel to Belfast, a city in transition, and learn how it's redefining itself after famously undergoing a period of religious strife in the 1970s and 1980s.

Guided sightseeing of Belfast

Your tour of the capital of Northern Ireland allows you to see all of the city's famed landmarks. Starting at Donegall Square, presided over by the white stone city hall, you will also pass Belfast Castle with its huge estate rolling down the slopes of Cave Hill. Later, learn more of recent events and see the 'peace-line' - a blockade of iron that divides Protestant and Catholic communities.

Visit Titanic Belfast

The Titanic Belfast Museum is a "can't miss" visit in any tour of Northern Ireland. It is located in the heart of Belfast, on the slipways where RMS Titanic was built, and offers over nine galleries including special effects, dark rides, full-scale reconstructions and innovative interactive features to explore the Titanic story in a fresh and insightful way. The museum traces the lifespan of the RMS Titanic from her conception in Belfast in the early 1900s, through her construction and launch, and finally to her infamous maiden voyage and catastrophic demise.

Day 11: Belfast

Excursion to Giant's Causeway

Journey to Ireland's northernmost point to view the amazing Giant's Causeway. This fascinating geological phenomenon comprises thousands of 55-million-year-old hexagonal basalt columns that form a honeycomb pathway into the sea. Explore rock formations including the Wishing Chair, the Punchbowl, and the Giant's Granny, and learn the legend of Finn MacCool, the Irish giant said to have built the columns so that his true love could cross the water from Scotland. Near here, the Spanish Armada's flagship Girona sank in 1588.

Guided sightseeing of Derry

On your tour of Derry, learn more about the sectarian violence that has plagued Irish history and today have spurred a long-awaited process of reconciliation. Look for the poignant political murals which reflect the state of Northern Ireland's "Troubles" as well as the medieval city walls which have stood uninvaded since 1614.

Day 12: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight

Your Tour Director assists with your transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

Itinerary is subject to change

For complete financial and registration details, please refer to the Booking Conditions at www.eftours.com/bc.

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"My daughter has gained such an amazing view of the world and history from this experience. She has not stopped talking since I picked her up at the airport. Thank you for all the organization, helpful hints, flexible payment plan, and knowledgeable tour guides."

–CHARLOTTE, PARENT

